

the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Logan and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

IN HONOR OF BILLY POWELL

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work of Mr. Billy Powell. Billy has been a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 684 for sixteen years. IBEW 684 represents electrical workers in Stanislaus, Merced, Mariposa, and Tuolumne counties. It organizes electrical workers, works to secure just compensation and working conditions, provides equitable settlements of grievances, and strives to promote cordial relations between members and employers. Billy is currently the local's business manager and has served in that capacity for the past five years. He also serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Stanislaus and Merced Building Trades Council.

In addition to his career and leadership in the electrical workers' field, he also supports the electrical workers apprenticeship program by serving as an instructor. Students are educated and trained at the Central Valley Joint Apprenticeship Training Center which is a jointly sponsored organization of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the National Electrical Contractors Association of Northern California. This five-year comprehensive program delivers a course education, hands-on lab experience, and on-the-job training to prepare graduates to perform at a high level in the electrical industry. The school has taken top honors in the Western States Electrical Contest in 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2011, a testament no doubt to the hard work of its students and the effective teaching of its instructors.

Billy is also a veteran of our armed forces having served with the United States Navy during the Gulf War. However, his heroism and dedication to our country extends far beyond his years of active duty. He is also committed to providing for our veterans here at home as well. He has employed twenty-five homeless or out of work veterans on projects in the Central Valley and is dedicated to placing even more at future work sites. In addition, he works with Helmets to Hardhats, a national program that trains veterans to transition into skilled, promising construction trade jobs. His efforts to aid our veterans are truly inspiring and I have no doubt that his commitment will assist many more deserving men and women in the future.

It is a great privilege to honor Mr. Billy Powell for his long career and leadership with the IBEW 684, his commitment to the education and training of a new generation of skilled laborers, and his devotion to our district, our country, and our veterans. His benevolence and leadership have truly set a positive example for all to admire and follow. It is an honor to know him, to work with him, and to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to recognize this fine individual for his work and his efforts here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAY AREA FOOD BANK

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the 30th Anniversary of Bay Area Food Bank. For more than three decades, the Bay Area Food Bank has helped fight hunger in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi.

Bay Area Food Bank was founded in 1981 as a small organization that aimed to serve the needs of citizens of Mobile and the Eastern Shore area in Alabama who were impacted by high inflation and unemployment. With just \$5,000 and only two permanent staff members, the Bay Area Food Bank distributed 77,000 pounds of food in its first year. Through the tireless dedication of staff and volunteers, Bay Area Food Bank has grown immensely. Today, they distribute as much food in one day as they did during their entire first year, and, over the course of their history, Bay Area Food Bank has distributed more than 100 million pounds of food to families throughout the Gulf Coast. In fact, Bay Area Food Bank distributes more than 2 million pounds of food annually from their warehouse located in my home county—Santa Rosa County, Florida. In 2011, Bay Area Food Bank distributed over 15 million pounds to 80,000 families in total.

While Bay Area Food Bank does an incredible job providing food for families in the Gulf Coast region, they also play an extremely vital role in the aftermath of disasters. In 2004, Hurricane Ivan devastated the Gulf Coast and left thousands of families without food and water. Many residents were left without power for weeks, and, during this trying time, Bay Area Food Bank's staff and volunteers increased their operations and distributed more than 1.5 million pounds of food in the first month after the hurricane. Just one year later, Hurricane Katrina provided another challenge for the Gulf Coast community. Many areas were decimated by the hurricane. During this time of need, Bay Area Food Bank once again increased their operations, distributing more than 1 million pounds of food and hurricane relief supplies per week for the first two months after the disaster. When the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill left thousands of families along the coast facing food shortages, Bay Area Food Bank again came to their aid. They conducted over 425 oil spill related mobile pantry distributions of more than 1.5 million pounds of food in 10 coastal counties in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 30 years, Bay Area Food Bank and its dedicated staff and volunteers have served families in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. They started off small, but through tireless work and determination they have expanded their reach into communities all along the Gulf Coast. They are truly an example of what can be achieved

by a group of individuals who work together to serve the needs of their community. My wife Vicki and I congratulate Bay Area Food Bank on their 30th Anniversary, and, on behalf of the United States Congress, we thank the staff, volunteers and commercial partners that have helped to create a successful organization whose immense significance to the Gulf Coast community cannot be overstated.

COMMENDING THE AZALEA CITY CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INC.

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, I come before you today to recognize the dedicated work of the Azalea City Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, a national service organization dedicated to enriching the lives of African Americans and their descendants. In working towards their goal of honoring the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, the Azalea City Chapter has put together an exhibit honoring past and present legislators.

Men and women of all stripes had a role to play in improving the lives of African Americans after Reconstruction. This detailed exhibit shines a spotlight on those trailblazers who carved a path for lawmakers like myself and others. Included among these inspirational figures is Senator Leroy Johnson, who was the first African American to be elected to a political office in the Southeast. Through his commitment and hard work, he became so powerful that he was the first to be named Chairman of a standing committee in the General Assembly. Let us not discount Representative Grace Towns Hamilton, who was the first African American woman to be elected to the Georgia Legislature. These legislators and others who are featured in the exhibit continue to serve as role models to aspiring young politicians today.

