

Mr. Speaker, originally enacted in June 2004, the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act will help to expand and develop museum exhibits and educational programs honoring African Americans who have made significant contributions to the nation, but whose names, faces and achievements may not be well known to the average citizen.

This recognition can and will be accomplished and preserved with the expansion of the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, a national treasure that is located in my district and hometown of Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Blacks in Wax Museum was founded in 1983 by Dr. Elmer Martin and Dr. Joanne Martin, who started the museum with their own funds carrying a few wax figures and exhibit materials around the country in their car.

I am proud to report that the museum currently occupies part of a city block in East Baltimore and includes more than 200 wax figures. It is America's first wax museum of Black history. The museum now receives well over 200,000 visitors per year—more than half of these visitors are school children.

Several members of Congress and their staffs have visited the museum and relayed to me the awesome nature of their visit—how the figures and exhibits both moved and informed them, resulting in a truly enriching experience. Enactment of H.R. 3967 makes certain that the Museum can continue its mission to preserve a great part of our nation's history.

Lastly, this legislation authorizes assistance in establishing a Justice Learning Center as a component of the expanded Museum complex. The Justice Learning Center will include state-of-the-art facilities and resources to educate the public, especially at-risk youth, about the role of African Americans in our nation's judicial system. It will include a special focus on the civil rights movement, and on the role of African Americans as lawmakers, attorneys and in the Judiciary.

Federal dollars used will be spent efficiently and effectively. This is an issue that is critical to assess when we ask citizens for funding any program. This expansion will provide jobs, but it will also create a link for our children to a past that is so often forgotten.

Learning is enhanced when all of the senses can be engaged. This museum will bring the past to life, not just in the minds of the students, but in front of their eyes. Funding this educational opportunity is another critical step in creating an appreciation and understanding of history in our young people.

These gains are well worth the cost. This is simply a technical measure to reauthorize legislation that was enacted by Congress in 2004.

Again, I thank Chairmen RAHALL and GRIJALVA for their support, and encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Nephrology Nurses As-

sociation as well as all those involved in the annual Kidney Disease Awareness Week, which will take place this year from August 9th through August 13th.

There are over 400,000 Americans who have irreversible kidney failure, and the only treatment for this disease is dialysis or kidney transplantation. However, transplants are limited due to the shortage of donors, and the majority of patients who suffer from this forgotten ailment must undergo regular dialysis treatments.

The leading causes of end-stage kidney disease (ESRD), a disease that 24,000 New Yorkers suffer from, are hypertension and diabetes. An additional 15,000 people in my State suffer from these two ailments and are at risk of ESRD. Despite these staggering numbers, debilitating kidney diseases are typically forgotten.

Our area nephrology nurses play a fundamental role in providing our sick with dialysis and related treatments in my community and across the entire country. I applaud them for their efforts to contribute to the overall health of our nation.

Madam Speaker, I thank the American Nephrology Nurses Association for their work to treat these diseases and urge every American to observe Kidney Disease Awareness Week this August.

#### HONORING THE OPERATION LOBSTER DINNER AND OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary event and the many people and organizations that have helped make it happen. This year in Groton, Connecticut, Grossman's Seafood will host its second annual "Operation Lobster Dinner" on July 18, 2010, for military personnel and their families.

This event provides local military families with 600 lobster dinners free of charge. These families will enjoy not only the dinner, but entertainment and a variety of activities for the children in attendance. The event is also a fundraiser for Work Vessels for Veterans, an effective organization that seeks to help returning servicemen and women start or restart their careers after fulfilling their military duties by donating boats and other vehicles to be used for those purposes.

"Operation Lobster Dinner" is a sterling example of the true sense of community in the Groton area for the military families who are based in our state. These brave Americans spend countless weeks and months away from their loved ones and put their lives on the line in defense of our freedom. We can never do enough to thank these true patriots, but "Operation Lobster Dinner" provides a unique opportunity for these folks to sit back and enjoy a delicious meal.

