

A TRIBUTE TO JEANETTE
THORSBAKKEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jeanette Thorsbakken on the recent celebration of her 100th birthday. Jeanette celebrated a century of life yesterday, September 18th, 2012.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Jeanette's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Jeanette has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Today, Jeanette resides in Story City, Iowa where she likes to spend her time playing solitaire on the computer and assembling jigsaw puzzles. Jeanette also greatly enjoys visits with her family and sharing stories of the many changes she has witnessed in her life.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Jeanette in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ms. Thorsbakken on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND THE FIRST ANNUAL VIVA BREVARD FESTIVAL

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 15th families and businesses across the nation will begin observing National Hispanic Heritage Month in order to recognize the many outstanding contributions to our nation that are made by Americans of Hispanic descent. One celebration taking place in the City of Palm Bay, Florida, will be the First Annual Viva Brevard festival.

Al Día Today along with local businesses, non-profit organizations, and residents of Brevard County will gather together on Saturday October 13, 2012, near the Ted Whitlock Community Center in Palm Bay Regional Park to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month with a day full of great Latin American cuisine, culture and entertainment.

Throughout Hispanic Heritage Month we also honor Hispanic Americans for their strong tradition of service in our Armed Forces. These proud patriots have fought in every war since our founding, and many have earned the Medal of Honor for their courage.

Hispanic service men and women have shown their love for the United States by answering the call to serve, and we owe them and their families a tremendous debt of gratitude. Their patriotism and valor have added to the character and strength of our nation.

The first Hispanic American to serve in the U.S. Congress represented Florida. Joseph Marion Hernández was born in St. Augustine when Florida was a Spanish colony. In 1822 when Florida became a U.S. Territory, Hernández transferred his allegiance to the United States and was elected a Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives serving in our nation's Seventeenth Congress. He also served as a brigadier general and was the presiding officer of Florida's Territorial House of Representatives.

There have been many Hispanic Americans with notable achievements in science and medicine. The first Hispanic American Astronaut, Franklin Chang-Díaz of Costa Rican descent, earned his doctorate in applied physics from MIT and flew an astounding seven Shuttle Missions. Astronaut Ellen Ochoa was the first Hispanic female in space, flying four Shuttle missions.

Hispanic Americans have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics and Medicine, the Medal of Honor; have won the Pulitzer, Oscar and Tony Awards, achieved sports fame, and have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate the spirit and accomplishments of Hispanic Americans everywhere and events like the Viva Brevard festival provide an opportunity to share and experience the diversity of cultures from Latin American countries and bring us all closer together as a community.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JERRY COSTELLO

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my colleague and Illinois neighbor Congressman JERRY F. COSTELLO for his tireless efforts in representing part of the St. Louis metro area in Southern Illinois.

His 24 years in the House of Representatives have been distinguished by his exceptional ability to achieve and selfless resolve to advance our nation and our bi-state region.

JERRY's civic work began well before his tenure in Congress. This was apparent even in college, where his eagerness to serve the community he called home led him to divide time between his studies and a job as a full time law enforcement officer. He chose to follow this path after college, and his ingenuity and knowledge of the regional court system made him prominent throughout Illinois. His devotion, practicality, and unwavering focus on his community would see his election as chief executive of one of Illinois' largest counties and eventual rise to Congress.

His career has been marked by leadership and consistent achievement, particularly in the field of transportation, where his record is as extensive as it is impressive. In 2005, he took the lead role to secure \$150 million for a new Mississippi River bridge as part of one of the biggest earmarks in U.S. history because of its classification as a project of national significance. He brought MetroLink to Southern Illinois, a new transportation network that has

improved infrastructure and simultaneously boosted and connected the regional economy. I have been proud to serve alongside Congressman COSTELLO on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Science Committee and I know all his colleagues on both sides of the aisle will deeply miss his leadership and knowledge. Furthermore, his constituents will miss his devotion to improving their lives, creating jobs, and bettering the region's infrastructure.

JERRY's accomplishments exemplify his commitment to issues ranging from safety to poverty, from the economy to defense. His efforts have benefitted not just his district, but the nation as a whole. Beginning in 1995, for example, JERRY undertook a decade-long endeavor to save Illinois' Scott Air Force Base from closure. Continuous efforts to improve base facilities and funding to keep it off the closure list eventually prevailed. The Air Force base is now one of the largest employers in the St. Louis region and ranks among the nation's most important with the operation of the Air Mobility Command.

As the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Aviation Subcommittee, he has led the effort to modernize our aviation system and helped pass a bill this year that secured the place of our aviation system as the best and safest in the world for years to come. Several years later, he helped write the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009. The bill requires pilots to now log more hours and undergo more rigorous training before being able to pilot commercial airplanes.

This coming January, my good friend JERRY will be retiring.

His decades of service have provided Illinois, the St. Louis bi-state region, and Congress a guiding voice that will be sorely missed. He retires with a legacy that the next generation of American leaders should hope to emulate.

I have been proud to serve alongside JERRY in Congress, serving the same region, and serving on two committees together. I have seen firsthand the incredible work he has done, and the stamp he has left on this place and the impression he has made on all of us who have had the good fortune to work alongside him. While JERRY will no longer be in Congress, I have no doubt that he will continue to serve his community and his country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating JERRY COSTELLO on a successful career and wishing him and his family all the best as he retires. Thank you, JERRY.

