

A final characteristic is stewardship. Roosevelt Dam and SRP have been leaders in renewable water and power for Arizona during the past century, and must continue to do so to ensure Arizona's future. From the beginning of the 20th century, SRP's visionary founders were advocates for Arizona as they used federal resources to build Roosevelt Dam, which created the state's largest sustainable water supply.

Mr. Speaker, Roosevelt Dam and SRP have been with us since before Statehood. This vital bedrock of infrastructure, and the home-grown organization that operates it, will continue to be stewards for Arizona's future prosperity.

#### HONORING DANIELLE COLSON

#### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 11, 2011*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young lady from South Florida, who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Danielle Colson, 18, of Pembroke Pines has been named one of the top honorees in Florida by the 2011 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Colson, a senior at American Heritage School in Plantation, is being recognized for distributing 4,500 backpacks filled with school supplies and toiletries to needy children and people living in homeless shelters since 2007. Danielle, who volunteers at the shelter and has also collected other items for its residents, encourages members of the community and students at local schools to make donations to support her backpack project.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our town and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Colson are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow. Prudential Financial created the program that brought this young role model to our attention in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their lead. Over the past 16 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has more than 95,000 young volunteers at the local, state, and national level.

Mr. Speaker, I heartily applaud Ms. Colson for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of many. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly exemplary, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans

can, and do, play important roles in our communities, and American's community spirit endures and holds promise for the future.

#### HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY IN NORTH CAROLINA

#### HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 11, 2011*

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of Transylvania County in Western North Carolina. Transylvania, a county of 29,000 residents, is home to picturesque beauty and is known as the "Land of Waterfalls."

In 1861, Representative Joseph P. Jordan introduced a bill to the North Carolina House of Commons to establish a new county. Transylvania County was then formed and held its first County Commission meeting on May 20th of that year. This day is notable in North Carolina's history as it represents the day the State seceded from the Union. The next day, Transylvania County possessed no money, courthouse, jail, or a bank, yet was busily mustering a company of volunteers to serve for the Confederacy.

A century later, Transylvania County led the State of North Carolina in fully integrating its public school system. In 1963, Brevard High School became the first high school in the State to field integrated athletic teams.

Over one-third of the County's area is comprised of national and state parks and forests. This includes Blue Ridge Parkway, DuPont State Forest, Gorges State Park, Caesar's Head, Holmes Educational State Forest, and Pisgah National Forest. From the spectacular views from Chestnut Knob to the humbling cascades at Pisgah National Forest's Looking Glass Falls and the other 249 waterfalls in the area, Transylvania County embodies all that is Appalachian.

On February 15, 2011, Transylvania County will hold a very special public gathering celebrating the 150th anniversary of its formation by the North Carolina Assembly. This will launch a year-long series of events, activities and education. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Transylvania's sesquicentennial and its contributions to the United States and the great State of North Carolina.

#### INTRODUCING THE RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT OF 2011

#### HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 11, 2011*

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Retirement Savings Access Act of 2011. This legislation would allow financially struggling Americans access to their retirement dollars without penalty.

As the economic downturn continues, most Americans who have fallen on hard times are not looking for the Federal Government to bail them out. Instead, they are simply asking for the government to get off their backs.

Currently, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) levies a 10% penalty on all early withdrawals from Investment Retirement Accounts (IRAs), meaning money that is taken out of an account before a beneficiary turns 59½ years old. This provision encourages saving for retirement and planning for the future, but it is a menacing tax to levy on people who are in dire financial straits, such as the unemployed.

This legislation would exempt individuals who have already exhausted the standard 26 weeks of unemployment benefits from the tax penalty they would otherwise normally incur for a withdrawal from their retirement accounts before they reach 59½ years of age.

We have bailed out Wall Street financial institutions and propped up the ailing automotive sector. But it is our constituents who are hurting the most, and this legislation would help them access their own money without a government penalty for doing so.

