

ways. They have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home.

American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation and were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation. In addition, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement. American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

Despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in literature and the teaching and study of American history which is even more reason to dedicate a museum to all of the trailblazing women throughout history.

HONORING 2010 CENSUS COMMUNITY PARTNERS: ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA, NORTHERN VIRGINIA URBAN LEAGUE AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA COALITION

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Northern Virginia Urban League and the Northern Virginia Coalition for partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to educate our community on the importance of a complete and accurate count in the 2010 Census.

These organizations kicked off their education initiative with a forum on October 1, 2009 at Alexandria City Hall. Their efforts will be directed toward participation from Northern Virginia's African American community. They will discuss the logistics and strategy behind a successful Census and call on community leaders to take up this historic cause.

A Census is conducted once every 10 years and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. It counts everyone living in the U.S. to determine the distribution of Congressional seats and the fair allocation of more than \$400 billion in federal funding to state, local and tribal governments. Widespread participation is essential to accurate representation in Congress and the correct apportionment of federal funds. An accurate Census helps to ensure fair representation for all, which is an ideal that lies at the heart of American democracy.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Northern Virginia Urban League and the Northern Virginia Coalition as responsible community partners for the 2010 Census. I appreciate their call to action as

such partnerships will be vital to the success of the Census.

HONORING BILL AND BETTY KICK

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friends Bill and Betty Kick of Saugerties, New York. Their kind demeanor and dedication to service work stand as a testament to the importance of giving back to the community.

Bill and Betty first met in kindergarten in Teaneck, New Jersey, where they grew up around the corner from one another. It came as no surprise when these childhood sweethearts married just days before Bill left to serve his country during World War II. During his 4 years in the Army, Bill was stationed in France, Germany, and Africa, rising to the difficult and challenging circumstances that this momentous conflict presented. Meanwhile, Betty remained in the U.S., doing her part by working for U.S. Rubber and the Syrian Embassy. Once Bill returned from the war, the couple settled in New York and soon welcomed their wonderful children, Linda and Peter. As new parents, they continued their commitment to community service by volunteering as Scout leaders.

When the time came to retire, and much to our benefit, Bill and Betty chose Saugerties, New York, as their home base. But Bill and Betty were far from homebound. Avid sailors, they have spent much of their retirement sailing around the world, going from Maine to the Florida Keys, and even as far as the South China Sea. In fact, Betty became one of the first female Celestial Navigators in the Hudson Valley. In spite of their passion for sailing, they still make time to volunteer within their community. Local organizations like Benedictine Hospital, Ulster Literacy Association, and the Winston Farm Alliance have all benefited from their time and dedication.

Throughout their lives, Bill and Betty have selflessly donated their time to help better their community. The 22nd District is fortunate to call them our own and it is with great enthusiasm that we look forward to many more years of their reminding us all of the importance of volunteerism.

THAILAND'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

**HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support submitted by Ambassador Don Pramudwinai on behalf of Minister of Foreign Affairs Kasit Piromya of the Kingdom of Thailand in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

ROYAL THAI EMBASSY,

Washington, DC, October 7, 2009.

Hon. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

THE HONORABLE ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA, I have the honor to transmit herewith a condolence message on the earthquakes and tsunami incident in American Samoa from His Excellency Mr. Kasit Piromya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand to the Honorable as follows:

THE HONORABLE FALEOMAVAEGA, It is with profound sorrow that I learned of the intense magnitude of the undersea earthquakes and tsunami that hit the United States territory of American Samoa on 29 September 2009, causing a terrible loss of lives, widespread property damage and left so many people homeless.

I would like to extend my sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to you and, through you, to those families who lost their loved ones as well as those who were distressed by this dreadful disaster. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this time of sorrow. In 2004, Thailand suffered through the devastating effects of a tsunami, and therefore, we share your grief and understand very well the hardship besetting the people of American Samoa. I am certain that with strong spirit of solidarity of the people of American Samoa, the affected areas will be quickly rehabilitated and restored.

Accept, the Honorable, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

KASIT PIROMYA,

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Please accept, the Honorable, the assurances of my highest consideration.

DON PRAMUDWINAI,

Ambassador.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF LIFE ON AMERICAN SAMOA AND SAMOA AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 816 to mourn the loss of life and express my condolences for the disaster that took place in Samoa and American Samoa on September 29, 2009.

On that dreadful day, over 150 people lost their lives when a tsunami rose twenty feet into the air and made landfall on the shores of Samoa and American Samoa in the southern region of the Pacific Ocean. The destruction that this tsunami caused was overwhelming, and in addition to the loss of life, countless more individuals have lost their homes and possessions. I extend my deepest condolences to the victims and their families, and offer my deepest sympathies for their loss.

I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 816 to remember those that died in Samoa and American Samoa on September 29, 2009.

GOOD SHEPHERD HOUSING FOUNDATION OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA, CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation. For the past two decades, the Foundation has provided low-cost housing to the homeless and those on the brink of homelessness in Prince William County.

The Foundation was created in 1989 out of the compassion and collective action of the Good Shepherd faith community. The founders identified a need within Prince William County for housing for the mentally ill. They worked with the Prince William County Community Services Board to establish the bedrock of a stable and lasting program. In its beginning, the Foundation provided housing for five single adults.

