

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I request a leave of absence from the House of Representatives for July 13, 2010 and the balance of the week, due to the effect Hurricane Alex and the tropical depression that quickly followed are having on my district, TX-15, in South Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE BIG SPRING  
VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL  
CENTER FOR 60 YEARS OF SERV-  
ICE

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, in his second inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln stated “. . . to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan . . .” It is those same words that grace the steps of the headquarters of the Veterans Administration, representing the sacred duty we owe to the men and women who wore the uniform of this great nation.

Some have worn this uniform voluntarily, others by conscription. Others made a life of service in the military their career, often passed down from one generation to the next. The United States generally and west Texas in particular have had a long and proud history of giving thanks to our veterans. Today, American's all-volunteer force is one composed of men and women willing to risk their lives in defense of freedom and liberty for America and her allies, and in return we owe to them a debt of gratitude.

As part of that gratitude, the Big Spring Veterans Affairs Medical Center serves veterans from a 53-county area in west Texas and part of New Mexico. For 60 years now, the Big Spring VAMC has been an institution helping veterans young and old recover from wounds suffered on the field of battle. Without this facility, rural veterans would be at a significant disadvantage in receiving the specialty care many of them have earned. The Big Spring VAMC is a living testament to the men and women of our armed forces.

The Big Spring VAMC provides a wide range of patient care services, including inpatient and outpatient care as well as residential rehabilitation. The hospital is currently expanding to meet the needs of more veterans with a 40-bed residential rehabilitation unit expected to be completed later this year. Through many changes, the Big Spring community has stood in strong support of the hospital and the veterans it serves. I join the community in thanking the Big Spring VAMC for 60 years of service and offer best wishes for many more years to come.

IN HONOR OF FELIX HARVEY FOR  
HIS NINETIETH BIRTHDAY**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Felix Harvey, a North Carolina businessman and civic leader, as he turns ninety years young on July 16, 2010.

Felix Harvey was born in Kinston, North Carolina, almost a century ago and yet has never grown old. Felix married his wife, Margaret Little Blount, in 1945 and since then has raised two beautiful daughters, Leigh and Sunny. They have seven grandchildren.

In addition to being a family man, Felix is known for his keen business-savvy that has fueled his success for the past fifty years. Felix has been a good North Carolina businessman in every sense, making a living doing right by the folks in his home state. Felix is Chairman of the Board of Harvey Enterprises and Affiliates, which engages in farming and agricultural supplies, cotton ginning, transportation, real estate, and retail petroleum distribution. In addition, he served on several other corporate boards, including the Board of the North Carolina National Bank, now Bank of America, Integon Corporation and North Carolina Natural Gas, to name a few.

More recently, Felix planted an orchard and opened a fruit stand. There is a Greek proverb that says a society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they will never sit. Felix has not just planted a tree, but has planted an entire orchard so that others could enjoy its fruit. Felix is always looking into the future and thinking about how he can expand his horizons, growing and learning every day and making North Carolina a better place to live.

Felix remains active in his community and his free time as well. He has been Vice Chairman of the Board and President of the North Carolina Global Transpark foundation since 1993 and he has had a lasting commitment to his alma mater, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. All the while, he still finds time to get outside and perfect his golf game.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing a man who reminds us that age is just a number. It is with great pride and joy that I wish Felix Harvey, a great friend to me and the state of North Carolina, a happy ninetieth birthday. He is an example to us all in his fervor for life and reminds us to “share the fruit” with our future generations.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,199,290,856,204.31.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,560,865,109,910.50 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP ABRAHAM I.J.  
SWANSON XII**HON. STEVE DRIEHAUS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, last week Cincinnati lost an iconic figure in our religious community when Bishop Abraham I.J. Swanson XII left this world. More than 65 years ago, Bishop Swanson became the founding pastor at the BibleWay Church of God in Christ. Whether preaching to his congregation or to those listening to his forty years of broadcasts on 1480 WCIN, Pastor Swanson offered words of encouragement, hope, and faith to those struggling the most. His words inspired perseverance in the face of adversity, a reflection of his own faith and his commitment to our community. Those who knew him are profoundly grateful for his service, and in his absence we continue to draw strength from his words: “Hold on to your hope, keep the faith, stand your ground until reinforcement comes; it will come in the morning.”

