

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

on June 15, 2011, and my deepest sympathies go out to her family and friends.

In August, I rose to pay tribute to the late Paul Duncan, the Director of Outreach for the Long Beach Community Business Network, who spent the last ten years of his life working tirelessly to connect local Long Beach employers to business organizations from Hawaii to Washington, DC. An advocate for economic empowerment of LGBT business owners and entrepreneurs, Mr. Duncan was known around the nation and beloved by the Long Beach community. He died suddenly of an aneurism at a national conference where he was one of 70 affiliate leaders working for job creation and expanded economic opportunity for LGBT owned businesses.

Mr. Speaker, progress is made through the efforts of courageous leaders like Jean and Paul; people who actively engage their communities and face adversity to ensure that the rights of all are clearly defined and protected.

People like the legendary Bayard Rustin, a leading strategist of the Civil Rights Movement and trusted advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr. An early proponent of nonviolent resistance, Rustin organized the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation which inspired the Freedom Rides of the 1960s and helped Dr. King organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference which became the nerve center of the American Civil Rights Movement.

Bayard Rustin was a driving force behind the iconic 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom which brought national attention to the civil rights struggle and spurred the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. He arranged the transportation, trained the marshals and oversaw all of the logistical details involved in putting on one of the most effective political demonstrations in world history and setting the stage for Dr. King's timeless "I Have a Dream" speech.

Later, Bayard Rustin worked to integrate all-white unions and became heavily involved in international humanitarian development and peacemaking. Openly gay, he became a public advocate for LGBT causes in the 1970s and passed away on a mission to Haiti in 1987.

Many great writers of the Harlem Renaissance, such as Countée Cullen and Bruce Nugent, were homosexual, and the contributions they made to literature are forever ingrained in the cultural fabric of America. Langston Hughes was probably the most well known, though he was an intensely private man and never spoke openly on the subject.

Billy Strayhorn was a musician and gifted composer whose 30 year collaboration with Duke Ellington resulted in some of the most indispensable music of the jazz age. Openly gay, Strayhorn participated in many civil rights causes and arranged a musical score for his friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1963.

James Baldwin is one of the great literary figures of the 20th century. The writings of this African-American explored issues of race and class and gender. He rose to prominence with the civil rights movement and worked to bridge the gap between the competing approaches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, both of whom were his personal friends. His work and life had a profound impact on countless equality activists and writers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the count-

less number of Americans who defied the odds and overcame prejudice and discrimination, and intolerance and worked to make everyone including America be a more welcoming place succeeding generations of LGBT community members.

65TH ANNUAL NATIONAL
PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a significant event that is occurring in Western New York next week.

Our nation's rich culture, history, art, and architecture are national treasures and help remind us everyday who we are and where we came from.

This year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation is holding its 65th annual National Preservation Conference in Buffalo, NY and will feature historic and cultural sites throughout the Buffalo Niagara region.

Hundreds of Western New Yorkers have worked for the past four years to plan this conference, researching sites from Medina to Chautauqua and everywhere in between, planning events, and creating art exhibitions.

These sites include such regional attractions as the Guaranty Building, Darwin D. Martin House Complex, Roycroft Campus, and the Erie Canal locks in Lockport, among many others. I am proud to show off Western New York's historical icons to the rest of the country.

This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our vibrant culture and history and I commend all of those who are putting in time and effort to make this happen.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DICK'S 5 & 10 OF BRANSON, MISSOURI

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the 7th District of Missouri's most valuable landmarks, Dick's 5 & 10, located in Branson, Missouri.

This summer they celebrated their 50th year of business, or as they say, of fun.

Ever since Dick Hartley started the store fifty years ago, Dick's 5 & 10 has been an important part of the Branson community. And for those who are not from the Ozarks, Dick's 5 & 10 is a must see for all visitors to Branson—I know it is for my family every time we're in the area.

Whether it's toys, games, gifts, souvenirs, novelties, or nostalgia; whether customers are 5 years old or 105 years old; whether customers know what they want or are just looking; at Dick's 5 & 10 there is something for everyone.

But more than the items on their shelves, the friendly smiles of the staff and the outstanding service is what keeps customers coming back for more.

The family that runs Dick's, the Hartley family, has been active in the Branson Community since Dick's first opened its doors in 1961. The Hartleys have been involved in many organizations, including the Downtown Branson Mainstreet Association, the Kiwanis Club, other civic organizations, and are very active in Branson politics.

Son Steve and daughter Melissa, along with Melissa's husband Dave Montgomery, continue the family tradition of helping guide the Downtown Merchants Association, as well as making sure that all of the customers at Dick's have that special experience of a true American tradition.

Dick's 5 & 10 is an important part of the Branson community and I know we can look forward to 50 more years of success, fun, and the community involvement that Dick's 5 & 10 is known for.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 7TH ANNUAL MAYOR'S DINNER & CHARITY AUCTION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Simi Valley, California's 7th Annual Mayor's Dinner & Charity Auction, hosted by my good friend Mayor Robert O. "Bob" Huber and the Simi Valley Community Foundation.

The dinner will benefit the Alliance for Human Services and Humanitarian Awards will be bestowed upon Fred Bauermeister, Jill Haney, Ann Lindeen and Sue Martinez.

Bob was elected mayor last November, during a time when economic troubles facing the city required strong leadership. He has managed to navigate the City Council through tough and sometimes contentious decisions to keep the city's finances stable and the community safe and functioning well. As a former mayor of Simi Valley who was also elected at a turning point in the city's history, I greatly emphasize with the challenges he faces.

It is fitting that Bob host a gathering of such celebrated community leaders. Throughout the years, Bob has served on a number of governmental and community boards and commissions in the city, beginning at age 27, when he served his first term as president of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Honoree Fred Bauermeister is also a longtime friend. A professional photographer, Fred is best known for his 40-year advocacy of the Free Clinic of Simi Valley. Fred has been a part of the clinic since it opened its doors in 1971 and Fred was still a college student. He was named executive director that year and has guided the clinic through many challenging times. Last year, Fred was elected to the board of directors of the National Association of Free Clinics.

Jill Haney serves on the board of directors of the United Way, is past president of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, treasurer for the Simi Valley Education Foundation and is immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunset. Under her management and leadership, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust was named Business of the Year in 2007. If there is a charitable event in Simi Valley, no doubt you will find Jill volunteering at it.