

SUPPORTING NATIONAL  
MARRIAGE WEEK**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Marriage Week, which is observed each year from February 7th to 14th. During National Marriage Week, organizations and individuals across America collaborate on programs designed to strengthen marriages, reduce the divorce rate, and acknowledge the institution of marriage as a vital factor in promoting family and community stability. Although it is important that we devote ourselves to strengthening our marriages each day of the year, National Marriage Week provides an important opportunity for us collectively to pause and reflect on the crucial role that marriage plays as the foundation of a strong and healthy society. In so doing, it is my hope that we will be inspired to work even harder to protect this sacred institution.

Marriage is ordained by God and provides innumerable benefits to spouses and their children. Studies suggest that married men and women experience greater financial stability, longer life spans, and a decreased risk of depression—particularly among married mothers. Children in married families also reap a host of benefits, including increased physical health, lower rates of alcohol and substance abuse, and a reduced risk of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

I remain committed to the conviction that traditional marriage is worth protecting. The data demonstrates what many of us have long known: marriage between a man and a woman is one of the cornerstones of strength of our country, and is the foundation of families across America. I encourage you to join me in celebrating National Marriage Week by renewing your dedication to your spouse, and considering ways in which you can strengthen your commitment and devotion each day.

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS  
AWARENESS DAY**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and I rise to highlight the struggle of the African American community against this terrible disease. The theme for this year is "I am My Brother's/Sister's Keeper: Fight HIV/AIDS". HIV is a crisis in the Black Community and has been for thirty years.

African Americans are disproportionately affected by this disease. According to the CDC, an estimated 1 in 16 black men and 1 in 32 black women will be diagnosed with HIV infection at some point in their lifetimes; and an African American woman is 15 times more likely to be living with HIV than a white woman of the same age. The CDC also notes that in 2007, HIV was the ninth leading cause of death for all blacks and the third leading cause of death for black women and black men aged 35–44.

Today, the New York Health Department announced that new HIV data shows a 41% drop in deaths among black persons living with HIV/AIDS in New York between 2001 and 2010. Though this is promising new information, the black community is still disproportionately affected by this disease. More than 107,000 New Yorkers are living with HIV, but thousands more don't know they're infected. New York City's AIDS case rate is almost 3 times the U.S. national average. Brooklyn alone has the highest population of any borough in New York City and has one of the highest HIV infection rates among Black and Latina women in the country. According to a Brooklyn based research institution, in 2008 nearly 30% of people living with HIV/AIDS in New York City, who died, were Brooklyn residents.

African Americans are more likely to be diagnosed late in the course of HIV infection, less likely to be connected with care and less likely to be prescribed the necessary preventative and life preserving anti-retroviral medications. Blacks are also most likely to die from HIV-related causes.

These are sobering statistics, but they offer us the opportunity to spread awareness and take action to provide the community with the help they need. The Affordable Care Act, which I fully supported, is a fantastic opportunity to provide assistance to African Americans as well as others suffering from this disease. It stops providers from denying coverage to HIV positive children and adults as well as providing increased access to Medicaid and other prescription assistance programs. However, until this act is fully implemented, we must work hard and work together to educate and provide access to care for those who need it most.

We cannot let the black community continue to bear the most severe burden of all racial groups. We must stand together to support the community and take action against the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS. We must ensure our youth receive comprehensive education about the disease to help prevent infections in future generations. Until we put an end to AIDS, we must remain united to achieve the common goal of prevention and treatment for all.

## HONORING MR. RICHARD L. COTTA

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Mr. Richard L. Cotta on his retirement from the California Dairies, Inc., and to thank him for his dedication to the agriculture community.

Since 2007, Richard L. Cotta held the title of President and CEO of California Dairies, Inc. (CDI). He spent his entire career in the dairy industry in virtually all aspects of the dairy business—from the dairy farm to genetics, to dairy processing and dairy politics.

Cotta's career at CDI began in 1993, when he joined San Joaquin Valley Dairymen—a dairy processing and marketing cooperative—as its General Manager.

In 1999, San Joaquin Valley Dairymen merged with Danish Creamery and California Milk Producers to form CDI. Cotta was named

Senior Vice President of Producer Affairs and Government Relations at CDI, a role he held until he was named CEO in 2007. Under his leadership, CDI profits reached record levels.

