

countless scientific advancements. To millions, it brought hope for a future in space exploration, for landing a man on the moon proved that there are no limits on the reaches of human imagination. Indeed, Armstrong spoke prophetically about this “giant leap for mankind.” The moon landing forever changed our outlook on the world and the possibilities it holds.

The members of the *Apollo 11* mission were pioneers, brave people who dared to push the frontiers of human knowledge and existence. The same adventurous spirit that resulted in the discovery of America, a new world, over five hundred years ago carried American explorers to the moon. In history, Americans have always taken the initiative to boldly navigate the unknown. Today, we look back at the moon landing and marvel at where our dreams were able to take us. In five hundred years, who knows what more we will have accomplished? The possibilities are endless.

So, what does the moon landing mean for America now? Recently, Time magazine reported that over six thousand applications for the next astronaut class were submitted, “the most since 1978.” Clearly, American interest in space exploration is as enthusiastic as ever. In today’s age of rapid technological improvements, America’s continued leadership in space is certainly possible. Together, let’s look forward to a future of turning dreams into realities.

Madison Weaver is a senior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Government is defined as the political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens, or inhabitants of communities, societies, and states. In other words, the government is the ultimate source of authority in our country. However, I believe that this power should be used with restraint. I also believe that government should focus on protecting the people, instead of controlling the people.

Helping secure jobs and keeping companies in business is something the U.S. government has been promoting heavily in the past few years. With the passing of the ‘bail-out’ bill, numerous corporations, that would have otherwise failed, were saved by the government’s decision to give them enough money in order to stay afloat. Consequently, millions of people were able to keep their jobs. But what does that say about our government? Is it humanitarian that our government reacts in order to save those companies and jobs? No, in fact this shows that our government is pushing forth its own agenda of what will be produced in America. The fine line between government protecting and controlling is the difference in outcome. Protecting, will ultimately promote a healthier economy; while controlling, will produce quicker results, yet negative, long-term effects. For instance, by giving money to banks that made numerous bad loans, was essentially saying that it was ‘ok’ to make bad business decisions. Also, by giving money to the auto industry, was essentially saying that it was ‘ok’ to make products that people didn’t want. Yes, the government was able to save many businesses, and countless jobs; but do we want failed businesses to operate in America? The answer is, ‘no’!

Instead of looking at every business failure as a sign of weakness of the government, we need to see to the failures and embrace them too. Without the fear of failure, there is no drive for success. Therefore, we need to have failures, recessions, and yes, even job losses in order to drive people to succeed and make our country better. I believe that the government has done us more harm than good in attempting to control the recession. By step-

ping back and letting the business cycle run its course, only then can government truly guide our country to a more productive America.

MOTORCYCLES AND SCOOTERS AS TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to motorcycles and scooters as transportation options for many Americans.

On May 13, President Obama proclaimed May 15th through May 21st as National Transportation Week. In the proclamation the President recognized that our Nation needs a safer transportation network that will provide more transportation choices. As a Member of the Congressional Motorcycle Safety Caucus I would like to highlight one such choice and point out that two-wheeled vehicles can be transportation options for many Americans.

The Motorcycle Industry Council’s most recent information estimates that 27 million Americans operated a motorcycle in 2009. Much of this use was primarily recreational; however, more and more Americans are choosing to ride to work, school, or to run errands.

In his proclamation the President called for “. . . increased transportation options that cut commuting time, ease traffic congestion, reduce oil consumption and lower greenhouse gas emissions. . .” Motorcycles and scooters are options that can help to meet all of these goals. Motorcycles and scooters also have the advantages of being much cheaper than cars or trucks as well as considerably easier to park—and a lot of fun to ride.

I own a scooter myself and enjoying riding when I have the opportunity to do so. I have also noticed that a majority of riders are in their 40s, 50s, 60s, and even older.