I also want to highlight the role of Captain Marc Denno and the Sub Base New London in contributing to this special dinner. I look forward to attending this event and joining with the sponsors and countless volunteers who help make it possible. I ask my colleagues to

join me in honoring Grossman's Seafood for their generosity.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA, HON- DURAS AND EL SALVADOR

**HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Central America Caucus, I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to the people of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador for their suffering as a result of the devastating effects of Tropical Storm Agatha. Beginning on May 29, 2010, Tropical Storm Agatha left a wake of death and destruction in its path through Central America, leaving more than 200 people dead and almost 100,000 people displaced into shelters by this devastation.

As a San Diegan, I am no stranger to how devastating natural disasters can be. In October 2007, 400,000 acres burned across our county while more than 1 million individuals were evacuated from their homes and more than 115 firefighters were injured while fighting to contain the fires. Any natural disaster tests the resolve of a community so our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by Tropical Storm Agatha.

In addition to affecting the long term functionality and prosperity of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, Tropical Storm Agatha has also severely affected the countries' critical and physical infrastructures, damaging buildings as well as water and sanitation systems, and agricultural stock.

It is a testament to the generosity of the American people as well as the innate goodness of human nature that so much aid from both American and international organizations have contributed to the relief efforts of Tropical Storm Agatha. I am proud to report that the United States has participated in providing relief supplies while governments and humanitarian organizations globally have contributed millions of dollars in relief funds.

I would like to reiterate the profound sympathy we have for those affected by Tropical Storm Agatha, as well as laud their perseverance and progress in recovery. I urge the United States to continue to assist their recovery efforts, both in the short as a well as the long term. Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected, and for these reasons I ask my colleagues to support the underlying resolution.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD BANKS AND FOOD PAN- TRIES

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work of food banks and food pantries in the 10th District of Virginia and their hard work and dedication to serving their communities.

Serving Fairfax County are Food for Others, SHARE of McLean, and Reston Interfaith. In Loudoun County are Loudoun Interfaith Relief, LINK, Seven Loaves, Tree of Life, and Guilford Food Pantry. In Prince William County is SERVE Inc. In Fauquier County is Fauquier Food Bank. In the Shenandoah Valley is Lord Fairfax Food Bank. Without the devoted workers who generously volunteer their time and efforts to feeding the community, countless individuals would go hungry each day.

I commend all of the volunteers and staff for their tireless commitment and service to those who are unable to make ends meet and put food on the table. I also commend the partnership that has developed between local grocery stores and food banks and food pantries to make available leftover and unused food, and I also thank those in the community who donate food to fill food pantry shelves.

TRIBUTE TO GOLDIE MICHALEK HOLDEN

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Goldie Michalek Holden of Mason City, Iowa, on the celebration of her 100th birthday on November 18, 2010.

Goldie has made a resounding difference in her community. For over forty years, Goldie was a first grade teacher in Mason City where she worked with many disadvantaged children. Goldie also taught Head Start, a program set up for students who learned English as a second language. When she retired, she left as principal at McKinley School.

She was married for the first time at the age of 71 to Arthur Holden. Although Goldie does not have any children of her own, she is surrounded by many loved ones: five step children, 14 step grandchildren, and 2 step great-grandchildren, four nieces and nephews and eight great-grand nieces and nephews.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred years. Since Goldie's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Goldie has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Goldie Michalek Holden for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Goldie in Congress, and I wish her happiness, health and many more dances in her future years.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF ARMANDO AND BETTY RODRIGUEZ

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Armando and Betty Rodriguez of

Fresno, California, as they celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Over the course of their journey of the past 60 years, Armando and Betty have demonstrated a loving devotion and enduring partnership that continues to make their marriage a true inspiration for others.

Armando and Betty Rodriguez were both born and raised in Fresno, California, and were traditional high school sweethearts, having eyes only for each other. They attended Edison High School and graduated in 1947. Three short years later, they were married and in 1952, Armando joined the United States Air Force, serving our Great Country for four years, including a tour of duty in Korea, where he served as a Morse Code operator.

