

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 reelection 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 bravely 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

Community College; a board member of the Bergen County Urban League, NJ; an executive board member of the Garfield/Lodi Branch of the NAACP, NJ; and a member of Mt. Zion Lodge #50, F. & A.M. (PHA) of Hackensack, NJ.

He and his wife Brendalyn are the proud parents of three children: Terence Lamar, Gina Lynelle, and Calvin James; and the proud grandparents of Terence Laquan, Timothy Lamar and Mason James.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable work of Dr. Calvin McKinney, whose tireless efforts have touched the lives of the Calvary Baptist faith community and all who live in the Garfield area. I join with the grateful congregants of the Calvary Baptist Church, and all of my constituents in northern New Jersey, in thanking him for his innumerable contributions to the community.

#### RECOGNIZING GREEN LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR 21ST CEN- TURY READINESS

#### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, in order for our students to be competitive in the global economy, we must do our part to ensure that they are acquiring the knowledge and skills they need for success. The skills needed for success go beyond the basics of reading, writing, and math, however. When surveyed, employers continually emphasize that, in our 21st century economy, students need to be adept at critical thinking and problem solving; communication; collaboration; and creativity and innovation, in addition to being proficient in core subjects.

While it's important to talk about these skills, it's even more important to see and recognize where they are being successfully incorporated into educational curriculums at the local level. Green Lake School District, located in Green Lake, Wisconsin, in my congressional district, is doing a lot of innovative work to prepare its students for success in the 21st century economy. Along with officials from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, I recently visited the Green Lake School District to learn about their efforts firsthand.

The School District is home to the state's first 4K–12 International Baccalaureate World program. It stresses rigorous academic programs connected to relevant real-world project-based learning and skills acquisition. The district also recently opened a Global & Environment Academy Charter middle school focused on critical thinking and problem solving skills in a project-based learning environment. The school's focus on interdisciplinary cooperation, global literacy, and creativity will serve its student's well as they prepare to enter the workforce.

It's important that Congress recognize the work that is being done in communities like Green Lake and that we look for ways to support these efforts. For these reasons, Rep. Dave Loebsack and I recently formed the bipartisan Congressional 21st Century Skills Caucus to inform and discuss better ways to promote 21st century skills in our nation's edu-

cational system. I invite all of my colleagues to join our efforts.

#### CONGRATULATING THE DILLARD CENTER FOR THE ARTS JAZZ ENSEMBLE FOR WINNING THE ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON JAZZ BAND COMPETITION AND FES- TIVAL

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz Ensemble of Fort Lauderdale, Florida for their continued achievements and excellence, in winning of the Essentially Ellington Jazz Band Competition and Festival, for two consecutive years.

In addition to these back-to-back championships, the Jazz Ensemble in 2012 also took second place in the "Essentially Ellington" competition. Furthermore, they won first place at the "Swing Central" jazz competition in Savannah, Georgia in both 2011 and 2010.

Unlike many other programs which have ample resources and funding, private donations are scarce to Dillard's Jazz Ensemble. Therefore, these students' achievements go beyond their musical talent but also speak to their dedication to perform and compete through fundraising to support their own program.

This resolve proves there are no limits to the creative spirit of Dillard's Jazz Ensemble and there are no limits to the success that these students can achieve. I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 26 members of the band as well as Jazz Ensemble director Christopher Dorsey, all of which have contributed to this program's continued successes. Members of Dillard's Jazz Ensemble are: Liza Honorat, Shanice Richards, Ben Stocker, Christian Cummings, Markus Howell, Demonn Sands, Johnathan Hainsworth, Kirby Fellis, Cameron Fegers, Jordan Davis, Sam Gellerstein, Max Boiko, Christian Dorsey, Anthony Hervey, Bryan McCall, Armando Zamora, Zach Auslander, Anthony Morrison, Zach McKinney, Charlie Steiner, Sydney Henry, Russell Hall, Sean Blair, Jake Ricke, Akeem Green, and Eric German.

Dillard High School was founded in the early twentieth century with funds from noted philanthropist James Hardy Dillard. The music program at Dillard High School gained fame when the legendary Julian "Cannonball" Adderley served as an instructor of applied music in the 1940s. To this day, the school still focuses on the performing arts and music, serving as a Performing Arts and Technology magnet school in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Both Mr. Dillard and Mr. Adderley would be very proud to see the accomplishments of the program today.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of these young musicians. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors, and wish Dillard's jazz program continued success. It is an honor to give the Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz Ensemble the recognition it rightly deserves.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 2012, I inadvertently voted "aye" on rollcall No. 215. I intended to vote "no," and I ask that the RECORD reflect that I oppose the Huizenga Amendment to H.R. 5326, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

#### IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5801, THE US LEADS ACT

#### HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, the higher education system in the United States is the envy of the world. The universities here are a part of America's backbone, providing young people with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in today's global economy.

However, Mr. Speaker, as the value of a college education has risen, so has the cost of tuition at universities across the country. Nowhere is this truer than in public universities in the state of California where budget cuts, furlough days, and tuition increases have become the new normal.

Average in-State tuition and fees at public 4-year institutions of higher education have risen 8.3 percent between the 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 academic years. The tuition hikes at public universities threaten access to higher education for millions of low and middle-income students who have worked hard in high school and deserve to go to college.

As a result of the increase in tuition at public and private universities, student loan debt now exceeds credit card debt (totaling \$870 billion) and is expected to reach one trillion dollars this year. Students graduating from college between 2006 and 2010 had a median student loan debt of \$20,000.

I am the proud sponsor of H.R. 5801, the Unshackling Students to Lead, Excel, Act, Develop and Succeed Act, or the "U.S. LEADS Act," which will provide student loan debt relief for recent college graduates searching for employment.

The U.S. LEADS Act, would assist recent college graduates who are entering a difficult job market by allowing them to defer payment on their federal student loans without accruing interest when the national unemployment rate exceeds seven percent, or when the unemployment rate for 21–25 year olds exceeds nine percent.

We know that a college education is one of defining markers in determining an individual's economic security. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for the civilian population 25 years and over with at least a bachelor's degree is 4.2% while the rate for individuals with only a high school degree is 10.7%.

Helping young Americans pursue higher education provides them with the most secure pathway to the middle class and is an investment in our country's future. Our economy depends on an educated citizenry to out-compete and out-innovate the rest of the world,