

the story of the freedom that is ours and the greatness of the United States of America.”

I want to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Boy Scouts of America on their very special 100-year milestone. Madam Speaker, the Boy Scouts of America prepare our young men for lives of leadership and selflessness. I applaud the organization for its longevity and commitment to service.

HONORING THE SWISHER FAMILY, ARKANSAS FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Swisher family, who have been named Arkansas Family of the Year by the state Knights of Columbus council.

Brian and Gail Swisher have persevered and sacrificed to allow their son Michael the opportunity to accomplish his dreams and goals, specifically gaining Eagle Scout status, despite his cerebral palsy, which he was diagnosed with at birth. The Swisher family truly deserves recognition for being the Knights of Columbus Family of the Year because of their resiliency and passion in teaching their son that no matter what physical condition he is in, he can still accomplish whatever he tries at, even though he has been confined to a wheelchair since he was a little boy.

Michael Swisher is an inspiration to all of us with his determination to overcome his ailment and complete the tasks necessary to become an Eagle Scout. Michael Swisher and the entire Swisher family are an inspiration and a heartfelt story that should be commemorated throughout the nation for their passion, commitment and desire. They truly are deserving of the recognition Arkansas Family of the Year.

COMMENDING BILL DAVIS FROM TIFTON, GEORGIA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend Bill Davis from Tifton, Georgia.

For 20 years, Bill Davis owned a Sonny's barbeque franchise in Tifton, Georgia. After his 22-year license for the franchise expired in 2007, Mr. Davis met with corporate officials to discuss a new condition of their agreement. The company asked Davis to initiate the selling of beer, wine, and liquor drinks in the restaurant in order to fully comply with corporate standards. Davis refused, claiming that his restaurant was family-oriented and suggesting that the initiation of alcoholic sales could detract from the family environment. It was the first of a philosophical divergence. More would come.

On October 18, 2008, an individual from the corporate office visited the establishment. There, he found the employees wearing white T-shirts with an American flag logo and the words “I Pledge . . . I Pray” written on them.

He also noticed a Jesus souvenir sitting behind the counter. The patrons and staff of the restaurant were accustomed to the display, claiming that it allowed them to exhibit their patriotism and religious affiliation. The corporate employee, however, was less than pleased, perceiving the actions as a breach of the conditions and the typical practice of the franchise owners. An extension on license agreement was signed, and both parties agreed to extend through November 30, 2009.

This past October, Davis received a letter stating that his franchise agreement would end on December 31.

Rather than altering the atmosphere of his establishment to conform to the politically correct request of the corporation, Davis decided to “stand up for God” and continue the demonstration of his beliefs, despite the attempts of the company to silence them, so he parted ways with Sonny's. True to his word, he stuck with his convictions, and the display of American patriotism and religious faith are still a part of the restaurant's atmosphere today.

While the basic restaurant has changed, Mr. Davis is no longer a franchise owner, but a sole proprietor. The restaurant is now called “The Smokehouse Restaurant.” Davis affirms that, aside from the name change, everything at the establishment will remain in place. I commend Bill Davis for “standing up for God,” and I also support Sonny's right to set the rules for their franchise. They have a contractual right to set the rules, but sometimes, as businesses grow and become prosperous, they have to play it safe, conforming to political correctness and avoiding anything that could potentially raise an eyebrow. Thus, the straightjacket of public opinion and the murky center of legal conformity play an increasing role in decision-making. Some corporations, such as Graco, Domino's, and Chick-fil-A, have stood tall and should be commended.

The decision to run family friendly and patriotic operations is what makes America thrive. It seems as if Davis' decision to stick to these values will likely pay off, as many local patrons have insisted that they will continue to dine at the restaurant on a regular basis.

HONORING RUDY AND EVA LEON AND LONNIE AND MARILYN KILGORE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the unyielding commitment of two families to caring for and improving the lives of foster care children in Arizona.

Rudy and Eva Leon have been licensed foster care parents for 45 years and were recently honored by former Governor Janet Napolitano for being the longest serving foster parents in the state of Arizona. They have spent the past 17 years serving the children of Devereux Arizona. The Leons have selflessly provided over 200 children with a safe and loving home environment.

