

professionals, child care facilities, schools and universities on not only meningitis but other vaccine preventable diseases through personal stories, educational brochures, posters and videos.

Meningitis Angels is dedicated to the support of victims of bacterial meningitis and their families. While helping families cope with the loss or care of a family member they also offer some hands on support for those children affected with bacterial meningitis.

Sadly, Meningitis Angels continues to grow. Meningitis Angels currently represents over 600 families across the U.S. and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot do justice to these families without speaking about this terrible and preventable disease.

Bacterial meningitis is an infection of the meninges, the thin lining that surrounds the brain and spinal cord.

It is a deadly, debilitating disease that especially affects infants, children, teenagers, young adults, and those with compromised immune systems.

People who have bacterial meningitis may have longterm complications and disabilities like permanent brain damage and long-term physical problems such as heart, kidney, or intestinal problems or could require amputations of the arms, legs and facial features. Infants and teens are highest risk for this disease.

The most effective way to protect your child against bacterial meningitis is to complete the recommended vaccine schedule. In many states, these vaccines are required for children in school and daycare.

The families of Meningitis Angels can tell you that these requirements are not frivolous or busy work.

So on their behalf, I ask that American families get vaccinated to prevent more tragedies.

I have offered H. Res. 403 to honor Ryan Wayne Milley, his remarkable mom Frankie, and all Meningitis Angels across the United States. Today is an appropriate day to remember Ryan and to support efforts to end the disease that took his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITU- TIONS WEEK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week during the week of September 16 through September 22, 2012. These institutions of higher learning play a unique role in bringing together families and communities to develop our nation's most valuable resource: our children. During this week, I rise to thank the Hispanic-serving institutions that are equipping our children with the skills necessary for a lifetime of success.

I would like to recognize four such institutions in the 37th Congressional District of California: California State University-Dominguez Hills, California State University-Long Beach, El Camino College-Compton Center, and Long Beach City College. These schools are preparing students to enter the workforce in science, education, and healthcare, among many other fields and career paths that will

contribute to our economic success today and in the future.

The majority of residents in my district are Hispanic, and Hispanics represent our country's largest minority group. Hispanics have already made invaluable contributions to America and I have no doubt Hispanics will continue to do so. The future prosperity of America hinges on tapping into the enormous potential of minority groups. Investing in technical education for minorities is not just a moral obligation but an American necessity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous work of Hispanic-serving institutions, within my district as well as across the nation. I thank the countless staff members and educators who are strengthening our education system and creating new opportunities for a new generation of Hispanic leaders.

RECOGNIZING ED BERGH ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ed Bergh on his retirement from Yelm High School after 38 years of teaching. The Washington State Legislature has also named Mr. Bergh the Washington Civic Educator of the Year.

Mr. Bergh studied political science at Western Washington University and soon after graduation, he became a Social Studies teacher. Today, Mr. Bergh teaches World Problems, History, and American Government.

In addition to his passion for educating young people, Mr. Bergh loves learning more about the subjects he teaches. He looks for ways to increase his knowledge and apply that learning to the classroom. Mr. Bergh does not simply lecture his students, he engages them in discussion and helps them think critically before reaching conclusions.

In addition to teaching, Mr. Bergh enjoys learning and writing about his hometown, Yelm, Washington. He created the Yelm History Project, a virtual database for the history of Yelm, the Web site of which he and his students regularly update.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the career of Ed Bergh. His dedication to teaching is an inspiration and has undoubtedly helped countless students who have gone on to accomplish great things.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Monica and Ivory Garrett from Beaumont, Texas are truly Angels—Angels in Adoption. Forty-three foster children have been blessed with the Garretts' love and care over the years; Forty-three lives have been changed because of the Garretts.

Mrs. Garrett began her involvement in the foster care system in 1997 as lead staff at a

Buckner International group home for foster children. Through her work, she realized that this was God's calling for her, and a few years later, the Garretts were licensed as foster parents and began welcoming children into their own home. After caring for 25 children, the Garretts' felt that God was calling them to something even bigger.

