

mosaic maps of the United States. He compiled maps of China and the Red Sea using satellite data.

Today Mr. Allen spends his time at the United States Antarctic Resource Center where he still amazes his co-workers with his ability to retrieve information from the early days of U.S. studies of Antarctica and then apply it to current studies. His devotion to studying this extraordinary region of our planet merits our praise and gratitude.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Allen for his 60 years of public service, for his accomplishments, and for all he has done to advance scientific understanding.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, due to illness, I unfortunately was unable to be present and to vote on legislation considered by the House on March 3, 4, 5, and 6, 2009.

On rollcall numbers 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99, 106, 108, and 109, had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

On rollcall numbers 97, 105, and 107, had I been present, I would have voted "no".

On rollcall number 104, had I been present, I would have voted "no". Though the Helping Families Save Act of 2009 (H.R. 1106) included some good provisions, the bill also included troubling bankruptcy provisions. On the amendments considered, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcalls 101 and 102 and "no" on rollcall 100. Also, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions (rollcall 103).

I regret that I did not have the opportunity to vote on these important measures.

HONORING MATTHEW C. GARCIA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew C. Garcia a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew C. Garcia for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DENTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Denton Chamber of Commerce, which will celebrate its 100th Anniversary on April 21, 2009.

The Denton Chamber of Commerce is an alliance of businesses, professionals, and organizations working to support and promote the principles for a prosperous economic environment.

Established April 21, 1909, the Chamber has grown to involve over 860 members. In its 100 years of operation, the Chamber has a record of promoting, supporting and expanding the Denton business community. Small businesses have long benefited from the efforts of the Denton Chamber of Commerce and have also found it an avenue to give back to their community. Many members are not only successful in business, but also volunteer and serve on boards of local charity and community groups.

The Chamber has played a significant role in the community's economic health, establishing an Economic Development Partnership with the City of Denton focused on helping create new jobs, supporting existing career opportunities and expanding the property tax base. A prime example of this success was the partnership's work to attract the largest local employer, the Peterbilt Motors plant, and later, Peterbilt's division headquarters.

Helping in the efforts to secure the sites for the Denton State School, and the sites for FEMA's underground center and National Teleregistration facility, the Denton Chamber of Commerce's contributions have gone beyond just helping the business community.

With programs such as Leadership Denton, Chamber members have learned the inner workings of policy. It has worked to supplement communications with state and federal officials with the initiation of county wide events such as Denton County Day in Austin and the Washington Fly-In. A tribute to their role in community service and leadership development is evidenced by the dozens of members that have served on local city councils, school boards and in other elected positions.

It is with great pride that I stand here today to join others in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Denton Chamber of Commerce. I wish the membership, staff and board all the best and I am proud to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives.

SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY, RECIPIENT OF THE "SCHOLAR-PATRIOT AWARD"

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Senior Senator from Massachusetts, EDWARD M. KENNEDY, and to the Amer-

ican Academy of Arts and Sciences which has just honored Senator KENNEDY with its "Scholar-Patriot Award."

Nearly 230 years ago in Cambridge, in what would become the Eighth Congressional District of Massachusetts, John Adams, James Bowdoin, John Hancock, and other "scholar-patriots" established the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The Academy was created, during the American Revolution, to provide a forum for leaders from science, scholarship, business, public affairs, and the arts, to work together as citizens in support of a democratic republic. In the words of the Academy's charter, enacted in 1780, the "end and design of the institution is . . . to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honor, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent, and virtuous people."

Today, the Academy, still in Cambridge, flourishes as an independent policy research center. Its members remain true to the original mission, conducting multidisciplinary studies of complex and emerging problems. Current Academy research focuses on science and global security; social policy; the humanities and culture; and education.

