

Gordon Tsai is a junior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

The United States is a relatively young and unique country. It was only about two hundred years ago we entered the throes of revolution and asserted our independence. As a country, we tend to forget the principles that were fought for and won on that fateful day. This American Revolution was fought for freedom, especially the freedom to vote and/or run for public office.

The value of independence and freedom has almost been lost upon our current people. Ironically, we have a large population of people who don't necessarily even pay attention to or understand politics and current affairs. They live in their small bubble of influence within work, friends, and maybe a community church. This kind of American citizen is definitely not the right one. It is our duty as citizens to vote and uphold the practice of choosing our leaders that was fought for back then two hundred years ago. This country's citizens have almost come to take freedom for granted. In modern day, the average man is protected on many levels by various forms of legislation that ensures their basic human rights. Some would even argue that the United States grants too much freedom as in the controversial case of the gun law. We have become an ungrateful country. Even recently, we can see in the Arab Spring that the value of freedom and independence are worth dying. In the countries of Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and currently Syria, people are and have been willing to die for the slight possibility of a free independent process for choosing their leaders. And around the world, other elections are plagued by bribery and corruption with country leaders serving multiple terms that exceed the limit set upon by their constitution. When observed realistically, the American election process and atmosphere is almost a dream. So why won't the citizens of the United States fulfill their responsibilities as a nation and assert the privilege that is voting? It is clear that around the world many people are willing to die for this chance to play their tiny part in the direction and leadership of their country.

It is apparent that many people in the United States don't ever vote. Even my mom waives this right that I would jump at a chance to have. This decision, however small it is individually, on the next leader of the United States is not one to be taken lightly. We are playing our small part in deciding the direction and future of the most influential country in the world. In this light, voting should be unprecedented honor, not an annoyance which the average citizen should fulfill.

HONORING DR. GEORGE ALVIN
"G.A." JOHNSON FOR HIS PUBLIC
SERVICE AND ADVOCACY TO THE
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable civil rights advocate and public servant, Dr. George Alvin "G.A." Johnson. Dr. Johnson earned his Doctorate of Divinity in 1979 from the Trinity Church Association in Shreveport, Louisiana.

He was born in Massies Mill, Virginia to the parents of Samuel and Virginia Johnson on

January 29, 1944. In 1963, after moving from Massies Mill to Washington, D.C. he stood on the grounds of the Lincoln Memorial to hear Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. deliver his "I Have a Dream" speech. As a young nineteen year old with an impressionable mind, Dr. King's speech became a defining moment in Dr. Johnson's life.

In 1970, seven years after Dr. King's infamous "I Have a Dream" speech, Johnson moved to Rolling Fork, Mississippi to take an active part in the civil rights movement. His first active role was in a position that was both admired and feared as becoming President of the Voter's League in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. As President, Dr. Johnson began to experience the indoctrination practices of the "traditions of the south."

After leaving his position as the President of the Voter's League in Rolling Fork, he took a position as manager of "Freedom Village." "Freedom Village" was one of the many strike cities that began emerging throughout Mississippi, as African Americans walked off plantations in protest of Jim Crow laws and unfair sharecropping practices. Dr. Johnson was also manager of one of the first self-help housing projects in the Mississippi Delta.

In 1971 Dr. Johnson moved to Greenville, Mississippi and became active in Delta Ministries sponsored by the Council of Churches of New York, New York. In 1976, he extended his ministry to television airing on WABG Channel 6 in Greenwood for 27 years. In 1988, Dr. Johnson founded GAIN, INC. (Goals, Aims, Intention Network) which stemmed from his prison ministry at the Mississippi State Penitentiary, known as Parchman Farm located in Sunflower County, Mississippi. He now resides in Charleson, Mississippi where he continues to be an advocate for children, the poor, the disadvantaged, and the displaced.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. George Alvin Johnson for his dedication and service as a civil rights advocate and pioneer during the 1960s civil rights movement in the great state of Mississippi.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW
HAVEN LIONS CLUB ON THE
CELEBRATION OF THEIR 90TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my very best wishes to the members of the New Haven Lions Club as they gather to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of this extraordinary community organization. Over the course of its history, the New Haven Lions Club has enabled its members to contribute to our community in a positive and meaningful way. Indeed, in the last century, members of the New Haven Lions Club have helped to shape the very character of our community.

