

founding of the New York Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

On January 27, 1911, exactly 100 years ago today, the New York Branch of the NAACP received its Charter. Organized by Executive Committee members Mary White Ovington, Charles H. Suddins, Frances Blascoer, Oswald Garrison Villard, Gilchrist Stewart, Joel E. and Arthur Spingarn, the New York Branch was the first Branch established in the National Association's history.

In April 1911, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois proposed that the Branch should have an investigator and organizer to examine cases and complaints, to raise funds and develop a "forum for discussion." Gilchrist Stewart, a young attorney, was chosen to fill this role and become Chairman of the New York Branch Vigilance Committee. In the fall of 1911, the Branch opened in Harlem where "colored people could report any cases of injustice before the law." During the first six months, three cases were handled involving police brutality, which led to the trial and suspension of one police officer.

The New York Branch had successful campaigns to break up the pattern of theatre segregation. Despite these activities, the Branch was adversely affected by a lack of stability. In December 1913, the Board decided that the New York Vigilance Committee be reorganized and focus on fundraising for the National Association. The legal work handled by the Vigilance Committee was transferred to the National NAACP office, which by then, had a full-time lawyer.

At one time, the New York Branch became inactive, and when the NAACP Annual Report was published in 1916, the Branch was not listed. According to historian Charles Flint Kellogg, the original charter had been lost. Since there was no record of its date of issue, a new charter had been issued on November 11, 1917, when James Weldon Johnson succeeded in organizing a Harlem Branch and became its Vice President. That same year, Ms. Mary White-Ovington secured approval from the NAACP National Board, to enroll those individuals who participated in the 1917 Silent March on 5th Avenue. Each individual received a compensation of \$1 while serving as a member of the branch for the duration of 1 year.

During the fall of 1931, the New York Branch reverted back to an inactive status, and the NAACP National office enlisted Field Organizer, Daisy Lampkin to conduct a membership campaign which ended on October 2, 1931. As a result of the campaign, 500 new members were enrolled and \$3,323.00 was raised. As a result, the Branch was reorganized and granted a renewed charter on November 9, 1931. Since that date, the New York Branch has been one of the largest leading membership Branches of the NAACP.

Led by its President, Dr. Annie B. Martin, the New York (Harlem) Branch is continuing to work steadfastly on the front lines of the fight for justice. The Unit played a prominent role in the "Overground Railroad" demonstrations over voter registration concerns, started a Saturday program to help students develop study habits, and held legal redress forums, community health fairs and civic engagement activities.

James E. Allen also served as president of the New York branch and later helped to orga-

nize and become the first New York State Conference President. Other former presidents of the organization include: Ella Baker, Russell Crawford, Jawn Sandifer, Lionel Barrow, Lind H. White, I. Joseph Overton, Hon. Percy E. Sutton, Hon. Basil A. Paterson, Richard A. Hildebrand, Jeff L. Greenup, Carl Lawrence and the current president Dr. Annie B. Martin.

#### HONORING ALEXANDER BRYCE HAGER

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Bryce Hager. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alexander has earned the Arrow of Light and the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Alexander has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alexander renovated a cabin at the United Methodist Church of Chillicothe, Missouri, by leveling the floors, painting the exterior, repairing the roof and constructing a deck for the cabin.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Bryce Hager for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### CELEBRATING THE CABRILLO CIVIC CLUBS OF CALIFORNIA 76TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California on this memorable occasion of their 76th Annual Convention. I am especially honored to welcome all of the members of the Cabrillo Civic Clubs, traditionally known as "Cabrillians" to Lemoore, California, located in the heart of the 20th Congressional District.

Organized in January 1934 and chartered on December 19 of that same year, the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California was created by Californians of Portuguese descent to promote the legacy of Portuguese mariner João Rodrigues Cabrilho who is credited with the discovery of California. Early efforts to create awareness of the Portuguese compatriot resulted in two milestones, both in 1935, with the establishment of a statewide Cabrillo Day observed annually on September 28 and the creation of a Cabrillo National Monument in Point Loma, California. Cabrillians have suc-

ceeded in having State Highway 1 christened the "Cabrillo Highway" in 1957 and in fostering the issuance of a U.S. postal stamp in João Rodrigues Cabrilho's honor in 1992.

