

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO THE
GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to congratulate the Girl Scouts of the USA on their 100th Anniversary.

With a mission to build, "girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place" the Girl Scouts have served over 50 million women in the United States.

From the first ever Girl Scout troop created in 1912, the Girl Scouts have sought to instill girls and young women with the ability to be both self-reliant and resourceful and I believe very few organizations have shown the capacity to foster leadership in our nation's girls like the Girl Scouts of the USA.

The Girl Scouts have proven themselves to be an organization of action. With a goal of fostering leadership, the statistics alone speak to the overwhelming success of the Girl Scouts. Over half of my female colleagues in both the House and the Senate were Girl Scouts and over half of all female business owners in the United States were former Girl Scouts. I have no doubt that many of the 2.3 million girls currently involved with this dynamic organization will continue to live out their call to "make the world a better place" through their leadership, and I look forward to seeing what the next generation of dedicated Girl Scouts will accomplish.

I am proud to join my colleagues in co-sponsoring H. Res. 460, Expressing support for designation of 2012 as the "Year of the Girl" and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RUFUS
THOMAS, JR.**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy and accomplishments of Rufus Thomas, Jr., one of the most charismatic and beloved performers of rhythm & blues, funk and soul music. Mr. Thomas was born in the tiny hamlet of Cayce, Mississippi on March 27, 1917 and moved to Memphis when he was two years old. He passed away in 2001 and would have turned 95 years of age this year. Before his passing, he had contributed significantly to the Memphis music scene and his legacy lives on through his daughter, singer Carla Thomas, and his son, keyboardist Marvell Thomas. In 1961, Carla Thomas' "Gee Whiz (Look at His Eyes)" charted within the Top 10 on the pop chart and within the Top 5 on the R&B chart. Marvell Thomas was keyboardist and arranger for such greats as The Staple Singers, Etta James and Albert King, and co-produced Isaac Hayes' album, "Hot Buttered Soul."

Entertaining people came naturally for Rufus. In his youth, Rufus earned pocket change by tap dancing on Beale Street. In his

teenage years, he performed with the Rabbit Foot Minstrels, a traveling vaudeville show, as a tap dancer. He comprised one-half of the comedy team known as Rufus and Bones with Robert "Bones" Couch. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s he hosted Amateur Night at the Palace Theatre, where he introduced young performers such as B.B. King, Bobby "Blue" Bland and countless others.

In the late 1940s, Memphis radio station WDIA AM emerged as the first radio station in the country to target black audiences with black DJs playing black-oriented programming. Rufus landed a job there in 1948 and soon became one of the station's most popular DJs. His 2-hour nighttime show, "Hoot and Holler" premiered and helped launch the careers of music icons such as Elvis Presley, Ike Turner, Isaac Hayes, Roscoe Gordon and Junior Parker. Rufus continued to be an on-air personality at WDIA, influencing musicians in the Memphis area for the next 40 years, while still creating and performing his own music.

Rufus played an indispensable role in the birth of Memphis' two great record companies, Sun Records and Stax Records. His 1953 single, "Bear Cat," an answer to Big Mama Thornton's then-popular record, "Hound Dog," became the first national hit for the upstart record label. In 1959, Rufus and his then-teenage daughter Carla became the first stars of the new Stax Records with their single, "Cause I Love You." Rufus would go on to release a string of popular songs for Stax, including favorites such as "Walking The Dog" (1964) and "Do The Funky Chicken" (1969). Throughout his career, Rufus appeared on the Billboard charts 29 times with the help of such singles as "Push and Pull" (1970) and "The Breakdown" (1971).

His life and seventy-year career were inextricably linked with the development of black entertainment in the 20th century and his work earned him an array of accolades. In January 1992, he was honored by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, named as an "Early Influence." That same year the Rhythm and Blues Foundation honored him with its prestigious Pioneer Award. In 1996, he was featured as a performer at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. For his 80th birthday in 1997, the city of Memphis renamed Hernando Street as Rufus Thomas Boulevard at the intersection of Beale Street where the Palace Theater once stood. In 1998, Rufus received an award from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in recognition of his five decades of promoting black music on radio.