The Garretts then opened a group home for children with therapeutic needs in 2009. They consider all of these children their own, providing a loving home and ensuring that they get the most out of life. Their children are all encouraged to explore their talents, participating in choir, sports, and various other activities. The Garretts are unsung heroes, a family with bountiful love, and truly Angels in Adoption.

I was honored to recently award the Garretts with their Angels in Adoption award. They are an incredible family that has dedicated their lives to help and change children's lives. And that's just the way it is.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR OTIS CUFFEE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Otis N. Cuffee. For 37 years, Sergeant Major Cuffee has served in the United States Armed Services and will soon celebrate his retirement after decades of service to our Nation.

Sergeant Major Cuffee dedicated 37 years in continuous active duty service to our country. During his tenure in the U.S. Armed Services he served in various leadership positions, from Squad Leader to Sergeant Major. As Sergeant Major, Cuffee extended his expertise to teaching the Basic Airborne Training Course and the NCO Academy Advanced Course. Most recently, he has had the position of a senior enlisted leader at the Defense Logistics Agency.

Sergeant Major Cuffee has received numerous personal awards including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service. His relentless dedication was honored with the Meritorious Service Award, Army Commendation Award, Army Achievement, Humanitarian Service Award and Korean Defense Service Medal. Additionally, Sergeant Cuffee has received numerous unit and condition awards.

Sergeant Cuffee's long and impressive career showcases his commitment not only to his local community but our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Command Sergeant Major Cuffee for his dedication and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 I had to

meet with constituents in the Champaign-Urbana area concerning financial matters of local Government and I missed suspension votes on H.R. 5044, the Andrew P. Carpenter Tax Act, which amends the Internal Revenue Code to exclude from gross income any amount attributable to the discharge of student loan indebtedness of a veteran who died as a result of a service-connected disability. Also I missed votes on H.R. 5912, which would Amend the Internal Revenue Code to prohibit public funds for political party conventions.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the above stated bills.

“TAIWAN’S NATIONAL DAY”

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Taiwan’s National Day on October 10th, fondly referred to as Double Ten Day. Since its formation, Taiwan has rapidly industrialized and now boasts the 19th largest economy in the world.

Taiwan remains important to the United States in its advocacy of fair democratic values across the world and its success in sustaining a dynamic multi-party system revealing its commitment to protecting political rights and freedoms. In troubled times such as these, it is also gratifying to know that there are countries that continue to put forth efforts that provide constructive solutions for highly divisive issues.

Instead of exacerbating tensions with China, Taiwan has pursued positive relations with China by promoting economic trade. Taiwan has continued to maintain its own independent and democratic form of government, vibrant culture, and booming commerce.

Once again, I would like to share in Taiwan’s celebration on their National Day.

ROY BENAVIDEZ

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America is about people. Who we are and what we are is because of the people who have come to America. We have always been and will always be a nation of immigrants. They are individuals who have lived and died and influenced the rest of us because of their tenacious spirit and determination.

Roy Benavidez was one of those Americans. He was born in South Texas in a small town called Cuero, August 5, 1935. He was the son of a sharecropper. He was an orphan and he had mixed blood of Yaqui Indian and Hispanic. He lost his family at a young age and dropped out of school in the 7th grade. He didn’t see the need for an education at that time. He was a migrant farm worker. He worked all over Texas and as far as Colorado in the sugar beet fields and the cotton fields.

In 1955 decided to join the United States Army, and he joined in Houston, Texas. He was in love with his hometown sweetheart,

Lala Coy. While he was away in Germany on active duty, he asked a local priest, his grandfather and his uncle if they would go to Lala’s father and ask permission for Roy to marry her and he agreed. While he was in the Army, however, he was in a lot of trouble, even though he was a member of the Military Police.

So he finally joined the Special Forces training at Fort Bragg where he reached the rank of staff sergeant and went to Vietnam as a Green Beret. But on May 2, 1962, his life changed forever. It is a story that is almost unbelievable.

