

HONORING THE GADSDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT MARCHING BAND, THE PRIDE OF SAN LUIS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gadsden Elementary School District #32 Marching Band for their accomplishments as a student band and as representatives of the city of San Luis.

Gadsden Elementary School is in the San Luis, a city located in the Southwest corner of the State of Arizona on the border of San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico. The school's marching band, the Pride of San Luis, is composed of 180 talented students and 15 dancers in grades 4–8. Director J Martin Peralta, Jr. and Music Coordinator Martin Peralta, Sr. have led this group of young men and women to countless victories, including first place awards in the Lake Havasu, Parada Del Sol Parade in Scottsdale, Arizona, the APS Phoenix Light Parade, as well as in the local Somerton Founder's Day Parade and the Yuma Lights Parade and most recently have been invited to the London Days Bridge Parade. Luis Marquez, Board President, said that "Listening to the marching band is like listening to an amazing group of professionals: they have the enthusiasm, character, and talent they need to keep making a great job everywhere they go."

The Pride of San Luis is comprised of more than just talented musicians; they are exemplary scholars. Raymond V. Aguilera, Superintendent of Schools, said that "[m]any of the band members go on to receive college credit during High School, take the ACT test and qualify for the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Program. The band's alumni have attended or will attend university programs throughout the country". This group of hard working young people brings hope and pride to local residents. As William and Ellen Kiley stated: "For those who worry about the future of our country, you have only to look at these young people to feel reassured that all will be well".

The parents, teachers, and citizens of San Luis cannot be more proud of their hometown marching band. Juan Carlos Escamilla, Mayor of the City of San Luis, declared: "It is truly an honor. I'm so very proud of every single one of our kids. I'm so proud as a parent. I know they have a very strong goal. If any organization could do it—it's this group. They will make it happen." Music Coordinator Martin Peralta Sr. articulated it best: "Esta generación de estudiantes van a hacer historia y la experiencia que van a hacer historia ya que moverá al mundo con su música donde cada uno de los ciudadanos del país se van a sentir orgullosos de ellos".

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring these bright young student musicians and the adults that empower them to succeed.

HONORING MATTHEW R. COOK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew R. Cook. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew R. Cook for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO EMORY CAMPBELL

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable man who has distinguished himself as a great South Carolinian and an outstanding scholar and advocate of the Gullah/Geechee culture. He has dedicated his life to preserving the culture and the community he loves, and has just ended his tenure as the first Chairman of the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. I commend him for his outstanding work and thank him for his long-time friendship. We could not have had a better person to get this Commission off on the right foot.

Emory Shaw Campbell was born on October 11, 1941, on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, which was at the time was an isolated Sea Island inhabited by the descendants of former slaves, not the high-end resort it has become today. He was the sixth of 12 children born to Sarah and Reginald Campbell.

While he attended elementary school on Hilton Head Island, he had to travel by boat to attend high school at Michael C. Riley High School in the mainland town of Bluffton. He graduated as valedictorian of his class in 1960. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in biology from Savannah State College, and a master's in environmental engineering from Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Following his academic training, Dr. Campbell returned home to his beloved Sea Islands. He served for ten years as the Director of Community Service Education at the Beaufort-Jasper Comprehensive Health Services in Ridgeland, South Carolina. This community health center provided quality, affordable health care to the underserved populations of the Sea Islands in the southernmost corner of the State. He also worked to protect Gullah communities that were threatened by the encroachment of resort development in the area.

In 1980, he became the Director of the Penn Community Center on St. Helena Island. This historic facility began as a school in the 1800s to educate freed slaves. It became a meeting place during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. As a student organizer at South Carolina State College, I attended meetings at Penn Center and subsequently served as a member of its Board of Trustees. Dr. Martin Luther King retreated there to plan protest strategies. Today, the center serves to protect and preserve the heritage of the island and its Gullah culture. Dr. Campbell was synonymous with these efforts, and he became a sought after expert on all things Gullah.

Most notably during his 22 years at the helm of Penn Center, Dr. Campbell led an effort to reconnect the Gullah community to its family roots in Sierra Leone, West Africa. This initiative resulted in Sierra Leone's President Joseph Momoh visiting Penn Center in 1988, and the following year Dr. Campbell was given the title of Honorary Paramount Chief when he took a group from the Gullah community to Sierra Leone for a reunion with their ancestral families. In 1990, South Carolina Educational Television produced a documentary Family Across the Sea, which chronicles these events.