Founded in February of 1922, the New Haven Lions Club was only the second such club started in New England. From the very beginning, member's work in the community concentrated on assistance to local blind per-

sons and underprivileged children. In its earliest years, Lions would repair radios for the blind and transport them to and from local meetings as well as donate dinners and presents to needy families during the holidays. Over time, the Lions club has expanded both its membership and its activities on behalf of those in need.

Today, the New Haven Lions Club can be very proud of the two very special Service Projects it supports on an on-going basis. The first is Camp Cedarcrest, a forty-two acre facility located in Orange, Connecticut that began its operations in 1928. The New Haven Lions have partnered with four other service organizations—the Kiwanis, Proboscis, Quota and Rotary Clubs—who own the grounds and buildings, set policy, and provide capital improvements. In partnership with the New Haven Department of Parks and Recreation which provides a resident Ranger as well as organizes and supervises day camping and other activities, Camp Cedarcrest is available for recreation to thousands of young people and adults each summer season. In addition to the substantial financial support provided by the Club, over the years, New Haven Lions have contributed hundreds of hours of voluntary labor to ensure the upkeep of the grounds. The second service project to which the New Haven Lions have dedicated themselves is the One-To-One Program. This project, which is organized as a hands-on personal involvement of one Lion and one blind person, was first established in 1975 and has been a great success ever since.

In addition to these two service projects, the Lions also give back to the community by supporting Leo Clubs in local schools, volunteering their time and energies to other local service organizations like the Salvation Army and the Special Olympics, and providing scholarships to young people beginning their collegiate studies. In fact, as of their annual report last year, the New Haven Lions Club had spent in excess of \$750,000 to assist the less fortunate—all of which was raised by members.

The New Haven Lions have had an extraordinary impact on our community and we cannot thank them enough for all of their good work. As they celebrate their 90th anniversary, I am proud to stand to congratulate them on this remarkable milestone and to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to members past and present for their outstanding efforts on behalf of our community. I have no doubt that they will continue to do so for many more years to come.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 33RD
ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN
RELATIONS ACT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Since the end of World War II, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship that has been of enormous strategic and economic benefit to both countries. When the United States shifted diplomatic relations

from Taiwan to the People's Republic of China in January 1979, Congress moved quickly to pass the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) to ensure that the United States would continue its robust engagement with Taiwan in the areas of commerce, culture, and security cooperation. With President Carter's signature on April 10, 1979, this important and lasting piece of legislation became the Law of the Land and served as the statutory basis for U.S.-Taiwan relations going forward.

After 33 years, the TRA still stands as a model of congressional leadership in the history of our foreign relation, and, together with the 1982 "Six Assurances," it remains the cornerstone of a very mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Taiwan. Through three decades marked by momentous social, economic, and political transformations, Taiwan has remained a trusted ally of the United States that now shares with us the ideals of freedom, democracy and self-determination. The foresight of the TRA's drafters in providing that "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services . . . to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability," and affirming "the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan" as explicit objectives of the United States, has contributed in large measure to make Taiwan what it is today—a vibrant, open society governed by democratic institutions.

Though the people of Taiwan now enjoy fundamental human rights and civil liberties, they continue to live day after day under the ominous shadow cast by over 1400 short and medium-range ballistic missiles that the People's Republic of China (PRC) has aimed at them. The PRC persists in claiming Taiwan as a 'renegade province,' refusing to renounce the use of force to prevent formal de jure independence, even codifying its right to military action via passage of the so-called "Anti-Secession Law" on March 14, 2005. The United States Congress strongly condemned the "Anti-Secession Law" in House Concurrent Resolution 98, passed on March 16, 2005.

