

City of New Bedford to pay proper tribute to one its greatest historical figures, the slave abolitionist, feminist, and champion of universal human rights, Frederick Douglass, who formerly lived in New Bedford. Charlton and Rogers were instrumental in getting a marvelous monument to Frederick Douglass erected in front of City Hall. More than erecting the monument, the effort served to bring greater attention and awareness of people of New Bedford to the historical contributions of New Bedford's people of color. To enhance his effectiveness as President of the NAACP Carlton has volunteered to serve on many community executive boards or Committees. The following is a partial list: Chairman; New Bedford Title I Parents Advisory Council, Moby Dick Boy Scouts/OLOA Church; Chairman, webelo Leader, Scoutmaster, Executive Boards; SouthCoast YMCA, Salvation Army, People Acting in Community Endeavors (PACE), United Front Homes Board of Directors, New Bedford Economic Development Council, Cooperator Compass Bank, Garden Of Peace (Boston), New Bedford District Wide School Improvement Council, South Central Community Development Corporation, First Vice President; South Shore Minority Business Circle.

TRIBUTE TO DOMINICAN HERITAGE MONTH ON THE 165TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I join with the hundreds of thousands of Dominican residents of my congressional district and across our Nation to commemorate February 27th, the 165th anniversary of the Dominican Republic's Day of Independence. This celebration comes at the tail end of Dominican Heritage Month.

Dominican Heritage Month gives us the opportunity to acknowledge and applaud the economic, cultural, and social contributions Dominican Americans have made to this great nation. Dominicans living in our shores have been motivated by the value of hard work and the bonds of family—the same pillars of our society that have built this great Nation for over 230 years.

It also gives us an opportunity to consider the many Dominican achievements, on the island and in the United States. Many of our hemisphere's first institutions were established on the shores of Quisqueya, including the first cathedral and the oldest university.

Since the initial wave of Dominican migration in the 1960s to the most recent arrivals of today, Dominicans have worked hard to contribute to our national identity, educating us all on their culture and traditions and enriching the quality of our shared futures. Their contributions can also be found in every facet of U.S. life—from the many baseball stars in our national pastime, to fashion legend Oscar de la Renta to the thousands of professionals that do battle as soldiers, doctors, lawyers, journalists, educators, and public servants.

This past year, the Dominican community and I shared the loss of our fallen soldier,

Army SGT Jose E. Ulloa, who lost his life tragically in Sadr City on August 9, 2008, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. We also shared the grief of Hurricanes Gustav and Hanna, the deadliest storms of the 2008 hurricane season, along with hurricanes Ike and Fay responsible for approximately 14 deaths and the displacement of more than 20,000 people in the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican people are known to triumph in the face of tragedy. They first began their campaign for the independence of the Dominican Republic in 1831 under the leadership of Juan Pablo Duarte, who formed a secret society named The Trinity. Thirteen years later, he succeeded in commanding a decisive uprising, which resulted in independence for the Dominican Republic. After the long and hard campaign for freedom had ended, a ceremonial musket shot fired on February 27, 1844, marked the Dominican Republic's first official Independence Day.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in marking this celebration of not just the independence and triumphs of the Dominican people, but also the invaluable impact that this small island nation has had on our country and the world.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JOSEPH C. MURPHY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of Joseph C. Murphy, who passed away on February 5, 2009. Joe will be remembered as a former editor of the Pacific Daily News and as a sharp-witted columnist.

Joe was born on February 23, 1927, in Appleton, Wisconsin. At the age of 17 he joined the United States Navy and spent a year in combat during World War II. He returned home to finish high school and later obtained a degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. After graduation, Joe worked as a reporter, editor and columnist in Wisconsin, Oregon, and California before moving to Guam in 1965.

Joe was the editor of the Guam Daily News, the precursor to the Pacific Daily News, a Gannett newspaper. He wrote an insightful column called "Pipe Dreams" which made us laugh, think and debate. His writings were observations and musing on island life, our unique community, and local politics.

