

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

fast and came out on top. In the end, the Wildcats refused to lose. They ended with a 29 3 record.

The Billings community is justifiably proud of the extraordinary group of young and talented future leaders on the Wildcats Basketball Team.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Billings Wildcats Basketball Team, the Missouri Class 2 State Champions.

HONORING ATTORNEY EDWARD BLACKMON, JR. FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY

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 a remarkable public servant, Attorney Edward Blackmon, Jr. Attorney Blackmon was born and raised in Canton, Mississippi. He is a graduate of Tougaloo College, where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He received his Juris Doctorate from the George Washington University Law Center in Washington, DC in 1973.

Shortly after completing George Washington University, Attorney Blackmon began practicing law in Mississippi at the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services in Greenwood, Mississippi. Attorney Blackmon remained with North Mississippi Rural Legal Services until 1974 when he entered into private practice in Canton, Mississippi with the Law Firm of Blackmon & Smith. In 1989, Attorney Blackmon and his wife, Attorney Barbara Blackmon, formed the Law Firm of Blackmon & Blackmon in Canton where he currently serves as the firm's Senior Partner.

Attorney Blackmon has extensive experience in personal injury, products liability and defense law. His clientele reads like a "Who's Who" among corporate America. Attorney Blackmon has defended some of the nation's top corporate companies in civil litigation, and obtained hundreds of millions of dollars in civil awards for damages on behalf of his clients.

Attorney Blackmon also has lengthy experience in criminal law defense as well. During a 20 year period involving more than 50 defense trials, Attorney Blackmon excelled without losing a single case.

He is a 24 year member of the Mississippi House of Representatives, where he previously served as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. In other capacities, he has served as Chairman of the Legislative Black Mississippi State House of Representatives Caucus, President of the Magnolia Bar Association, and is currently serving as a member of the Tougaloo College Board of Trustees, in addition to the George Washington University School of Law Board of Advisors.

In 2002 Attorney Blackmon was named by the National Law Journal as one of the Nations Top 10 Litigators. Among his many achievements in his role as a public servant, Attorney Blackmon is most proud of his work as a State Legislator. He has led redistricting efforts that led to the reapportionment of legislative and judicial districts which increased the number of minority representation in each of those offices.

Attorney Blackmon and his wife, Attorney Barbara Blackmon, are celebrated for their philanthropic services in the area of education. They have made substantial financial contributions to their alma maters, Tougaloo College and Jackson State University, in addition to a number of other institutions and individual students seeking to advance themselves through higher education. Attorney Blackmon is a member of the Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and is the father of four children, Janessa, Madison, Bradford and Stephen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Attorney Blackmon for his dedication and service to the state of Mississippi.

CELEBRATING GLADYS WILLIAMS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Ms. Gladys L. Williams of East Moline, Illinois on a momentous milestone, her 100th birthday, which will be on April 15, 2012.

Born in Kansas on April 15, 1912, the very day the Titanic sank, Gladys grew up to be tough, but a dedicated and wonderful mother whose kids always knew she had their backs. Along with her husband A.H. and her three children, Gladys moved around the country more than 30 times over the years due to her husband's job with the Rock Island Railroad. The family moved in and out of the Quad Cities nearly a dozen times until they finally made Moline home in 1954, around the time A.H. was named General Manager.

Gladys and her family have been active in Moline's First Baptist Church, and she worked in an area high school's cafeteria before eventually relocating to East Moline 16 years ago. Her family did the math recently, and determined that Gladys has been blessed with 17 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, and 21 great-great-grandchildren.

East Moline Mayor John Thodos declared April 15th, 2012 "Gladys Williams Day" in honor of this remarkable woman. Mr. Speaker and my distinguished colleagues, I respectfully ask that you join me in wishing Gladys a very happy 100th birthday, and the best as she celebrates this joyous occasion with her friends and many members of her family.

COMMEMORATING BELARUSAN INDEPENDENCE DAY BY FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN BELARUS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, March 25, Belarusian-Americans commemorated Belarusian Independence Day. On that date in 1918, during World War I, the Belarusian National Republic was declared. Although independence was short-lived and Belarus forcibly subjected to Soviet rule, it did mark an historically significant milestone in the

aspirations of the Belarusian people for freedom and their own unique identity.

While Belarus became independent in 1991 with the dissolution of the Soviet Union, this independence today is under threat thanks to the dictatorial rule of Alexander Lukashenko, who has relentlessly squelched dissent, strangled democratic institutions and the rule of law, stifled human rights and political liberties, and refused to reform the Soviet-type state-dominated economy. This has made Belarus dangerously vulnerable to Russian influence and has greatly weakened its prospects for integration into the European family of nations.

The brutal crackdown that began 15 months ago with the fraudulent December 19, 2010 election persists. Its most recent manifestation is the barring of numerous opposition leaders, human rights activists and independent journalists from traveling abroad—yet another in a litany of violations of Belarus' OSCE commitments. Especially egregious is the continued imprisonment of democratic opposition leaders and activists, and human rights defenders Andrei Sannikau, Mikalai Statekevich, Zmitser Bandarenka, Ales Byalyatski, Syarhei Kavalenka, Zmitser Dashkevich, Pavel Seviarynets, and others, many of whom face inhumane conditions in detention. I'd like to add my voice to those of countless Belarusians and Belarusian-Americans calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners in Belarus.

Mr. Speaker, in January the President signed into law the Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2011, which I authored. This law strengthens, in view of Lukashenko's crackdown, two earlier laws I wrote promoting democracy and supporting the Belarusian people in their struggle to replace the Lukashenko dictatorship with a representative government that will respect human rights and democratic values. But Congress's efforts on behalf of the Belarusian people can't end there—I'd like to ask my colleagues to continue to raise Belarusian human rights issues with the administration, with foreign parliamentarians, and, whenever we encounter them, with officials of the Lukashenko dictatorship.

HONORING MAYOR RUDY GIULIANI

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I have great admiration for Mayor Rudy Giuliani. He is a courageous American leader who speaks with authority when it comes to the safety and security of the American people. On Saturday, March 24, 2012, on the occasion of the Iranian New Year, Nowrouz, Mayor Giuliani addressed a conference in Paris attended by nearly 1,000 people to discuss ways to counter the Iranian threat and standing with the people of Iran and their organized opposition.

His remarks are crucial since they were preceded just a few days before by a campaign by unidentified U.S. Government officials who wanted to silence him and other senior former U.S. Government officials who had called for regime change in Iran and support for the Iranian opposition. Mayor Giuliani was flanked by other former officials including Attorney General Michael Mukasey, Homeland Security