It has since grown substantially in both numbers of clientele and breadth of mission. Now in its twentieth year, the Foundation provides housing and supportive services for 25 single adults and 18 families in 11 homes owned by the Foundation. Assistance has been extended to those with chronic low income, mental and physical disabilities, AIDS/HIV, pregnant teens and the elderly. The organization is sustained by the efforts and donations of individuals, businesses and churches, and it receives assistance from local, State and Federal funding.

The Shepherd Homes Program offers group living and single adult housing options to mentally ill individuals. Shepherd Homes I, II and III are properties owned by the Foundation that function as group homes. Ten apartments leased by the Foundation offer the mentally ill, some who are veterans, relief from chronic homelessness. Beyond housing assistance, the Foundation offers services that put residents on a path to financial and psychological stability.

Since its inception, the Foundation expanded its mission to include low income families. The Affordable Family Housing Program is a holistic program aimed at providing housing and teaching families the importance of education and financial management. Families are given transitional, two-year or long-term, low-cost housing. Tutoring is available for the children and parents receive financial counseling. The Foundation works to end chronic homelessness by providing immediate relief and preventing future generations from falling into this dangerous condition.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing appreciation for the work the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation does in the Prince William community. The Foundation exists today as a robust and effective community organization dedicated to helping the disabled and less fortunate. I offer my unconditional support for its mission and commend its ability to help our fellow man.

CELEBRATION OF THE FESTIVAL OF DIWALI

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Festival of Diwali.

Over one billion individuals celebrate the cultural and religious holiday of Diwali each year. Diwali is one of the most joyous festivals celebrated on the South Asian subcontinent. The festival is celebrated in the Hindu, Sikh, and Jain traditions, and has cultural significance for South Asians. Within the United States there are over 2 million celebrating Diwali making it a significant holiday in our country.

Diwali literally means "The Festival of Lights," translated from Hindi. Celebrations of Diwali usually involve the lighting of lamps to symbolize hope and joy. I joined Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the White House yesterday, as President Obama lit a lamp in the White House in the observance of the festival, after signing an executive order restoring the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

In the Hindu faith Diwali is often linked to Rama's triumphant return following his victory over Ravana as told in the epic The Ramayana. Following Rama's victory his people lighted lamps along the capital city to celebrate as their King returned. The clay lamps which the people lit, were called Deepavalis which Diwali is a shortened version of. In many Hindu calendars Diwali corresponds with the start of a new year. Diwali is one of the most significant holidays within Hinduism.

In Jainism, Diwali marks the date upon which Lord Mahavira achieved the state of absolute bliss or Nirvana. It is said that King Chetaka, upon Lord Mahavira achieving Nirvana, light a multitude of lamps to create a material light to replace the light of intelligence that had been lost.

In the Sikh tradition, the foundation of the Golden Temple is said to have been laid on Diwali. In this tradition, the 6th Sikh guru Hargobind was released from prison on the festival of Diwali.

There is great diversity among the faiths that celebrate this joyful holiday. Across all these traditions, Diwali holds significance across the South-Asian community as a time of hope, happiness and the renewal of life. I am very proud to have been a co-sponsor of House Resolution 798, conveying the best wishes of the House of Representatives to those celebrating Diwali. The resolution recognizes the importance of Diwali and extends the House of Representatives' deepest respects to all those celebrating Diwali. I would like to join with all those celebrating this joyous time and wish Shubh Diwali to all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I was absent on Wednesday, Octo-

ber 14, 2009, due to a previously scheduled event. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" during the recorded votes for the following five bills:

1. H. Res. 768—Expressing support for the designation of the month of October as "National Work and Family Month";

2. H.R. 1327—Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009;

3. H. Res. 816—Mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that occurred on September 29, 2009, in American Samoa and Samoa;

4. H. Res. 786—Commemorating the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster, S.S.C.C., to sainthood; and

5. H.R. 3371—Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESTRELLA CLEMENT IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise today to honor Estrella Clement, who dedicates her life to help identify and treat women who have breast and cervical cancer.

Ms. Clement was born in Cuba, moved to New Jersey as a child and has been living in Tampa for 25 years. Ms. Clement always knew she wanted to be a nurse and help improve the health of her community. She obtained a master's degree in nursing from the University of South Florida and has been a nurse for more than 32 years. Ms. Clement works with Meditech Medical Center clinics where free mammogram tests, breast examination, and Pap smears are offered to women who might not be able to afford these services otherwise.

Tirelessly dedicated, Ms. Clement worries that women are unaware of the free screening and treatment options in her neighborhood. Transportation is a major obstacle for many low-income women. Ms. Clement's goal is to have a mobile unit so she can go directly to the community. Unfortunately, too few people know about the free service. Ms. Clement is making it her duty to reach as many women as possible.

Ms. Clement also has been a co-chair of Prime Time Sister Circles, a group that helps African-American women improve their health, and she has served on the Moffitt Cancer Center's Hispanic Advisory Council.

Madam Speaker, Estrella Clement is acutely aware of the toll, both financial and emotional, that breast and cervical cancer can have on women. She devotes her life to improving the health of the Tampa community. I applaud her dedication to the prevention and treatment of breast and cervical cancer.