

their lives, to prevent it from happening to as many children and families as she can, and to show them that they are not alone—even when they feel the most disempowered. Sanders challenged friends and colleagues to join the struggle for peace and equality, and ultimately to be the change they want to see in the world.

National Voices for Equality Education and Enlightenment has been a pioneer in the eradication of bullying. In Florida alone, NVEEE has reached more than 750 students through the “Not on My Watch Bullying and Prevention Workshop”, which features workshops led by NVEEE’s Teen Mentors and Peace Ambassadors. This campaign increases awareness of the violence surrounding youth and young adults, and empowers students and communities to take action by refusing to be bystanders. In March 2011 this workshop became accessible to educational institutions across the nation.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me as I honor the National Voices for Equality Education and Enlightenment for their stance against bullying. The exemplary dedication demonstrated to this cause is to be commended and I give her my full support.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW
JERSEY CULTURE CHANGE COL-
LABORATIVE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the work of the New Jersey Culture Change Collaborative. Since its founding just last year, the coalition of non-profit organizations, retirement communities, and government bodies has worked to promote dignified long-term health care for senior citizens. This week, the coalition is holding “Culture Change: New Choices for the Elderly,” an event dedicated to the sharing of ideas for the improvement of health care for the elderly. I would like to draw attention to the New Jersey Culture Change Collaborative and formally thank the group for its beneficial—and necessary—work.

The New Jersey Culture Change Collaborative is a network of professional organizations that is working across the state to improve health care for the elderly. Members of the coalition are the Health Care Association of New Jersey, Green Hill Inc., Healthcare Quality Strategies Inc., Leading Age New Jersey, New Jersey Hospital Association, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, and Van Dyk Health Care. Each member organization provides a unique perspective on aging and health care issues, and, together, the New Jersey Culture Change Collaborative has the potential to make a real transformation in the way that senior citizens receive long-term health care. Although it is a nascent movement, I have full confidence that it will improve the lives of New Jersey residents by working for more benevolent and patient-centered health care policies. In that light, I would like to request that the week of June 19 be designated National Nursing Home Culture Change Week.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the New Jersey Culture Change Collaborative on

its founding. I would also like to congratulate the coalition for the statewide learning session it is holding this week. The work of the New Jersey Culture Change Collaborative is essential to promoting healthy lifestyles and improving long-term care.

SGT. FRANCISCO ESTRADA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sergeant Francisco Estrada.

Sgt. Estrada was born on February 8, 1960 in Ponce, Puerto Rico. His father, too, was a policeman and he grew up hearing stories of his father’s bravery and dignity while on patrol. These stories inspired him to protect and serve his community.

With the help and support of fellow officer Sgt. Victor Perez, Sgt. Estrada worked with the Coney Island community of Searise Towers as a Peace Officer from 1987 to 1992. Afterwards, he became a New York City Hospital Police Officer for Bellevue Hospital. Shortly after in January 1993, he was diagnosed with diabetes. After taking medical leave, the Sergeant gained a civil service position at Woodhull Hospital Police Department. In May 2001, Estrada was given a certificate of appreciation from the New York City Detectives Endowment Association for assisting the NYPD with the Brooklyn Strangler case. After finally achieving the rank of Sergeant in 2002, Estrada finally had the opportunity to teach other officers the skills he acquired. With undying support of his wonderful wife and family and driven by the love of his city, the Sergeant served proudly in New York City for thirty years. In 2009, with much consideration and remorse, Sgt. Estrada retired, citing the medical strain caused by his diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant Estrada for fighting both crime and disease with nobility and professionalism.

HONORING MR. LOU VIVERITO, A
DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT
FOR 42 YEARS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant and a good friend, Lou Viverito. After 16 years of service in the Illinois State Senate, Mayor Brady and the citizens of Bedford Park will name 73rd Street at Central Avenue after Mr. Viverito. Such an honor is an appropriate recognition for a champion for his constituents, as Mr. Viverito has been for the last 42 years.

