

Helitech has experienced tremendous growth. They now have over 100 employees, operate in five States and had over \$12 million in revenue last year.

Throughout the years, Helitech has won numerous awards, particularly from the Better Business Bureau and the homebuilders associations in the areas where it does business.

In building his business, Bill has always been committed both to his customers and to his employees. He has also been committed to giving back to his community and to many charitable causes. Although Bill does not like to draw attention to his charitable endeavors, there are many organizations that owe a debt of gratitude to Bill Courtney and to Helitech. The Special Olympics, the Poshard Foundation and the Women's Crisis Center in Belleville are benefactors and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital officially recognized Helitech for 10 years of continuous contributions.

Family is also very important to Bill Courtney and tangible evidence of this is the location of the company headquarters on land where his family owned a farm. Several structures from the farm, though significantly modernized, are still in existence today as a reminder to Bill of his roots.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Helitech, to congratulate Bill Courtney and all the employees and to wish them the very best for a bright and prosperous future.

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“THE REAL REFERENDUM”

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2012*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, Paul Krugman is absolutely correct and every member of Congress should read his thoughtful column before voting on any economic matter.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 30, 2012]

THE REAL REFERENDUM

(By Paul Krugman)

Republicans came into this campaign believing that it would be a referendum on President Obama, and that still-high unemployment would hand them victory on a silver platter. But given the usual caveats—a month can be a long time in politics, it's not over until the votes are actually counted, and so on—it doesn't seem to be turning out that way.

Yet there is a sense in which the election is indeed a referendum, but of a different kind. Voters are, in effect, being asked to deliver a verdict on the legacy of the New Deal and the Great Society, on Social Security, Medicare and, yes, Obamacare, which represents an extension of that legacy. Will they vote for politicians who want to replace Medicare with Vouchercare, who denounce Social Security as “collectivist” (as Paul Ryan once did), who dismiss those who turn to social insurance programs as people unwilling to take responsibility for their lives?

If the polls are any indication, the result of that referendum will be a clear reassertion of support for the safety net, and a clear rejection of politicians who want to return us to

the Gilded Age. But here's the question: Will that election result be honored?

I ask that question because we already know what Mr. Obama will face if re-elected: a clamor from Beltway insiders demanding that he immediately return to his failed political strategy of 2011, in which he made a Grand Bargain over the budget deficit his overriding priority. Now is the time, he'll be told, to fix America's entitlement problem once and for all. There will be calls—as there were at the time of the Democratic National Convention—for him to officially endorse Simpson-Bowles, the budget proposal issued by the co-chairmen of his deficit commission (although never accepted by the commission as a whole).

And Mr. Obama should just say no, for three reasons.

First, despite years of dire warnings from people like, well, Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles, we are not facing any kind of fiscal crisis. Indeed, U.S. borrowing costs are at historic lows, with investors actually willing to pay the government for the privilege of owning inflation-protected bonds. So reducing the budget deficit just isn't the top priority for America at the moment; creating jobs is. For now, the administration's political capital should be devoted to passing something like last year's American Jobs Act and providing effective mortgage debt relief.

Second, contrary to Beltway conventional wisdom, America does not have an “entitlements problem.” Mainly, it has a health cost problem, private as well as public, which must be addressed (and which the Affordable Care Act at least starts to address). It's true that there's also, even aside from health care, a gap between the services we're promising and the taxes we're collecting—but to call that gap an “entitlements” issue is already to accept the very right-wing frame that voters appear to be in the process of rejecting.

Finally, despite the bizarre reverence it inspires in Beltway insiders—the same people, by the way, who assured us that Paul Ryan was a brave truth-teller—the fact is that Simpson-Bowles is a really bad plan, one that would undermine some key pieces of our safety net. And if a reelected president were to endorse it, he would be betraying the trust of the voters who returned him to office.

Consider, in particular, the proposal to raise the Social Security retirement age, supposedly to reflect rising life expectancy. This is an idea Washington loves—but it's also totally at odds with the reality of an America in which rising inequality is reflected not just in the quality of life but in its duration. For while average life expectancy has indeed risen, that increase is confined to the relatively well-off and well-educated—the very people who need Social Security least. Meanwhile, life expectancy is actually falling for a substantial part of the nation.

Now, there's no mystery about why Simpson-Bowles looks the way it does. It was put together in a political environment in which progressives, and even supporters of the safety net as we know it, were very much on the defensive—an environment in which conservatives were presumed to be in the ascendant, and in which bipartisanship was effectively defined as the effort to broker deals between the center-right and the hard right.

