

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RED CROSS MONTH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 67th annual Red Cross Month. For more than 125 years, the mission of the American Red Cross has been to help individuals and families prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies, and each year, nearly half a million volunteers respond to more than 70,000 disasters nationwide.

I am particularly proud of the American Red Cross and its Georgia chapters, including Metro Atlanta, for their swift, substantial, and heart-warming aid to my home state of Georgia during the catastrophic floods of last September. In the immediate aftermath, and in the weeks that followed, the American Red Cross opened eight shelters that provided a safe haven for nearly 500 people displaced by the floods. With the aid of over 800 volunteers and employees, health professionals were able to reach out to 3,400 victims in flood-drenched neighborhoods.

Without the help of these dedicated volunteers and employees, flood-affected men, women, and children would not have received more than 44,000 meals, nor, after losing their homes, would they have been given 3,723 clean-up and comfort kits. The kindness of strangers provided emergency financial assistance for more than 1,700 families.

As the Spring flood season begins to take its course, I urge my constituents and fellow Americans to do what they can to support the American Red Cross. The Red Cross relies on donations of time, money and blood to respond quickly to emergencies ranging from hurricanes to earthquakes and from fires to tornadoes. I commend the Red Cross for their efforts.

RECOGNITION OF THE MISS GREATER SPRINGFIELD SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community organization serving Northern Virginia, the Miss Greater Springfield Scholarship Organization. The Miss Greater Springfield Scholarship Organization is an affiliate of the Miss Virginia and Miss America Scholarship Organizations. The Miss America Organization, with its State and local affiliates, is the number one resource in the world for women's educational scholarships; in 2006 alone over \$45 million dollars was awarded to 12,000 women from throughout the country.

Miss Greater Springfield is now going into its 7th year, and has consistently upheld a high standard for its competitors, attracting participants that have demonstrated a strong commitment to the community and a desire to improve the world around them. The contestants support a variety of issues including autism advocacy and awareness, The Children's

Miracle Network, and promoting organ donation. Miss Greater Springfield of 2009, Bethany Munt, has used her title as a platform to address the challenges facing our Nation's schools and education system, and has been active with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Ms. Munt received her undergraduate degree in child development and has taught school in New York State and New Zealand.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Munt and the Miss Greater Springfield Scholarship Organization for their efforts to improve our community and the lives of our young people.

CLAUDE ARTHUR WHARTON, III

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Claude Arthur "Skip" Wharton, III, of Seneca, South Carolina, and fellow alumnus of The Citadel, for a lifetime of distinguished service to the citizens of our state and to our country. From his time as a cadet at The Citadel to his current position as Director of Business Operations for the Applied Research and Development Institute, ARDI, of the South Carolina Research Authority, SCRA, Skip has led an admirable life and maintained a strong work ethic. His contributions to South Carolina and the United States in the fields of government contract administration, compliance, finance, budgeting, and costing are truly commendable. In my view, Skip is the embodiment of an upstanding and fine American citizen.

After receiving his undergraduate degree from The Citadel, Skip served our country for four years in the United States Army as an Armored Cavalry Platoon Leader and a Troop Commander in Vietnam and Germany. For his service to our country, Skip was awarded the Silver Star Medal, the third highest medal awarded by the United States Armed Forces, for combat valor.

After his military service, Mr. Wharton spent seven years in management in small business in both California and Louisiana. From 1980 through 1987, Mr. Wharton was with the American Development Corporation, ADCOR, a defense manufacturing contractor located in Charleston, South Carolina. At ADCOR, he was responsible for adhering to the Federal Acquisition Regulations, FAR, in the development of annual corporate and departmental budgets, in excess of \$20 million per year; the promulgation and defense of all indirect rates; and the formulation of all pricing proposals. In 1988, Mr. Wharton joined SCRA in Charleston and served as the Director of Budgeting and Costing. In this capacity, he was responsible for financial analyses at the project, group, segment, and company levels; corporate budgeting; management reporting; and tracking performance against stated strategic goals.

In October of 2000, Mr. Wharton was assigned to ARDI as the Director of Contracts and Procurement and was responsible for establishing the contracts administration staff and the administrative functions of the Composites Manufacturing Technology Center, a United States Navy Center of Excellence. Skip also served as the ARDI Facility Security Offi-

cer and was responsible for all interaction with the Defense Security Service; physical security of the office; the safeguarding of all classified documents, software and hardware; and the processing and maintenance of individual security clearances.

