

and training programs for unemployed workers, as well as technical and financial assistance for employers.

I will continue to support trade agreements that include labor, human rights and environmental safeguards and that benefit all Rhode Islanders—businesses, workers and consumers.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the students, faculty, and staff at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, Texas. In 2010, US News and World Report ranked Texas Wesleyan University number 71 out of all tier one regional comprehensive universities in the western region of the United States. More recently, the university was recognized in the top 50 among all tier one regional comprehensive institutions, jumping 23 spots up to number 48. They should truly be proud of this wonderful accomplishment.

Texas Wesleyan University was established in 1890 as a private institution with a focus on empowering and developing students to their full potential through the personal attention that each student receives from the faculty. The small class sizes are designed to foster learning and success amongst the students, and ensure that the faculty and staff are able to best serve and inspire the students. Their ranking in the past two years as a top university demonstrates that they continue to go above and beyond for their students.

Texas Wesleyan University has all of the tools to continue to grow and enrich the surrounding Fort Worth community. I am truly proud of all of the students, faculty, staff, and administration of Texas Wesleyan University for achieving this prestigious accomplishment, and it is an honor to represent them in the United States Congress.

CHIEF JACK HOUSE TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Jack House. Chief House was the last hereditary chief of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (Weeminuche Band), and the first to lead through the transition from life in the mountains and plains to life on the reservation.

Chief House was born in Mancos Canyon in 1889 on the reservation designated as home for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. He had the traditional long braids, carried himself tall, and photographs of him captured the proud, determined attitude that was evidenced in his life-long struggles for the cause of his people. He was instrumental in the establishment of the tribal council, the formation of the Ute Mountain Tribal Office and the blueprints for the tribal constitution.

In his fight for the rights of his people, Chief Jack House brought suit against the U.S. Gov-

ernment over the San Juan Mining District, for which the Indians had been paid 13 cents per acre in 1873. Fearing the killing of livestock and the fencing of the reservation, he fought the building of roads through the reservation as well as advocated for water and hunting rights.

He travelled many times to Washington, D.C. and in his more than 30 years of leadership, Chief Jack House worked to secure essential water rights, lobbied for the tribe's causes, and fought for the right of self-determination for his people. When Chief Jack House died in 1971, nearly a thousand people, both whites and Indians, paid their respects and homage to his inspired leadership.

After his death, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe completed both the Dolores Water Project and Animas La Plata Water Project which accomplished his dream that his community would someday see running water in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Chief Jack House. In the words of the recent passed tribal leader and grandson of Chief Jack House, Ernest House, Sr., "He laid the foundation for the tribe and created the path followed today."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor on rollcall votes 790 and 791. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 790, and "yea" on rollcall 791.

USDA PROPOSED RULE FOR SCHOOL MEALS

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to highlight and submit for the record my concerns regarding new costs for schools who serve primarily low-income children in a proposed rule, issued on January 13, 2011, to establish revised meal pattern and nutritional requirements for the National School Breakfast & Lunch Program. I commend the commitment to improving the nutritional profile of school meals. However, the proposed rule could have a significant effect on local schools that serve a high percentage of low-income children.

The preamble to the proposed rule indicates that it would increase the cost of serving school meals by \$6.8 billion over the next five years—an increase of 14 cents per lunch and 50 cents per breakfast. With less than half of the increased cost for lunches and none of the increased cost for breakfast to be offset by increased federal reimbursements, the economic consequences of such large cost increases is a matter of great concern. Many of our local schools do not have resources that may be diverted to meet such large cost increases. Especially, considering the fact that the majority of the dollars that are supposed to be diverted for this cost increase would come from paid meals. Schools that serve a high

percentage of low-income kids have little or no kids actually purchasing meals. Most children fed in these schools receive free or reduced priced meals.

School nutrition programs play a vital role in the healthy development of America's children. For many low-income children, the best, if not all, of their nutrition comes from the school breakfast and lunch programs. I sent a letter to Secretary Vilsack on October 12 2011, with 14 of my colleagues, to request that the final rule not adversely affect the budgets of local schools feeding the highest percentages of low-income children. The letter also urges the Secretary to prioritize the accessibility of school nutrition program improvements to all children.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL WORK AND FAMILY MONTH

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the month of October as National Work and Family Month (NWFM). NWFM was established in 2003 and is the centerpiece of a national education campaign to raise awareness among employers about the value of work-life integration. NWFM encourages all workplaces to pause once a year to communicate and celebrate the progress already made on the journey to creating healthier and more flexible work environments, and then raise the bar to accomplish even more over the coming year.

We know that high quality work-family policies—including those related to workplace flexibility, military family flexibility, dependent care, health and wellness, and paid and unpaid time off—are highly effective in attracting, motivating, and retaining a talented workforce. Congress has acknowledged the importance of these policies in 2009 and 2010 when both chambers of Congress passed bipartisan resolutions recognizing NWFM. This year, I encourage all of my colleagues, as well as my fellow Americans, to take time this month to acknowledge the importance of a healthy balance between work and family life.

HONORING THE MORRIS COUNTY ORGANIZATION OF HISPANIC AFFAIRS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris County Organization of Hispanic Affairs, MCOHA, located in Dover, Morris County, New Jersey as it celebrates its 35th Anniversary.

MCOHA is a private, nonprofit organization that was founded in 1976 by 7 community members. Its mission is to advance bi-cultural exchange in the Morris County Community through programs providing information, education and practical assistance.

Though established primarily as a Hispanic organization, it provides services to all residents of Morris County regardless of their

race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation and is a partner agency of the United Way. It offers programs to people, such as transportation, immigration immersion, translation and health services, among many others.