RECOGNIZING SONIA GUTIERREZ

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the many accomplishments and contributions of Sonia Gutierrez, who for 40 years has served the residents of the District of Columbia with passion and dedication as one of this city's most productive and prominent education leaders and one of its most distinguished leaders. Mrs. Gutierrez, a talented institution builder, is best known as the founder and president of the Carlos Rosario

International Public Charter School. She also established the Council of Latino Organizations here, and together with others, helped establish the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs.

Sonia built Carlos Rosario from a small non-profit teaching English to Latinos, into today's groundbreaking, comprehensive learning center offering support services, from English as a second language to citizenship and career services, to 2,500 residents. Her efforts are now spreading to a new site to be dedicated as the Sonia Gutierrez Campus. For her visionary leadership Mrs. Gutierrez earned the Ana G. Mendez Excellence in Education award and induction into the Washington Women's Hall of Fame, among many other awards for giving thousands of students an opportunity to change their lives.

I now ask the House to recognize Sonia Gutierrez for 40 years of tireless and selfless passion as an educator, organizer and advocate.

A TRIBUTE TO LAURA TIBBS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Laura Tibbs of Alden, Iowa for being awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Gold Award is the highest award that a high school-aged Girl Scout can earn. This is a prestigious honor as fewer than 6 percent of eligible Girl Scouts attain the Gold Award in a given year.

To earn a Gold Award, a Girl Scout must complete a minimum of 80 hours towards a community project that is both memorable and lasting. For her project, Laura brought attention to the issue of school supplies that are wastefully discarded despite widespread need. The work ethic Laura has shown to earn her Gold Award speaks volumes about her commitment to serving a cause greater than herself and assisting her community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young woman and her supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Laura and her family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating her on obtaining the Gold Award, and I wish her continued success in her future education and career.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE CENTENNIAL

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a college in my District that is celebrating 100 years of teaching students and instilling in them incredible ethics about service to others.

St. Joseph's College was founded in 1912 by the Portland Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, with classes

taking place in the Motherhouse in Portland, Maine.

Much has changed in the last hundred years. Today, over a thousand students attend the college. Many live at a beautiful campus overlooking Sebago Lake in Standish, Maine, while many others take classes online—something that would probably be difficult for the Sisters to imagine in 1912.

While the college has successfully seized opportunities to grow and adapt with changing times, its core values are completely intact. Service to others remains a defining characteristic of its culture. St. Joseph's students take part in an impressive number of service projects, including volunteering at health clinics in Guatemala, an active chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and Catherine's Cupboard, a local food pantry run by the college and the Town of Standish.

Another aspect of the school that is close to my heart is the college's commitment to serving healthy, local food to its students. Bon Appetit, the school's food service provider, has demonstrated that locally sourced products can work even for large institutions. Among their pursuits at St. Joseph's are featuring meals with ingredients only from the surrounding area and helping operate a small farm on the campus.

I extend to St. Joseph's College—along with its staff, students and alumni—the warmest congratulations on its first hundred years, and best wishes for a hundred more.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Trust for Public Land on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

In 1972 a group of conservation-minded business professionals took the message of the first Earth Day to heart and saw a unique opportunity to meet the challenge of increasing encroachment on green space and natural areas. Using business sector strategies, this group of finance experts, real estate professionals and attorneys formed a trust to pool their talents and knowledge to conserve and expand the natural environment for the health and enjoyment of the public. The Trust for Public Lands was born.

Initially the Trust for Public Land focused conservation efforts on urban and suburban areas. As success grew, the focus expanded to include working in rural areas. As a result of this hard work and innovation more than 4,250 park and conservation projects throughout the country have been completed, often by fostering public-private partnerships.

During the past four decades, the Trust for Public Lands has developed expertise beyond the development of land trusts, to advising and assisting communities in the passage of conservation focused ballot measures, using GIS technology to better map and identify conservation opportunities, and combating climate change. The Trust for Public Land has developed a legacy of providing legal and philanthropic resources for community-driven conservation initiatives in Minnesota and across the country.

The Trust for Public Land is an invaluable resource to Minnesota and communities in my congressional district through its unique approach to conservation. The work of the dedicated Trust for Public Land staff and volunteers has played a major role in protecting many of the spectacular parks, natural spaces, and protected watersheds which make our state great. I am proud to commend the Trust for Public Land on 40 years of accomplishments and wish them much success in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Trust for Public Land, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRIBUTE HONORING CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Trust for Public anniversary of Campus Fire Safety Month.

In September 2005, eleven sitting Governors issued the first proclamation recognizing the month of September as Campus Fire Safety Month. Ever since, public officials across the country have continued to champion the cause of campus fire safety.

Since 2005, over 200 proclamations in honor of Campus Fire Safety Month have been issued by Governors, Legislators, and public officials. I am proud to add my voice in recognition of September as Campus Fire Safety Month.

I first became involved in the issue of campus fire safety following a tragic fire at Seton Hall University in my district, in which three students were killed. Since that time, we have made many strides, including the passage of the Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act, which will ensure that prospective students and their families are provided with the fire safety records, information and statistics of colleges and universities.

However, there is still much work that must be done. Since 2000, 155 students have tragically died in campus-related fires. While the annual number of fire-related deaths has significantly dropped since 2005, nine students still died in possibly preventable fire-related deaths in 2011.

That is why now, more than ever, we must do all that we can to promote fire safety instruction amongst our nation's college campuses.

It is my sincere hope, that college campuses in New Jersey and across the nation will participate in Campus Fire Safety Month activities throughout September. We must do all that we can to keep our nation's students safe and informed. This is also why I introduced the Campus Fire Safety Education Act, to provide universities with grants they can use to develop or implement campus fire safety education strategies. We must do everything in our power to ensure the safety and security of our children when they leave for college.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating