

## RECOGNIZING CONSTITUTION DAY

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of Constitution Day, happening this Saturday, September 17, 2011, celebrating the 224th anniversary of our Founding Fathers' signing of the Constitution. Constitution Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the past success of our founders in the form of the Constitution, the two centuries of progress since, and the future promise of the United States under the guidance of the document given to us in 1787.

Constitution Day reminds us to review the whole document and what it means to our country, and shows that support for the Constitution requires more than chanting slogans at a political rally. Calling yourself a "strict constitutionalist" means nothing if you don't bother to read the entire Constitution and fight for everything it includes, not just the portions that fit neatly with your personal political philosophy.

As an Iowan, and a student of the Constitution for more than 30 years, I take pride in repeating our state's motto: "Our Liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain." Constitution Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the document that prizes our personal liberties and preserves our rights in a system of laws that recognize the individual spirit of every American, and has made our Nation a shining beacon in the world. The development of the Constitution has recognized the rights of all men and women, and created a system of equality that has helped our Nation move past prejudice and discrimination in some of our darkest hours.

Constitution Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the system of justice for all by creating an impartial judiciary and a system of law that recognizes the rights of every citizen to file a grievance against their government or fellow man. It lets us reflect on the goals of a responsive executive, a representative legislature, and a responsible judiciary working on behalf of all citizens to preserve their rights, respect their liberties, and allow for progress. It reminds us to all work harder to support the progress of the United States.

I ask all my colleagues and constituents to join me in recognizing Constitution Day and reflecting on the lasting work of the Founding Fathers.

RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF CHARLES AND ELIZABETH SESSIONS OF PACE, FLORIDA

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Charles and Elizabeth Sessions on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Charles and Elizabeth Sessions were married on September 15, 1961 by Reverend Bo

Lowery at Pace Assembly of God. Charles and Elizabeth are deeply rooted in Northwest Florida and are lifetime residents of Pace, Florida. As active members in the local community, they were entrepreneurs and owned several businesses in the area. Charles won the first Pace Pioneer Award from the Pace Chamber of Commerce and served on the first planning board for Santa Rosa County, all with Elizabeth by his side.

Charles and Elizabeth are parents to three children, Greg and twins Kim and Ken; and have two grandchildren, Chloe and Brandon. Now retired, Charles and Elizabeth enjoy spending their time with their family, traveling, and their favorite pastime—fishing on Lake Kissimmee or on the river in Camden, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Sessions on their 50th wedding anniversary. They are truly an outstanding family from the First District of Florida. My wife Vicki and I wish their entire family all the best.

A TRIBUTE TO DECORAH HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Decorah High School in Decorah, Iowa. The United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced today that Decorah High School has made the list of the Nation's 2011 Blue Ribbon Schools.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. In the words of Secretary Duncan, "National Blue Ribbon Schools are committed to accelerating student achievement and preparing students for success in college and careers. Their success is an example for others to follow."

Decorah High School is among the state's highest performing schools. Decorah High School students scored in the top ten percent in Iowa with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds improving their performance on state assessments or nationally normed tests. Additionally, the students at Decorah High School averaged a full three points higher on their ACT scores than the national average.

Decorah High School's principal Kim Sheppard and one additional teacher will be invited to Washington, DC for the awards ceremony, to take place on November 14th and 15th. At this ceremony, Decorah High School will receive a Blue Ribbon Schools plaque and a flag to signify its elite educational status.

I consider it a great honor to represent Decorah High School Principal Kim Sheppard, the teachers, students, school board members and administrators of the Decorah Community School District in the United States Congress. I wish Decorah High School continued academic excellence as they provide a positive impact on future leaders of our state and country.

A TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT DAKOTA MEYER

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Dakota Meyer, U.S. Marine Corps, who has virtuously served the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Today, Sgt. Meyer will receive the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest medal for bravery, for his courageous actions while serving as a member of the Marine Embedded Training Team 2-8, Regional Corps Advisory Command in Kunar Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

On Sept. 8, 2009, Meyer's actions saved the lives of 13 U.S. troops and 23 Afghan soldiers.

Taliban insurgents were dug into the high ground and hidden inside a village, pouring down deadly fire at Afghan forces and their American advisers. Armed militants swarmed the low ground to try to finish off the troops.

Meyer's team was pinned down near the village. Defying orders to stay put, Meyer set himself in the turret of a Humvee and rode straight into the firefight, taking fire from all directions. He went in not once, but five times, trying to rescue his comrades.

During about six hours of chaotic fighting, he killed eight Taliban militants and provided cover for Afghan and U.S. servicemen to escape the ambush.

We owe our freedom to exceptional soldiers, like Sgt. Meyer, whose bravery and heroism, and the bravery of those who he fought alongside of, will forever be remembered and appreciated.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Sergeant Dakota Meyer for his steadfast commitment to the U.S. Marine Corps, his fellow soldiers, his nation and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. RALPH D. REID

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Ralph D. Reid, Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for Sprint Nextel. In Ralph's role, he has responsibility for Community Affairs, Employee Engagement and Volunteerism, CSR strategy and operations, and Corporate Diversity and Inclusion. He also directs Sprint's philanthropic activities as President of the Sprint Foundation and works diligently for the residents of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. This week, Mr. Reid is to be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions to Missouri and the nation.

Ralph graduated from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama with a Bachelor of

Science in Business Administration and Accounting. He received his Law Degree from the University of Missouri—Kansas City. Ralph is currently President—Board of Directors of the Kansas City Downtown Minority Development Corporation, and the Vice President—Board of Directors of the Kansas City United Community Action Agency. He has served on multiple boards, including the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Greater Kansas City, the Salvation Army, the Greater Kansas City Urban League, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kansas City, the Kansas City Repertory Theater, Oakwood College, Park University, and the Shawnee Mission Medical Center. He serves with me as a Trustee of the National World War I Museum Board. Mr. Reid was recognized by Savoy Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential African Americans in Corporate America for 2010.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Reid's contributions to the State of Missouri and induct Mr. Ralph Reid into the Missouri Walk of Fame at its annual reception, hosted by myself and fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY of St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Ralph D. Reid and commending him on his induction into the Missouri Walk of Fame. Further, the entire State of Missouri is better because of his endless commitment to serving the residents of the State of Missouri and the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. He is a true role model, not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire nation. May his success serve as a stepping stone for Kansas Citizens in general and African Americans in particular who are eager to become as successful in their chosen profession and community activism.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BECTON,  
DICKINSON AND COMPANY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD) in Canaan, CT. BD is an example of an innovative corporation who provides hard working Americans with high quality manufacturing jobs. Starting with only 8 associates in 1961 in a 25,000 square foot facility, BD's footprint in Canaan has expanded 8 times and now employs over 350 people, making it the largest employer in the community.

BD has been a world leader in medical technologies throughout the company's history. In 1925, BD patented the Yale Luer-Lok syringe, which provides a simple and secure way to lock a needle onto a syringe. To this day, the Luer-Lok connector is still the standard for syringes in the United States.

Continuing to revolutionize the medical industry, BD created the world's first disposable plastic syringe, the BD Plastipak, which was exclusively manufactured at the Canaan facility. The Canaan manufacturing facility in 2002 became the first site to manufacture BD's newest syringe, the BD Integra, which is

spring engineered to eliminate accidental needle-sticks and provide great dosing accuracy. The facility is the largest manufacturer of disposable syringes in the world, producing approximately two billion syringes annually.

Further, BD has been a great example of corporate social responsibility in Connecticut. The company served as the corporate sponsor for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in order to raise money in Northwest Connecticut for diabetes research. BD has donated generously to The United Way, and also mentors students from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. In 2007, BD was named to Ethisphere Magazine's inaugural list of most ethical companies, and has since placed on the list every year.

In reflection of the 50th anniversary of BD in Canaan, CT, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring a company that has truly transformed the medical technology industry.

HONORING YOUTH WHO REPRESENT JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOUTH FLORIDA

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the outstanding youth who represent Junior Achievement of South Florida, and their effort to foster an understanding of the United States Constitution in our community.

Junior Achievement is a non-profit organization that provides thousands of students across the world with a series of business, economics, free-enterprise, and life-skills programs. In South Florida, the young people of Junior Achievement are truly shining through their work to bring the Spirit of Freedom Experience to the Junior Achievement World Huizenga Center at Broward College. Envisioned by President Ronald Reagan, the Spirit of Freedom Experience aims to boost reverence for the founding principles of our nation by presenting bronze plaque replicas of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights to communities across America. The efforts of these Floridians will culminate during this year's Constitution Week as five plaques, representing our nation's founding documents, will be unveiled to the South Florida community.

Among those present to recognize the work of Junior Achievement and to commemorate the unveiling of these historical documents is Captain Scott F. O'Grady, an American whose career in the military epitomizes the spirit of public service. In a story of great perseverance, Captain O'Grady survived in hostile territory for six days after his aircraft was struck down by a Soviet missile during a NATO mission in Bosnia. All those present for the Spirit of Freedom experience will undoubtedly be inspired by Captain O'Grady's courage and commitment to country.

Junior Achievement's efforts to prepare young people to succeed as individuals and as citizens are truly commendable. It is an honor to recognize a group of young Americans who have already accomplished so much on behalf of our community by bringing the Spirit of Freedom Experience to South Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen delay earlier this week, I was unable to vote on the following bills: H.R. 2076, H.R. 2633, and H.R. 1059 that were rollcall vote numbers 699–701. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: rollcall No. 699, H.R. 2076, Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2011, "yea"; rollcall No. 700, H.R. 2633, Appeal Time Clarification Act, "yea"; rollcall No. 701, H.R. 1059, To protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports, and for other purposes, "yea."

TRIBUTE TO USA NATIONAL TEAM AT THE 2011 RUGBY WORLD CUP

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States national rugby team, the Eagles, on their victory over Russia in the wee hours of this morning during the 2011 Rugby World Cup competition in New Zealand. Although rugby may not be as popular in the United States as many of our other sports, the Rugby World Cup is now established as the third biggest sporting event in the world behind the Olympic Games and FIFA World Cup for soccer.

The Eagles played their first match against Ireland on September 11 and lost to the much higher ranked team 22–10, after starting the day with a church service to commemorate the victims of the 9/11 attacks on the United States. I know this event held particular meaning for the members of the team from the Mid-Atlantic (MARFU) and Northeastern Rugby Union (NRU). Today's 13–6 win over Russia marks an important victory for the Eagles in their pool play at the tournament. I wish them the best of luck in their upcoming matches against Australia on September 23 and Italy just four days later.

My best wishes go to the host nation of New Zealand as they organize this event on the world stage for the second time in its 24 year history. At the inaugural Rugby World Cup in New Zealand in 1987 it is estimated 600,000 fans attended matches with 300 million people tuning in on television from 17 countries. The last World Cup in 2007, held in France, Scotland and Wales, saw 2.25 million fans filling the parks and 4 billion watching televised coverage from 200 nations. This year the numbers are expected to be even higher as the sport is growing in many countries, like ours, where it is the largest growing team sport on college and high school campuses across the nation. I wish New Zealand the best of luck and commend them for welcoming the millions of visitors to their shores for this spirited competition despite the devastating earthquakes suffered in Christchurch earlier this year.