Over the years he developed the concept of "OOG", "Only On Guam", a phrase that became synonymous with island life and oddities about our community. His humorous OOG anecdotes were later consolidated into two publications, Guam Is a Four Letter Word and Son of a Four Letter Word.

Joe loved Guam and his columns often urged our community and our leaders to tackle the challenges of a developing island. He often wrote retrospective pieces where he observed the progress and changes that our island has undergone since his arrival forty four years ago.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Marion, their children, Colleen, Maureen, Shannon, Kerry, Tim, Erin, Megan, and Joey and their extended family and friends. We honor his life's work as a journalist and his contributions to our community. Most of all, he will be remembered by many as a gifted writer who had an enormous impact in our island community. We are grateful for his contributions and we will miss him dearly.

RECOGNIZING THE FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedication and labors of the people at Greenville branch of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. The Greenville branch of the Food Bank has distributed more than 50 million pounds of food to people in 10 counties since 1999. While this reflects a tremendous amount of success and effort, it also highlights the intensity of hunger facing families in eastern North Carolina.

The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina was established in 1980 to provide food to people at risk of hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. In 2006–07, the Food Bank distributed over 32.6 million pounds of food through 870 partner agencies including soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters and afterschool programs for children.

Nearly 30 percent of the people served by the Food Bank's network are children, and another 18 percent are elderly. Thirty-eight percent of the families served are the "working poor"—people who work hard and still have to choose between eating and other basic necessities such as medicine and housing.

Even before this severe economic downturn, families were struggling to put food on the table. And as the crisis deepens, it is intensifying the struggle for millions of Americans to keep from going hungry.

Food banks across the country are seeing appreciable increases in requests at a time when the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that more than one in ten American households are struggling to get enough food.

In the nation with the safest, most abundant food supply in the world, it is unconscionable that so many people go hungry. There is a moral obligation and a necessary responsibility we have as Americans to ensure a strong country for future generations. I am proud that the good people at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina have answered that call.

Madam Speaker, today I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating and acknowledging the efforts of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, which embodies the essence of what we believe in: local citizens and businesses pulling together to help solve a local problem.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE KEEP
OUR PACT ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, it is with a sense of urgency that I reintroduce the Keep Our Promises to America's Children and Teachers Act at the beginning of the 111th Congress.

I offer the Keep Our PACT Act today to help meet the aspirations of our nation's school children—and to help provide all of their teachers and schools with the resources they need to help them achieve those aspirations. Additionally, I offer this bill as a reminder to those of us in government of the importance of keeping our promises and of truly making education a priority.

Put simply, the Keep Our PACT Act would put Congress on a fiscally responsible path to fully funding the No Child Left Behind Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Act—on a mandatory basis, once and for all.

Madam Speaker, since 2002, Title I of NCLB—the funding that goes to our highest-need students—has been funded at \$54.7 billion below its authorized level. Currently, approximately 4.3 million students are not getting the extra Title I help they were promised.

Furthermore, since IDEA's reauthorization in 2004, IDEA Part B has been funded at \$20.3 billion below its authorized level and funding has never reached even half of the 40 percent average per pupil expenditure the government originally promised states more than 30 years ago.

We need to keep our commitments to education, support our schools and provide all of our students with resources they need to succeed.

Madam Speaker, once again I am proud to make the Keep Our PACT Act the very first piece of legislation I introduce this Congress. Additionally, I want to thank my colleagues joining me as original cosponsors on this bill today. We pledge to stand for the fundamental values this bill represents and invite Members from both sides of the aisle to embrace those values and get this bill passed.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JASON D.
VIA

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Officer Jason D. Via, who was named the 2008 Springfield Police Patrolman's Association Patrolman of the Year.

Officer Jason D. Via began his career with the Springfield Police Division on November 17, 2003. After completing his recruit training, he was assigned to the uniform patrol, where he continues to serve today. He is an extremely dependable, well respected officer who is a person his fellow officers and citizens can rely upon. Jason was nominated for the Patrolman of the Year Award for 2008 because of these exceptional traits.

