

facility that accommodates 50 additional students. As a result of the expansion, UCS also added an art program, art room, science lab and full-time counseling program. Because of her dedication to the students of UCS, Sister Maureen has been awarded with the Diocese of Cleveland Catholic School Excellence Award, the YWCA Greater Cleveland Women of Achievement Award, an Honorary Degree from John Carroll University and the Irish Good Fellowship Award.

In addition to her work with UCS, Sister Maureen is an active member of the Greater Cleveland community. She has been involved with the Boys & Girls Club, City Club of Cleveland, Laurel School and St. Ignatius High School. Currently, Sister Maureen is a member of the Education Committee for the Cleveland Museum of Art and Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Sister Maureen Doyle as she is recognized for her contributions to the Cleveland's Near West Side community as director of the Urban Community School.

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RECOGNIZING BRENDA WELBURN

**HON. JARED POLIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Brenda Welburn as the Executive Director of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE).

Throughout Brenda's outstanding career with NASBE, she dedicated herself to supporting not only state policymakers across the 50 states but, more importantly, students all across the country.

Brenda spent many years at the helm of NASBE, serving as a critical resource for state policymakers elected and appointed to State Boards of Education. During my six years of service on the Colorado State Board, Brenda and NASBE were instrumental in supporting me and all of the board in our universally shared goal of improving public education. I will never forget how we worked together to implement the requirements of No Child Left Behind and to integrate its requirements with Colorado's education accountability systems. With Brenda's help, we managed to navigate school finance decisions while communicating the benefits of public school choice, such as online learning and charter schools, and connecting traditional K–12 programs with college and careers.

Throughout her remarkable tenure at NASBE, Brenda has served as a steady and thoughtful leader, actively assisting state board members across the country. Her influence has been felt coast to coast, and because of her steadfast commitment to establishing and maintaining effective education policies, children across the country have been given a greater chance to succeed.

Brenda, we will miss you, but we thank you for your dedicated service and congratulate you on your retirement.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN'S  
CENTENNIAL NATIONAL DAY

**HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan as they celebrate their Centennial National Day. The day is also to commemorate the 1911 Wuchang Uprising, a milestone of China's development and a new chapter which led to the end of the Qing Dynasty.

This National Day allows the people of Taiwan to gather together and celebrate their shared heritage, and provide them the unique opportunity to honor their past and present culture and achievements. Following President Ma Ying-jeou's annual address, there will be a parade of floats from 10 counties and various government agencies. A series of cultural activities and exhibitions, including a nationwide design competition and movie festival will be featured along with a traditional puppet display.

The historic ties between the United States and Taiwan run deep, and they continue to unite us. I hope our nation will continue its efforts to promote educational and cultural exchanges so that younger generations may enjoy and continue the legacy of our important relationship.

I look forward working together to deepen our relationship, and I wish the families celebrating this occasion a safe and happy holiday.

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NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE  
FOR MURDER VICTIMS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, September 25th we recognize the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims.

Murder extinguishes the hopes and dreams of tens of thousands of victims each year, and an untold number of fellow Americans now live, daily, with the absence of a loved one.

Murder affects each and every one of us, and every community nationwide.

We must all work diligently to prevent the violence that destroys lives and devastates families.

A National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims offers Americans the opportunity to honor the memories of murder victims and recognize the impact of murder on surviving family members and friends.

A join victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout America to remember the tragedy of murder, honor the courage of survivors, and vow to do whatever we can to help survivors rebuild their lives.

On the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims we reaffirm this Nation's commitment to respect as well as support crime victims' rights and needs throughout the year; And that's just the way it is.

TO ACKNOWLEDGE SEPTEMBER AS  
CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARE-  
NESS MONTH

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge September as Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. Increasing awareness of this pervasive problem can help curb the increase in this epidemic and help families and children make better choices in the foods they eat and their overall lifestyle.

Over the past three decades, the rate of childhood obesity has risen to crisis proportions. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 32 percent of children are overweight, 16 percent are obese, and 11 percent are extremely obese. In some racial and ethnic groups, in low-income populations, and among recent immigrants, the rates of obesity among children and youth are alarmingly high.

The health consequences for these children are very serious. They are at much greater risk of developing diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, asthma, and other diseases than their non-obese peers. Many children are subjected to ridicule and bullying that damages their emotional well-being. Beyond the tragic consequences for the children themselves are the effects on the American economy. Obese children are at risk of growing into obese adults who do not participate fully in the workforce because of employment discrimination, lost productivity due to illness and disability, and premature death. If the childhood obesity epidemic continues at its current rate, conditions related to type 2 diabetes, such as blindness, coronary artery disease, stroke, and kidney failure, may become common conditions of middle age. Health care costs for this population are likely to rise to an extent we are only now beginning to appreciate.

As a nation, we need to make sure that our young people receive a consistent message that encourages them to adopt healthful eating patterns; helps them to understand their nutritional needs; and teaches them healthy lifestyle choices, especially relating to physical activity.

We can, and we simply must, make addressing childhood obesity a national priority. Not only must we help the children who are already affected, we must not fail to protect another generation. Health is more than the absence of physical or mental illness—it is also the extent to which children and youth have the capacity to reach their full potential.

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REAFFIRMING THE STRONG U.S.-  
ISRAEL PARTNERSHIP IN PUR-  
SUIT OF LASTING MIDDLE EAST  
PEACE

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose Palestine's bid for statehood at the United Nations (U.N.) and to encourage the

Palestinian leadership to pursue a peace agreement with Israel through direct negotiations, as they have demonstrated their willingness to do before.

