

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RUTH GRUBER, AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST, PHOTOGRAPHER, WRITER AND HUMANITARIAN

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ruth Gruber, an extraordinary woman whose life's work has made her an icon and a role model. Over the course of her long and active life, she has been a groundbreaking journalist and photographer, a brilliant scholar, an exceptional writer and a compassionate government official. Most of all, she is a humanitarian whose leadership and intellect helped save thousands of lives.

Ms. Gruber received the American Spirit Award from The Common Good (TCG) on February 3, 2011. In addition, TCG will be screening *Ahead of Time*, a 2009 documentary about Ms. Gruber's life. Under the leadership of the dynamic Patricia Duff, TCG is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that strives to inspire broad participation in our democracy through the free exchange of ideas and civil dialogue.

Born in Brooklyn in 1911, Ruth Gruber studied at the University of Cologne in Germany where, at the age of twenty, she received her Ph.D. Her dissertation on Virginia Woolf made her the youngest Ph.D. in the world, earning her international headlines and a movie star's welcome when she returned to the United States.

Ms. Gruber returned to the United States where she became a journalist. In 1935, she won a fellowship to write a study of women under fascism, communism, and democracy. The first journalist to enter the Soviet Arctic, she published her experiences in the book, *I Went to the Soviet Arctic*. In 1941, after reading her book, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes sent Ms. Gruber as his field representative to make a social and economic study of Alaska. Her reports were forwarded to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and played a major role in shaping American policies in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, which were then on the frontlines of World War II. Among other things, her reports documented the strong work ethic of African-American soldiers.

When Ms. Gruber returned to Washington, Ickes appointed her his special assistant, a position she held for five years. When President Roosevelt decided to accept a thousand European immigrants in the midst of World War II and the Holocaust, Secretary Harold Ickes asked her to escort the refugees to the United States. Largely but not entirely Jewish, the 984 refugees who were chosen to make the journey came from all over Europe. The refugees were permitted into the country with the idea that they would return home following the war's end. Following their arrival in New York harbor on August 3, 1944, they were kept segregated on an old army base in Oswego, New York. Ms. Gruber served as their liaison with the outside world. When the end of the war came, Ms. Gruber lobbied the President and Congress, with the help of Catholic, Jewish and Protestant clergy and other advocates, and convinced them to allow the refugees to stay in America.

Following the war, Ms. Gruber became a foreign correspondent for the Herald Tribune. In 1947, the New York Post asked her to cover the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine, which was formed to consider what to do with the Jewish Holocaust survivors who could not return home. She traveled to the displaced persons camps, covered the Nuremberg trials, and met with Zionist leaders in the Middle East. In 1947, while covering the Middle East for the Herald Tribune, she learned of the British refusal to allow the Exodus, a former cruise ship crammed with 4,500 refugees, to land in Haifa. The British loaded the survivors onto several boats and sent them first to Marseilles and then to Germany. Ms. Gruber was permitted to travel with the refugees from Marseilles to Germany as the pool reporter. Her dispatches, later collected in the book, *Exodus 1947: The Ship That Launched a Nation*, introduced the world to desperation and determination of the survivors. Her iconic photograph of refugees on board the ship under a flag bearing the British Union Jack overlaid with a Nazi swastika became Life Magazine's photo of the week and was reproduced around the world.

Ms. Gruber continued to work as a foreign correspondent until 1966, and has continued to write books up to the present day. In 1985, Ms. Gruber witnessed another exodus—she traveled to isolated Jewish villages to aid in the rescue of the Ethiopian Jews. She chronicled her experiences in *Rescue: The Exodus of the Ethiopian Jews*. In 1998, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from her peers in the American Society of Journalists and Authors as “a pioneering journalist and author whose books chronicle the most important events of the twentieth century.” When asked the secret of her success, she said: “Have dreams, have visions and let no obstacle stop you.”

Ms. Gruber was married twice, first to Philip H. Michaels and, after his death, to Henry Rosner. In 1952, at age forty-one, she gave birth to her first child, Celia; her son, David, was born in 1954.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable career and achievements of Ruth Gruber, an indefatigable journalist, activist and humanitarian.

### SAMIL MOVEMENT ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 92nd anniversary of the March 1st Movement also known as the Samil Movement. Today commemorates the start of Korea's independence movement from Japanese colonization and on March 1, 1919, the people of Korea united to fight for their freedom. For 35 years, the people of Korea were denied their identity as they were violently discriminated against by the Japanese government and were forced to repress its culture on their own land.