Off stage, Thomas was entirely serious about his work as an ambassador for Memphis and its music. In his characteristically forthright fashion, he told the journalist Richard Knight: "Memphis has made more of a contribution to music than any other one city in the whole world, and that includes New York." Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in remembering the life and legacy of Rufus Thomas, Jr.

CONGRATULATING DR. JOHN HITT
FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AS
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Dr. John Hitt on his tremendous record of accomplishment as President of the University of Central Florida (UCF). This month marks Dr. Hitt's 20th year of service to UCF, and it gives me great pleasure to recognize Dr. Hitt's contributions to UCF and the Central Florida community.

Under Dr. Hitt's leadership, UCF has planned and won approval for a new college of medicine, doubled enrollment while enhancing the quality of academic offerings, exponentially increased the number of doctoral degrees awarded each year, and expanded research funding from \$6.2 million to more than \$121 million per year.

Before coming to UCF, Dr. Hitt held numerous posts as both faculty and executive leadership at academic institutions, including Assistant Professor of Psychology at Tulane University, Vice President of Texas Christian University Research Foundation, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Bradley University.

Dr. Hitt's passion for education led him to UCF, where he arrived in March 1992. Since that time, he has been honored with many awards and recognitions, including Junior Achievement's Spirit of Achievement Award in 2008, Orlando Business Journal's inaugural Legacy Award in 2006, Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission James B. Greene award in 2002, and the Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce's John Young Award in 2008.

It was a personal honor to work with Dr. Hitt while serving as a member of the Board of Trustees for UCF. Dr. Hitt's attitude of servant leadership and his dedication to quality education for UCF's students has been a testimony to his personal modesty and humility. Dr. Hitt is not only a great president for UCF, but he is a model for the University's students.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I congratulate and applaud Dr. Hitt on his 20th year of service as the president of the University of Central Florida. May his character, life, and efforts inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2013

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 112) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Congressional Progressive Caucus Alternative Budget for Fiscal Year 2013. The budget plan outlined by the CPC takes a calculated and balanced approach to restoring America's promise, and investing in our future.

Unlike the House GOP Budget Resolution, the CPC Alternative Budget protects Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, Unemployment Insurance and other programs that are vital to the most vulnerable populations in our society.

In my district, we suffer from rates of unemployment and home foreclosure that are significantly higher than the rest of the country. Although our nation's economy is showing positive signs of growth, we must continue to make critical investments in our communities to accelerate our recovery.

To that end, the CPC Alternative Budget makes smart investments in education, job creation measures, and transportation and infrastructure projects. These investments are necessary to ensure that America has a skilled and educated workforce that is prepared to tackle the challenges of the 21st Century. Without these investments, the United States will lose its competitive edge.

A \$556 billion surface transportation bill would help meet the overwhelming need for repair and construction of our roadways and aging infrastructure. Lastly, the Budget for All outlines a plan for nearly \$1.7 trillion in widespread domestic investment, getting badly needed funds to valuable programs that are scheduled for starvation under current law.

This budget outlines a plan to put over 2 million individuals back to work over the next 2 years by hiring them for work in areas critical to our quality of life. This would create the School Improvement Corps for public school rehabilitation projects, the Park Improvement Corps made of youth ages 16 to 25 for restoration on public lands, the Student Jobs Corps of college students for part-time work study positions, among others. Priority hiring is given to the unemployed and veterans.

Domestic investments create jobs and lay the foundation for exceptional American industries competing in the global economy. The creation of an infrastructure bank would attract private investment toward critical infrastructure projects and facilitate private-public partnerships with our states and localities. Some projections estimate that the iBank could mobilize up to \$625 billion in funding for infrastructure.

The revenue raised from tax reform measures in the CPC budget will allow us to pay for an extension of tax cuts for hard working, middle class Americans—providing them with more money to feed their families, pay their bills, and fill up their gas tanks.

Mr. Chair, the CPC Budget will do all of this while managing to be able to reduce the deficit by \$6.8 trillion.

Instead of working to strengthen Medicare, the Ryan budget would end Medicare as we know it, turning the guarantee of retirement security into a voucher that will shift higher and higher costs over time to over 45 million seniors.

In California alone, 5,252,371 seniors would be forced onto vouchers when they retire.