After serving bravely in the Korean War and receiving multiple decorations, Mr. Viverito began his political career in 1965. He was elected as Stickney Township Democratic Committeeman in 1970 and quickly stood out as a force in local politics. Since 1973, Mr. Viverito has served as President of Stickney’s Public Health District where he has made

some of his greatest contributions. Thousands of people receive health care through Stickney’s high quality facilities every year. As a landmark of his life’s work, a brand new clinic, completely paid for, will open later this month in large part due to the efforts of Mr. Viverito.

In 1994, he was elected as an Illinois State Senator and served until his retirement this year. Mr. Viverito’s distinguished career in the Illinois State Senate was characterized by dedicated service and several honorable distinctions. He served as Minority Whip for the Senate Democratic Caucus and as Assistant Majority Leader and was a leader on healthcare issues in Illinois for years.

Beyond his service in Illinois’ legislative body, Mr. Viverito has held several other public positions, including Stickney Township Supervisor, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago, and Member of the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Viverito is well-known in Chicago due to his civic participation, and his work ethic and infectious smile have made him a beloved member of the Chicago community. He resides with his wife, Carolyn, in the City of Burbank. He also has three grown children and five grandsons.

At tomorrow’s ceremony, Mayor Brady of Bedford Park will properly honor Mr. Viverito by renaming a street and holding a reception for him. Please join me in honoring Mr. Viverito as a public servant whose deeds will be remembered for years to come throughout Chicago and Illinois. May he enjoy tomorrow’s ceremony in his honor and may he enjoy a long and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING ARMANDO PEREZ
ROURA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and accomplishments of a distinguished radio journalist and community activist of South Florida, Armando Perez Roura.

Armando Perez Roura is a highly recognized and admired member within the communications arena. Born and educated in Cuba, Mr. Perez Roura became President of the National Broadcast College of Cuba at a very young age. Aside from being a grand communicator, Mr. Perez Roura is known for combating the Castro dictatorship from the moment they kidnapped Cuba in 1959.

In 1969, he was forced to flee from his native land. The United States welcomed him upon his arrival. Since then, Mr. Perez Roura has contributed tremendously to the community of South Florida and has worked unremittingly for the liberty of Cuba. He is Founder and President of “La Unidad Cubana,” an anti-Castro coalition encompassing various organizations. Due to his profound knowledge and expertise, Mr. Perez Roura has been a political advisor to various countries.

Mr. Perez Roura, with his unique style, has relentlessly condemned each of the crimes committed by the Castro regime and raised awareness on their efforts to spread terrorism

around the world. He has kept the memory of all those who have been victimized by the regime alive in our hearts.

Mr. Perez Roura embodies the American dream and is testament of what can be accomplished through hard work and dedication. Breaking through both language and culture barriers Mr. Perez Roura has become one of the most listened to radio personalities in Miami. Having received a Bachelor in Political Science, Mr. Perez Roura serves as a docent and mentor to many journalists, political leaders, and activists.

He is the pioneer of Spanish Radio and TV, which further exemplifies his exceptional work as a journalist. Mr. Perez Roura is the Founder and Director of Radio Mambi one of the most famous radio stations in South Florida. He produces, hosts and co-hosts various talk shows, *Noticieros*, *En Caliente*, *La Noticia y Usted* and *Mesa Redonda*. He also produces a daily editorial *Toma Nota* and regularly writes for *Diario las Americas* and *El Semanario Libre*. Throughout the years, Mr. Perez Roura's work has received various awards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the voice of Cuban exiles, my dear friend, Mr. Armando Perez Roura. He has defended democratic principles, Republican ideals and Cuba's freedom. In the words of Jose Marti, apostle of the liberty of Cuba, "Honrar, honra."

ELECTION SUPPORT CONSOLIDATION AND EFFICIENCY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 672 "Election Support Consolidation and Efficiency Act." This bill seeks to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), the EAC Standards Board, and the EAC Board of Advisors 61 days after enactment of this Act. It also requires that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) perform EAC functions with respect to certain existing contracts and agreements during the transition period for finishing EAC affairs.

I oppose this bill because it undermines the intent behind the Help America Vote Act. Let me remind those who have forgotten of the chaos in the days following the election of 2000. Congress passed the Help America Vote Act in 2002 which helped create the Election Assistance Commission. The EAC was created to help state and local election officials use current technology and best practices when overseeing elections.

