

the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Other notable speakers include Bill Clinton, Theodore Roosevelt, Geraldine Ferraro, W.E.B. DuBois, Sandra Day O'Connor, Cesar Chavez, Rosa Parks, Henry Kissinger and Ken Burns.

The City Club of Cleveland is celebrating its centennial year with several events. On May 18, 2012, Ted Turner will receive the Citadel of Free Speech Award. The City Club of Cleveland is also hosting an Anniversary Essay Contest, Encore Speakers Series and Centennial Gala Celebration this fall.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the City Club of Cleveland.

NATIONAL MARROW DONOR REGISTRY TODAY SURPASSES 10 MILLION VOLUNTEERS READY TO GIVE THE LIVING GIFT OF LIFE

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues some good news about a life-saving program begun by this House 25 years ago. The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), now publicly known as Be The Match, marks another major milestone today as it has signed up its 10 millionth potential volunteer bone marrow donor on its Be The Match Registry®.

With a small appropriation of funds in 1986, the National Marrow Donor Program began to recruit potential bone marrow donors in the Fall of 1987. The registry started with a list of 10,000 volunteers who had signed up at small bake sales and community events all over the country with the hope that their donation of bone marrow would save the life of a man, woman or child with leukemia or any one of 60 otherwise fatal blood disorders.

With the odds of finding a matched, unrelated marrow donor at greater than 20,000 to one, federal support was required to establish a registry large and diverse enough to find donors for patients in need of a second chance at life. Today, the Be The Match Registry is the largest and most diverse listing of potential marrow donors and cord blood units in the world and has direct relationships with registries in 37 other nations.

Because of the committed volunteer registry members, Be The Match has facilitated more than 50,000 transplants for patients with leukemia, lymphoma and other life-threatening diseases over these past 25 years. Half of the 50,000 procedures facilitated by Be The Match were performed in the last five years alone—demonstrating the great momentum behind transplant therapy. By 2015, Be The Match plans to double the number of transplants it facilitates annually, to more than 10,000.

Today, Be The Match continues to grow to meet the needs of patients whose best—and often only—hope for a cure is a marrow or cord blood transplant. Each of the 10,000,000 volunteers, and every additional member of the registry we recruit, represents hope to the thousands of patients who search for a match every year.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate and thank all of the members of this House who

have been a partner with me in establishing this modern miracle of a program that has given hope to thousands of families here in the United States and all around the world. And I invite all of my colleagues to join me in commending the NMDP and Be The Match for recruiting 10 million registry members in every Congressional District, and for the dedication of its staff members and thousands of volunteers to the noblest of causes to save the life of another person.

RECOGNIZING THE 2012 RECIPIENTS OF THE MCGOWAN COURAGE AWARD

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share positive stories about young people from Ohio's Fourth Congressional District who overcome adversity. Today, I am pleased to share the stories of seven such individuals.

Alex Armstrong, Clear Fork High School. Alex refuses to allow Asperger's Syndrome to get in the way of pursuing his passion for music. He is a field commander for Clear Fork's marching band, participates in the stage and concert bands, and plays the organ at his church. Alex's leading roles in National Honor Society, the French Club, and the Tech Team are an inspiration to his teachers, who attest to his hard work and friendliness.

Katie Cabrera, Crestview High School. Challenged by family circumstances that have forced her to take control of her own health care decisions, Katie has the respect and admiration of her teachers and school staff for the responsibility she shows in dealing with diabetes. Her confidence, courage, and independence are a model to young people and adults alike. Katie plans to attend college after graduation.

Emily York, Lexington High School. A devastating motorcycle accident four years ago left Emily with third-degree burns over most of her body. She has endured multiple surgeries, skin grafts, and a serious leg infection resulting in amputation. After spending more than 18 months away from home in hospitals, Emily has returned to school, where her dedication is a model to her fellow students. She plans to study art therapy.

Mercedes Sawyer, Madison Comprehensive High School. Mercedes has suffered strokes and seizures caused by a rare and untreatable mitochondrial disease. She has fought this disease with diet changes and regular exercise, which has boosted her energy level and allowed her to participate in soccer, swimming, and track. A volunteer with the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation, she will attend the University of Iowa this fall.

Travon Slaughter, Mansfield Senior High School. Coping with chronic pain and muscular atrophy caused by a stroke he suffered in the womb, Travon's positive attitude and sense of humor have won him the admiration of his teachers and fellow students. He entered the Early Childhood Career Tech Program, has worked at Madison Early Childhood Learning Center, and has plans to start his own daycare center.

