

Today, Branson entertains millions of visitors who embrace the city's heritage, harmony and hospitality. I am proud to have the city and the community of Branson in my district and I congratulate them on the past 100 years and I look forward to 100 more.

HONORING RIPLEY BLACKWELL  
HEAD START CENTER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ripley Blackwell Head Start Center, Inc. The center was named in honor of two civil rights pioneers, Mrs. Minnie Ripley, and Mrs. Unita Blackwell, the first African-American elected as the Mayor of Mayersville, Mississippi, in 1976. The center was originally known as the Friends of Children of Mississippi, until 1980 when they adopted the name of Ripley Blackwell Head Start Center. The center serves both Sharkey and Issaquena counties in the Mississippi Delta. The center's mission is to educate the children of Sharkey & Issaquena counties as well as serving their families.

The Ripley Blackwell Head Start became a valuable part of the community by addressing the barriers that hindered growth and development, and the nurturing of a community bond. The area director, Mr. Roger Robinson, was instrumental in convincing the school board to purchase an old high school for the growth and expansion and all the amenities needed to accommodate the center.

In the beginning the center served 180 children and their families with nine units. Currently, Ripley Blackwell Head Start serves 111 children and their families with six units. They have successfully transitioned over 5,558 children into the public schools of Sharkey and Issaquena counties.

For over 30 years the Ripley Blackwell Head Start Center has prepared children to enter kindergarten confidently with the social, physical, emotional, and cognitive skills and competencies necessary for continued school success. Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join in recognizing the Ripley Blackwell Head Start Center, Inc. for their commitment to educating the community.

TRIBUTE TO MARK HENRY  
FARLINGER

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mark Farlinger of Cresco for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as

well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Mark's project was to construct a kiosk and a welcome sign to assist the visitors of Vernon Springs Park in Howard County. The work ethic Mark has shown in this project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Mark 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 CHIEF STEPHEN  
WHITE

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Doylestown Township's Chief of Police, Mr. Stephen White, who on March 2nd 2012 retired after a 40-year career in law enforcement. For Chief White, public service runs in the family. Steve's grandfather was a prominent Philadelphia police officer for a number of years, which truly inspired him to pursue a career path in law enforcement. After earning a bachelor's degree in international relations from St. Joseph's University, White started his career by working for the Capitol Police in the Nation's Capital.

On February 16th 1974, Steve White settled in Bucks County and began what would be a distinguished career, first working as a patrolman for Doylestown Township. He quickly moved up in the ranks and was promoted to Sergeant the following year. After three years of hard work and dedication to the force, he became a lieutenant, and on January 12th 1988 Steve was promoted to Chief of Police, where he remained until this year. As Chief, he served as the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator, flawlessly supervising a staff of 21 officers and 3 civilians with a budget of just over \$3 million.

Over the course of his career, Chief White has received numerous honors and awards. He was inducted into the International Police Association's Hall of Fame in 1999, and was named an extraordinary Member in August 2007 by the FBI National Academy Associates. Previously, he served as President of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association.

Chief White has devoted his life to making his community a safer and better place to live. I am honored to speak on his behalf today, and I am proud to be his representative in Congress. I wish Steve many years of continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE INDUCTION  
OF PHILIP P. SMITH INTO NOVA  
SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY'S  
2012 ENTREPRENEUR HALL OF  
FAME

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional entrepreneur and my dear friend, Philip P. Smith. As the president and chief executive officer of Phil Smith Management, Inc., he is better known as the founder of Phil Smith Chevrolet, a successful General Motors (GM) dealership in my Congressional district that serves the greater South Florida area from Palm Beach to Broward and Miami-Dade Counties. On April 18, 2012, Phil will be inducted into the 2012 Entrepreneur Hall of Fame at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) for his longstanding business leadership and community involvement.

The NSU Entrepreneur Hall of Fame was established in 1990 to honor the lifetime achievements of outstanding entrepreneurs who contributed not only to the growth of a phenomenal entrepreneurial business, but have also demonstrated a willingness to contribute time, effort, and financial resources to programs and activities that enhance the quality of life in the communities in which they live. For more than 30 years, Phil has been serving the South Florida community as a business leader and philanthropist. His first equity venture was in a Toyota dealership in Homestead, Florida in 1980. With a direct hands-on sales and management approach, Phil has since built his organization from the ground up and now operates 14 auto dealerships throughout Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina.

Phil is responsible for the overall operations of Phil Smith Management, Inc., including working with the equity partners at all locations and orchestrating its acquisitions and growth strategies. Thanks to entrepreneurs like him, GM has again become the world's top-selling automaker. Phil Smith Chevrolet has consistently ranked as one of the top dealerships in Broward County in a variety of GM categories, including customer satisfaction, service, and vehicle fleet and GM parts sales. Furthermore, in recent years, Phil Smith Chevrolet has proven to be a true economic linchpin to distressed areas in Broward County. Phil takes great pride in the fact that most of his 104 employees have worked for the dealership for many years and live in and have strong relationships with the surrounding community.

The Phil Smith Automotive Group has received numerous awards, including the J.D. Powers Quality Dealer Award, Toyota President's Award, Ford Chairman's Award, and Acura Dealership of Distinction recognition. Phil is also past chairman of the Southeast Toyota Dealer Council, a past member of the National Toyota Dealer Council, past president of the South Florida Auto-Truck Dealers Association, and a past director of the Florida Automobile Dealers Association.