Through hard work and dedication, Skip has made significant contributions to our state and our country. His distinguished service has been invaluable, and for this, I applaud him. His dedication to his family, friends, and colleagues should stand as an example of what we should all strive to be. I join Skip's colleagues at the Applied Research and Development Institute, the citizens of our state, and his entire family, including his wife, Patricia, his children and grandchild, in commending Skip for his lifetime of service to South Carolina and this great nation. May God bless them all.

RECOGNIZING GRACIA MOLINA DE PICK UPON THE OCCASION OF HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Gracia Molina de Pick, a distinguished activist, feminist, author, and educator in the San Diego community, upon her 80th birthday.

Born into a politically active family in Mexico, Gracia Molina de Pick moved to San Diego in 1957, and has maintained her spirit of activism through her many years of work and service in our region. Along the way, she received her master's degree from San Diego State University and participated in doctoral studies at the University of California, San Diego and a doctoral fellowship at the University of Southern California.

Gracia Molina de Pick has been fighting for the rights of Latinos and Chicanos since she was a teenager. She is the founder of IM-PACT, an early community grassroots organization that fought for the civil rights of Mexican-Americans in San Diego. From 1969 to 1977 she served on the National Council of La Raza, the first civil rights advocacy group for Hispanic Americans. In 1970, she also founded the first national feminist Chicana Association, the Comision Femenil Mexicana Nacional, and the following year she served as the Chicana Caucus Chair of the National Women's Political Caucus. She is the national organizer for Chicana participation at the United Nations World Conferences on Women.

Gracia Molina de Pick has tirelessly persisted in her efforts to secure equality for women. She helped to organize and found the Partido Popular, a Mexican political party that fought to secure voting rights for women. A published author, she has penned numerous articles and co-authored two books. Her most recent book, *Mujeres en la Historia & Historias de Mujeres*, offers readers biographies of influential women in Mexican history.

Understandably, many prominent organizations have honored Gracia Molina de Pick with well-deserved awards and recognition. In 2001, Assemblymember Christine Kehoe named Gracia "Woman of the Year," and she

was inducted into the San Diego Women's Hall of Fame the year after. In 2004, she received the Jesse de la Cruz Award from the California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc., a venerable legal advocacy and economic justice organization.

Gracia continues to work for equality for those who are underrepresented and underserved, particularly in the areas of service and education. For many years, she served as a professor at Mesa College and a lecturer at the University of California, San Diego, where she helped found the University's Thurgood Marshall College. She served as the Commissioner of the California Post-Secondary Education Commission, and recently initiated the Gracia Molina de Pick Endowed Fund for Chicano/a Studies at the University of California, San Diego. Currently, Gracia is a member of San Diego's Human Relations Commission, where she works to ensure that the city upholds the protections of basic human and civil rights that she herself has worked so hard to establish.

In keeping with her selfless spirit, Gracia is commemorating her birthday with a benefit celebration to raise financial support for the Logan Heights Library in San Diego. On this happy occasion, please join me in honoring Gracia Molina de Pick and her years of hard work making a difference in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF A NEW BB&T BRANCH IN HAYMARKET, VA.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of a new BB&T branch location in Haymarket, Va.

The branch location at the corner of Heathcote Boulevard and Route 15 serves Western Prince William County and creates six new jobs for the region. The staff of the BB&T Haymarket branch are responsible stewards of their community with affiliations to the Dominion Valley Woman's Club, Gainesville Haymarket Rotary Club, Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross, Prince William County Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce, Haymarket Gainesville Business Association, Girl Scouts of America, George G. Tyler Elementary Parent Teacher Association and Haymarket Regional Food Bank.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the staff of the new Haymarket branch on the occasion of their ribbon cutting and commend them for their culture of robust civic participation.

BRANCH STAFF

Amelia J. Stansell, Assistant Vice President & Financial Center Leader; Liliana Grassa, Teller Supervisor; LaKeta McSellers, Relationship Banker; Shadia Shaikh, Relationship Teller; Erick Cabrera, Teller; Sherry Bobbitt, Area Operations Officer.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Donald Strehle, Northern Virginia Regional President; Karen Wallis, Regional Banking Manager; Sherri Hagenbuch, Sales & Service Leader for Prince William County; Michael Pybus, City Executive for Prince William County.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the opening of the new

BB&T branch in Haymarket, Va. A business that encourages its employees to take an active role in civic life makes an investment far beyond that of bricks and mortar. It strengthens civic bonds and leaves an indelible mark on the character a community. I look forward to having a lasting community partner in BB&T's Haymarket branch.

