

his Eagle Scout project. Reid organized and installed an 1860's flagpole and fence around the Pony School at the Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join Reid's parents, Dale and Candise, his family and friends and I in commending Reid F. Schmidling 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 SERVICE OF
MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL J.
WALSH, COMMANDER, MISSISSIPPI
VALLEY DIVISION, U.S.
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, Major General Michael J. Walsh assumed command of Mississippi Valley Division in February, 2008. Since that time, he has played a vital role in managing the Corps' water resources program in the Mississippi River Valley, a \$7.5 billion civil works program. GEN Walsh also served simultaneously as President-designee of the Mississippi River Commission, which oversees and implements the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project.

The MR&T project was authorized through the Flood Control Act of 1928 and is the largest flood control project in the world stretching from Cairo, Illinois to the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet. The MR&T was conceived in response to the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927, the most destructive flood in U.S. history, which claimed countless lives and flooded thousands of square miles.

The recent floods of the Mississippi tested the MR&T project to its fullest. The Mississippi River reached and surpassed record levels in Vicksburg and Natchez, Mississippi. For the first time in 37 years, the Morganza Spillway was opened to save most of Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Louisiana. Thankfully, through GEN Walsh's leadership, billions of dollars in flood damage and most importantly lives were saved. Upon reflection, GEN Walsh exhibited the type of control, understanding, and skill that effectively battled a flood that could have devastated the Mississippi River Region. While there is much to rebuild and the loss of life that did occur must be mourned, we must congratulate GEN Walsh and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a job well done. We wish you well in your future endeavors and look forward to working with you in your new capacity.

EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest condolences and solidarity with the people of Turkey in the aftermath of the devastating 7.2 earthquake which struck eastern Turkey early this week. Cen-

tered in the Eris district of Van, it triggered the collapse of approximately 2,000 buildings, leaving in its wake a death toll in the hundreds that is unfortunately bound to rise over the next several days and weeks.

The latest reports indicate that there has been some difficulty in delivering relief to those who so desperately need it, due to conditions on the ground. With the first snows of the area usually falling in November, there could be many more deaths as a result of exposure, as structural damage and aftershocks keep people from returning to their homes.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans, I am thankful for the Administration's offer to provide assistance to the Turkish government in its relief efforts. I encourage the U.S. government and the international community to continue to be vigilant on ways they can help recovery efforts in Turkey.

When faced with a wide array of challenges over the decades, from the Korean War to our current mission in Afghanistan, Turkey has been a valuable friend and ally. In the wake of such destruction and hardship, the U.S. reaffirms its solidarity with Turkey.

My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Turkey at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
CARMEN GALVAN

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to a beloved friend and community member and a longtime resident of Rialto, Carmen Haro Galvan. Carmen passed away September 7, 2011 at the age of 79. A memorial mass and a burial service were held on September 15, 2011. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to her family and friends.

Carmen was born to Demetri Haro and Ruth Valdivia. She was born and raised in Ontario, California, and was the eldest of twelve siblings. From an early age Carmen was known for her grace, beauty, and capacity to love.

She married David Galvan in 1953. They settled and raised a family in Rialto. The Galvans lived in the city for fifty years and were active members of St. Catherine's Church.

Both Carmen and David shared a love for music. They enjoyed singing and dancing together—the two frequented Rainbow Gardens, a dance hall in Pomona, and even competed in dancing competitions in Los Angeles.

Their daughter, Debby Galvan, remembers that they danced like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, moving like butterflies on the floor. The two loved music, loved their family, and loved each other.

It was obvious how deeply the couple loved each other. Debby says, "They lived and breathed each other." David could often be overheard singing 'Muchacha Bonita' to Carmen. The couple had three children, Debby, Jeff, and Randy, and seven beloved grandchildren. Carmen will always be remembered for her big heart and love for her family and friends.

May we all be so lucky to live a life full of love. My thoughts and prayers, along with

those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Councilman Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer are with Carmen's family at this time. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring a cherished community member, Carmen Galvan.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GEAR UP
WEEK

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great GEAR UP Week celebrations that occurred across the country last week. GEAR UP, the Nation's most successful early college awareness and readiness program, is now in its twelfth year. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing all of the great program staff, students, families and organizational partners who have helped to make GEAR UP the success it is today.