#### HONORING MICHAEL STARKS

#### HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 11, 2011*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Michael Starks, the first African-American graduate of Tulane University School of Law and the first African-American lawyer in the New Orleans City Attorney's office. As the Congressman from New Orleans and a graduate of Tulane University School of Law, I would like to call attention to Mr. Stark, a man whose dedication to the legal institution knew no bounds.

Mr. Starks, was a native New Orleanian who graduated from the University of New Orleans and the first African-American admitted to Tulane's law school. He graduated from Tulane's School of Law in 1968.

He served as an Assistant City Attorney during the tenure of three mayors. After leaving City Hall, Mr. Starks was an attorney for the Housing Authority of New Orleans until Hurricane Katrina struck.

Mr. Starks passed away on Saturday, January 29, 2011 at Life Path Hospice in Temple Terrace, Florida at the age of 67.

He was survived by his sister, Sandra McCollum, and daughter, Michelle Starks, and granddaughter.

I am saddened by his passing, in prayer for his family, and inspired by his life's achievements.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to recognize Mr. Michael Starks.

#### FIGHTING MEDICARE FRAUD

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 11, 2011*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chairman WALLY HERGER (R-CA) to re-introduce the Strengthening Medicare Anti-Fraud Measures Act.

This bipartisan legislation is a direct byproduct of a joint hearing held by the Ways and Means Health and Oversight Subcommittees

last year. The hearing was on efforts to reduce fraud, waste and abuse in Medicare.

We heard testimony at that hearing from two panels of witnesses. The first panel consisted of Members of Congress pursuing legislative initiatives to reduce Medicare fraud, waste and abuse. The second panel was made up of government witnesses: Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services (OIG), The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Government Accountability Office.

Numerous witnesses raised concerns about limitations to the authority of the Office of the Inspector General to minimize Medicare fraud. From this discussion it became clear to Representative HERGER and me that we should change the law in order provide the Inspector General with the additional requested tools to better protect Medicare.

This is a simple bill with only two provisions. It expands the OIG's permissive authority to ban executives whose companies have been convicted of Medicare fraud from the program. Second, it expands the OIG's permissive authority to exclude affiliates of corporations convicted of fraud, including parent companies hiding behind convicted corporate shells.

The first change is important because it will enable the OIG to protect Medicare from executives who circumvent exclusion by moving to another company. Under current law, executives whose companies are convicted of fraud can be excluded from Medicare. However, if the executive has left the company by the time of conviction, he or she cannot be barred from Federal health care programs. These executives are able to move from one company to another and continue to defraud Medicare, seniors, and taxpayers.

The second change provides the OIG with stronger tools to address corporations that have engaged in fraud. Companies that engage in fraud often set up shell companies to insulate themselves from liability. Criminal settlement negotiations can result in the conviction of these shell organizations with no real operational impact on the parent company. Without discretionary authority to exclude parent companies from the program, the OIG is missing a tool in its arsenal that could allow the government to exclude particularly bad actors or obtain stronger prospective remedies in settlements.

This legislation passed the House of Representatives last year by voice vote. Unfortunately, it was not taken up in the Senate. We urge our colleagues to cosponsor this bill so we can quickly enact these new anti-fraud tools to protect Medicare beneficiaries and all of America's taxpayers.

#### INTRODUCING THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY BIRTHDAY ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 11, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month to introduce the Susan Brownell Anthony Birthday Act. This bill will designate the third Monday in February as the day to celebrate the legacy of Susan Brownell Anthony, a pioneer of the women's rights movement, and its leader for more than 50 years.

Born on February 15, 1820, Susan Brownell Anthony met Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1851 and attended her first women's rights convention in Syracuse in 1852. At that convention she was inspired to join the fight for women's suffrage, asserting that this was 'the right women needed above every other.' The first proposal for women's suffrage was presented to Congress in 1868, and the first formal women's suffrage amendment to the Constitution of the United States was introduced in January 1878. For 35 years after that first proposal was made, Susan Brownell Anthony appeared before every Congress to ask for passage of a suffrage amendment, demonstrating her unwavering dedication to the cause. Her last public words before her death on March 13, 1906 were 'Failure is impossible.'