INTRODUCING THE SCHOOL EN-  
HANCEMENT OF AMERICA'S TAL-  
ENTED STUDENTS ACT**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the School Enhancement of America's Talented Students Act, a bill to create a competitive grant program for schools that are striving to combat obesity and improve nutrition in our schools.

One-third of America's youth are now overweight or obese, and it's getting worse. We need to act now as a nation to prevent not only a health crisis, but God forbid these kids be called to our national defense years from now. How prepared will we be to defend our shores? We were caught ill prepared before. We established national child nutrition programs, now it's time to keep them working. It is a fact that our Nation's schools now provide over half the calories our children consume through breakfast and lunch programs. We can feed our kids better by simply shifting the recipes our schools use to fresh vegetables and fruits and other healthier alternatives. Healthy habits formed early, last lifetimes. As families grow healthier, our country prospers. Obesity can bankrupt the health of a nation easier than the most complex far-reaching Wall Street scam. Obesity creates a complex formula of inter-related secondary deadly health risks. We are blessed that we can turn the tide.

This bill creates a competitive grant program for school districts that seek to improve the health of our students by implementing a nutrition program that provides healthier meals. The grant program would give priority to states with the highest obesity rates of at least 30

percent for adults and children and where at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. These states, including my home state of West Virginia, face a steep climb in the battle against child obesity. This grant program will help implement initiatives that will improve the health of the students.

"Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution" was in fact a revolution of recipes for Cabell County Schools in Huntington, West Virginia, where the schools adopted meal plans using more fresh ingredients. I applaud Cabell County Schools for its innovative program, partnering with Mr. Oliver, and continuing with their own ingenuity and hard work. They are leading the way as we all seek to improve the lives and futures of our kids and grandkids. I want to ensure that other Congressional districts confronting similar circumstances have the opportunity to implement a program that encourages fresh foods in school meals.

As Congress moves towards improving the nutrition of school meals through the Child Nutrition Reauthorization, I urge my colleagues to support this program to give our schools an opportunity to serve healthier foods and begin to reduce childhood obesity.

**HONORING GEORGE  
STEINBRENNER**

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of George Steinbrenner and to acknowledge the profound impact he had on the Tampa Bay community through his philanthropic contributions. He leaves behind an extraordinary legacy and will be remembered for his generous spirit that improved the lives of countless families.

Born in Rocky River, Ohio, Mr. Steinbrenner graduated with a bachelor's degree from Williams College in 1952 and earned a master's degree in physical education at the Ohio State University in 1955. He became the owner of the New York Yankees baseball team in 1973 and settled in Tampa in the mid-eighties. Tampa is the spring training home of the Yankees and the Legend's Field baseball complex that they use was renamed George M. Steinbrenner Field in 2008. Over the past decades, Steinbrenner truly came to consider Tampa "home," evidenced by his abundant contributions to youth sports, public schools, children's issues, military groups, and law enforcement.

He contributed to many different charities, from the Boys and Girls Clubs to the Tampa Mayor's Alliance of Persons with Disabilities to St. Joseph's Children's Hospital. Steinbrenner was determined to make a difference in the lives of his neighbors. In addition to initiating the school district's middle school athletics program, he gave to local schools to help fund new athletics facilities, including football stadiums, lighting, tracks, and an aquatic center. Steinbrenner hosted students every year at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center for the annual holiday concert. He also launched the Gold Shields Foundation, an organization that helps families of slain local law enforcement officers.

From a distance, Mr. Steinbrenner may be remembered nationally as the man who as-

sembled baseball powerhouses, but in Tampa his name evokes a legacy of generosity and a true desire for the betterment of others. As a philanthropist, Steinbrenner made his contributions quietly, often preferring to remain anonymous and avoid publicity in his giving.