After being discharged, Armando and Betty resided in Fresno, while he completed his studies at Fresno State. Always true partners, when Armando decided to pursue his Juris Doctorate degree, Betty supported both of them by working in a number of part-time jobs. Armando became an attorney and, in 1972, went on to become the first Hispanic elected to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. With Betty's unwavering support, Armando helped open the judicial doors for many other Latinos when he was appointed by then Governor Jerry Brown as a Fresno County Superior Court Judge in 1975. Armando would go on to serve in his judicial capacity for twenty years.

Armando Rodriguez is known to be proud of the many "firsts" in his life—his first marriage in its 60th year; first lawyer to work for the California Rural Legal Assistance; first in his family to graduate from college; and one of the first to be elected as an adviser with el Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior during Mexico President Vicente Fox's administration.

Betty Rodriguez has been equally active in their beloved Fresno community by helping to found the League of Mexican American Women, and participating in the Ladies Aid to Retarded Citizens, the League of Women Voters, the Mexican-American Political Association, Friends of the Library, and countless other organizations. Despite her seemingly endless commitments to the community, Betty has also been and remains, a devoted caretaker of the Rodriguez home throughout their 60 years of marriage.

Armando and Betty have become known as local Latino icons and continue to have a tremendous impact on their families, friends and fellow community members. Furthermore, each has been a recipient of La Medalla Ohtli, the highest recognition that the Mexican government bestows on non-Mexican citizens and both were honored for their work with the Mexican Consulate, with Fresno's Sister City Torreon and with youth from Mexico.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Armando and Betty Rodriguez on celebrating their 60th year of marriage, and expressing our hope that they are blessed with many more joyous years together.

RECOGNITION OF AUGUSTA L. BEVERLY

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Augusta L. Beverly, a citizen of Neptune Township, New Jersey, who on July 25, 2010 will celebrate her 100th birthday. As her Representative, I would like to honor her remarkable life and her upcoming birthday.

"Gussie Louise," as Mrs. Beverly is affectionately known, has been an influential member of Neptune Township since 1982. She is an active member of the Neptune Senior Center where she participates in the Forever Young Club, the Neptune Seniors Club, ceramics classes, and many special events. Mrs. Beverly is one of the original members of the center and helped create many of the center's activities and groups.

Mrs. Beverly was born in 1910 in Jersey City, New Jersey to Otto and Katy Ludwig. She was taken from her parents in 1915 and separated from her two sisters, Ann and Barbara. An orphan by the age of six, Augusta had a difficult early life. She worked on a farm in Locktown and then served as a maid in Matawan and had little opportunity for education. After six challenging years, young Augusta was taken in by the Bennett family where she served as a companion for the elderly Mrs. Bennett. The family allowed young Augusta to go to school and travel with them. Augusta stayed with the Bennett family for 10 years.

In 1932, Mrs. Beverly met her future husband, Joseph Beverly, on the bridge next to the Old Grist Mill in Tinton Falls. After their marriage, the couple eventually settled in Eatontown where they had three children—Joseph, Norman, and Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Beverly were happily married for 12 years until 1945 when Mr. Beverly lost his life fighting at the Battle of the Bulge. During the war, Mrs. Beverly epitomized "Rosie the Riveter" and worked at the Steiner's Factory in Long Branch and then worked the night shift for the Bendix Corporation. She remains very proud of this part of her life. After residing in Florida and then Pennsylvania, Mrs. Beverly moved back to New Jersey in 1981 where she could be near her children and grandchildren. She has made a lasting impression on all of their lives and now has nine great-grandchildren who love her very much. She is an adored family member and is an inspiration to her community. It is wonderful that Mrs. Beverly will be celebrating her 100th birthday at the place that means the most to her, the Neptune Senior Center.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledging the extraordinary longevity of Augusta Beverly. She is a highly valued citizen of the state of New Jersey, and I am honored to commemorate her life today.