The TRA affirmed that the United States' decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means. Furthermore, it stipulates that it is the policy of the United States "to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means . . . a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States." The unambiguous and principled stance contained in these provisions has been instrumental to the maintenance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait for more than thirty years, in spite of the growing military threat posed by the PRC.

I therefore invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 33rd anniversary of the TRA, to further underline our unwavering commitment to the TRA and our support for the strong and deepening relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HILLEL HONOREE FREDERICK LIPPMAN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Frederick Lippman, whose more than two decades as a pharmacist and community leader have had a monumental impact on students, medical professionals, academics, and the underserved in South Florida. I applaud his long career of service, and I am honored to represent him in Washington.

Frederick Lippman has served the people of South Florida as a pharmacist for over 20 years, but his contributions to our community reach far beyond the scope of daily patient care. Dr. Lippman served in the Florida House of Representatives for two decades, during which time he was a strong advocate for increasing educational opportunities and expanding health care access, particularly for children. His numerous awards and accolades include being named "Outstanding Health Services Person of South Florida" in 1995 by the University's Institute of Health Policy and Administration, "Child Advocate of the Year" in 1996 by the Florida Pediatric Society, and "Outstanding Advocate" in 1997 by the Institute of Holocaust Documentation at Florida International University for his leadership in adopting Holocaust educational curricula in the state of Florida.

In 1985, Dr. Lippman was instrumental in helping to create the State of Florida's Area Health Education Center Program (AHEC), which improved the supply and distribution of primary health providers in rural and urban areas by creating partnerships with academic health centers. And as the current Chancellor of the Health Professions Division of Nova Southeastern University, Dr. Lippman has helped the university develop a strong research infrastructure, which has led to an increase in funding, and broader opportunities for undergraduate researchers.

Dr. Lippman's work has undoubtedly made South Florida a place where families can grow and thrive. It is an honor to represent him the United States Congress, and I look forward to his continued good work for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF TYLER'S LIGHT FOR ITS CONTINUED DRUG AWARENESS EFFORTS

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Tyler's Light. I am honored to recognize Tyler's Light for its continued drug awareness efforts throughout Pickerington and Fairfield County, Ohio.

Tyler's Light was formed after the tragic and untimely passing of Tyler Campbell. Tyler was known for the way his blue eyes and infectious smile lit up a room. Tyler was very athletic and loved being outdoors where he would ride bikes, fish, and play various other sports. In just 23 years for life, Tyler managed to fulfill

many of his lifelong dreams such as playing Division 1 High School Football at Pickerington North and college football at the University of Akron.

Pickerington and all of Fairfield County need to be aware of the current drug epidemic and are in need of education about how drug addiction is breaking families apart. Thus, the objective of Tyler's Light is to educate students, families, and communities about the dangers and consequences of drug usage. Tyler's Light has been very effective and in just months has gained the attention of Fairfield County residents and others that are concerned about the increasing drug abuse issues facing our communities.

Thus, with great pride, I recognize Tyler's Light for the positive impact it is making in the community and I would like to extend best wishes for the future.

HONORING THE ROCK BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL LADY BRUINS SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rock Bridge High School Lady Bruins Swimming and Diving team on its Missouri State Championship.

The young women and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work and dedication throughout the regular season. The team went on to give the school's swimming and diving program its best showing since the team's 2008 sixth-place finish. Rock Bridge High School athletic teams have had a huge winning tradition this year.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Rock Bridge High School Lady Bruins for a job well done!

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month is dedicated to raising awareness about the prevalence of child abuse and neglect as well as spreading knowledge on how to recognize and prevent its occurrence.

Every child has the right to live in a safe and healthy home. Together, we can ensure that right by providing support for parents, recognizing the signs of abuse, and educating community members about the issue.

Mr. Speaker, child abuse is defined as an act or failure to act which presents imminent risk of serious harm. It includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse as well as neglect. Child abuse occurs in every community and every district. It is reported at all socioeconomic and education levels and across cultural, ethnic, and religious lines. In 2010, there were 3.3 million referrals to Child Protective Services, involving 5.9 million children. In