From 1984 to 1993, Cotta served as the CEO of Western United Dairymen, the largest producer trade association in the state. From 1980 to 1984, he was the CEO of United Dairymen of California, a producer trade organization, until it merged to form Western United Dairymen.

Cotta testified before the U.S. Congress and the California Legislature on behalf of the dairy industry. At the request of the Secretary of Agriculture, he participated in world trade missions to open the U.S. dairy market overseas.

Previously, he worked as a sire analyst for American Breeders Service, a classifier for the Holstein Association of America and a principle in Genetics, Inc. For several years, he was a dairy consultant with many successful dairies on feeding, breeding and management systems.

Cotta graduated with honors from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, with a degree in Dairy Husbandry. He currently owns and operates Cotta Farms and is a partner in Terra Bella Farms, both almond farming operations.

Cotta currently sits on the following boards—U.C. Davis Deans Advisory Council, California State University Chancellors Agriculture Advisory Council, Sacred Heart School Foundation, and the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy. In addition, he sits on the Globalization Operating Committee for the U.S. Dairy Export Council.

Past board seats include—California Creamery Operators Association (Chairman), Dairy Cares Board (Chairman) California Dairy Research Foundation, U.S. Dairy Export Council, National Holstein Foundation, DairyAmerica (Chairman) and Challenge Dairy Products.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Richard L. Cotta for his hard work in the California Dairy Industry and in congratulating him upon his retirement from the California Dairies, Inc.

NEW YORK CITY NATURAL GAS  
SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2012*

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of the "New York City Natural Gas Supply Enhancement Act" (H.R. 2606). This bipartisan legislation will authorize the Secretary of Interior to allow the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities in the New York portion of the Gateway National Recreation Area.

My southeastern Queens district includes part of the Gateway National Recreation Area near Kennedy Airport, including the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. I have long supported efforts to improve the environment in and around Gateway as well as to enhance Gateway's facilities.

I join with Congressman GRIMM and Congressman TURNER in thanking Resources Chairman HASTINGS, Ranking Member MARKEY, Subcommittee Chair BISHOP and Ranking

Member GRIJALVA and their staffs for their help in moving our bill through their committee to the floor.

I also thank the National Park Service for its work to strengthen the legislation as well as for its efforts over the years to improve Gateway and its historic Floyd Bennett Field. Also deserving our appreciation are Governor Cuomo, New York Deputy Secretary for Energy Congdon, Mayor Bloomberg, Deputy Mayor Holloway, the Floyd Bennett Field Blue Ribbon Panel, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Regional Plan Association, and countless other individuals and organizations in New York for their work and collaboration in support of Gateway.

The natural gas pipeline system serving Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island is 40 to 60 years old. While adequate for the demand at the time, the system no longer has the capacity for the approximately 5.2 million residents of these three boroughs. Simply put, we need new natural gas infrastructure to meet our existing and growing needs, and H.R. 2606 is necessary to get us there.

Robert Yaro, the President of the Regional Plan Association, summed it up in August 22, 2011 letter to me in support of our bill. He

stated that H.R. 2606 will expand the supply of natural gas in New York City, help support economic development, improve public health by increasing air quality, and provide needed financial support for restoration of one of Floyd Bennett Field's historically significant airplane hangars.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2606 is a win all around.

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#### TRIBUTE TO ADORE FLYNN KURTZ

#### HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of one of my constituents, Adore Flynn Kurtz, President and CEO of The Development Corporation in Clinton County, NY.

Receiving a bachelor's degree from the College of New Rochelle, along with a Master's of Public Administration from Ohio State University, Ms. Kurtz has dedicated her life to economic development and the betterment of the community around her. Her work has spanned

the course of twenty-eight years, with assignments in Connecticut, Ohio, and since 1995, Northern New York.

I have known Adore and her husband Perry since they moved to New York, and we have worked on many projects which brought much needed employment to our community. During her tenure as CEO, she has helped to increase TDC's net worth by 248 percent, and doubled the number of staff. She was among those who were instrumental in bringing manufacturers like Nova Bus and Bombardier to our community. At a time when our country faces a jobs crisis, Ms. Kurtz demonstrates a distinguished record in job creation and economic development.

While I am saddened to see such an exceptional individual and good friend retire today, I will be forever grateful for the work that she has done for my constituents and New York's 23rd district. As reflected in her accomplishments, her dedication and commitment to public service will continue to live on for many years to come. I trust much more of her time will be spent with her husband, children and grandchildren.