GEAR UP Week was celebrated with great fanfare last week as students and communities recommitted themselves to higher education and greater opportunity. In West Virginia, the governor and first lady honored students individually, and the program read a proclamation from the governor. In Connecticut, they held a celebration rally. In North Carolina, they read a proclamation from the governor, had a Family College Night and held a writing workshop. In Puerto Rico, students posted on a Dreams Wall and in Deep South Texas they hosted a press conference and celebration with alumni and my good friend and GEAR UP champion Congressman HINOJOSA. In American Samoa, they made commemorative YouTube videos about their programs and the opportunities available to students. Just over the DC border, in Prince George's County, Maryland, they hosted parent workshops and sent an oversized "thank you" to their representatives in the Congress. In Arizona, they reached out to their Congressional delegation as did Laramie County, Wyoming GEAR UP students. In Virginia, the GEAR UP staff reached out to local media to share their success and schools hosted assemblies. In California, the students thanked their Members of Congress for supporting GEAR UP and the program brought the story of college-going to the radio. Roswell GEAR UP in eastern New Mexico spread the word about their programs and publically thanked their partners. In Chicago, 14 former GEAR UP students shared their experience in transitioning to college, the partnership hosted a college fair and teachers participated in a Young Adult Literacy Conference. In Nevada the governor proclaimed GEAR UP Week. Wisconsin GEAR UP students visited college campuses and attended workshops. Mansfield hosted "GEAR UP Family Orientation Night," and in Eastern Michigan GEAR UP hosted a "Legacy of Success." Shasta County Partnership and UC Davis Partnership in California hosted a GEAR UP celebration with community leaders, educators, public officials and business partners. Oregon engaged more than 1,000 people online in support of GEAR UP and Texas GEAR UP hosted a statewide essay contest and pep rallies at GEAR UP high schools. Palomar College GEAR UP read

proclamations from school boards, city mayors, Members of Congress, and state legislators and in Maine they read a proclamation from the governor.

I want to thank all of the people who worked to make GEAR UP Week a success and everyone who strives to see that college is more than a dream for our Nation's young people.

REGARDING VOTER SUPPRESSION
SPECIAL ORDER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against voter suppression that is happening in my district and throughout states all across the country. With the presidential elections just one year away on Sunday, it is critical that we bring to light this most important issue that is disenfranchising eligible voters of select ages and backgrounds.

The right to vote is one of the fundamental pillars of any functioning democracy. In the United States, we use voting as a means for the people to select their elected officials at all levels of representation. This fact, I believe, is a basic lesson that we have all learned in civics class back in elementary school. Yet, recently I have begun to think that some of our Republican leaders in government have forgotten this simple truth—or worse, have

chosen to ignore these basic tenets of American democracy.

Under the guise that it will strengthen the integrity of our elections, a number of state legislatures have already taken extraordinary steps to exclude the elderly, our youth, minorities, and the poor from getting to the polls and casting their ballot through a series of regressive voting laws. It is no surprise that since there was an unprecedented turnout from all of these groups during the 2008 presidential election that state governments are only now mobilizing to overhaul these laws.

Nationally, these anti-voting laws are materializing in the form of stringent photo ID mandates, inflated proof of citizenship requirements, more difficult voter registration, reduced early and absentee days, and heightened barriers to reentry for citizens with past felony convictions. Seven states have already signed photo ID mandates into law, while the other provisions are already enacted or being considered by many more.

In Texas, we have already seen strict voter ID laws passed in the State Legislature this year. This law, which requires each voter to present a valid government-issued ID regardless if they possess a voter registration card and are listed among the voting roles, targets and prevents students, the elderly and the poor from exercising their right to vote. Additional restrictions on voter registration drives have also been signed into state law in order to further prevent minorities and others from registering in the first place. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, more than 26,000 voters in Texas registered to vote via registration drives in 2008 alone. That's at least an-

other 26,000 voters that we can expect to become disenfranchised this election cycle with the passage of these laws.

These kinds of devious tactics have been used far too many times before—and the problem is only getting worse. I cannot help but be reminded of the days of Jim Crow, where arbitrary literacy tests and unfounded poll taxes were implemented in order to prevent African Americans from casting their vote. These kinds of intentional barriers to democracy are why the Fifteenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-fourth, and Twenty-sixth Amendments are needed. It is why the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is needed. It is why the Supreme Court has even had to intervene with a ruling on poll taxes in *Harper V. Virginia Board of Education*.

Yet here we find ourselves again battling the same problem with a different disguise. I refuse to accept that these laws seek to address existing weaknesses in our election system. In fact, these laws do nothing to address the kinds of fraud that were exposed during previous elections, such as the purging of entire voter rolls or intentionally long wait times during early voting.

Mr. Speaker, these blatant attempts to disenfranchise select groups of voters are not consistent with the democracy that most of us envision for this country. I must therefore oppose any attempts by anyone to enact and enforce these malicious and dishonest statutes. Adopting such regressive and blatantly lopsided voter mandates is a massive step in the wrong direction that serves the interests of a select few over the demands of the majority.