Of course as more Americans choose two wheels we must be ever vigilant in promoting safe and responsible riding. I will take this opportunity once again to encourage all riders to ride responsibly by getting trained and licensed and obeying traffic laws. I would also like to remind all road users to be aware of motorcyclists, particularly as we move into the prime riding season in Tennessee and across the country.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES LOUIS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the educational community are exceptional. The University of California at Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their university, and community, a better place to learn, live and work. Charles Louis, Vice Chancellor for Research at UCR,

is one of these individuals. After eight years of dedicated service, Charles will be retiring from UCR.

Dr. Louis’ biomedical research on the role of calcium as an intracellular signaling molecule, which has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for over 25 years, uses a range of different approaches including cell physiology, molecular biology, biochemistry, cell biology, and biophysics. His current research program focuses on the role of gap junctions in the development of cataracts in the lens of the eye because an elevation in cytosolic calcium concentration which closes these cell-to-cell channels is one of the critical early steps in the development of lens cataract formation. Dr. Louis is Chair of the Executive Committee of the Council of Research Policy and Graduate Education (CRPGE) of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) serving on the Board of Directors of APLU, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Council on Government Relations (COGR); he has served on many peer-review grant committees as well as the boards of biotech industry associations in both Minnesota and Georgia.

Dr. Louis served as Vice President for Research at Georgia State University from 2000–2004, having previously served on the faculty at the University of Minnesota for over 20 years where he held a number of administrative positions that included Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics from 1998–2000 and Assistant Vice President for Research and Associate Dean of the Graduate School from 1994–1998. He previously held faculty appointments at the University of Connecticut Health Center, and Leeds University in England.

Dr. Louis received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, his Doctorate of Philosophy in Biochemistry from Oxford University, and post-doctoral training at Stanford University.

Dr. Louis’ many accomplishments at UCR have included the growth of sponsored funding last year to \$115 million, the establishment of a very successful Office of Technology Commercialization, and the management of the ever-increasing compliance demands that have been placed on universities by the federal government. He led the successful accreditation of UCR’s human research protection program, and has worked on higher education committees of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and of the Council of Government Relations. We have benefited from his advocacy and strong voice for ensuring that UCR receive its fair share of research funding available from UCOP VP Research, and for his excellent working relationships with many UCR faculty that have included the establishment of a number of very successful collaborative research programs with Chinese research institutions.

In light of all Dr. Louis has done for the science community and education it is only fitting that we take a moment to thank him for his life’s work. Dr. Louis’ tireless passion for knowledge, science and education has contributed immensely to academia. Dr. Louis’ contributions to his field will continue to resonate and I know that many individuals are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires and moves on toward the next phase in his life.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU AND THE TAIWANESE PEOPLE

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President Ma Ying-jeou on his re-election to the presidency of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and to wish him well on the auspicious occasion of his second inauguration on May 20, 2012.

I also wish to congratulate the Taiwanese people for the peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections in which they participated on January 14, 2012. The openness, fairness, and transparency with which they conducted their elections are the traditional hallmarks of a mature and democratic country.

Taiwan stands as a beacon of freedom and liberty in East Asia. As one of our closest and most trusted friends in the world, it is my most sincere hope that we never lose sight of our responsibilities to Taiwan under the Taiwanese Relations Act and, additionally, that we always look to the Six Assurances as the proper set of guidelines by which we conduct ourselves in all diplomatic matters relating to the Republic of China.

Again, I wish to express my most heartfelt congratulations to both President Ma and to the Taiwanese people.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF KENNY FOX

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, a lasting democracy is built on an active citizenry; a citizenry that serves, leads, and protects for the greater good of their community. I rise today to honor one such citizen whose life was lived in service to his community and whose noble act of bravery is the model of all who seek to protect and defend.

Decaturville Fire Chief Kenny Fox will be remembered for his loving personality, great sense of humor, devotion to his family, and his heroic actions in the last things. The hour of the morning didn't alter Fox's response. Answering the call to duty, Fox rushed to the Oak Hill Café to protect the business from a raging fire. Pushing his brothers in service out of harm's way, Fox lived out the scriptures' definition of the greatest love as he laid down his life for his friends.

Kenny Fox was an outstanding fire chief, a valuable member of his community, and a loving part of his family. I join with his wife, children, family, community, and fellow firefighters in honoring Kenny's service, dedication, and valiant sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to join with me as we remember Chief Fox for his courage and seek to serve our communities with the same sense of allegiance and purpose.

