

1270 has not only survived, but it has thrived through the years. Current neighborhood beautification projects have magnificently transformed the setting of the building's home. 1270 faces the Harlem Meer section of New York City's Central Park and the Conservatory Gardens, which have been restored and maintained with an endowment. The on-site Museum of African Art adds a part of the building to New York's Museum Mile. Sightseeing buses now regularly stop in the neighborhood for tours.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of 1270's 50th anniversary, as we look back on the successes of the National Housing Act, we can all feel a sense of pride. For many long-time residents, the soul of this section 213 building can never be separated from its historic roots.

### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2010*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1008, to honor the contributions of Catholic schools and recognize Catholic Schools Week 2010.

Catholic schools have played an important role in the American education system. Catholic schools across our country have an excellent reputation for providing a strong academic and moral education, as well as teaching social responsibility, to the more than 2 million American students currently enrolled in Catholic schools.

The Catholic schools in my district work hard to create an environment where academic excellence and value driven pride can be fostered and embraced.

Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character and moral development.

My wife, Laurie, and I as well as our two sons, Ken and B.J., attended Northern Michigan's Catholic schools and realize the benefits of the Catholic education system.

The week of January 31 through February 6, 2010, has been designated as Catholic Schools Week by the Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

This week let us pause, reflect and congratulate administrators, faculty, staff, students and parents as we celebrate the dedicated tradition of promoting education through our Catholic faith.

Catholic schools remain possible because Catholics come together through their parishes and dioceses to make a financial commitment to see this strong tradition continue.

H. Res. 1008 acknowledges the hard work and dedication that Catholic schools have contributed to building our local communities and our nation.

I am proud to co-sponsor H. Res. 1008 and support the many Catholic schools in my district and across our nation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,319,326,469,724.43.

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 \$1,680,900,723,430.63 so far this Congress.

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

### IN RECOGNITION OF REELTOWN HIGH SCHOOL WINNING THE ALABAMA 2A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the Reeltown High School football team in Notasulga, Alabama, which recently won the 2009 Alabama 2A State Football Championship.

On December 4th, the Reeltown Rebels defeated Clay County High School by a score of 16-8 at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The Rebels finished the season with a record of 14-1.

The Reeltown Rebels are coached by Jackie O'Neal, and the school's principal is Tom Cochran. I'd like to congratulate the football team, coaches and high school students and staff on this outstanding achievement. All of us across Tallapoosa County and East Alabama are deeply proud of these talented young Alabamians.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, January 19, 2010.

Had I been present I would have voted "Aye" on Rollcall vote No. 6 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1004), "Aye" on Rollcall vote No. 7 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1015), "Aye" on Rollcall vote No. 8 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 991).

### A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO

#### HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Army SPC Bryan C. Florence of Louisville, Kentucky, who nearly lost his life on September 2, 2007 during an IED explosion in Baghdad. Specialist Florence is a true American hero and an exceptional Kentuckian who inspires us all with his strength and sacrifice. I ask that a poem penned by Albert Caswell in honor of Specialist Florence and his family be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as follows:

#### BRYAN'S SONG

Bryan's Song . . .  
Bryan's heart, beating loud! Beating long!  
Beating strong!  
A hero's heart, which to him now so belongs!  
Army Tough! Army Strong!  
To him, that heart of a hero which so beats  
on . . .  
Belongs, to such a fine young man . . .  
Kentucky Strong . . . Bryan's Life . . . Bryan's  
Song . . .  
A Thoroughbred . . .  
Finishing first, across that finish line of life  
. . . let it now be said!  
An Army man, who so proudly wears the uniform  
. . . who so can!  
All for God and Country, and Family, he  
went off to war . . .  
Into that the darkest face of death, but were  
his great burdens bore . . .  
Leaving all that he so loved . . .  
Ready to die if necessary, is that but not  
true love . . . and Heaven is for?  
All for us, while into the face of death he  
left!  
When, on battlefields of honor seen . . .  
Dashing there so in uniform, such a heroic  
figure convened . . .  
As the hand of death would so intervene . . .  
Reaching down, beckoning him . . .  
With one leg gone, somehow he held on . . .  
All for his fine wife, and future child to be  
born . . .  
As he now must move on, as we so see his  
courage full . . . courage strong . . .  
Within his heart beating so loud, beating  
strong . . .  
Listen and learn, from this sonnet . . . his  
Bryan's Song . . .  
A song of full hope and courage . . . who  
would not be discouraged . . .  
The words, of a hero . . . all of our souls  
words has nourished . . .  
As day by day, while all of that pain and  
heartache comes his way . . .  
As we so glean, what it so takes . . . to be a  
fine human being . . .  
As against all odds, in life and death's . . . in  
all his heartbreak left . . .  
In death and war . . . he writes his score . . .  
To rebuild . . . to so instill . . . trusting In  
God's Will!  
As his fine heart will not dismay . . .  
As he so shows us all the way still . . .  
A Florence of Arabia . . .  
Who went off to the Mideast . . .  
All on his most valiant crusade, to fight for  
peace . . .  
What, words in our lives have we so written?  
Heard all here in our living!  
And, if I ever have a son . . . I but hope and  
pray!  
What songs have we so sung as to this our  
world so given?  
He could but be like this one, this day . . .  
As Bryan's sung!

## TRIBUTE TO DARRELL CORTEZ

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Darrell Cortez, a 30-year veteran of the San José Police Department on the occasion of his retirement.

Darrell Cortez began his tenure with the SJPd shortly after receiving his degree in Administration of Justice from San José State University in 1978. In his capacity as a Peace Officer, Darrell has worked the Field Training Officer Unit, Narcotics Covert Investigations Unit, and Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force. Darrell also served on the Sexual Assaults Unit, Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement, SAFE, the Red Car Rapist Task Force, and the School Liaison Unit, and was additionally assigned to State Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement.