Claire Engelken, Ontario High School. Claire has earned the respect of her peers and teachers for the way she has dealt with Asperger's Syndrome and scoliosis. Her passion for planning and for improving her communication skills continues to be an asset to her in her schoolwork. Claire has worked with the Pathway Program and wants to further develop her love of animals by working in an animal shelter or veterinary office after graduation.

Caitlyn James, St. Peter's High School. Caitlyn will not allow the challenges she faces at home to overwhelm her positive spirit, strong faith, and commitment to fight injustices. She recently made a presentation at a child abuse prevention awareness event that she coordinated at St. Peter's. Caitlyn plans to continue her selfless service to others following graduation and is considering serving in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, the Rotary Club of Mansfield, Ohio, will present these seven students with the McGowan Courage Award today. I am proud to join the Rotary in acknowledging their significant achievements and wishing them continued success in their lives.

IN HONOR OF POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY, 2012

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Poles, Polish-Americans on the occasion of Polish Constitution Day.

Polish Constitution Day is a day when people of all cultures join with the people of Poland to celebrate the rich culture, traditions and history of Poland. After almost five centuries of struggle and perseverance, the Governmental Statute of Poland became the first written constitution in Europe on May 3, 1791. The Polish Constitution established the separation of government powers, freedom of religion, and abolished elements of serfdom, all of these are key elements of freedom and democracy.

The Polish American Congress strives to make Americans of Polish heritage more successful and involved U.S. citizens by encouraging them to assume the responsibilities of leadership. Since its foundation over sixty years ago, the group has created programs to successfully integrate people of Polish decent in the U.S. and enrich Cleveland's social fabric. These programs include the Displaced Persons Program, which allowed almost 150,000 Polish immigrants to enter the U.S. after World War Two. The group also won American veterans benefits for Polish Veterans of both World War One and World War Two. The Polish American Congress has played a crucial role in the Polish Community, and in its many years of support and service has been an invaluable contribution to the City of Cleveland and this nation.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me today, Polish Constitution Day, in honoring the struggles, courage and triumphs of the people of Poland and honoring all people of Polish descent. Through their successive struggles for freedom, the people of Poland have given the world hope.

INTEREST RATE REDUCTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 4628, which places partisan politics ahead of America's students and the health of Minnesota communities.

If Congress does not act by July 1, interest rates on student loans will double for 7 million American students. This is a financial crisis for these students and their families, who will be forced to pay an additional \$1000 this year in loan repayment costs. America's college students are already graduating with an average debt burden of \$25,000—higher than any time in our nation's history. President Obama and Democrats in Congress are committed to lowering the costs of college and have introduced legislation to block this impending rate increase.

For months, Republicans in Congress have completely ignored this problem. The fiscal year 2013 budget that House Republicans adopted in March did not include a fix for skyrocketing student loan rate increase, but it did provide millionaires and billionaires an average tax cut of \$400,000. The Republican Chairman of the House Education and Workforce Committee—my colleague from Minnesota—opposed extending the current low interest rate as recently as last week. On April 20, The New York Times reported Chairman KLINE saying a fix would be “too costly” and that “we must choose between allowing interest rates to rise or piling billions of dollars on the backs of taxpayers.”

Thankfully, House Republicans ended their opposition to lower student loan rates this week under pressure from President Obama and millions of American students. The majority introduced H.R. 4628 to extend the current 3.4 percent interest rate on federal Stafford loans for an additional year at a cost of \$6.3 billion. Unfortunately, House Republicans are cynically choosing to offset the costs of H.R. 4628 by repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund created by the new health care reform law. Cutting health care for millions of Americans to prevent rising student loan rates is an unacceptable and unnecessary choice.

Minnesota communities rely on this Fund to pay for cancer detection, childhood immunizations, newborn screening and other critical health care services that help to keep our communities healthy and save our country billions in long-term health care costs. Women in Minnesota will be disproportionately impacted due to the loss of access to services such as breast and cervical cancer screening. Nearly 800 community organizations across the country oppose H.R. 4628 because of these damaging cuts, including the American Lung Association, American Heart Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, the Association of Maternal and Child Health, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials. The White House opposes H.R. 4628 and told the House Republican majority to expect a veto from President Obama. This partisan legislation will only further delay a solution for students.