Raised in South Florida, Phil is well-known for his civic and charitable involvement. He is actively involved with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Humane Society of Broward County,

American Cancer Society, Make a Wish Foundation, and other organizations. In addition, Phil is Co-Chairman of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee and has board positions with the Orange Bowl Committee and the Broward Workshop, a nonprofit organization that represents the interests of 100 Broward businesses and professions.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize Phil Smith on this special occasion. His business leadership and commitment to the South Florida community is a testament to American entrepreneurship, and I can think of no one more deserving than Phil to be admitted to Nova Southeastern University's Entrepreneur Hall of Fame. I am so pleased to pay tribute to my dear friend, and wish him great success for many years to come.

#### RECOGNIZING APRIL AS PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH

##### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease, I am proud to join my colleagues in recognizing April as Parkinson's Awareness Month. It is estimated that there are between 500,000 and 1.5 million Americans living with Parkinson's disease, a chronic, progressive neurological disease, for which there is no therapy or drug to slow or halt its progression, let alone a cure. I support the federal government's continued funding for research to find better treatments and a cure for Parkinson's. I also recognize the people living with Parkinson's who participate in vital clinical trials to advance knowledge of this disease, and commend the dedication of local and regional organizations, volunteers, and millions of Americans across the country working to improve quality of life for people living with Parkinson's disease and their families.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

##### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

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:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chair, the Republican budget proposal, very similar to their draconian proposal from last year, fails the middle class, undermines our Nation's values, and destroys the social safety net. It's been said that this year's Republican budget is "austerity on steroids." I would call that an understatement.

In the name of deficit reduction, Republicans would end the Medicare guarantee, put

Social Security on the fast track to benefit cuts, and slash critical job-creating investments in education, infrastructure and basic research. These deep cuts do not even go to reduce the deficit. Instead, they are used to pay for massive tax cuts for the wealthy and to continue our out of control defense spending. The Republican budget will provide an average tax cut of \$394,000 to people making over \$1 million and increases defense spending. This budget is just a grab bag of failed right-wing ideas and it's harmful to America's future.

Senior citizens and people with disabilities in Medicare get a particularly bad deal under the Republican proposal because their plan ends the guarantee of Medicare. Medicare beneficiaries would be given a voucher to try to obtain health care coverage from private insurers—there would be no guaranteed benefits and whether one could afford coverage would depend on what is available in the marketplace. What's more, the Republicans' voucher is designed to diminish in value over time, placing a growing cost burden on senior citizens and people with disabilities in the future. The Republican budget pays lip service to maintaining the traditional Medicare program, but those words amount to nothing. Traditional Medicare would become increasingly expensive as those with high health needs tried to stay there. Eventually, it would go into a death spiral with costs far exceeding the premiums it could realistically charge. Medicare as we know it would be gone—another Republican gift to the private insurance industry.

In contrast, the Congressional Progressive Caucus has offered a balanced budget, entitled the "Budget for All," which strengthens Medicare and Social Security, protects the middle class, makes job-promoting investments for America's future, reins in defense spending, and ensures everyone pays their fair share in taxes. It includes a number of my proposals, including closing tax loopholes that allow lobbyists and lawyers to avoid paying Medicare taxes and putting a price on carbon pollution to prevent catastrophic climate change.

My constituents deserve a budget that addresses our Nation's fiscal challenges, creates jobs, and protects Medicare and Social Security. The Congressional Progressive Caucus does just that. I urge my colleagues to support the Progressive Budget for All and reject the failed ideas in the Republicans' budget for the 1 percent.

#### SEIZURE SMART AND EPILEPSY AWARENESS

##### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the millions who live with seizures and deserve to be able to live, work, learn and play safely in their own communities. On April 3, representatives from around the country will be here on Capitol Hill meeting with our staff about epilepsy and what it's like to live with this condition, which is the 3rd most prevalent neurological condition and yet has no cure. While I hope that research will

one day result in a cure, we can do something very meaningful now—we can help school personnel know what to do when a child has a seizure in school. We can help employers know how to help an employee in the workforce when he or she has a seizure, and communities can learn to help keep both children and adults safe wherever they go by having trained first-responders. Many great programs have been developed and implemented over the years to help educate our communities and teach them how to be "Seizure Smart." Together, with the help of a united public awareness campaign, we can help everyone to become seizure smart. We need to educate everyone about epilepsy and help everyone to know what to do when someone has a seizure. When individuals from the Epilepsy Foundation come by to see your office on April 3, tell them that you are getting Seizure Smart and offer your support to House Resolution 298.

#### HONORING JUSTIN VANHOOSE

##### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Justin VanHoose of the Kirksville High School Wrestling team for winning the Class 2 Missouri State Wrestling Championship in the 138-pound weight class.

Mr. VanHoose and his coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and for bringing home the state title in the Class 2 138-pound weight class to his school and community. This win places him in a short, elite list of only 21 other Missouri wrestlers to have ever won four state titles.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. VanHoose for a job well done!

#### RECOGNIZING THE BILLINGS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

##### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the young gentlemen of the Billings Wildcats Boys Basketball Team for winning the Missouri Class 2 State Championship.

The Wildcats have a philosophy built around teamwork and a desire to be champions. These talented young men, Kaleb Harter, Connor Jenisch, Nathan Blades, Brady Chastain, Austin Essick, Chad Yeokum, Dawson Meyer, Lane Truman, Sawyer Hawkins, and Seth Haggerman are the true definition of a team. Through their hard work and dedication they won the Missouri Class 2 State Championship.

Coach Kendall Tilley and his talented coaching staff should be proud of their accomplishment in guiding such a phenomenal group of young men. I commend them all on a job well done.

The Wildcats had a wild final with their opponent rallying multiple times, but Billings held