Officer Cortez's commitment to serve and protect has remained constant throughout his career. Just last week he responded to a call regarding an apparent suicide. With days left before his retirement, Darrell came upon a woman who had stopped breathing as the result of the suicide attempt. Despite her initial unresponsiveness, Darrell was able to resuscitate the woman, saving her life.

In addition to his official duties, Darrell volunteers for a better world.

Darrell Cortez is the California State Chapter president of the National Latino Peace Officers' Association having served this organization, both in the founding Santa Clara County Chapter and Statewide, in several capacities on the executive board. Either under his leadership or with his involvement, the NLPOA has raised more than \$100,000 to fund their scholarship program. These funds support not only undergraduate students but also graduate students seeking an advanced degree in professional schools. Scholarship recipients have gone on to serve this nation in many capacities. In fact, a member of my staff is a grateful past beneficiary of one such scholarship.

When Darrell was assigned to the Community Services Division of the San José Police Department, he took this opportunity to not only protect and serve the residents of San José, but to protect and serve their future by working closely with youth in local schools. Of particular focus were the children of Horace Mann Elementary School. He had, all too often, seen acts of violence or threats in the schools.

Darrell feels strongly that if some kind of positive intervention is made at an early age during the lives of these children, then they would be able to contribute to the future of our society.

Darrell Cortez's efforts to bridge the divide between law enforcement and communities of color were a natural result of profound pride in both his Mexican heritage and in being a peace officer. He always strives to be the best in both his work and his community service.

In recognition of his good work, Darrell Cortez has received numerous commendations and resolutions. But perhaps most importantly, he has earned the respect and high regard of a grateful community.

Great acts of service often require great sources of inspiration. Fortunately for Silicon

Valley, Darrell finds such inspiration in his family. His father, Tomás Cortez, served this Country honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II. Darrell's mother, the late Aurelia Quihuis Cortez, is remembered by Darrell as a steadfast matriarch and one of the original "Rosie the Riveters."

Darrell is devoted to his wife of almost 30 years, Alicia Cortez, and is the proud father of Ricardo, Emilio, and Lorena.

It is a great honor to thank Officer Darrell Cortez for his service and congratulate him as he begins this new and well deserved chapter in his life. I am proud to call him friend.

HONORING THE 3RD BRIGADE  
COMBAT TEAM**HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to the soldiers, family members, friends, USO supporters and the entire North Country community as they welcome home the 3rd Brigade Combat Team. Tomorrow the Spartans will celebrate their homecoming among those who tirelessly supported them while in Afghanistan. It is that greater community that I tribute today.

No effort by our service men and women is conducted in a vacuum; behind every soldier departing U.S. soil stands a dedicated team of family, friends and civilian volunteers who tirelessly work behind the scenes. Their efforts are seldom recognized for what they really are—absolutely vital to the achievements of soldiers in harm's way and essential to ensure a smooth transition when they return home.

The community surrounding Fort Drum has shown an amazing capacity to support our soldiers in every possible way. From providing shipments of care packages to volunteering at USO events and the support of the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization, the North Country has provided outstanding assistance to the 3rd BCT.

One particular event that wouldn't have happened without the community's support is the "Spartan Spectacular." This celebration of the brigade has been driven by the USO, and funded by generous donations from devotees of the 10th Mountain Division like Mr. Alfred Weissman. To Mr. Weissman, the soldiers and families of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, and the greater Fort Drum community, I express my sincere thank you for all you do in support of the defense of our country.

RECOGNIZING THE GENEROSITY  
OF DR. VICTOR GUZMAN**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Victor Guzman, whose great generosity in creating a scholarship fund for the Palm Beach Community College Foundation will increase access to higher education for young people in the Belle Glade community.

Dr. Guzman was motivated to establish the Lake Okeechobee Muck Rat Nation Scholarship Fund after reading an article last year in the Palm Beach Post. The article reported on the low graduation rates among black males in Belle Glade and detailed the low wages, high incarceration rates, insufficient job prospects, and lack of hope felt by so many young black men in the western Palm Beach County community. Living in the Glades for almost 60 years, Dr. Guzman realized that there were too many young people who did not have the economic means to go to school.

The Lake Okeechobee Muck Rat Nation Scholarship Fund, named after those people who make their living working in the fields within the Everglades Agricultural Area, will enable more Belle Glade students to enroll in Palm Beach Community College. Dr. Guzman donated \$100,000, most of his life savings, to establish the fund. Two \$500 scholarships will be available for students who are accepted by the school, enrolled for at least 12 credits per term, live in Palm Beach County, attend the Belle Glade campus, and demonstrate financial need.

Education has always been a priority for Dr. Victor Guzman, a 95-year-old retired agricultural research scientist who worked for the University of Florida. A native of Peru, the University of Florida hired him in 1951 to help improve local farmers' crop production. He spent his career developing chemicals for weed control as well as virus-resistant strains of lettuce that thrive in the rich, organic soil surrounding Lake Okeechobee. These contributions have benefited the health and nutrition of the people in his community and around the world.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Victor Guzman is an excellent role model for us all. He has invested in the future of his community by making higher education accessible to more young people. Generations of students in the Glades area will be forever indebted to him for his compassion and concern.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on January 19, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 6. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 6: "yes"—Congratulating the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine for its 150 years of commitment to advancing science and improving health.

HONORING CORPORAL  
CHRISTOPHER MILITO**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor one of the finest people I have ever known, Christopher Milito.

Cpl. Milito was tragically taken from us on January 16, 2010. He died in the line of duty protecting civilians as a member of the Delaware River Port Authority Police Department.