Barring an upset, however, that environment will come to an end on Nov. 6. This election is, as I said, shaping up as a referendum on our social insurance system, and it looks as if Mr. Obama will emerge with a

clear mandate for preserving and extending that system. It would be a terrible mistake, both politically and for the nation's future, for him to let himself be talked into snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
POCASSET COMMUNITY CLUB

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2012*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pocasset Community Club upon its centennial anniversary.

The Pocasset Community Club traces its roots to seventeen women who lived in the region over a century ago. Together, they formed a club to promote scholarly exchanges amongst themselves. These women had wanderlust for travel but had neither the economic means nor the opportunity to see the world. So, they decided to do the second best thing, and named their group “The Travelers Club.” The members would take turns presenting a report of a travel experience they would like to have, and would then discuss these destinations and the journeys necessary to get there. Before long, the club became quite popular in Pocasset, and it was no longer possible to meet in members' homes. The Travelers Club created a fund to erect their own building, starting the fund with just \$25.90. By 1912, enough money had been saved, and the first Travelers Club meeting was held in the group's new building on October 3rd of that year.

In 1948, ownership of the building was transferred to a group of town residents who renamed it as the Pocasset Community Club. As more and more families moved to the area, the Club's popularity grew quickly. Saturday night dinners, dances for the local teenagers, and family movie nights ensured that the Club was a popular spot for the people of Pocasset. Travelers Club meetings continued to thrive, and other groups found their home in the building as well. Today, the Pocasset Village Association ensures that the original mission of the Community Club remains in place. The building continues to be a beloved location for the town, hosting Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts meetings, 4H events, and countless other town proceedings.

The Pocasset community will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of its Community Club building by honoring the original founders of the Travelers Club, a group of courageous women who were certainly ahead of their time in establishing their own organization when women's suffrage was over a decade away. The many groups who have since then kept the Community Club an active location in Pocasset will also be remembered during this celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Pocasset Community Club upon its centennial anniversary, as well as the countless men and women whose work has made the Club a central fixture in the Pocasset community. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring these outstanding organizations.

THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON  
CENTER FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2012*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Houston and to honor the accomplishments of this program.

For the past 40 years, the Center for Mexican American Studies, CMAS, has served as a pioneer of intellectual thought regarding people of Mexican descent in the United States. Established in 1972, CMAS is an interdisciplinary academic program encompassing the liberal arts, education, and social sciences focusing on the Mexican American and broader Latino experience in the United States. Through its courses, publications, conferences, speakers and other programs and activities, CMAS has been at the forefront of bringing insight and understanding about the country's growing Mexican American community.

As the student population became more diverse in the 1970s, members of the U of H Mexican American Youth Organization, MAYO, saw a need for courses that would include the history, culture, folklore, political behavior and salient social issues of Mexican Americans. This student group encouraged the administration to establish such a program and in the fall of 1972, CMAS was created. The courses included in the program work to counter stereotypes and convey the many contributions that people of Mexican descent have made to our great nation.

CMAS has become an academic program focused on advancing knowledge, promoting critical thinking and fostering the value of service to the community, and has expanded beyond the classroom by providing mechanisms to increase the number of Mexican Americans and other Latino students on the U of H campus and develop true leaders.

As a center for intellectual thought and leadership development, CMAS has advanced the Mexican American community on campus, enhanced understanding of the Mexican American experience, and built linkages to the broader Latino community in Houston and throughout the state of Texas. On the 40th anniversary of the Center for Mexican American Studies, I rise to honor the work and accomplishments of this program.

HONORING THE CLAREMONT HOTEL'S 2012 SUMMER LECTURE AND CONCERT SERIES

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the historic Claremont Hotel in Southwest Harbor, Maine, for its continued commitment to showcasing world-renowned lecturers and talented performers each summer. Since 1884, the Claremont has provided a getaway for travelers across the world and a gateway

to Bar Harbor, Mount Desert Island, and Acadia National Park.

Every summer, the Claremont brings knowledgeable and interesting lecturers and talented performers to the Maine Coast to share their insights and gifts with native Mainer and tourist alike.