March 1 is a day of great proclamation as it was the first step to Korea gaining its independence and liberty. Although the Korean Peninsula remains divided, today we recog-

nize the Koreans who fought courageously to defend their land, people and heritage.

Today, the Republic of Korea is one of America's closest economic and military allies in Northeast Asia. South Korea is our 7th largest trading partner and our close relations are signified by our ongoing military cooperation in the region. South Korea remains a dynamic technological inspiration and a vital partner of the international community. As United States and South Korea continue our partnership and friendship, we must also continue to strive for the independence of the people of North Korea and look at ways to address the ongoing security threats from North Korea.

As the Congresswoman of the 47th District of California, I represent one of the most vibrant Korean-American communities in the United States. And I would like to celebrate with them and the people of Korea on this honorable day of Korea's independence.

### IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLY TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Holy Trinity Baptist Church of Cleveland, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Known as “the Church with the Upward Look and the Forward Step,” this church has served the surrounding community since 1961.

The congregation of Holy Trinity Baptist Church had humble beginnings; for the first four years of its existence it was housed at the Old Crown Theater on Cleveland's east side. In 1965, it moved to its current location on East 131st Street. Throughout its history, Holy Trinity has provided numerous services to its members and the surrounding community. The congregation has an active connection with Haiti, where they built a church and have fostered children. Closer to home, they have hosted nutritional, tutoring, and Head Start programs for their community. Holy Trinity Baptist Church was the first church in Cleveland to offer certified classes in Bible Study.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in recognition and celebration of Holy Trinity Baptist Church's 50th anniversary. Holy Trinity Baptist Church has been a vibrant part of the Cleveland community for fifty years, and through its service and outreach programs, has touched many lives. I send my congratulations to Reverend Chelton C. Flanagan and Reverend Dr. Henry J. Payden, Sr., along with the 700 members of the church on this joyous occasion.

### FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

#### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, just yesterday I stood with parents of young children in Davie Florida who attend early education classes at Crayons Child Care Center.

We spoke about how vital early education is in the development of children.

How early education increases high school graduation rates, and how 50 years of solid research has shown that early education is shown to reduce crime and delinquency.

We spoke about how early education in minority and lower income communities helps to narrow the achievement gap and lifts future generations out of poverty.

And how, for every dollar spent in early education, our communities yield up to a \$7 return on our investment.

Unfortunately, though, we weren't there to highlight the success of early education, we were there to highlight something that borders on insanity.

Insanity because just over a week ago, this body made the largest cut to education in our Nation's history.

Now, we all understand that our Nation needs to cut spending.

But the society that balances its budget on the backs of its children should not be surprised when the spine of its future is broken.

Davie is a long way from where we stand here today in Washington.

And sometimes it is easy for Members to overlook, or to not understand how what happens here in the Capitol means out in the real world.

That is why I stand here today.

I stand here because the parents I met with cannot stand here and tell you, Mr. Chair, what these cuts will mean to their children.

Should the cuts to early education funding that were passed in H.R. 1 stand, some of the children at Crayons Child Care will no longer be able to attend early education.

And if students are forced to leave their early education classes there will be teachers at Crayons Child Care that will lose their job.

Laying off teachers and dimming the future of America's children is no way to balance the budget.

These children are 2, 3, 4 years old.

They didn't run up the debt and deficit of our country, but the response from Republicans in the House of Representatives was that they would pay for it.

Republicans preserved tax credits for oil, gas, and chemical companies; they cut Head Start funding.

They preserved tax credits for the coal industry, but they cut Early Education funding.

The parents I met with yesterday in Davie are just a handful of the 9,148 children in Florida that will lose their early education classes if these cuts are to stand.

That just doesn't make sense.

HONORING CAPTAIN LAVERNE SING, THE FIRST FEMALE AFRICAN-AMERICAN FIREFIGHTER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Laverne Sing, the State of Mississippi's first African-American female firefighter. Captain Sing not only broke down years of historical barriers, but also provided safety and security for the citizens of the City of Greenville, Mississippi, for many selfless years.

Known as a Delta Pioneer, Captain Sing was born January 16, 1944, in Washington County, Mississippi, to a family of five sisters and four brothers. She worked numerous occupations leading up to her heroic role as a firefighter including telecommunications operator, medical service driver and dispatcher, and as Greenville's first female security officer for the Greenville Public School District.