The EAC oversees voting-system testing and certification. The EAC tests and certifies

voting machines for use in elections to safeguard against the problems of 2000 election in Florida; and creates voluntary voting guidelines for states, instilling confidence in the democratic process of this country for all voters.

The Commission also develops and fosters the training and organization of more than 8,000 election administrators throughout the nation.

The EAC's certification program is helping state and local governments save money by using its oversight role to coordinate with manufacturers and local election officials to ensure that the existing equipment meets its durability and longevity potential. This saves state and local governments from the unnecessary expense of new voting equipment.

The Commission plays a major role in collecting accurate and comparable election data.

Living in a nation guided by the spirit of democracy and by which the American people are the voices for change, I do not see how H.R. 672 can continue this legacy. Without the EAC, there would be no federal agency focused on improving the quality of elections. With this, the American people will lose faith in our democracy and, to tell you the truth so will I.

The American people have not forgotten the chaos of the 2000, and let us ensure that this Congress remembers those troubling days as well. We must never forget the feeling of fear and uncertainty as the fabric of our democracy and our faithful constitution was put to test. I feel for scores of votes in Florida, whose voices were not heard as fraud and corruption consumed polling stations. As a representative of Texas, a state of over 20 million people, I refuse to have any voice of Texas' constituents, or mine of the 18th district, be stifled by those who think otherwise.

In the society we live in, it is often those who cannot defend themselves or those with limited political power whose voices are often overshadowed. Among this group are oftentimes the poor, women, the uneducated, the inept, and the elderly. The EAC has worked tirelessly to end this trend. Through research, grant-making and the development of voting guidelines, the Election Assistance Commission is helping many groups gain their Constitutional right to vote, including racial and ethnic minorities, members of the Armed Services (especially those serving overseas), disabled Americans and senior citizens.

The EAC has worked to improve the accessibility of more than 37 million disabled voters with disabilities.

It also has worked to create electronic voting systems for our brave men and women in uniform fighting overseas so that they are able to vote abroad.

Considering my belief that the termination of the EAC would untangle progress our democracy has made in bringing uniformity and equality among states in the voting process, I strongly urge opposition to this bill. If the EAC is terminated, it is very likely we will see many

more elections like the election of 2000. If we care about the legacy of our democracy and our constitution, I urge opposition to H.R. 672.

HONORING ST. CLETUS PARISH OF LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY AS A FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Cletus Parish on its 60th anniversary as a community of faith in La Grange, Illinois. I express my admiration and appreciation of St. Cletus' commitment to upholding the values and practices of the Roman Catholic Church and its congregation's devotion to charity and spiritual development. On July 3rd, St. Cletus Church will celebrate 60 years of spiritual guidance and compassionate service to the 3rd District and the Chicago-area community.

A part of the Archdiocese of Chicago, St. Cletus offers ten masses weekly in addition to formal education through its school, religious education, and youth and Hispanic ministries. Each Christmas season, St. Cletus reaches out to the less fortunate in its inter-city sharing parish, St. Agatha's, and to other needy families. Through the parish's Advent Giving Tree, St. Cletus parishioners generously donate food and gift baskets to brighten the Christmas season for hundreds of needy families. St. Cletus' commitment to service extends beyond the holiday season as well. The St. Cletus Food Pantry distributes bags of groceries provided by parishioners to hundreds of less fortunate families in local communities. Through these services, the St. Cletus community upholds the Catholic ideals of love, sacrifice, and charity.

Because many of the original members of St. Cletus were returning World War II veterans, the parish has always been strongly patriotic. The Parish honors veterans from all over the area every year on July 4th with a special Mass which I am proud to participate in.

From its campus in La Grange, St. Cletus fosters a community of compassionate believers and followers of Jesus Christ, welcoming all to join its family of faith. I am proud to honor St. Cletus' commitment to providing spiritual nourishment through worship, the celebration of the sacraments, education, and service to the 3rd District of Illinois. I congratulate St. Cletus' pastor, Father Clark, and the entire parish community, and I know St. Cletus will continue to be a valuable spiritual asset to La Grange and the Chicago region for years to come.