Please join me in honoring each of the Claremont Hotel's 2012 summer lecturers for their contributions to this year's successful program: Nancy Wetzel, Landscape Gardener and Garden Historian for the Sarah Orne Jewett House, "Shoals & Tidewater: Thaxter's Island Garden to Tyson's River Garden"; William Bigelow, M. Div., Student of Jungian Psychoanalysis, C.G. Jung Institute of Boston, "Shadow and Light: Carl Jung, and the Opposites That Dwell Within Each of Us"; Susan Danly, Senior Curator, Portland Museum of Art, "Apogees: Mount Desert and Katahdin in the Art and Life of Frederic Edwin Church"; Tom Hayward, Humanities Reference Librarian at Bates College, "George Gershwin, 1898–1937: A Sampling of His Music from the Year of His Death"; Walter Butts, Poet Laureate of New Hampshire, "The Language of Cinema: Techniques of Image and Composition in Poetry & Film"; David Hanna, Author, Knights of the Sea, "Knights of the Sea: The True Story of the Boxer and the Enterprise and the War of 1812"; Peter Der Manuelian, Phillip J. King Professor of Egyptology at Harvard University, "The Giza Pyramids in 3D: Ancient Egypt and the Harvard—MFA Expedition"; Dr. Ralph Nurnberger, Professor of International Relations at Georgetown University and Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, "The Potential of a Nuclear Iran in the New Middle East"; and David Arnold, a freelance writer, photographer of coral reefs, and web video producer of travel/adventure stories targeted to newspapers, magazines, and websites, "Climate Change: Photographing the Reality Above and Below the Waterline."

The hotel also welcomed many talented performers this summer. Please join me in recognizing Anastasia Antonacos, classical Pianist and founder of the Bayside Trio; the Hot Club of Portland; the Acadia Chamber Players; the Thomas Snow Trio; Jerks of Grass; and Judith Gordon, classical pianist and assistant Professor of music at Smith College.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Claremont and its guests on a wonderful 2012 summer season.

RECOGNITION OF SAM F. HAMRA

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2012*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sam F. Hamra.

On October 11, Legal Services of Southern Missouri (LSSM) will dedicate their new building, the "Sam F. Hamra Center for Justice." It is my hope that this building will help LSSM provide services to Missourians for many years to come.

Born in Steele, Missouri, Sam attended the Gulf Coast Military Academy in Mississippi and went on to receive both business and law degrees from the University of Missouri. After receiving his first degree, he served as an offi-

cer in the United States Army Field Artillery and Second Armored Cavalry Regiment. After his service he returned to the University of Missouri to pursue his law degree and began practicing law in Springfield, Missouri. He would later become the city attorney for Nixa and the governmental relations attorney for Branson and St. Robert.

As an alumnus of the University of Missouri he has been honored with the MU Law School Citation of Merit Award in 2003 and the Missouri University 2003 Distinguished Service Award which was named for the Outstanding Alumni of the Year. In 2012 he was the recipient of the Distinguished Tiger Award from the Greater Ozarks Chapter of the Missouri Alumni Association for his "dedication and continued support of the University of Missouri." He also received the "M" letter from Athletic Director, Mike Alden, and Assistant Athletic Director, John Kadlec, of the MU Athletic Department.

In 1976 Sam was elected as the first Chairman of the Board of the newly formed Legal Aid Association of Greene County, MO, known today as the Legal Services of Southern Missouri, LSSM. The Legal Aid Association was created to help low income citizens whose legal needs would otherwise be unmet. Under Sam's leadership, LSSM helped thousands of Missourians throughout 43 counties.

In addition to Sam's accomplishments in the legal field, he is the proprietor of 75 restaurants across the country, including 28 Wendy's restaurants in Missouri. In 2009 Wendy's International honored Sam with their highest honor, the R. David Thomas Founder's Award, for being named the outstanding Wendy's Franchisee of the Year.

Sam served on numerous boards among them the Foundation Board of Ozark Technical Community College, the Board of Cox Health Systems, the Board of St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, and Chairman of the Highway Committee of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce in 1977 when he was instrumental in expanding Chestnut Expressway from two lanes to four lanes from Highway 65 to Kansas Avenue.

Mr. Speaker, Sam F. Hamra's contributions to the City of Springfield and the State of Missouri are far-reaching, and it is an honor to recognize him.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

IN RECOGNITION OF SIRVART HOVNANIAN

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2012*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sirvart Hovnanian for her dedication and commitment to furthering issues of importance to the local community. A dedicated and loving wife and mother, Sirvart Hovnanian truly exemplifies what it is to live the American dream.

Sirvart Hovnanian was instrumental, along with her late husband, Kevork Hovnanian, in advocating for issues of importance to the Armenian community. Today we celebrate the 25th anniversary of St. Stepanos Church in Elberon, New Jersey. Sirvart played a critical role in the conception and construction of St.