RECOGNIZING THE 22ND ANNUAL D.C. BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to recognize the 22nd annual D.C. Black Pride celebration in Washington DC, which is taking place on Memorial Day weekend, May 24–28.

D.C. Black Pride 2012 is a multi-day festival featuring: an opening reception; community and town hall meetings; a reception at Madame Tussauds; educational workshops; a poetry slam; a film festival; a church service; performances by musicians, dancers, and other artists. D.C. Black Pride culminates with a Health and Wellness Expo at the Francis-Stevens Educational Campus.

D.C. Black Pride is widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the Nation's Capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

As the very first-ever Black Pride festival, D.C. Black Pride fostered the beginning of the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 35 Black Prides on three continents. Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., the celebration's organizing body, chose "It's A Family Affair" as this year's theme. The theme reflects the connectedness of the Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community and its commitment to fulfilling the mission of D.C. Black Pride, which is to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of African American LGBT communities. Moreover, the theme expresses the resolve of the African-American LGBT community and its allies to come together to: fight for LGBT equality; celebrate their heritage and culture as members of both the Black and LGBT communities; and promote health and wellness for the community.

D.C. Black Pride is led by a volunteer board of directors, which coordinates the annual event and smaller events throughout the year. The 2012 board consists of: George Birdsong; Max Cheatham, Derrick Dunning, Jimma Elliott-Stevens, Earl Fowlkes, Jr., Kenneth Hopson; Kenya Hutton, Danielle King, Marc Morgan, June Spence; and Andrea Woody-Macko.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in welcoming all attending the 22nd annual D.C. Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that the United States citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without voting representation in Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SMALL BUSINESSES IN NEW YORK'S 25TH DISTRICT AND ACROSS OUR NATION

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commend the work that job creators do

to provide services and American jobs in New York's 25th District and across our great Nation.

I want to take this opportunity to draw attention to the efforts of Dr. Rick Plympton, the CEO of Optimax, located in my district in Rochester, New York. Optimax provides innovative technology and manufacturing solutions for the production of precision optics. After over 16 years of work with Optimax, Dr. Plympton has been awarded the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 2012 New York State Small Business Person of the Year award.

I want to congratulate Dr. Plympton on his innovation, hard work and leadership. Thank you for all you contribute to our community and Nation.

HONORING DR. CALVIN MCKINNEY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Calvin McKinney of the Calvary Baptist Church for his unwavering commitment to the development of community and faith in Garfield, New Jersey. I extend my sincerest congratulations to him on the occasion of his June 6, 2012, 40th anniversary of pastoral service to the congregation.

Under the visionary leadership of Pastor McKinney, Calvary has established a reputation for its extraordinary humanitarian efforts. In 1998, the Calvary Community Development Center was established to bridge the economic, social, and political gaps in the community by providing clothing, food, and emergency assistance to those in need. Dr. McKinney's faith further inspired him in 2003 to guide his congregation in the construction of a \$10 million, 1,500 seat sanctuary which includes educational, fellowship, and administrative complexes.

While administering an ever-expanding ministry, Rev. McKinney enjoys a full preaching ministry that has taken him throughout this country, as well as the continents of Africa, Europe, Asia, Central America, and the Caribbean Islands. One of the most memorable moments in his career came during the Centennial Session of his beloved National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. in Birmingham, Alabama where he was honored with the opportunity to preach in 1980.

He served as the youngest Moderator in the history of the North Jersey District Missionary Baptist Association from 1986 to 1990; and served from 1996 through 2000 in an unprecedented tenure as one of the youngest presidents in the history of the 300,000 member General Baptist Convention of New Jersey. Dr. McKinney's exemplary leadership later earned him the title of President Emeritus.

In addition to his role as pastor and a denominational leader in the Baptist Church, Pastor McKinney serves the community in a wide-range of capacities. He presently works on the Governor's staff as Chair of the Commission on Faith-Based Initiatives for the State of New Jersey. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the U.C.C. Day Care Center #100; a trustee of Passaic County