Lonnie and Marilyn Kilgore began their service assisting foster care children in the Juvenile Court Foster Care Program of Arizona. Since that time, they have been licensed with Devereux for the past 16 years, during which they have cared for 47 children.

Foster care parents such as the Leons and the Kilgores recognize that all children deserve a home that will shelter them from the trauma and stress of their young lives. These families have made it their mission to provide these children with the opportunity to move on from their often difficult pasts and benefit from caring and supportive guardians. This foundation truly creates the groundwork for a meaningful, enriching life.

Organizations like Devereux have proven enormously successful at changing the lives of some of our state's most at-risk youth, helping them find stable homes and setting thousands of children on the right path in the face of tremendous difficulty.

I would like once more to thank Rudy and Eva Leon and Lonnie and Marilyn Kilgore for their hard work, deep commitment and determined sacrifice to the children of Arizona. Their long-standing dedication to the future of children and impact on their communities are an example of selfless dedication to us all.

HONORING CARL MESCHER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carl Mescher of Metropolis, Illinois. Mr. Mescher will turn 90 on August 12, 2010. A reception to celebrate his birthday is being held in Metropolis on August 8, 2010.

Mr. Mescher grew up on the family farm, where he still raises cattle and crops. He served in the United States Navy from June 1940 to July 1946, where he achieved the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He was assigned to the USS Pennsylvania, which was in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Mr. Mescher manned the telephone connected directly to the bridge during the attack.

On December 20, 1941, the USS Pennsylvania was sent to San Francisco for repairs of damage caused during the attack with Mr. Mescher on board. He then served as an observation plane radioman-gunner and participated in missions to retake the islands. He was awarded the Air Medal for courageous action in the Pacific theater at Makin, Kwajalein, and Eniwetok Atoll.

I am honored to thank Mr. Mescher for his service to our nation. May God bless him with continued health and happiness.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2480, THE TRUTH IN FUR LABELING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2480, the Truth in Fur Labeling Act of 2009. This bill will amend the Fur Products Labeling Act of 1951 to close the loophole that allows the sale of products containing a relatively small quantity of fur or fur that is valued at \$150 or less.

The current loophole denies consumers the right to know what their garment is really

made of. It may say "faux" but this may not be accurate. Consumers who may have allergies to fur or ethical objections to fur cannot make informed purchases. Our constituents have the right to know what they are purchasing and wearing.

This bill was introduced in response to a series of investigations of fur products sold at major retailers across the country. This investigation found that a significant number of clothes designers and retailers were selling some fur-trimmed garments that were described as faux when actually they turned out to be real fur. This legislation is about transparency and providing consumers with accurate information on what they're buying.

This legislation simply requires that fur-trimmed garments meet the same labeling standard already in place for fur garments of a higher dollar value. It does not affect the trade in any animal fur or the methods used to produce animal fur. The legislation also asks the Federal Trade Commission to review the Fur Products Name Guide and ensure accuracy and consistency of species names.

I supported this legislation in the 110th Congress, and strongly support it today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to strongly add my support to H.R. 2480, the Truth in Fur Labeling Act of 2009.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LORENZEN WRIGHT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Memphian and NBA star Lorenzen Wright. Mr. Wright was born in Memphis, Tennessee and attended the historic Booker T. Washington High School. After graduating, he attended the University of Memphis where he helped lead the team to the "Sweet Sixteen" in the 1995 NCAA tournament. While there, he was selected Third Team All-American by the Associated Press and earned the nickname "The Howl" because of his tendency to yell after exciting plays.

In 1996, after playing two seasons for the Memphis Tigers, Mr. Wright entered the NBA draft and was selected 7th overall by the Los Angeles Clippers. After three seasons with the Clippers, he played for the Atlanta Hawks for two years before returning home to play for the newly relocated Memphis Grizzlies in 2001.

For Lorenzen Wright, playing for his hometown team at the professional level gave him a chance to play alongside some of the best athletes for the city he loved. During his tenure with the Grizzlies, he became an emotional leader of the team, bringing passion and dedication to each and every game. Friend and former NBA star Penny Hardaway recalled the fans' love for Lorenzen and how "he attacked the game every single night." After five seasons with the Memphis Grizzlies, he was traded back to the Atlanta Hawks and has since played for the Sacramento Kings and most recently the Cleveland Cavaliers until his retirement in 2009.