Between 1917 and 1919, over a thousand women held a vigil outside the White House, asking, 'How long must women wait for liberty?' Unfortunately, Susan Brownell Anthony did not live to see her dream of women's suffrage become a reality, but her heroic efforts were not in vain. The nineteenth amendment, also called the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, was ratified on August 26, 1920 giving the right to vote to American women. The text of the 19th amendment states that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

The United States has previously recognized Susan Brownell Anthony's tremendous contributions to our Nation. To commemorate her legacy, a marble statue of her and her women's rights colleagues, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was dedicated in the United States Capitol in 1921. Susan Brownell Anthony's picture appeared on postage stamps in 1936 and 1955. Her home in Rochester, New York, has been a National Historic Landmark since 1966, and in 1979, her image was placed on a dollar coin.

I am proud that the work of Susan Brownell Anthony and her fellow suffragists has been acknowledged and honored in these ways. However, as the founder and leader of the women's movement in the United States, Susan Brownell Anthony deserves a permanent place in our history. The journey to equality is long and difficult, but it well worth the fight. Passage of the Susan Brownell Anthony Birthday Act would make February 21st the first Federal holiday that celebrates the birthday of a woman, and would allow all women and men in the United States to celebrate and honor the legacy of a true American heroine.

#### CONGRATULATING ODALMY MOLINA

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 11, 2011*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate a young student from South Florida, who has achieved national recognition by excelling in the classroom and in her community. Odalmy Molina, from Cuban descent and a student at Hialeah High School, received the Youth Award from the Hispanic

Heritage Foundation, which recognizes the most impressive Latino High School seniors.

Ms. Molina's family history is a sadly familiar story to many of us, that of losing a loved one to cancer. I too, have experienced the same loss, but know that family suffering can strengthen our passion to succeed and become better individuals. Ms. Molina's deep desire to one-day find a cure for cancer is fueled by her passion to replace the hurt and suffering of those affected by cancer with hope and solace. Her desire has led to a constant quest for knowledge, by either assisting scientists in performing lab work at the Miami project to Cure Paralysis; co-publishing original research presented during the Annual Neuroscience Research Day; or serving as the youth co-chair for the American Cancer Society. These extraordinary accomplishments at such a young age are an inspiring example to all of us.

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation is a national non-profit that inspires, identifies, prepares and positions Latino leaders for classroom, community and workforce. After receiving 10,000 applications annually, HHF honors more than 150 students at ceremonies with partner universities in ten regions across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I heartily applaud Ms. Molina for her accomplishments, for she is a fine example of the best and brightest in South Florida. She has demonstrated a level of commitment that deserves our sincere admiration and respect. I am confident that she will continue to accomplish great things for our community in South Florida and our country.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 1818 AND CUB SCOUT PACK 1818

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 11, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pack 1818 and Troop 1818, the Jewish Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop that are based in my Mantua neighborhood in Fairfax County. Cub Scout Pack 1818 boasts 34 boys ranging from Grade 1 to Grade 5. Chartered by the Olam Tikvah Men's Club since 2000, Pack 1818 provides an opportunity for these boys to take in a variety of sports, crafts, and outdoor activities, like hiking and camping.

This year, Tiger Cubs include: Jacob Boyett, Elijah Fischer, Benjamin Golden, Ari Pearlstein, Nathan Rothberg, Isaac Saiger, and Matthew Wurmser. Wolf Cubs include Jacob Book, Nathan Chernys, Ben Engler, Daniel Fertel, Alex Frame, Zach Grossman, Sebastian Jones, Aidan Jupiter, Jacob Hemmerdinger, Rueben Hemmerdinger, Solomon Hutchins, Ben Neifeld, and Zachary Shmargal-Ellison. Bear Cubs include Mitchell Akawie, Samuel Goldberg, Jared Johnson, Michael Krasovsky, Ilan Nabatkhorian, Lars Rosen, and Jacob Rutzick. First year Webelos include Solomon Jones while second year Webelos include Joshua Ackerman, Kenny Book, David Chernys, Daniel Dorlester, Jordan Lamar, and Aaron Shurberg.

I am especially pleased to note that these last six boys—the second year Webelos—will