Lasting peace is possible only if an agreement is accepted by the Israeli and Palestinian people—it must not be forced on either side. I have continually shared this message with my colleagues in Congress and the international community, most recently by urging members of the European Union to stand with the U.S. and Israel in opposing Palestine's unilateral action at the United Nations.

All citizen in the region deserve a peaceful and prosperous future and I am hopeful progress will be made. However, the U.S. will not ignore the serious security threat that faces Israel. The path to peace lies in working together, not exploiting differences. I will stand with Israel to support peace through direct negotiations and urge Palestine to embrace this approach.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND  
OPENING OF THE BLIND REHA-  
BILITATION UNIT AT THE  
CLEVELAND VETERAN AFFAIRS  
MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the grand opening of the new Blind Rehabilitation Center at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veteran Affairs Medical Center, VAMC, on September 26, 2011.

The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center is dedicated to the quality care of all veterans. It is the fifth largest VA in the country and serves close to 95,000 veterans annually. The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center was the first VA to receive disease specific accreditation for Inpatient Diabetes Care in 2007 and has also received a special commendation by the American College of Surgeons as a Certified Comprehensive Cancer Program.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are approximately 157,000 Veterans who are legally blind and more than one million more suffer from low vision. On September 26, 2011, the Cleveland VAMC will celebrate the grand opening of their new Blind Rehabilitation Center, BRC. The 28,000 square-foot, 15-inpatient-bed BRC will care for blind and low-vision Veterans from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, West Virginia and Kentucky. In addition to working with Veterans to regain their independence and quality of life, the BRC will offer support to the Veterans' families, helping them better understand visual impairment and providing support that will reduce caregiver burden.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the grand opening of the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veteran Affairs Medical Center's new Blind Rehabilitation Center.

SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HISPANIC  
HERITAGE MONTH FROM SEP-  
TEMBER 15-OCTOBER 15, 2011,  
RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALFRED  
RASCON AND THE 41 MEN OF  
HISPANIC HERITAGE WHO HAVE  
BEEN AWARDED THE MEDAL OF  
HONOR

**HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to salute Army Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Rascon of Laurel, Maryland, one of the 41 men of Hispanic heritage who have received our military's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

Alfred Rascon was born in Mexico, but joined the Army after graduating from high school in California. He explained, "I volunteered to join the military and serve in Vietnam [before I became a citizen] because I was always an American in my heart."

While serving as a medic, Rascon's reconnaissance platoon came under fierce enemy attack in thick jungle on March 16, 1966. Rascon repeatedly used his own body as a shield against withering fire and saved the lives of two wounded buddies and tried in vain to save the life of a third. Despite wounds from gunfire, shrapnel and a grenade explosion in his face, he raced into a hail of bullets and recovered an M-60 machine gun and ammunition. That action turned the tide of the encounter and may well have saved the lives of his entire platoon. Rascon refused evacuation before other injured buddies.

Alfred Rascon served two more combat tours in Vietnam and also served additional tours since 2001 in Iraq and Afghanistan. He continues to serve our country speaking to our youth. America is blessed by generations of immigrant Medal of Honor recipients like Alfred Rascon. They are heroes who sacrificed themselves to save the lives of others and put their newly adopted country above their own self-interest. There is no greater love than a man lay down his life for a friend.

HONORING BRETT EVERETT WOOD

**HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Brett Everett Wood, a courageous and noble soldier, who died on September 9, 2011 at the age of 19. Army Private First Class Wood laid down his life when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

A 2010 graduate of Owen Valley High School who enlisted shortly after his high school graduation, Private Wood was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division based in Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Private First Class Wood had recently returned to active duty after recovering from head wounds suffered in a previous IED blast.

He was awarded a Purple Heart, Bronze Star and a Good Conduct Medal among several other military honors.

A hard worker, a proud and brave American, and a loving son, Private First Class Brett Wood leaves behind his beloved parents, Malissa and Chris Frye and Mitchell and Angela Wood. He is survived by his adored brothers Nikk Wood, Brandon Wood and Cory Poland and dearly loved sister Amber Poland. His grandparents, Charles and Evelyn Wood and Jim and Sandy Corns will long remember him.

Private First Class Brett Wood made the ultimate sacrifice for his country in Operation Enduring Freedom. To his fellow soldiers, his family and friends, and to everyone who knew and loved him, he was a dedicated member of his community who answered the higher calling to serve his country.

Mr. Speaker, during his lifetime, Brett Everett Wood enriched the lives of everyone around him by employing energy, leadership, and courage in everything he set out to do. As we bid farewell to this exceptional individual, I am reminded that freedom does indeed exact a heavy price and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring his contributions and years of devoted service to his community and our country.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA—OR TAIWAN

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, October 10 marks the 100th Anniversary of The Republic of China—or Taiwan. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this important occasion.

The partnership between the United States and Taiwan is vital within the international community. Both of our countries benefit from a robust trading relationship, and the support that Taiwan has shown the United States in times of need cannot be overlooked.

In recognizing the centennial of Taiwan, we are also recognizing the numerous cultural and political accomplishments of this proud nation. Within Taiwan, we see a flourishing democracy—where free speech and political discourse are encouraged—and applaud the perseverance of those who have worked to protect the civil rights of the Taiwanese people.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the accomplishments Taiwan has made over the past 100 years, and that we will all continue to foster the important relationship that exists between the United States and one of our most important Asian allies.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY  
ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE  
NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under