HONORING BRYANE HEABERLIN AND ALEXANDER COSBY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to tell a heartwarming story of two young soccer players united in their common humanity.

Bryane Heaberlin is a sixteen-year-old goalkeeper from St. Petersburg, Florida playing on the U.S. under-17 soccer team. Alexandra Cosby is the goalkeeper on Haiti's under-17 team. Last week, after the U.S. defeated Haiti at the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football Cup in Costa Rica, the young women embraced in an emotional moment replayed around the world.

When Alexandra started crying at the end of the game, Bryane immediately understood. Still recovering from the effects of a devastating earthquake in her homeland, Alexandra and her teammates suffered through unspeakable tragedy. Bryane, understanding her team's victory was bittersweet, gave Alexandra a hug. They cried together. Soon after, both teams embraced in an emotional display of solidarity and friendship.

The story of Bryane and Alexandra is a testament to the enduring union and the generosity of spirit between the United States and Haiti. Our nations are neighbors and partners in an increasingly interdependent world. As young Bryane said after the game, "I did not think about the game at that moment . . . I simply thought about the hard times she had faced and everything she had lost. I thought that when the game was over, she had to come back to reality, that the game was her way of forgetting about everything for 90 minutes." Furthermore, Bryane's parents, Bryan and Gretchen along with the Clearwater Soccer Club and their daughter's school, delivered a 70-pound care package to the Haitian women's team.

Madam Speaker, as the representative of more Haitian Americans than any other member of Congress, I am compelled to share this story with my constituents and the broader public. Our community is hurting, but reading this story by John Cotey in the St. Petersburg Times gave me hope that brighter days are ahead for Haiti. These two young women are living examples of how sports bring us together in our common humanity. I applaud their compassion and grace in the face of adversity. Let us not forget their example as our nations move forward together.

CELEBRATING SWEENY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL'S FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on March 30, 2010 Sweeny Community Hospital will commemorate its forty-fifth anniversary. Located west of the Brazos River in the city of Sweeny in Brazoria County, which is in my Congressional District, Sweeny Community Hospital is a cornerstone of Brazoria County's health care system.

Sweeny Community Hospital has always been committed to providing top-notch health care to all who walk through its doors. Sweeny Community Hospital has always worked to grow and improve in order to better meet the health care needs of the people of Brazoria County. Today Sweeny Community Hospital employs approximately 150 people and has locations throughout Brazoria County. Having begun my Ob/Gyn medical practice in Brazoria County shortly after Sweeny Community Hospital opened its doors, I am well aware of the quality of the medical services offered at Sweeny Community Hospital. It is therefore my pleasure to offer my congratulations to Sweeny Community Hospital on its forty-fifth anniversary.

COMMENDING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF NCIS SPECIAL AGENT RICHARD J. CLOONAN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Special Agent (SA) Richard J. Cloonan, Deputy Assistant Director, Counterintelligence Program, for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). SA Cloonan retired from that organization on March 3, 2010 after 29 years of service, and following 33 years of Federal Service. I am pleased to say that SA Cloonan is one of my constituents from Manassas, VA.

SA Cloonan began his career with the then named Naval Investigative Service (NIS) in August 1981 at NIS Resident Agency (NISRA) Point Loma, CA. He subsequently transferred to the NISRA Naval Station in San Diego, CA. In August 1984, SA Cloonan transferred to the Washington Field Office (DCWA). During his time at DCWA, SA Cloonan participated in several landmark counterintelligence (CI) investigations including the Walker Family Spy Ring, the Jonathan Pollard Spy case, the Clayton Lonetree investigation and the subsequent BOBSLED Task Force. Also while at DCWA, SA Cloonan was appointed the "Mount Up" team leader. The "Mount Up" team formed the basis of what is now the Navy's Personal Security Operation (PSO).

In 1987, SA Cloonan transferred to NCIS Headquarters and was detailed to the Department of the Navy's Special Programs Office, and while there he provided comprehensive CI protection to the most sensitive Navy research and technology, to include the USS Sea Shadow, the Navy's STEALTH Ship prototype. In