

at the center of the continuing efforts for fairness and equal education. The National Federation of the Blind, as both the oldest and largest organization of blind people in the United States, is integral to this continuous fight for equality. For the past several decades, the National Federation of the Blind has advocated strongly for the translation of more books and textbooks into Braille so as to both promote Braille literacy and help integrate blind persons into society. As policymakers, we must support the advancement of equality and knowledge that is imbibed in the actions of the NFB. Declaring July 2010 as "Braille Literacy Month" would be one step, but an important one, in our efforts towards promoting equality and education for all persons in the United States.

In my hometown of Chicago, there is a non-profit organization called the Chicago Lighthouse that has provided services and support for the blind for several decades, much like the NFB. Amongst their many accomplishments in education and job training, the Chicago Lighthouse is also responsible for the manufacturing of the many clocks that you see in the U.S. government today—a testament to the skills, talent, and work of the people they serve. Though only one of many achievements, the clocks that you see around you today demonstrate the continuing need to provide equal access to job opportunities and education to those who are blind so as to fulfill their potentials.

In declaring July 2010 as Braille Literacy Month, we would not only be promoting literacy for the blind, but progressing down a road of true equality as well.

#### RECOGNIZING ALLEN USA FOR UNITING FREEDOM, FAMILIES, AND FUN

#### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2010*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Allen USA for uniting freedom, families, and fun. It's hometown events that promote quality together time while celebrating the bounty of America that make Texas a great place to call home. We're proud to remind folks that we're the land of the free because of the brave! My hat is off to the great folks at the City of Allen and Allen Parks Foundation who make Allen USA a success year after year. Below is information detailing this worthy celebration. It is an honor to be a part of it. God bless you all and I salute you one and all.

Produced as a cooperative effort between the City of Allen and the Allen Parks Foundation, the Allen USA celebration is Allen's largest and most spectacular community event to say the least! Centered around the theme of being "First to the Fourth", Allen USA serves as the community's Fourth of July celebration, uniquely held the last Saturday of June every year. Being the last Saturday in June allows the event to be a stand out among area cities' celebrations and promotes attendance locally, regionally and state-wide.

Allen USA began in 1995, taking place in the intimate surroundings of Bethany Lakes Park and Joe Farmer Recreation Center amphitheater. An estimated 5,000 people at-

tended the first event complete with fireworks, a thrilling laser show and entertainment provided by the Allen Civic Chorus and other local talent.

The phenomenal success from these humble beginnings led the event to move to a larger venue at Allen Station Park. Attendance grew to more than 20,000 as the entertainment included national recording artists such as Jerry Jeff Walker, Vince Vance and the Valiants, and others.

In 2003, Allen USA exploded in attendance with a move to Allen's new 106 acre Celebration Park. Since that time, the event has grown to a regular attendance of up to 65,000 people and has included national recording artists such as Survivor, JT Taylor from Kool and the Gang, Eddie Money, 38 Special and Three Dog Night to name a few.

There is truly something for everyone at Allen USA! A number of concessionaires will be on site selling all of your favorite festival foods and snacks. The Kids Zone hosts a multitude of bounce houses and play structures for children to enjoy. The Activity Zone provides fun and exciting entertainment for children and youth of all ages.

This year our Main Stage will be rockin' with the tunes of the Commodores and, after what promises to be an exciting performance, the evening ends with one of the largest fireworks shows set to music in North Texas! And did we mention . . . admission is FREE!

Allen USA also gives back to the community! A number of civic organizations support the event through countless volunteer hours to sell soft drinks, souvenirs and assist with festival activities. The event returns back to them a portion of the proceeds for their hard work and support!

Many people have said that it's the memories they create at Allen USA that keeps them coming back year after year. The family friendly reputation of this event is what grabs other's attention to attend for the first time! But regardless of why people attend, at the end of the night, the smiles say it all! So come party in the park with us . . . you'll be glad you did!"

#### HONORING RON GETTELFINGER FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE UAW

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, thank you, Representative DINGELL and thank you for organizing this special order hour to honor Ron Gettelfinger.

I rise today to honor Ron Gettelfinger as he retires from the United Auto Workers where he has served for the last eight years as President.