Off the basketball court, Lorenzen Wright was a devoted family man and a loyal friend.

He is survived by six children, Lorenzen Jr., Loren, twins Lamar and Shamar, Lawson and Sofia, his parents Herb Wright and Deborah Marion and a host of family and friends. Lorenzen Wright's passing is a great loss to our city and the basketball world. I will miss him as a friend and appreciate all he did for Memphis.+

HONORING DON EUCARIO BERMUDEZ

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, this month Colombia celebrates 200 years as a sovereign nation. As we congratulate our democratic ally and friend on its bicentennial, it is fitting that we also honor some of Colombia's finest, and among them, is Eucario Bermudez.

This distinguished journalist got his start as a broadcaster, radio host and General Director of Radio Caracol Colombia. While in Colombia, he also produced and directed various TV programs, earning him the "Premio Ondas de España" a prestigious award for journalism given by Spain. In 1981, he moved to Miami, expanding the radio station to the United States. He established Radio Klaridad, which later became Radio Calidad and is now a days the very popular Radio Caracol in South Florida. He has since been director of the station, which together with its sister station Radio Caracol Colombia, broadcasts news in both the United States and Colombia.

Don Eucario also oversees community relations for Radio Caracol, leads the news department, and continues to broadcast daily on his show "The Voice of the Community," as well as the noon news cast. He does so with true professionalism, honesty and a commitment to reporting the truth, always maintaining a fair and balanced approach.

What stands out most about Don Eucario is his activism and service to the community. He has been president of the Colombian American Chamber of Commerce, founded the Association of Colombian News Outlets and Journalists in the United States, the Colombian American Association, known as CASA, and the first ever Colombian Political Action Committee, COLPAC. He has published several works about the economy, small businesses, entrepreneurship and immigration, and has been recognized by various local governments and the Florida State Legislature for his service to the development of the Colombian American community in South Florida as well as his contributions in the field of journalism.

Although he has called South Florida home for nearly three decades, Don Eucario is still as passionate about his native Colombia as he is about the United States and works to ensure that the Colombian American community has a voice and that its needs are represented. Above all, he is committed to promoting democracy and speaking out for those who cannot express themselves as freely as he can.

I ask that you join me in thanking and honoring Eucario Bermudez, a fine journalist and friend, for his service to the community and his commitment to always speaking the truth.

HONORING THE FRANK L. MITCHELL POST 3335 OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Frank L. Mitchell Post 3335 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

The mission of Veterans of Foreign Wars is to honor the dead by helping the living, and the Frank L. Mitchell Post 3335 in Jay, Maine, has spent the past 75 years meeting this goal. Post members have honored their fallen comrades in the community and have strived to ensure that all veterans receive the benefits they deserve. The Post honors those who remain Prisoners of War or Missing in Action and ensures that the community never forgets the sacrifices of these service members and their families.

Post 3335 helps improve the civic engagement of its community by sponsoring the local Patriot's Pen competition. This essay writing competition is designed to foster patriotism by giving students in grades six, seven and eight the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. Additionally, their homecoming celebrations continue to provide Jay with occasions to come together as a community.

The people of Jay know firsthand the important role Post 3335 has played in the life of their town. Through their countless hours of volunteer work and remarkable commitment to our veterans, the members of Post 3336 have been a shining light to some of our nation's most deserving citizens.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the members of the Frank L. Mitchell Post 3335 as they celebrate their 75th anniversary and thanking them for their tremendous contributions to the Jay community and to the State of Maine.

HONORING MR. FABIO ANDRADE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, this week Colombia celebrates 200 years as a sovereign nation. As we congratulate our democratic ally and friend on its Bicentennial, it is fitting that we also honor some of Colombia's finest, and among them, is Fabio Andrade.

Fabio is one of South Florida's most dedicated, selfless and tireless community activists. He leads the Colombian American community with conviction and commitment. He is a leading voice in urging the passage of a Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Colombia and is an advocate of strengthening the partnership between the two countries. Fabio understands that as the hemisphere's leading democracies, Colombia and the United States are positioned to make an impact through trade, the creation of jobs and a steadfast commitment to spreading democracy throughout Latin America.