On March 9, 2009, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences convened a meeting in Washington, D.C. on the topic of The Humanities in a Civil Society. As part of the program, the Academy announced the presentation of its Scholar-Patriot Award to the dean of our state's congressional delegation, Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY. Throughout his career, Sen. KENNEDY has been a stalwart champion of the humanities. I am proud to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the citation from the Academy, and I congratulate my friend and colleague for this well-deserved recognition. "The American Academy bestows its Scholar-Patriot Award on EDWARD M. KENNEDY for his extraordinary service to the Academy, the community, and the nation.

"For four decades you have been a fierce defender of the ideals of opportunity, equity, and justice. Master of quiet collaboration and inspired oratory, you have achieved an unparalleled legislative record. Your efforts to insure quality education and health care for all Americans, including your leadership on the Americans with Disabilities Act, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, have earned you the respect of men and women across the political spectrum. From your first major bill on immigration reform to your recent call for a renewed commitment to community service, you have championed an open and inclusive society. To your family and the nation, you are a profile of courageous leadership, the guardian of a dream that lives on.

"The founding members of the American Academy were pragmatic visionaries, anticipating the needs of a young republic for both wise governance and fresh ideas. You follow in their footsteps as a Scholar-Patriot for our time. Asserting that "our future does not belong to those who are content with today," you have fulfilled the Academy's historic mission, translating knowledge into action and celebrating the life of the mind in service to the community, the nation, and the world."

RECOGNIZING WEN CHYAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Wen Chyan, from the 26th District of Texas, who was the winner of the Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Math, Science, and Technology.

Wen Chyan's curiosity about chemistry was sparked by his parents, both scientists, at an early age. Wen's astuteness has earned him recognition from the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad, U.S.A. Biology Olympiad, and the Texas Science and Engineering Fair. His ambition and desire to contribute to medical advancements prompted him to create an antimicrobial coating for medical devices, a development that has the potential to save lives. Wen is the first TAMS student to advance to such a high level in this competition, which features the research of more than 1,000 students. Wen's hard work has earned him high recognition and a \$100,000 scholarship.

I am proud to recognize Wen Chyan for the stunning research he has accomplished, the award he has received, and the promise he holds for the future of American science. It is a privilege to represent Mr. Chyan in the 26th District of Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
"THOMASINA E. JORDAN INDIAN
TRIBES OF VIRGINIA FEDERAL
RECOGNITION ACT"

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, in 2006 representatives and leaders of Virginia's Native American tribes left their communities and flew to England to participate in ceremonies that were a prelude to the 400th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in America. Some of the distinguished Virginia residents who made this trip are the blood descendants and leaders of the surviving seven tribes that once were a part of the Great Powhatan Confederacy that initially helped sustain the colonists during their difficult first years at Jamestown. Virginia's best known Indian, Pocahontas, traveled to England in 1617 with her husband John Rolfe and was received by English royalty. She died a year later of smallpox and is buried in the chapel of the parish church in Gravesend, England.

Two years ago, this nation celebrated the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown. But it was not a celebration for Native American descendants of Pocahontas, for they have yet to be recognized by our federal government. Unlike most Native American tribes that were officially recognized when they signed peace treaties with the federal government, Virginia's six Native American tribes made their peace with the Kings of England. Most notable among these was the Treaty of

1677 between these tribes and King Charles II. This treaty has been recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia every year for the past 331 years when the Governor accepts tribute from the tribes in a ceremony now celebrated at the State Capitol. I had the honor of attending last November what is understood to be the longest celebrated treaty in the United States.

The forefathers of the tribal leaders who gathered last Thanksgiving in Richmond were the first to welcome the English, and during the first few years of settlement, ensured their survival. As was the case for most Native American tribes, as the settlement prospered and grew, the tribes suffered. Those who resisted quickly became subdued, were pushed off their historic lands, and, up through much of the 20th Century, were denied full rights as U.S. citizens. Despite their devastating loss of land and population, the Virginia tribes survived, preserving their heritage and their identity. Their story of survival spans four centuries of racial hostility and coercive state and state-sanctioned actions.

