

our proud musical traditions alive, while training up the next generation of Loretta Lynns and Ricky Scaggs. A couple weekends ago, their abilities were on display at the Bluegrass Ball, indulging us with the melodies of Kentucky right here in Washington, DC.

The band includes nationally and internationally acclaimed members, some of them on the distinguished faculty of Morehead State University. They include hit-chart writer and singer Tony Pence, Professor Glenn Ginn on electric guitar, Professor Gordon Towell on Saxophone, Professor Steven Snyder on piano, Danny Cecil on bass, vocalist-favorite Lisa Ginn, and Paul Deatherage on percussion.

It likewise goes without saying that great food is synonymous with the Commonwealth of Kentucky. So, I'm also very pleased to recognize one of our nation's most celebrated chefs, Edward Lee, of Kentucky's famous "610 Magnolia" restaurant, who smartly found his way from New York to the Kentucky Derby and decided to stay. Chef Lee has a huge following as an alumnus of the "Iron Chef of America" and "Top Chef" television programs. One of his favorite foods is fried chicken, and he loves animals, especially horses. A true Kentucky gentleman, he graciously provided an exquisite three-course dinner for the Bluegrass Ball.

I ask the Congress to join me in thanking the band and chef for showcasing their extraordinary talents and participating in the 57th Presidential Inauguration festivities.

#### CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GME SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 4, 2013*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education program was first created in 1999, because there were not nearly enough pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists to serve the children of our country. The program has been overwhelmingly successful, increasing the number of pediatricians by 35 percent. Today, CHGME provides funding to train more than 40 percent of pediatricians in the U.S. However, at current funding levels, we still don't have enough providers to treat the unique needs of children in our country.

I cannot emphasize enough how critical this funding is to stand-alone children's hospitals, such as Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in my Congressional District. We have a responsibility to help train the next generation of pediatricians who will care for our children through the earliest, and often the most critical time of their lives. Under the Affordable Care Act, all Americans will have access to healthcare, but we have to ensure we have an adequate medical workforce to care for them.

I look forward to the passage of CHGME reauthorization in the House, and I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate to see that we move forward with a bill that can swiftly pass both bodies and be sent to the President for his signature.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. MOLLY F. RYAN

**HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of a friend, constituent, and faithful public servant, Ms. Molly F. Ryan of Rouses Point, New York, and to congratulate her on her new endeavor as Manager of Community Outreach at the Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital (CVPH).

Ms. Ryan was one of the first to join my staff when I was elected to Congress in 2009, and for over three years, loyally served constituents of New York's 23rd Congressional District. While running my Plattsburgh District Office, she successfully assisted hundreds of constituents with their casework, and did so each and every day with an uplifting smile and positive attitude. Although her tenure was short, my constituents and the State of New York are fortunate to have benefitted from her commitment to public service.

It has been a pleasure to work with Ms. Ryan, and I look forward to seeing her in Plattsburgh in the years to come. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating her on her new position and wishing her all the best in what is sure to be a long and prosperous career.

#### NONADMITTED AND REINSURANCE REFORM ACT (NRRRA)

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address an important issue regarding the implementation of the Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act (NRRRA). The NRRRA is legislation that I co-authored and was signed into law as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

The NRRRA was drafted with the specific intention of addressing burdensome and often conflicting regulatory and tax compliance issues facing only two industries—the surplus lines and reinsurance. This legislation received bi-partisan support and was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in multiple Congresses. At no point during the bill's multi-year consideration was its application to the captive insurance industry ever discussed.

Unfortunately, several states have indicated that they plan to interpret the NRRRA to also apply to the captive insurance industry. This was not the intent of Congress. In drafting this legislation, it was never contemplated to have the captive industry fall under the NRRRA. In addition, this legislation has been subject to numerous Congressional hearings and has been approved by this body on multiple occasions. At no time was the legislation's application to the captive industry addressed or suggested. Furthermore, in the bill's summary, the intent of this legislation was clearly stated to impact only two specific industries—surplus lines and reinsurance.

Inaccurate and inconsistent interpretations will cause confusion throughout the captive insurance industry. Should regulators implement

this faulty interpretation, captive insurance companies would be subject to additional taxation and regulation—the exact opposite intent of the underlying legislation.