Thank you President Gettelfinger for your service—not only to your membership but to our Nation.

You have made a difference and you have made our Nation a stronger and a better place.

Your efforts have strengthened the middle class.

In 1964, Ron Gettelfinger became a member of UAW Local 862.

He worked as a chassis line repairman and was elected by the workers at Ford's Louisville Assembly plant to represent them.

Ron served as Director of UAW Region 3, which includes Indiana and Kentucky . . .

Ron exemplified what it means to be a leader.

Through his leadership, the UAW has navigated the difficult waters of the financial collapse in 2008 and the current recession.

And as unfair trade deals have devastated U.S. manufacturing jobs, Ron Gettelfinger stood strong in the fight for a new approach to trade.

Fair trade that works with our workers and businesses, not against them.

Ron Gettelfinger has called for fair trade agreements that include workers' rights and environmental provisions.

And Ron Gettelfinger has called for the so-called Free Trade Agreement with South Korea to be renegotiated.

This Bush-negotiated trade agreement would allow unfair advantages for Korean automakers to persist.

In 2009, our trade deficit with South Korea in autos was \$7.8 billion.

Korean automakers control 95 percent of their domestic auto market.

And Ron Gettelfinger led the charge for reciprocity of market access, calling on Korea to open their market.

Ron knows, as we know, that our workers are the very best in the world and can compete on a level-playing field.

Ron negotiated deals for working families and our trade representative must also negotiate good deals with our working families in mind.

Because of Ron's leadership during his eight years as President and his service to UAW members since 1964, I am proud to represent 8,700 active and retired UAW members in my Congressional District.

In Ohio, we have at least 111,000 active and retired UAW members.

Thank you again Ron for your outstanding service to the UAW, to American manufacturing, and to our Nation.

#### SUPPORTING THE REFUGEES AT CAMP ASHRAF

#### HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2010*

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the refugees living at Camp Ashraf in Iraq. I am disturbed by reports of continued abuse of these Iranian refugees by the same Iraqi forces that are responsible for ensuring their safety. In light of the recent announcement of an upcoming U.S. troop withdrawal from the camp, I urge Congress to support the residents at Camp Ashraf by ensuring they receive the protection that they deserve.

These refugees, who have been forced from their homes in Iran, are exactly the kind of defenseless people the international community needs to ensure are protected. Unfortunately, they have been subject to bloody incursions from the Iraqi army, such as the travesty of last year's attack which killed 11 people and injured over 400. It is critical that the United States and international community work to ensure that the residents of this camp are treated humanely.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the refugees at Camp Ashraf.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL  
HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2010*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1388, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week. As a representative of a Congressional District along Florida's Gulf Coast, many of my constituents have witnessed the destruction that hurricanes can cause. Although the Tampa Bay area has been fortunate enough to evade the path of a major storm for the past five years, we must not forget the importance of being prepared.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted that this could be an extremely active hurricane season, with 14 to 23 named storms. I worry that predictions of an active season exacerbated by the still unknown implications of the effects of the oil spill could be a recipe for the most devastating season we've yet to experience.

Although we hope and pray that this will not become reality, we must also call to mind the memories of the power outages and physical damage caused by the high speed winds. We must put ourselves in a position of preparedness.

I encourage all individuals, especially those who reside along the Gulf Coast and Eastern Seaboard, to take the necessary precautions to prepare themselves and their families should these predictions prove accurate. Develop an emergency plan. Make a disaster preparedness kit that includes water, non-perishable food items, a first aid kit, medications, and important documents. Know emergency evacuation routes. The best time to prepare is now.

IN SUPPORT OF THE CALLING  
CARD PROTECTION ACT (H.R. 3993)

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY SUTTON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support for the Calling Card Protection Act (H.R. 3993) and would like to commend Rep. ENGEL for his leadership on this issue.

The Calling Card Protection Act provides common-sense solutions to protect consumers from fraud and abuse.

When buying a calling card, a consumer should receive the full amount of time purchased to talk to their family or friends.

Unfortunately, because of hidden fees and charges, this is not the case.

H.R. 3993 requires that calling card providers accurately and clearly disclose any fees and charges . . . and provide an accurate representation of how many minutes the card will provide.