Democrats in Congress have a plan to protect students against rising loan costs without

adding to deficits or harming communities. I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 4816, which prevents the doubling of interest rates on student loans and offsets the costs by eliminating wasteful taxpayer subsidies for the five biggest oil corporations that are making record profits. This legislation is a win for students and a win for American taxpayers. H.R. 4816 reflects the priorities of the American people and creates a path for bipartisan consensus.

I urge my colleges to reject H.R. 4628 and, instead, pass the common-sense alternative offered by House Democrats.

WILLIAM DIGIGLIO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate William Digiglio who scored a one hundred percent on the 2012 National Financial Capabilities Challenge.

The National Financial Capabilities Challenge is annually administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Department of Education. The challenge is designed to increase the financial knowledge and capability of high school students across the United States.

This year, 80,024 students took the test and Pennsylvania had the highest number of participating schools and educators. In addition, Pennsylvania had the highest number of students who scored in the top 20th percentile in the nation and ranked as the fourth highest state with students who scored a one hundred percent on the test.

Mr. Speaker, financial capability empowers individuals to make informed choices, avoid pitfalls and take other actions to improve their present and long-term financial well-being. Today, I commend William Digiglio for his hard work and dedication to taking control of his financial future, which is evident in his accomplishment.

IN CELEBRATION OF ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY,
2012

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Day 2012 and to celebrate the many cultural and societal contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities throughout Northeast Ohio.

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the numerous achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders throughout Northeast Ohio and across the nation. Cultural diversity is a foundation of our community and it has allowed our residents to experience traditions from around the world.

The heritage of Asian Americans has been preserved and reflected by each generation. It shows the spirit, hope and courage of all of our ancestors who braved treacherous jour-

neys along the road to freedom and opportunity in America.

This year's celebration will take place at Cleveland City Hall Rotunda and feature Mayor Frank Jackson, Ms. Margaret W. Wong, and Mr. Blaine A. Griffin, the Director of Community Relations Board.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Day and honoring the contributions of all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our Greater Cleveland community.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT
NORTHERN COLORADO

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the occasion of Honor Flight Northern Colorado's eighth flight to Washington, D.C. bringing Veterans of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam to see their memorials. On behalf of a grateful delegation, state, and country, we welcome these heroes.

The 122 Veterans on this flight include 48 from the Korea conflict, and 8 Purple Heart recipients from the Vietnam War. The Honor Flight program, founded in 2005, was intended to first honor all WWII Veterans that could make the trips, but then to afford the same to those from the Korea and Vietnam eras. We are, this day, honoring those Veterans from Korea (the Forgotten War) and Vietnam, our longest conflict in modern times, as they get to see their memorials. These trips are provided to our Veterans at no cost to them or their families.

The fact that these soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen would uproot themselves from their homes and families and put themselves in harm's way for our country is very humbling. The sacrifices they—and the families they left behind—made are truly incredible. The debt of gratitude we owe them can never be repaid, for without their honor, courage, commitment, and above all—sacrifice we would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Please join me in thanking Charles Agnew, Lewis Ashcraft, Robert Barnd, Eugene Bonkiewicz, Carson Bright, Frank Brown, Wayne Bullock, William Castor, Lowell Dart, Donald Draxler, Robert Duntsch, Jose Duran, Joseph Edwards, George Emerick, Jack Endacott, Marvin Fowler, Robert Gillham, Warren Garst, Joseph Graham, William Hampton, Walter Hayword, Roland Kaiser, Willis Kramer, Victor Lazar, David Leon, Verne Lewellen, Harry Livingston, Mary Livingston, Gilbert Lopez, Russell Mam, W. Dennis McHenry, Raymond Mega, Gerald Monroe, Donald Morrison, Bernard Nettesheim, Reynolds Olson, Homer Phillips Jr., Richard Porter, Marion Raines, James Rauenbuehler, Frederick Reck, Gilbert Rohde, Walter Sapp, Henry Schmitt Jr., John Shedd, Alan Schultes, Bill Shupe, Waldo Smith, Charles Smoot, Fredrick Stein, William Stromberg Sr., Gene Thorson, Clyde Treadway, Theodore Wahler, Arthur Wartburg, Crowell Werner, James White, Robert Williams, Evans Woodhouse, Darryl Anderson, Raymond Anderson, Donald Armagost, James Ball, Eugene Ball, Harry Ball, Leslie Brumley,