As one of the authors of this legislation, I am committed to ensuring that this title of Dodd-Frank is implemented as Congress intended, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee to address this issue if necessary in the future.

#### RECOGNIZING DAVID OLIKER'S THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate David W. Olikier's 30 years as President and Chief Executive Officer of MVP Health Care. Mr. Olikier has been a successful and steadfast advocate for improved health care and economic prosperity in my Congressional district, but will be retiring during this calendar year.

Through Mr. Olikier's efforts, MVP Health Care has become a leader in the promotion of wellness and health education in our communities as a vehicle to lower health care costs and drive collective well-being. As a non-profit organization, MVP Health Care demonstrates what a truly successful public-private partnership looks like.

Advancing our nation's educational system has also been a priority of Mr. Olikier's. He has served on multiple boards, including the Advisory Council of Union Graduate College and the Albany College of Pharmacy. His hard work has ensured that generations to come will be well prepared for the future.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with Mr. Olikier and I wish him the best in his retirement. The health care system in the Northeast will not be the same without him.

#### CELEBRATING ROSA PARKS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest appreciation for the life, legacy, and actions of Mrs. Rosa Parks on what would have been her 100th birthday.

Our society today, is a far cry from the one into which Mrs. Parks was born. We are now living in a time that is a direct reflection of the efforts of the trailblazers who came before us.

Trailblazers like Rosa Parks, Shirley Chisholm, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Barbara Jordan and Walter Fauntroy whose actions transformed history and paved the way for a brighter future for all of us. Remembering these remarkable trailblazers is just one way to demonstrate not only our appreciation for their efforts but also to ensure that we continue to move forward in society.

While I believe that our fight is not over and that we must continue to address civil rights

issues; I am still in awe of the progress that has been made as the result of decades of work, diligence, sweat and tears of our country's civil rights trailblazers.

One century ago, today, Mrs. Parks was born in Tuskegee, Alabama. As many of you already know, on December 1, 1955 Mrs. Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery city bus.

At that time in our nation's history as an African American woman in Montgomery, Alabama Mrs. Parks was actually risking her life by sitting in a seat that was denied to her because of the color of her skin. Although she knew she risked being beaten, insulted, bullied, and jailed that did not stop her from sitting down in order to stand up against injustice.

The arrest of Mrs. Parks led to the NAACP's boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama bus system. The boycott began on the first day of Mrs. Parks first court hearing on December 5, 1955, and did not end until December 20, 1956. It marks the first of many large-scale demonstrations against segregation.

For 381 consecutive days, men, women, and children stood up against injustice. In lieu of taking the bus, in many instances they elected to walk for miles to work, school, or for errands. Just for a moment envision that amount of dedication and commitment it takes in the hot days of a Alabama summer to opt to walk rather than take the bus for over a year.

Rose Parks by taking a seat was just the public spark needed to bring international attention to the civil rights movement and is in no small measure the genesis for the beginning of desegregation.

Again, because of the fearless actions of women and men, like Rosa Parks, the face of leadership in our nations is now more diverse than at any other point in our nation's history.

This change has been seen here within our own walls as well. Members of Congress are now a stew pot of races, ethnicities, cultures, sexual orientations, religions, and genders. This has only allowed us to have a diversity of perspective and has enabled us to better address the needs of our constituencies. Today, Congress in many ways reflects the America, what we represent.

The actions of Rosa Parks and thousands of other proud Americans and their supporters fueled the civil rights movement that advanced the principles upon which our nation was built. As I have stated before, although, we have come a long way we still have a long way to go. As we honor the life and legacy of Rosa Parks. As we reflect upon those who lost their lives standing up against injustice. As we celebrate what was almost unimaginable in 1955, the second inauguration of our nation's first African American President. We must also look again at our democracy and how in a time when we are making so many steps forward there is still an attempt to limit the votes of Americans. Given the progress that we have made as a result of the civil rights movement it is still incumbent upon each of us to continue to fight for the rights of all Americans. Recently, there have been systematic attempts to limit the rights of Americans to vote. Last year we celebrated the 47th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, amid efforts by certain states to erode the right of Americans.

