

Britain, Great Valley aided America's Revolutionary War effort by providing supplies to help troops encamped at nearby Valley Forge survive the brutal winter of 1777–1778.

While the Church and the area surrounding it has evolved immeasurably since the days when farmers and their families worshiped in a "little country church," the tremendous commitment to nurturing the spiritual growth of members and strengthening the bonds between neighbors and families has remained constant.

A worship service to give thanks for 300 years of faith and service will conclude the Church's tercentennial celebration on Sunday, September 19, 2010.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Congregation of Great Valley Presbyterian Church as they commemorate this memorable milestone and in extending best wishes for continued success and growth.

#### CONGRATULATING THE MOJAVE AIR AND SPACE PORT ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an airport in my community that has been at the forefront of aerospace milestones. Mojave Air and Space Port, located in Mojave, California, is celebrating 75 years of service and cutting edge innovation this upcoming September 18, 2010.

The Mojave Air and Space Port has a unique history. Starting as a rural airstrip in 1935, the Mojave Airport provided access to the local gold and silver mining industry. After seven years of serving the local mining industry, the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) shifted the focus of the airport and turned it into the Marine Corps Auxiliary Station (MCAAS) Mojave in 1942. In 1946, MCAAS Mojave was converted into a U.S. Navy airfield. In 1951, the USMC reopened MCAAS Mojave as an auxiliary field, Marine Corps Air Station El Toro. In 1961, Kern County acquired the airport, and in 1972, and the East Kern Airport District was formed to direct the airport.

The Mojave Air and Space Port has three core focuses: flight testing, space industry development, and aircraft heavy maintenance and storage. With its convenient location close to Edwards Air Force Base, the Mojave Air and Space Port has been a leader in flight testing activities for over 30 years. Beginning in the late 1990s, the Mojave Air and Space Port became a hub for small companies seeking a place to develop space flight technologies, with the first flight tests starting in 1999. In 2004, it was the first spaceport certified by the Federal Aviation Administration to be licensed for horizontal launches of reusable launch vehicles in the United States.

The Mojave Air and Space Port is the home to the Rutan Model 76 Voyager aircraft, designed by Burt Rutan and piloted by his brother Dick Rutan, where they set a record-breaking flight around the world without stopping to refuel in 1986. Model 281 Proteus, a tandem-wing high-endurance aircraft designed by Burt and tested at the Mojave Air and Space Port, holds several altitude records.

The Mojave Air and Space Port is also home to SpaceShipOne. It is the first, and so far only, privately built, flown, and funded aircraft to launch and enter a man into space in June of 2004. This feat was acknowledged with the Ansari X Prize, and the 2004 Collier Trophy later that year, awarded by the National Aeronautic Association. Today, SpaceShipOne is displayed in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's "Milestones of Flight" gallery in Washington, D.C. SpaceShipTwo is now in development and will continue to transform the commercial space industry.

Today, the Mojave Air and Space Port occupies about 3,300 acres and serves as a world renowned flight resource center. The airport is home to over 40 companies, ranging from small industrial to highly advanced aeronautical design firms. XCOR is a small business that is building a spacecraft to take individuals to space. Recently, NASA awarded funding to tenant Masten Space Systems through the NASA Commercial Reusable Sub-orbital Research Program to finance the development and testing of the Xaero vehicle which will make four flights from the Mojave Air and Space Port to demonstrate reusable launch and small payloads going to near-space.

The Mojave Air and Space Port continues to break new ground and expand its facilities as it recently extended its largest runway to 12,500 feet and integrated a new commercial development taxiway system. The Mojave Air and Space Port not only is known for its revolutionary air and space technology, but it also boasts an extensive resume in film production. The airport has been the host to movies, television shows, commercials and music videos.

Today, the Mojave Air and Space Port is run and supported by the leadership of the East Kern Airport District. The East Kern Airport District encourages entrepreneurship and flourishes, existing by its mission statement to, "Foster and maintain our recognized aerospace presence with a principle focus as the world's premier civilian aerospace test center while seeking compatibly diverse business and industry." The Mojave Air and Space Port is under the forward-thinking leadership of the East Kern Airport District Board Members Jim Balentine, JoAnn Painter, Marie Walker, Dick Rutan, and Cathy Hansen and General Manager, Stuart Witt, along with his team of dedicated individuals.