Today, Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California members remain dedicated to the principals of their pioneer forefathers in the Golden State. With 12 chapters and an active membership boasting over 2,800 individuals, Cabrillians continue to engage in opportunities that promote and enhance civic progress. Special events, such as the San Diego Cabrillo Festival, Portuguese Immigrant Week and local Festas Portuguesas, allow Cabrillians to share and create awareness of Portuguese customs and traditions in communities across California. As Americans born of Portuguese immigrants, Cabrillo Civic Club members are proud to live the American dream and have a deep commitment to making meaningful contributions to their communities. Cabrillians dedicate their time and resources to innumerable charitable activities, including: organizing blood drives, fund raising for polio and cancer research, assisting candidates for U.S. citizenship, and providing college scholarships for students of Portuguese descent. Cabrillians are able to give back to our communities in so many important ways throughout our great Golden State.

As a son of Portuguese immigrants, I am very proud of the efforts made by the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California that keep the legacy of my Portuguese ancestors alive and a part of the rich ethnic and cultural fabric of America. I ask my colleagues to rise with me today to express our sincere appreciation to the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California for their extraordinary contributions to California and wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

#### HONORING MARY E. BRYANT

#### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to herald the achievements of Mary E. Bryant and to acknowledge our pride in her valuable contributions to the Tampa Bay community, Hillsborough County Public Schools, and the students she loved.

Mary Bryant was a Tampa native who grew up in the Jim Crow era, when it was toughest for African-Americans to receive equal rights. She attended Middleton High School and graduated in 1951. Although neither of her parents completed high school, they worked hard to ensure that their daughter would accomplish what they could not. Her father worked as a truck driver, while her mom worked as a maid and presser at a local dry cleaning business.

After graduating from Middleton, Mary went on to earn a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Bethune-Cookman College in 1955. She then completed a master's degree from Florida A&M University and a doctorate from University of South Florida. She was a lifelong educator, working hard to inspire children for more than 40 years. After working in Okeechobee for several years, she began her career in Hillsborough County as a teacher and learning specialist at Henderson Elementary in 1968. In 1971, she became the principal of Phillip Shore Elementary and then at Roland Park in 1974.

During her long tenure as an educator in Hillsborough County, Mrs. Bryant truly made it her responsibility to care for the children in her classroom. She was known for giving blankets to families that could not afford them and food to children that came to school on an empty stomach. She would even keep soap and deodorant in her office for the students who could not bathe because the water was turned off at their home. She would not let any obstacle stand in the way of educating children. She also served as a dedicated mentor to many teachers under her guidance. Mary Bryant was the educator and leader that we all want in the classrooms teaching our children.

Though she was very humble, Mary Bryant received numerous awards, honors and leadership positions as an educator. In 1986, Mrs. Bryant became the first African-American woman to be appointed an area director for Hillsborough's Area II schools. In 1992, she became the first African-American woman to serve as the assistant superintendent for support services. Also, in 1993, she received the Ida S. Baker minority educator award. Hillsborough County named Bryant Elementary School in her honor.

Even after she retired in 1997, Mary continued to show her love, support and passion for Hillsborough County schools. She volunteered at school events, attended school board meetings, and served as a liaison for new principals. It is clear that her hard work and efforts have influenced countless children and teachers in Hillsborough County. It is for this reason that we would like to honor and recognize the remarkable career and life of Mary Bryant.

I stand with the Tampa Bay community and Hillsborough County Schools as we mourn the loss of a dear friend and colleague. We are proud to recognize Mary Bryant for her outstanding career and her many significant contributions to the Hillsborough County School System. Her determination and hard work have made her an inspirational leader within our community.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PASADENA AREA

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The League of Women Voters Pasadena Area, LWVPA, upon its 75th anniversary.