Please join me in commending the Azalea City Chapter not only on their exceptional hard work, but also for choosing the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus as the focus of their work.

IN COMMEMORATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this March as we celebrate Women's History Month, I would like to take a moment to recognize all the great female leaders of our past and present. Throughout history women have persevered in the face of great opposition and successfully broken barriers in the arts, education, government and corporate America.

This year's theme focuses on women's education and empowerment. It is important to note that the equal opportunity for women to learn alongside men is owed much to Title IX of the Education Codes of the Higher Education Act Amendments which passed in 1972 and was enacted in 1977. This legislation prohibited gender discrimination by federally funded institutions, and allowed women to fully

participate in all aspects of education effectively transforming the educational landscape of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, women have taken great strides throughout the years to gain equal treatment. Unfortunately, in matters involving healthcare, women still face challenges. Very recently, women faced attacks by the House Republican majority regarding access to birth control. More disconcerting, these attacks escalated beyond misguided attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act and deny women access to contraceptives, to restricting women's choices in the area of reproductive health altogether. Medical decisions about a woman's health must be left to the discretion of the patient and her doctor, not employers or the government.

This is why I am proud to support President Obama's Affordable Care Act which will make a positive impact on women's access to health care and greatly decrease the number of women who are uninsured or "underinsured." Studies have shown that women who have health insurance don't necessarily receive certain types of medical care because either the services they need are not covered by their policies, or they cannot afford the high deductibles or co-payments. The Affordable Care Act changes this unfortunate reality by assisting women in gaining access to basic preventive health care in order to prevent life-threatening diseases in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of women and their immeasurable contributions to this great Nation. As we pay tribute to the generations of women whose commitment to progress have proved invaluable to society, let us also renew our commitment to support women and the equal treatment of all in society, regardless of gender, race, or religion.

WOMEN'S HEALTH WEDNESDAYS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish the majority cared as much about creating jobs as they do about undermining women's reproductive rights.

Contraception is basic preventive women's health care. Simple as that. It should be affordable and widely available. Women should have access to it without a copay, no matter where they work.

Birth control saves lives. Women should give it up just as soon as men forfeit coverage for viagra.

Contraception is guided by sound science and best health care practices. The majority on the other hand is motivated by divisive and inflexible ideology.

The Republicans should take their own advice. They say they hate big government. Well, I can't think of any government bigger and more intrusive than the one that tells women how to conduct their personal lives and what to do with their bodies.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYRACUSE RESCUE MISSION

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 125th Anniversary of the Syracuse Rescue Mission.

Since being founded in 1887, the Rescue Mission has served the homeless of Central New York from three different community locations.

For 125 years, the dedicated staff and volunteers of the Rescue Mission have not only changed lives, but completely turned them around. The organization's mission is to help everyone move toward independence. They teach the unemployed skills needed to find a job, build housing for the homeless, provide assistance for addicts, and hold fundraisers and free meal programs for those in need. The Rescue Mission serves people with the dignity and respect that they deserve and understand that by helping an individual they are ultimately making their community a better place.

I congratulate the Rescue Mission on their 125th anniversary and sincerely thank everyone at the organization for their dedication and service to the Central New York community. I know that they will continue to demonstrate integrity and excellence through their benevolent deeds and that the Rescue Mission will continue to be a beacon of hope for many years to come.

HONORING IBEW LOCAL 716 ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 716 for their 100 years of dedication to improving the life of not only its members but electricians across the Houston area.

As one of the largest unions in America, IBEW represents approximately 750,000 workers of a variety of occupations including construction, utilities, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing, railroads and government. The hard work of IBEW members does not benefit them alone but also enhances the quality of life for electricians across the United States by securing adequate wages, high-quality health insurance, retirement, pensions and creating safer working conditions.

Since 1912, Local Union 716 has helped raise the standard of living for tens of thousands of electricians and their families. Local Union 716 has assisted its members during this difficult economic time by helping to ensure its members keep the jobs they have and help those without find employment. This union has continuously worked to not only uphold the goals of the national organization but also dedicate its services to improving the moral, intellectual and social conditions of their members and families. Through their apprenticeship program, the IBEW has trained and developed craftsmen into highly skilled professionals who know and understand the many facets of electrical work including the dangers and the safety precautions required to mitigate those dangers. The union has worked with the management staff of several companies to promote safe working conditions and improve company training programs.

Local Union 716 is also known in the community for promoting citizens to get out and vote. They have participated, along with several other organizations, in neighborhood block walking events to hand out door hangers and motivate their neighbors to take part in government by going to the polls and voicing their opinions.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate the members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 716 for their success and dedication to improving life for its members and their community as a whole for 100 years.