I rise today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives to honor the life of George Steinbrenner, to pay tribute to his outstanding contributions to the Tampa community. His wife Joan and children Jenny, Hank, and Hal are valued family members of our greater community as well. The Steinbrenner family's spirit of charity is an inspiration to all who know them and their philanthropy will live on in the lives of countless friends and families.

**ABC, WASHINGTON POST SPIN  
POLL RESULTS**

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, Americans' confidence in President Obama has reached a new low, according to an ABC News/Washington Post poll. But ABC and The Post found a way to spin the poll's results and point out negatives for Republicans.

Six in 10 Americans say they lack faith in the President to make the right decisions for the country, according to the poll. A majority disapprove of his handling of the economy.

And those most likely to vote in the midterm elections prefer Republican leadership over continued Democratic rule by a 15-point margin.

These results are indisputably bad news for Democrats. But during ABC's coverage of the poll, George Stephanopoulos, a former Democratic adviser, claimed that "there's still . . . not a lot of confidence in the Republican Party."

The Washington Post highlighted a misleading graphic that indicated Americans have more trust in Democrats than Republicans. In fact, a greater number of poll respondents said they had at least some trust in Republicans rather than Democrats.

ABC and the Washington Post should give Americans the facts, not spin their poll results.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 435—H.R. 4438, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Leasing and Boundary Expansion Act of 2010—had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

**RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF  
JUDGE IRVIN DOUGLAS SUGG, SR.**

**HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, I would like to take the time to recognize the passing

of Judge Irvin Douglas Sugg, Sr. Judge Sugg was a great man in his community, however, he is most known for being the first African-American judge to preside in Halifax County, Virginia.

Born in 1916, Judge Sugg attended elementary and high school in South Boston, Virginia. He graduated high school from Mary Potter Memorial School, a boarding school in Oxford, NC. After graduation, Judge Sugg matriculated at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, where he majored in history until he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1940. His tour of duty lasted until November 1944.

While in the Army, Judge Sugg was stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and later at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here in Washington, DC. By the end of World War II, he reached the rank of Technical Sergeant, only one promotion from Master Sergeant. He was honorably discharged in November 1945 and had earned the American Defense Campaign Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal.

Judge Sugg and his family moved back to South Boston where he worked at the Piedmont Grocery Company—his father's store. He was also a professional photographer and real estate investor. Judge Sugg went back to school and earned his B.S. degree in history from Virginia Union University. He also earned his law degree from North Carolina College School of Law—now North Carolina Central University Law School—in Durham, NC, where he graduated cum laude. In 1953, he opened his own law practice in South Boston where he practiced law for 32 years and was the first black lawyer to practice law continuously in Halifax County.

In 1975, Mr. Sugg was appointed by the city of South Boston as Substitute City Court Judge. Three years later, he was appointed Substitute General District Judge for the 10th Judiciary District. In 1985, Judge Sugg was elected by the General Assembly to serve as a judge in the General District Court for the 10th Judicial Circuit, making him the first black judge in the district. In 1991, Judge Sugg won a precedent-setting court case against the state of Virginia, allowing him to work past the mandatory retirement age and serve another six year term. Judge Sugg retired from the bench on February 28, 1998.

Judge Sugg has a long list of personal and professional affiliations including: Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, where he was the longest standing member of Zeta chapter's 90-year history; Free and Accepted Mason, Prince Hall Affiliation; Halifax County School Board member; South Boston Planning Commission member; and member of Mount Olive Baptist Church.

Judge Sugg was married for 68 years to Bernice Humphrey Sugg and was the father to five children, grandfather to 14 and great-grandfather to 15.

Judge Sugg made great contributions to the South Boston community, Virginia and our Nation. He will be greatly missed.

I would like to send my condolences to Judge Sugg's family and friends and to all of the South Boston community.