The Pasadena League was established in late February, 1936, when 50 women—charter members—met in the Pasadena home of Mrs. James Grant Macpherson. Shortly afterwards, on March 31, 1936, about 100 women held a public meeting in Pasadena to launch this local League of Women Voters chapter. Working out of an office in the Women's City Club, the fledgling Pasadena League followed the national League's goals of political education, legislation and getting out the vote, while also focusing on children's issues, city government, and eradication of gender and racial discrimination in housing, education and government.

In the first few years, the new League studied government and child welfare issues, and was instrumental in working on a "street-trader law" that protected youth who sold newspapers on city streets. The 1940s saw the

League leading guided tours of Pasadena City Hall, the appointment of two women to the city's Planning Commission, and assisting on a school bond issue. In the 1950s, the League urged the formation of a redevelopment agency to address blighted residential areas of Pasadena and published a pamphlet, *The Perfect City*, about planning, zoning and urban renewal, and citizen participation.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the League worked on local issues such as school and municipal bonds, and was instrumental in the formation of the Pasadena Human Relations Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women. The League promoted minority representation in local government, backed a 1968 measure to change the election system of the Pasadena City Council, advocated for the integration of Pasadena's public schools and sued the Pasadena Board of Education for violations of the Brown Act over that issue. By 1976, with the expansion of the League to include La C nada Flintridge and Sierra Madre, and the later incorporation of the Alhambra and South Pasadena Leagues, the LWVPA was the second largest league in California and a prominent political force.

The 1980s and 1990s saw the LWVPA produce public affairs programs on cable television, advocate for greater citizen input regarding power deregulation, support local library tax assessments and participate in the study and adoption of Instant Runoff Voting, and SmartVoter.org. From 2000 to 2011, some of the LWVPA's achievements include supporting Prop 11 which established a Citizen's Redistricting Commission, providing objective information on ballot measures and conducting candidate forums, and monitoring affordable housing in local communities.

It is my honor to ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating the League of Women Voters Pasadena Area upon 75 years of service to the community.

#### HONORING JOSHUA JAMES THIEME

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua James Thieme. Joshua is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Joshua has earned the Arrow of Light and the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Joshua has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Joshua restored an 19th century cemetery by clearing trees and brush and rebuilding 24 toppled headstones on the cemetery grounds.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua James Thieme for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

#### HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 70th anniversary of Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada.

In 1941, Bishop Thomas K. Gorman acknowledged the need for a social service organization that would benefit Nevada. He assigned Father Thomas F. Collins as the first diocesan director of the Catholic Welfare Program.

Through boundless efforts and dedication, Father Collins organized programs for the homeless and needy, family programs, adoption services, and provided services to the United Service Organization, USO.

By 1945, the agency was incorporated under Nevada statutes and acquired a non-profit status under the name of Nevada Catholic Welfare Bureau.

In the 1960s, the agency expanded and began development of thrift stores, a child care center, and the St. Vincent Dining Facility.

During the 1970s and 1980s, as the population growth of Las Vegas doubled, more programs were needed and developed for senior citizens, refugee and immigration services, as well as a home for girls in crisis, an emergency shelter, a work program for homeless men, and an employment services center.

In 1995, the name was changed to Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada.

As the senior population of Southern Nevada continued to grow, Catholic Charities incorporated Respite Care and Supportive Services, Marian Residence for Senior Women, Crossroads Transitional Housing for Senior Men, and Telephone Reassurance. In addition, the Social Ministry program was established to provide assistance to outreach programs and the community through resources and program development.

In 1998, a 120 room apartment building for individual residents was finished and Catholic Charities was able to rebuild additional structures for Social Services, Migration Refugee and Immigration Services, Employment Services Program, Resident Work Program and Administration offices.

Since 2006, the Women, Infant and Children, WIC, Food, Homeless to Home, Senior Services Medical Nutrition Therapy, and Foster Grandparent Programs were created to better serve our community.

Catholic Charities strives toward assisting each individual who is seeking help to gain self-sufficiency and independence with dignity by providing diverse social service programs that are designed to assist infants to seniors through the entire community.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me immense pride to recognize the 70th anniversary of Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada as they continue to be one of the largest private non-profit social service providers in the State of Nevada, offering the most comprehensive range of human services.