The Mojave Air and Space Port is also home to the Intermediate Space Challenge. Through this program, the Mojave Air and Space Port opens its facility to young students in 4th, 5th and 6th grade, enabling them to work together in a team environment to choose a team name, create team banners, craft an essay, and develop and use their math and science skills to construct and launch a small rocket under appropriate supervision. Along with involving the community in this revolutionary program, the Mojave Air and Space Port also encourages teachers and administrators across the country to implement similar programs that stimulate students and infuse them with a love of engineering, mathematics, and science.

The Mojave Air and Space Port has given the community 75 years of exceptional service. It is a keystone of our aerospace achievements not only in California but around the nation and throughout the world. I applaud the Mojave Air and Space Port for its innovative

research and its service as a public airport and will continue to support its place in America's air and space development for years to come.

#### IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF 2010 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of 2010 Hispanic Heritage Month, as we celebrate the members of this community and their invaluable contributions to the Greater Cleveland Area and to our country.

Hispanic Heritage month celebrates and illuminates the significant contributions that Americans of Hispanic heritage have had on American culture. Hispanic Americans have contributed immeasurably toward efforts to elevate the human condition.

Americans of Hispanic descent have served our country in numerous ways—as elected officials, teachers, musicians, physicians, veterans, community activists, and dedicated employees in virtually every sector of the economy. Their rich and diverse culture has touched the life of every American has been an invaluable addition to Cleveland's diverse social fabric.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Hispanic Heritage month of 2010, as we recognize the great contributions made by Hispanic Americans in my district and around the country.

#### COMMEMORATING CONSTITUTION DAY

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, September 17th is Constitution Day, a time to show appreciation for the foundational and supreme law of our land that deserves special attention this year. The principles of the U.S. Constitution have successfully guided our Nation through times of both prosperity and challenge. The genius of our Constitution rests in the Founding Fathers' intricate system of checks and balances and the division of powers between the states and the national government. This has helped ensure that the people are the masters of their government, rather than its servants. The 10th Amendment was particularly prescient in recognizing that the most effective, responsive, and representative government is that which is closest to its citizens. It has long been my practice to distribute copies of the Constitution to the school groups with whom I meet, and I am greatly encouraged by the millions of patriotic Americans who are now dedicating themselves to reaffirming and restoring the principles of limited government and personal freedom. Public and personal readings of the Constitution are taking place throughout Alabama and our country in recognition of Constitution Day. All Americans should reflect on an enduring document that has given us the magnificent gifts of

democracy and freedom and remained relevant to providing guidance for our government despite the passage of more than two centuries.

# LEGISLATION TO RESTORE THE AUTHORITY FOR HHS TO GRANT CHILD WELFARE WAIVER DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO STATES

## HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, today I introduced legislation with Representative JOHN LINDER (R-GA) that would restore the authority for the Department of Health and Human Services to grant child welfare waiver demonstration projects to States. Child welfare waivers will give some States additional flexibility in designing targeted interventions for at-risk children.

While I support providing opportunities for States to improve the outcomes of children through this authority, waivers are not a substitute for comprehensive child welfare financing reform or for additional investments in improving outcomes for at-risk children.

I will continue to work with all of my colleagues to develop proposals that build on the progress made with the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act so that we can ensure the best outcomes for every child that comes to the attention of the child welfare system.

# PERMITTING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO ADMINISTER THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO APPLICANTS FOR NATURALIZATION

SPEECH OF

## HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4862, which permits Members of Congress to administer the oath of allegiance to applicants for naturalization. I strongly support this bill and am a proud cosponsor of this bill.

Naturalization is the process by which U.S. citizenship is granted to a foreign citizen or national after he or she fulfills the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act. According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, more than 700,000 immigrants become U.S. citizens every year.

America is a diverse nation that was built on immigrants. As we all know, immigrants have made, and continue to make, lasting contributions to our society. In my home state of Georgia, immigrants comprise at least 11.9 percent of the state workforce. Thus, it is important to do all we can to create pathways for immigrants to become U.S. citizens. America is known for its rich diversity which is truly a source of strength and competitiveness.