Today, most Americans take the right to vote for granted. We assume, as citizens of

this fine Nation, that we can register to vote if we are over 18. Most of us learned in school that discrimination based on race, creed or national origin has been barred by the Constitution since the end of the Civil War. We celebrate moments like today, Rosa Parks birthday, that stands as a reminder of our Nation's honored and sometimes troubled past. Yet, at the time Rosa Parks sat down on that bus, the right to vote did not exist in practice for most African Americans. And, until 1975, most American citizens who were not proficient in English faced significant obstacles to voting, because they could not understand the ballot.

Even though the Indian Citizenship Act gave Native Americans the right to vote in 1924, state law determined who could actually vote, which effectively excluded many Native Americans from political participation for decades.

Asian Americans and Asian immigrants also have suffered systematic exclusion from the political process and it has taken a series of reforms, including repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1943, and passage of amendments strengthening the Voting Rights Act three decades later, to fully extend the franchise to Asian Americans.

It was with this history in mind that the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was designed to make the right to vote a reality for all Americans. And the Voting Rights Act has made giant strides toward that goal. Without exaggeration, it has been one of the most effective civil rights laws passed by Congress.

In 1964, there were only approximately 300 African-Americans in public office, including just three in Congress. Few, if any, black elected officials were elected anywhere in the South.

The Voting Rights Act has opened the political process for many of the approximately 6,000 Latino public officials that have been elected and appointed nationwide, including 263 at the State or Federal level, 27 of whom serve in Congress. And Native Americans, Asians and others who have historically encountered harsh barriers to full political participation also have benefited greatly.

We must not forget the importance of protecting this hard-earned right. I believe that the courage that Mrs. Parks displayed throughout her life helped shaped the United States. I believe that the courage she showed that day, changed our society. I believe that it is our duty to honor the Constitution and to honor the civil rights of all those who stand upon our shores. Today, as we celebrate the life of Rosa Parks, we must continue to push forward in ensuring that all those who have a right to a voice in our society have one. The right to vote is the great equalizer, one person—one vote. Yet, there are those who are attempting to impinge that right by requiring the use of Voter ID cards. Now these photo ID proposals have a forceful momentum that have not seen in years past, as part of broader legislative movements to limit access to the political process for disenfranchised groups at a level not seen since post-reconstruction era laws that implemented poll taxes and literacy tests. In just over the first two months of 2011, photo ID proposals were introduced in 32 states and passed out of one legislative chamber in twelve states. Lawmakers across the Nation have pinpointed photo ID as a top legislative priority. The Governor of Texas designated photo ID as a legislative emergency in order to allow it to be procedurally fast-tracked

through the legislature, photo ID proposals were pre-filed before legislative sessions began in half a dozen states, and secretaries of state in a number of states have listed photo ID as a top priority. I was pleased when the Department of Justice took action to stop that flowed piece of legislation.

Photo ID proposals have garnered significant momentum in more than a dozen states and opponents are having difficulty waging effective counterattacks to curb movement on these bills.

The time is now to stand up to protect the rights of the disenfranchised, the elderly, the disabled, and college student access to the right to vote. Now is the time, to remember the courage of those who participated in the bus boycott, recall their willingness to walk in the hot southern sun for over a year to stand up for their belief is justice, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Now is the time to truly honor the life of Rosa Parks, who by sitting down, stood up for justice. We must continue to move forward rather than backwards in this country. We must honor our past by standing up to protect every one's right to vote.

Today I remember Mrs. Parks for her courage and for everything she has done to advance civil rights movement. And to remember that although much progress has been made there remains much more to accomplish.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2009, the day I took office, the national debt was \$10,627,961,295,930.67.

Today, it is \$16,480,910,656,603.96. We've added \$5,852,949,360,673.29 to our debt in 4 years. This is a \$5.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

#### 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK JANUARY

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of a tragic event in the history of the country of Azerbaijan.

On the night of January 19, 1990, Azerbaijan was invaded by thousands of Soviet troops. These troops entered Azerbaijan under the pretext of restoring public order, but with the true aim of ending peaceful demonstrations for independence.

Despite resistance to the Soviet troops by Azerbaijanis, more than 130 Azerbaijani people were killed and hundreds more were wounded or detained indefinitely. This episode came to be known as "Black January," a terrible event that only sharpened the desire for independence among the people of Azerbaijan.