On the morning of May 2, 1968, a 12-man Special Forces team was inserted in Cambodia to observe a large-scale North Vietnamese troop movement, and they were discovered by the enemy. Most of the team members were close friends of Roy Benavidez, who was the forward operating officer in Loc Ninh, Vietnam. Three helicopters were sent to rescue this 12-man team, but they were unable to land because of the heavy enemy concentration. When a second attempt was made to reach the stranded team, Benavidez jumped onboard one of the helicopters, armed only with a Bowie knife. As the helicopters reached the landing zone, Benavidez realized the team members were likely too severely wounded to move to the helicopters. So he ran by himself through heavy small arms fire to the wounded soldiers. He was wounded in the leg, the face, and the head in the process. He reorganized the team and signaled the helicopters to land. But despite his injuries, Benavidez was able to carry off half of the wounded men to the helicopters.

He then collected the classified documents held by the now dead team leader. As he completed this task, he was wounded by an exploding grenade in the back and shot in the stomach. At that moment, the waiting helicopter’s pilot was also mortally wounded, and that helicopter crashed. He ran to collect the stunned crash survivors and form a perimeter. He directed air support, ordered another extraction attempt and was wounded again when shot in the thigh. At this point he was losing so much blood from his face wounds that his vision became blocked.

Finally, another helicopter landed and as Benavidez carried a wounded friend to it, he was clubbed in the head with a rifle butt by an enemy soldier. That soldier bayoneted Benavidez twice.

Mr. Speaker, Benavidez was wounded in that one battle 37 times; Seven gunshot wounds, he had mortar shrapnel in his back, and two bayonet wounds. He was taken for dead and left for dead and zipped up in a body bag, but right before they zipped the bag up, he spit in the doctor’s face, letting the doctor know he was yet alive.

He later recovered. He received the Distinguished Service Cross and then many years later Ronald Reagan presented him with the Congressional Medal of Honor. President Reagan stated that if this were a movie, no one would believe it because of the heroic deed of Roy Benavidez.

Mr. Speaker, after he retired from the military, Roy Benavidez went around America talking about the importance of an education, since he only went to the seventh grade. He talked to young gang members, he talked to youth, telling them to stay in school and get an education. He was a remarkable individual.

A Navy ship has been named after him, several elementary schools in Texas have been named after Roy Benavidez, and even a toy company has issued a Roy Benavidez GI Joe action figure.

As we prepare to celebrate and honor Hispanic Heritage Month, one of those great Hispanic Americans was Roy Benavidez, a Texas hero, an American hero, a war hero that loved America and, as he said, got to live the American Dream the way that he wanted.

And that’s just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE ALDEN FARMERS MARKET

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Alden Farmers Market, a staple in Western New York since 2003 that brings community together over fresh, locally grown produce every Saturday morning in the summer.

Open from late May until early October, the farmers market sponsored by the Alden Chamber of commerce, located in Alden Village Plaza allows friends, family and neighbors to enjoy a plentiful variety of fresh vegetables, fruits, flowers, plants, chickens, beef, baked goods, honey, maple syrup, candy, spices, soaps and jellies while learning techniques of how they were made straight from the merchants and producers themselves.

This rare level of personal service and knowledge, combined with the variety of fresh local products is unique to Western New York and surrounding farms and has become a practice that all western New Yorkers take pride in.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday October 6 the Alden Farmers Market will mark the end of its 10th season. Small closing ceremonies will include musical artist Sara Elizabeth Genco, a costume and pet parade, and a second raffle drawing. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and all Western New Yorkers in thanking the Alden Chamber of commerce and all local merchants and farmers who participated in this great Saturday morning tradition.

HONORING THE FOUR UNITED STATES PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO DIED IN LIBYA

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 786, which honors the four exceptional public servants who gave their lives in service to the United States and condemn the attacks on United States’ diplomatic facilities in Libya, Egypt, and Yemen.

I would like to extend my condolences and sympathy in this time of great loss to the families of these four heroes.

Mr. Speaker, John Christopher Stevens, the United States Ambassador to Libya; Sean Smith, Foreign Service Information Management Officer; and Tyrone S. Woods and Glen