Madam Speaker, our troops use pre-paid calling cards to call their loved ones while they are fighting for us overseas.

They deserve the full amount of time when calling their family.

HONORING SAUNDERS MIDDLE  
SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED ONE  
OF THE TOP PERFORMING  
SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Saunders Middle School for being named as a School to Watch and as one of the top 90 performing middle-grades schools in the nation by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform in 2010.

Saunders Middle School provides an outstanding academic environment for its students to learn. The teachers' devotion to the students' well-being and the students' commitment to learning and challenging themselves have set Saunders Middle School above its counterparts. The staff and student body earned this award by not only being an excellent academic school, but also by being sensitive to each individual students' needs and fostering a socially equitable environment as the students begin to make their transition from adolescence to young adulthood. As a School to Watch, the students and teachers of Saunders Middle School provide a great example of what our educators and students across the nation should strive to achieve.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Saunders Middle School for this recognition and in wishing, its teachers and students continued success.

HONORING RON GETTELFINGER  
FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE  
UAW

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ron Gettelfinger who is retiring from his role as president of the United Auto Workers after years of outstanding service.

Mr. Gettelfinger has spent his entire career in the auto industry. His union involvement began in 1964 with his first job at Ford's truck plant in Louisville, Kentucky as a line repairman. There he was elected committee member, bargaining chair and president for the plant. After excelling in these roles he soon moved on to be elected president of his local union in 1984. With diligence, hard work and constant concern for his fellow worker, Mr. Gettelfinger quickly rose through the union ranks, serving 6 years as director of UAW region 3 until his election as the UAW Vice President in 1998. Mr. Gettelfinger's career as UAW president began with his election in 2002, and was reconfirmed in 2006.

At 65, Mr. Gettelfinger is retiring, following a longstanding union precedent that asks union presidents not run for reelection beyond this age. He will long be remembered for his dedication to his fellow workers, whom he warmly refers to as his "brothers" and "sisters." We can only hope that future presidents will share

his inspiring work ethic and thoughtful concern for those whom he was charged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again offer congratulations to Mr. Ron Gettelfinger for his tenure as UAW president and to wish him the best of luck as he moves onward from his post.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF UNITED STATES-JAPAN  
TREATY OF MUTUAL COOPERA-  
TION AND SECURITY

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the First Japanese Diplomatic Mission to the United States as the Museum for the City of New York pays tribute to Samurai in New York—The First Japanese Delegation, 1860.

On March 17, 1860, exactly 150 years ago today, a sailing ship flying a flag never before seen in North America entered the Golden Gate. It was the Kanrin Maru, the first Japanese ship ever to cross the Pacific on its arrival to San Francisco, California. Japan had been closed to the rest of the world for more than 200 years until 1854, when Commodore Matthew Perry and his squadron of American warships forced the Japanese to open their doors to trade.

The Kanrin Maru had a difficult and stormy 37-day voyage from Japan when it set sail in the winter of 1860. During its time of isolation, the Japanese had had no oceangoing ships and only one member of the Japanese crew had ever been beyond the sight of land. This epic voyage continued until the ship arrived in San Francisco, when the crew's first appearance was revealed on American soil.

At that time, San Franciscans were familiar with the Chinese immigrants in California, but were amazed to see this delegation of distinguished men, so noted by the senior man aboard, Admiral Yoshitake Kimura, who had a shaved head and a topknot in the manner of a samurai. It was also observed and reported by the San Francisco Evening Bulletin that there had been important officers who carried two swords and were obsessed with etiquette. It is also noted that these men always wore robes and never wore hats.

On the other hand, the Japanese were surprised that San Franciscans walked on expensive rugs with their muddy boots. They were astonished that the powerful governor of California traveled without an escort of retainers and that Americans used horses to pull their carriages. They were also amazed that American men treated women as equals.

Twelve days after the arrival of the Kanrin Maru, the USS *Powhatan* arrived bringing the first Japanese Embassy to the United States to ratify the new treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the United States and Japan. Sent by the Tokugawa Shogunate were three Ambassadors, Masaoki Shinmi, Norimasa Muragaki and Tadamasu Oguri whom headed the mission to exchange instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce. The delegation also included a group of approximately eighty samurai diplomats. The delegation officially arrived