Dr. Campbell has sought to preserve the heritage of his native culture through his book Gullah Cultural Legacies that includes Gullah traditions, beliefs, art and language. He also helped in the effort to translate the New Testament of the Bible into Gullah, which I used when I was sworn in as House Majority Whip in 2007. When Dr. Campbell retired from Penn Center in 2002, he began Gullah Heritage Consulting Services to continue his lifelong work and he manages the Gullah Heritage Trail Tours on Hilton Head Island.

In 2005, Dr. Campbell received the Carter F. Woodson Memorial Award from the National Education Association for his efforts to preserve the Gullah heritage and communities and to improve the quality of life for the Gullah people.

In 2008, I succeeded in getting the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor enacted into law. The legislation included the establishment of a Commission to manage the corridor, and Dr. Campbell was fittingly chosen to Chair the inaugural Commission.

Dr. Campbell lives on Hilton Head Island with his wife, Emma. They have two adult children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Emory Campbell for his dedication to preserving, protecting and promoting the Gullah culture that is unique to the Sea Islands of the American South. He has made remarkable contributions throughout his career to bring recognition and support to Gullah communities, and he is one of their most distinguished members. His work has helped to save an entire culture that was rapidly disappearing due to encroachment and assimilation, and that is a tremendous legacy for any one individual.

HONORING KYLE A. DETERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle A. Deters.

Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kyle has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle A. Deters for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OREO COOKIE

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Oreo. In 1912—the same year the South Pole was discovered, and the Titanic sank—the Oreo was first introduced. Growing up, there were many days where I would enjoy dunking an Oreo in my milk and that tradition continues today with children and adults all over the globe. There is no doubt Oreos bring joy to many people throughout the world.

Kraft Foods, headquartered in my district, is the proud custodian of Oreo, and Oreo is one of the company's 12 "billion-dollar" brands. Enjoyed in more than 100 countries, today the Oreo brand is the world's top selling cookie. Here is to another 100 years of Oreo being the world's number one cookie.

HONORING CONNOR S. THOMAS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Connor S. Thomas. Connor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Connor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Connor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Connor has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Connor S. Thomas for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE MODESTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON 100 YEARS OF BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the rich heritage of the Modesto Chamber of Commerce as they celebrate 100 years of business leadership in the Central Valley.

Anniversaries such as this provide an opportunity for us to reflect upon the significant impact our local businesses, both large and small, have on job creation and economic growth. It is critical that we continue to increase opportunities for business owners and entrepreneurs to take risks and succeed, so that they are able to grow, innovate, and create jobs. Throughout the years, the Chamber has stayed true to its mission statement, which is "to promote the region's economic strengths and vitality; identify and promote services that are valuable to our members; advocate for public policy that is advantageous to the business community; and fully participate and partner in activities to improve quality of life."

Also celebrating 100 years is the iconic Modesto Arch. The Arch was erected by the founders of the Modesto Chamber of Commerce as a symbol to promote the city, and remains as a welcome when you enter downtown Modesto with the ever present slogan "Water, Wealth, Contentment, Health."

I would also like to recognize the following six businesses for their continuous membership in the Modesto Chamber of Commerce for the past 100 years: Foster Farms, Bank of America, Pacific Bell/ATT, Chicago Title Company, Pacific Gas & Electric, and J.S. West. They should all be commended for the community support and dedication to the city of Modesto.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating with the Modesto Chamber of Commerce on a day where we recognize not only where we have been, but the tremendous opportunities we have ahead in our efforts to fulfill our vision for the future. Congratulations on the past 100 years, and I wish you the best success in the years to come.

HONORING EVAN JONATHAN LINARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Evan Jonathan Linard. Evan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Evan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Evan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Evan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Evan Jonathan Linard for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOX-WISCONSIN HERITAGE PARKWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT OF 2012

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join my colleagues . . . in introducing the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway National Heritage Area Act of 2012, legislation which would designate the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway as a National Heritage Area. I am also pleased that Senator KOHL is introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

The National Park Service defines National Heritage Areas as:

. . . places where natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representatives of the American experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. These regions are acknowledged by Congress for their capacity to tell important stories about our nation. Continued use of National Heritage Areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscape enhances their significance.

The Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway, which runs through parts of 15 counties throughout Wisconsin, marks the route taken in 1673 by explorers Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet as they traveled from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. This journey is an integral part of Wisconsin's and our nation's development. We should do all that we can to preserve it so that future generations have an appreciation for our country's unique history, culture and heritage.

Establishing the Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway as a National Heritage Area will accomplish that preservation goal in a cost-effective manner. By utilizing public-private partnerships, the National Heritage Area designation can serve as a structure to coordinate the activities of businesses, non-profits and residents so they can highlight their region's unique contributions to America's national story.

Again, I am very pleased to support this region's designation as a National Heritage Area, and I ask for my colleagues' support in this effort.