At naturalization ceremonies, immigrants finally have the chance to become official citi-

zens of the United States. Becoming a naturalized citizen U.S. citizen is a process that can take years to accomplish. Individuals must not only be knowledgeable about U.S. history, but be very patient. Naturalization is a special moment in their lives when all of their hard work, determination, and persistence ultimately pays off and they become U.S. citizens.

I look forward to having the opportunity to administer the oath of allegiance to applicants for naturalization. Immigrants have, and will continue, to make long-lasting contributions to the United States. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 4862 and urge my colleagues to do the same. I yield back the balance of my time.

# HONORING THE CENTENARY OF MOTHER TERESA

## HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Mother Teresa, born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhi and of Albanian descent, for over 45 years ministered to the poor, sick, orphaned, and dying, first in India and then to other countries. She died in 1997 and was beatified by Pope John Paul II as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

On the centenary of her birth, we celebrate the great work of this wonderful woman, who gave so much as an advocate for the poor and helpless that she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

When she arrived in India, she became increasingly disturbed by the widespread poverty she saw in Calcutta. She began her missionary work in the slums in 1948, wearing a simple white cotton sari with a blue border. She began looking after the needs of the destitute and starving by begging for food and supplies.

In 1950, she received Vatican permission to start the congregation that would become the Missionaries of Charity with a mission to care for, in her words, "the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone." It began with 13 members and today has more than 4,000 nuns running orphanages, AIDS hospices and charity centers worldwide, and caring for refugees, the blind, disabled, aged, alcoholics, the poor and homeless, and victims of floods, epidemics, and famine.

She went wherever there was suffering. At the height of the war in Beirut she rescued children and brokered ceasefires; she helped the hungry in Ethiopia; radiation victims of Chernobyl; and earthquake victims in Armenia. She even opened a center in the South Bronx.

Mother Teresa suffered a heart attack in Rome in 1983, while visiting the Pope. After a second attack in 1989, she received an artificial pacemaker. In 1996, she broke her collar bone, suffered a bout of malaria, and her left ventricle failed. In failing health, she stepped down as head of Missionaries of Charity in March, 1997, and died on September 5, 1997.

Mother Teresa showed what can be done through dedication and love. She is a shining example of one who rather than curse the

darkness, lit candles throughout the world to show us the way to help others.

# NATIONAL AEROSPACE WEEK

## HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Aerospace Week.

At a time when there is so much discouraging economic news, we can look to the skies for some solace.

Los Angeles County's unemployment rate is hovering around 13 percent, worse than the national average. But my district, the 36th Congressional District, has an unemployment rate of less than half that—largely because of the cushion provided by the aerospace industry. It is our economic engine.

Our aerospace companies employ 819,000 Americans in high-skill, high-wage jobs—nearly 6,500 of them in California—who together contribute 3 to 5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product.

The products produced by aerospace companies are in world-wide demand. Last year the U.S. exported \$81 billion in aerospace technology, responsible for the largest foreign trade surplus in the American economy.

Aerospace is not only vital to the American economy—it is vital to our national security. From the Mexican border to the Pakistan frontier, unmanned aircraft and other platforms provide eyes and ears to our military and law enforcement.

These are American jobs, and they are a cornerstone of our economy. For reasons of national security, nearly two-thirds of these jobs cannot be performed overseas. They are here to stay.

But our aerospace workforce is aging. Some 60 percent of aerospace workers are over age 50, and almost 26 percent are eligible for retirement this year. Not enough young scientists and engineers are signing up to take the place of the "gray wave."

It used to be that being a rocket scientist was synonymous with genius. Now that mantle seems to apply only to the inventors of Facebook, eBay and Google. We are graduating just 70,000 engineers a year. And U.S. students recently ranked 21 out of 30 in science literacy, and performed even worse in math literacy.

The only way we'll maintain our edge in aerospace is by inspiring kids and making it "cool" again to design air and space craft. Dean Kamen—the inventor of the Segway—does this through a nonprofit after-school robotics program. FIRST—For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology—is partnered with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to supply secondary schools with instructional materials, guidelines for starting robotics teams, and marketing support to interest children in studying the math and science behind construction of these devices.

Schools in my district participate in the robotics competition, and Dean Kamen has personally visited my district to take part in a panel on the need for more young people to pursue aerospace careers. Our economy and national security depend on it.