The Virginia tribes' history, however, diverges from that of most Native Americans in two unique ways. The first explains why the Virginia tribes were never recognized by the federal government; the second explains why congressional action is needed today. First, by the time the federal government was established in 1789, the Virginia tribes were in no position to seek recognition. They had already lost control of their land, withdrawn into isolated communities and stripped of most of their rights. Lacking even the rights granted by the English Kings, and our own Bill of Rights, federal recognition was nowhere within their reach.

The second unique circumstance for the Virginia tribes is what they experienced at the hands of the state government during the first half of the 20th Century. It has been called a "paper genocide." At a time when the federal government granted Native Americans the right to vote, Virginia's elected officials adopted racially hostile laws targeted at those classes of people who did not fit into the dominant white society. The fact that some of Virginia's ruling elite claimed to be blood descendants of Pocahontas in their view meant that no one else in Virginia could make a claim they were Native American and a descendant of Pocahontas' people. To do so would mean that Virginia's ruling elite were what they decreed all non-whites to be: part of "the inferior Negroid race."

With great hypocrisy, Virginia's ruling elite pushed policies that culminated with the enactment of the Racial Integrity Act of 1924. This act directed state officials, and zealots like Walter Plecker, to destroy state and local courthouse records and reclassify in Orwellian fashion all non-whites as "colored." It targeted Native Americans with a vengeance, denying Native Americans in Virginia their identity.

To call oneself a "Native American" in Virginia was to risk a jail sentence of up to one year. In defiance of the law, members of Virginia's tribes traveled out of state to obtain marriage licenses or to serve their country in wartime. The law remained in effect until it was struck down in federal court in 1967. In that intervening period between 1924 and 1967, state officials waged a war to destroy all

public and many private records that affirmed the existence of Native Americans in Virginia. Historians have affirmed that no other state compares to Virginia's efforts to eradicate its citizens' Indian identity.

All of Virginia's state-recognized tribes have filed petitions with the Bureau of Acknowledgment seeking federal recognition. But it is a very heavy burden the Virginia tribes will have to overcome, and one fraught with complications that officials from the bureau have acknowledged may never be resolved in their lifetime. The acknowledgment process is already expensive, subject to unreasonable delays, and lacking in dignity. Virginia's paper genocide only further complicates these tribes' quest for federal recognition, making it difficult to furnish corroborating state and official documents and aggravating the injustice already visited upon them.

It wasn't until 1997, when Governor George Allen signed legislation directing state agencies to correct state records, that the tribes were given the opportunity to correct official state documents that had deliberately been altered to list them as "colored." The law allows living members of the tribes to correct their records, but the law cannot correct the damage done to past generations or recover documents that were purposely destroyed during the "Plecker Era."

In 1999, the Virginia General Assembly adopted a resolution calling upon Congress to enact legislation recognizing the Virginia tribes. I am pleased to have honored that request, and beginning in 2000 and in subsequent sessions, Virginia's Senators and I have introduced legislation to recognize the Virginia tribes.

There is no doubt that the Chickahominy, the Eastern Chickahominy, the Monacan, the Nansemond, the Rappahannock and the Upper Mattaponi tribes exist. These tribes have existed on a continuous basis since before the first European settlers stepped foot in America. They are here with us today.

I know there is resistance in Congress to grant any Native American tribe federal recognition. And I can appreciate how the issue of gambling and its economic and moral dimensions has influenced many Members' perspectives on tribal recognition issues. The six Virginia tribes are not seeking federal legislation so that they can build casinos. They find this assertion offensive to their moral beliefs. They are seeking federal recognition because it is an urgent matter of justice and because elder members of their tribes, who were denied a public education and the economic opportunities available to most Americans, are suffering and should be entitled to the federal health and housing assistance available to federally recognized tribes.

To underscore this point, the legislation I am introducing includes language approved last session by the House of Representatives that would prevent the tribes from engaging in gaming on their federal land even if everyone else in Virginia were allowed to engage in Class III casino-type gaming.

In the name of decency, fairness and humanity, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and bring closure to centuries of injustice Virginia's Native American tribes have experienced.