During 2008, Officer Via was selected to participate in the Safe Streets Task Force with

three other officers. During his service in the Task Force, he took a subject who was arrested for trying to solicit another officer and turned this person into a confidential informant. Using this information, he was able to make several arrests of street-level drug dealers. From these arrests, he was able to "flip" some of them and arrest several suppliers.

Upon making his last arrest, he seized over seven ounces of crack cocaine, as well as at least \$5,000 in cash. Due to his diligence and hard work, approximately nine mid-level dealers and suppliers were arrested, making our streets safer.

For these reasons Officer Via deserves our gratitude and special thanks.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP OF
THE UNITED STATES IN THE
INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE
ENERGY AGENCY

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I am introducing a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States seek membership in the International Renewable Energy Agency because our energy security, the health of our planet, and the strength of our economy have reached a critical juncture. With volatile energy prices, emissions of heat-trapping gases continuing to climb to dangerous levels, and the U.S. economy in turmoil, two things have become clear. First, a fundamental change is needed in the way we generate and use energy here at home. Secondly, the rest of the world must be also part of this new energy future. The resolution I am introducing today calls for the United States to seek membership in the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to address both of these challenges.

On January 26, 2009, 75 countries signed the statute to establish IRENA, marking a promising step towards international collaboration and mitigating climate change. This collaboration was a good start, but the urgency of global warming and our dependence on fossil fuels require that we take the lead in the permanent international agency to drive the development and deployment of renewable energy in all countries, including ours. The United States still has a chance to be a founding member of the body if it signs on by April 30th of this year. As a founding member country, the United States would be eligible to nominate a Director General and bid to host the IRENA headquarters on American territory.

Despite the enormous strides renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies have made over the last several years, hurdles remain to major and rapid scale-up on the level needed to meet the world's need for energy while also addressing global warming. IRENA is the first international organization to focus solely on renewable energy and include a broad constituency of industrialized and developing countries. It will provide the institutional support needed to address the technological, financial, informational, and policy barriers that keep renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies from reaching their full potential.

Renewable energy has the potential to reduce global warming pollution while also creating millions of green jobs, reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy, and spurring the technological development that will fuel the global economy over the coming century.

In 2007, new investment in clean energy technology worldwide increased 60 percent over 2006, but vast markets remain untapped and not included in the green economy. Over the next two decades, greenhouse gas emissions from developing countries are projected to grow at more than twice the rate of those in developed countries. Encouraging growth of renewable energy in developing countries reduces the extent and likelihood that these economies will follow a carbon-intensive, fossil energy development path. It also opens a valuable market for the clean energy companies that developed economies will rely on for growth over the coming century, a market that American businesses and American workers can benefit from. The International Renewable Energy Agency will have the independence, credibility, and expertise necessary to assist governments at the national, state, and local level implement renewable energy policies and projects.

Other international energy agencies were formed to address narrow problems. The International Energy Agency (IEA): oil security and fuel supply disruptions. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): nuclear proliferation and safety. With the aid of institutional support, these energy resources became foundations of modern economies. An International Renewable Energy Agency is needed to support the unique problems facing renewable energy: marketplace failures, political inertia, and information gaps. Our membership in the organization will allow us to help shape the direction of this agency. To this end, IRENA will:

Support governments in drafting policies and programs for the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

Assist governments in conducting studies that analyze the potential of renewable energies and the appropriateness of different technologies.

Provide long-term projections and scenarios based on existing data and policy in order to identify opportunities as well as gaps, barriers, and failures in markets and policies.

Organize training programs, information campaigns, and courses for civil servants, scientists, businesses, and non-government organizations.

Supply curriculum for schools and universities on relevant renewable energy topics.

Work with financial institutions to support innovative financing mechanisms for renewable energy projects.

Develop international norms and quality standards.

Gather and disseminate data, statistics, and reports on renewable energy deployment, policy approaches, and technology development.

The status quo is not working for America or the planet. The environmental, energy, and economic problems we are facing are largely due to a failed energy policy. The International Renewable Energy Agency represents an opportunity for America to change its energy path and confront global warming while reestablishing its leadership role and reputation in the international community.