In cooperation with federal and state agencies, MCOHA administers several programs, including the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, Universal Service Fund, USF and New Jersey Shares, among others. Another offered program is the Weatherization Assistance Program, WX, which aims to educate low income families on the importance of increasing energy efficiency in their home and helping to install such measures. Additional programs serve as educational resources such as Computer Training classes, health seminars, and English as a second language.

Every year, MCOHA helps numerous families and individuals. Last year alone, the WX program serviced 300 homes and the Computer Training Program graduated 250 students; in addition, MCOHA provided health screenings for over 700 people and provided over 16,500 rides to seniors, preschool children and clients with social services/medical needs.

Throughout the year, MCOHA dedicates itself to providing educational forums and support to the citizens of Morris County. Its unwavering support of those in need and those new to our country is commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Morris County Organization of Hispanic Affairs as they celebrate 35 years of dedication to the people of Morris County.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,868,218,296,426.05.

On January 6, 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 \$4,229,792,550,132.25 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING HISPANIC MILITARY
LEADERS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, as our nation celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces, particularly Hispanic service members.

Hispanics have served in the United States military since its establishment and have fought in every conflict since the Revolutionary War. Forty-four Hispanic Americans have been awarded the military's highest honor for bravery. In addition to these Medal of Honor

recipients, thousands of Hispanics have died in combat defending our freedom.

Beyond the military, Hispanics continue to play an important role in every aspect of our society, and their influence is growing. According to the 2010 Census, the U.S. Hispanic population surged 43 percent, rising to over 50 million up from 35 million in 2000. Latinos now constitute 16 percent of the nation's total population of 308 million. Hispanic population growth accounted for more than half of the nation's growth over the past decade.

The Hispanic population in the military has also grown, but Hispanics continue to be under represented in our nation's military forces. Despite making up over 17 percent of the population between the ages of 18 and 40, only 11 percent of the United States Army and the Air Force are Hispanic. Hispanics make up 12 percent of the Marine Corps and 14 percent of the Navy. While these figures are lower than the percentage of Hispanics in the general population, they represent a significant increase from 1994 when the number of Hispanics entering the Army was just 6.6 percent of new recruits.

Despite recruitment levels lower than the overall population, Hispanics are retained in the force and promoted at the same or higher rates than other groups. Today, I want to highlight a few outstanding Hispanic Americans who have risen to the highest ranks and are serving in high profile and critical positions for the defense of our nation.

General David Rodriguez leads the United States Army's Forces Command. As the 19th leader of this critical organization, General Rodriguez oversees one of the Army's most important functions, preparing forces for deployment to combat.

Lieutenant General Rhett Hernandez recently stood up the Army's Cyber Command, which brings the Army's cyber resources under a single command. Under the leadership of General Hernandez, Cyber Command is developing and protecting the critical network that links warfighters in every battle space.

Major General Angela Salinas began her military service as an enlisted Marine in 1974 and now serves as the Director of the United States Marine Corps' Manpower Management Division. In this position, she ensures that the Marine Corps has the right mix of forces to respond to any contingency worldwide.

Rear Admiral Samuel Perez serves as the Commander of Carrier Strike Group One. Carrier Strike Group One is based in the Pacific and has a 100 million square-mile area of operations. As a fellow native of Canutillo, Texas, I am especially proud of Admiral Perez's leadership of this important United States Navy combat formation.

At every level of our nation's military, Hispanic Americans are serving in critical leadership positions. They have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their country and their fellow service members. They have risked their lives fighting to defend our nation and our freedom, and we owe them an immeasurable debt of gratitude for their sacrifice.

IN RECOGNITION OF LGBT
HISTORY MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, October is LGBT History Month, and I rise to pay tribute to the remarkable achievements of numerous members of this vibrant community and to recognize some of the men and women whose contributions and service have made America better and greater.

I am proud to have supported the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which was formally abolished by the military on September 20th, 2011 after an orderly transition program prepared troops for the change without affecting force readiness or morale. Our nation is now stronger and our people are safer thanks to the sacrifices made by these brave Americans, who no longer need to choose between service and silence.

There have been other changes for the better this year. In July, President Obama and his administration concluded that a critical section of the Defense of Marriage Act is no longer constitutionally defensible. And, on June 24th, the State of New York passed a law with bipartisan support extending the right to marry to gay and lesbian couples.

Just last week, history was made here in the House when our colleague, Congressman POLIS of Colorado, celebrated the birth of a baby boy with his partner, and became the first openly gay parent to serve in Congress.

This chamber has been enriched by his service, as it has by that of Congressman BARNEY FRANK, the first openly gay Member to serve in the House of Representatives, and one of this body's ablest legislators. Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN of Wisconsin was the first openly gay non-incumbent to be elected to Congress. Congressman DAVID CICILLINE of Rhode Island was the first openly gay mayor of a major city before his election to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to serve with these great Americans and wonderful colleagues who overcame many obstacles and barriers to realize the dream of serving their communities and representing their friends and neighbors in the Congress of the United States.

History, and progress, is also being made at the local level. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, one of the largest LGBT communities in the nation is located in the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area, which I am privileged to represent. This dynamic community is culturally diverse and economically and artistically vibrant. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two LGBT leaders who helped to make this possible.

Jean Harris was a lifelong human rights activist who employed her uncanny talent for community organizing to electing open-minded city officials and defeating discriminatory legislation. A true force in California's LGBT community, she served as chair of the California Democratic Party's Lesbian/Gay Caucus, president of San Francisco's Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, and vice president of the Long Beach Lambda Democratic Club. Indeed, many local leaders and public servants across California owe their careers to her tireless advocacy. Jean Harris passed away