Captain Sing reported for duty in June 1979 to her community as the first African-American female firefighter in Greenville without allowing prejudice to get in her way. Her selfless acts in fire prevention and safety have resulted in the preservation of countless lives and incalculable amounts of property. Captain Sing's goals as a firefighter were to save lives, save property, and protect the environment. She met these objectives every day not only in the firehouse and on the scene but in her daily life. Her hard work and expert knowledge led to her rapid promotion from a recruit to Captain of the Greenville Firehouse. Putting herself in harm's way to save precious lives, Captain Sing courageously ran into burning buildings and structures when others were running out. Once inside a burning building, Captain Sing used the right hand search pattern technique and immediately began scouring for and removing trapped occupants by following closely along the room's walls and performing the search until everyone in the structure was safely out.

Captain Sing has always displayed a commitment to excellence even in the face of unthinkable danger. Her acts of gallantry, perseverance and pride exemplify a character that has allowed her to grow and prosper. As Captain for the Greenville Fire Department, she was a leader in the firehouse and at times performed dispatch services for both the fire and police department. She volunteered her time as a public relations officer for the fire department where she presented programs in community schools, daycare centers and nursing homes that educated numerous persons both on escaping a fire and what actions to take when faced with safety hazards.

In 1990 and 1991, Captain Sing served the community as a volunteer for the Salvation Army and the Mississippi Firefighters Memorial Burn Center. A decorated firefighter, Captain Sing has received many honors including the Department's Outstanding Performance Award and the Flame Award from the Greenville Chamber of Commerce. As a firefighter, Captain Sing worked through many grueling academic courses including her national certification in level Fire Fighter One, numerous safety programs and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, CPR, training through the American Red Cross.

Captain Sing's exceptional performance of her duties and her barrier-breaking accomplishments has been recognized at events during Black History Month, by churches, associations and community groups. In 1992, upon the passing of the brother committed to her care for 18 years, Captain Sing, felt the call to be close to her family and resigned after over a decade of gallant service to the Greenville Fire Department.

Captain Sing is a proud member of Serene Lodge 20th Century Temple Daughters of Elks and a faithful servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at the Grace Outreach Church pastored by Rev. Ruben Lewis. She is the proud mother of three children, Remelda,

Demetria and Lawrence Sing. Currently, she devotes her time to children in the Greenville Public School System.

Captain Sing is recognized by the Black Women in Fire Service as the State of Mississippi's first African-American firefighter and as a leader of the African-American women firefighters in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting Captain Laverne Sing, the first female African-American Firefighter in the State of Mississippi for your dedicated service in fire safety and prevention.

TRUE COST OF H.R. 1

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, by recklessly slashing more than \$60 billion from the budget, the majority is trying to assume the mantle of fiscal responsibility. They claim that \$60 billion in cuts creates \$60 billion in savings and deficit reduction. But this claim is simply untrue, for many of the underfunded or eliminated programs actually save the government far more money than they cost. These cuts are penny wise but pound foolish. By eliminating funding for these cost saving programs, the majority is not reducing spending; they are increasing it.

As New York Times columnist Paul Krugman said, the majority's cuts are designed to eat the future by cutting spending in a way that undermines the nation's health and long-term prospects. Nowhere is this failure in fiscal policy more apparent than when it comes to the physical health of the American people. H.R. 1 cuts \$60 billion in Fiscal Year 2011 spending, but it increases the deficit dramatically as a result of unseen healthcare costs associated with the degradation of the food we eat, water we drink, and air we breathe. Moreover, H.R. 1 slashes the National Institute of Health's funding for research to find cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, and cancer.

I believe that it is morally objectionable to leverage our physical health for perceived short-term fiscal and political health. But that is exactly what H.R. 1 does. It allows the majority to fulfill a political promise made during the last campaign. But in doing so, the majority is undermining the long-term health of our citizens and our country by:

Cutting funds for the Food and Drug Administration by \$241 million below 2010 and \$400 million below the Administration's 2011 budget request.

Cutting funds for the Food Safety and Inspection Service by \$88 million below 2010 funding levels and \$107 million below the Administration's 2011 budget request.

Cutting appropriations for the National Institutes of Health by \$1.6 billion below FY 2010 and \$2.5 billion below the President's budget.

Cutting funds for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund by 56 percent.

Cutting funds for the Environmental Protection Agency by \$3 billion, a nearly 30 percent cut from spending in 2010 and the largest percentage cut in EPA's overall budget in 30 years.