The GOP budget will force seniors to pay higher premiums in order to access the same benefits they would receive under the current system. For a typical 67 year-old senior, the

Ryan budget could increase out-of-pocket health care costs by \$5,900.

The GOP budget would decimate our primary assistance to the poor by cutting \$3.3 trillion from essential programs like Medicaid and SNAP.

In fact, a report conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that 62 percent of proposed cuts in the Ryan budget plan come from programs that assist low-income individuals. This is the Republican vision: to balance the budget on the backs of the seniors and the poor.

The Ryan budget plan would weaken job growth. The Economic Policy Institute found that if we were to follow Chairman Ryan's proposal, 1.3 million jobs would be lost in 2013 and 2.8 million jobs would be lost in 2014.

Mr. Chair, the CPC has a better way. We understand that our current economic situation calls for a balanced approach that protects our fragile recovery and invests in our future.

For these reasons, Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the CPC Alternative Budget.

IN HONOR OF CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of César Chávez on the occasion of what would have been his 85th birthday.

César Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona. After losing their family farm, the members of the Chávez family became migrant workers, moving to California and following seasonal harvests around the state. Upon experiencing the exploitation of migrant workers and injustices committed against them, Mr. Chávez became a champion of workers' rights.

In 1962, Mr. Chávez and Dolores Huerta co-founded National Farm Workers Association, later known as the United Farm Workers, UFW. Mr. Chávez was inspired by leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and understood the power of non-violence as a tool for change. As a leader of UFW, he used non-violent tactics and strong organizing methods to protest poor working conditions. Mr. Chávez fought for basic improvements for farm workers such as access to drinking water, shade, and restrooms. He was also a tireless advocate for fair wages and decent living conditions.

César Chávez led the fight for the passage of the landmark California Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975. This law was the first in the nation to guarantee farm workers the right to organize and bargain collectively. Additionally, his understanding of human suffering led him to fight against the use of the short-handled hoe, which caused personal injury and pain to farm laborers. A California Supreme Court ruling in 1975 banned the use of this tool.

Mr. Chávez was known for his spirit as much as his accomplishments. Mr. Chávez and the UFW embraced an empowering and enduring rallying cry that exemplifies his optimism of the human spirit: "Sí se puede," or "Yes we can."

César Chávez is an inspirational figure in California and throughout our nation. I have no doubt that his efforts have made a positive impact on the lives of countless workers. It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring César Chávez on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of his birth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall vote numbers 107-110. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: rollcall No. 107, Amendment to H.R. 3606 by Rep. Peters, "no"; rollcall No. 108, Amendment to H.R. 3606 by Rep. Capps, "no"; rollcall No. 109, H.R. 3606, Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "no"; rollcall No. 110, H.R. 3606, the JOBS Act, "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE MILLBROOK HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Millbrook High School Girls Basketball team, on becoming the only Virginia high school team that has ever won three consecutive State championships in girls basketball.

Earlier this month, the Millbrook Pioneers broke the 61-year-old Virginia High School League record by winning an unprecedented third state title with a victory over the Courtland Cougars. I commend the team for their hard work and their passion for basketball. I would like to extend a special thank you to Coach Debby Sanders who has led the team on the path to success.

I submit the following piece from the Winchester Star on the Millbrook Pioneers' record-breaking victory.

[Mar. 12, 2012]

OUR VIEW: PERFECT PIONEERS—THIRD TITLE
"ICING ON THE CAKE"

RICHMOND.—Thirty minutes before her girls basketball team took the floor in search of an unprecedented third straight state title Saturday night, Millbrook High Principal Carrie Butler was talking about cake.

No, Mrs. Butler was not hungry, at least not discernibly. The cake she was rather nervously describing to Frederick County School Board member Peggy Clark was purely figurative.

"I told Debby (Millbrook coach Sanders), 'The cake is sweet . . . with or without the icing,'" Mrs. Butler said to Mrs. Clark.

In other words, even if the Pioneers somehow came up short of their 80th consecutive victory on the Siegel Center floor, this "cake," baked with care and love over the last three winters, would not lose its "sweet" taste. Win or lose, what the Pioneers had accomplished up to then—a record 79 straight wins, two state championships—was simply amazing. Or, like the famous song or hit new TV drama, "unforgettable."