

its 62 years of service. The mission of the United Way of Denton County is to improve lives in Denton County by mobilizing community resources to address the critical issues of education, income, and health in people's everyday lives. The organization's hard work has taken on many challenges from the 90,000 individuals that don't know where their next meal will come from to the high rate of high school dropouts to the more than 8,000 children under the age of 5 that live in poverty.

United Way has built programs to tackle these problems, and it has made a significant difference in the lives of many people in Denton County. They have mobilized volunteers to mentor children, provided effective training for parents and caregivers, and assisted in supplying critical needs, such as food, clothing, and school supplies. Over the past year, through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, 612 Federal Tax returns have been prepared, free of charge, for low income Denton County households. Their work returned over \$1 million to the community and saved families \$137,000 in tax preparation fees. In one day alone, the organization's food bank collected more than 40,000 pounds of food donations. They have also rallied community based and faith based organizations to work together to implement Bank On Denton County, a program to provide cost effective financial services to underserved communities.

All totaled, United Way of Denton County volunteers donated more than 19,200 hours this year, valued at more than \$425,000 to help more than 55,000 people in Denton County. Additionally, donors gave \$2,068,024 to the United Way of Denton County to support its mission this year alone.

The United Way of Denton County has an incredible positive effect on the community. It is my pleasure to recognize its 62 years of service to the community, and I am privileged to represent the United Way of Denton County in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### RECOGNIZING GULFSTREAM STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

#### HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the Gulfstream Student Leadership Program and its exceptional efforts to improve high school graduation rates in Savannah, Georgia. The Gulfstream Student Leadership Program summer trip to Washington provides students with the opportunity to see first-hand the inner workings of our government and gain an appreciation of our nation's history and monuments.

The students that I met last week in the Capitol were rising seniors who had completed three years of the Student Leadership Program. The program went into effect five years ago, and 96 percent of the initial class of 150 students went on to graduate. Currently, eleven local high schools participate in the Student Leadership Program, and the 2012–2013 class includes close to 650 students.

This incredible program is made possible through the efforts of the Gulfstream Community Relations Staff, teachers and community

advisors. I am pleased to recognize the students and teachers that were a part of this year's Student Leadership trip to Washington, and I look forward to working with them in the future.

#### CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN ON SETTING A NEW ATTENDANCE RECORD

#### HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chicago Botanic Garden on setting a new monthly attendance record. In July, the Garden attracted 159,361 people, shattering the previous record by nearly 10,000 visitors. This marks the third consecutive month with more than 100,000 visitors—a streak equaled only twice before.

Since opening its gates 41 years ago, the Botanic Garden has brought joy to hundreds of thousands of people each year. With its fabulously varied grounds, the Chicago Botanic Garden is a natural refuge from the urban environment just outside its walls.

The record-breaking attendance figures are a testament to the Botanic Garden's sustained excellence and prominent position in the community as one of the region's most popular tourist and cultural destinations.

I have visited the Botanic Garden many times with my own family, as have countless other families in our community. Visitors appreciate its beauty, are enriched by its research, and create treasured memories year round.

In its mission to further our understanding of nature and our environment, the Chicago Botanic Garden educates its visitors and the community on the critical importance of conservation efforts. The Botanic Garden has grown our understanding of and appreciation for nature's simple beauty.

Spread across 385 acres, the Botanic Garden features thousands of plant species and hosts more than 100,000 volumes in its library. The Garden offers an abundance of activities for the entire community.

This achievement demonstrates that people with access to inspired institutions like the Chicago Botanic Garden live happier, healthier lives. I congratulate the Garden, and all those who make it a distinctive paragon of the Tenth District. I am grateful it is part of the Tenth District.

#### CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION OF LARRY WILLIAMS

#### HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, Larry Williams, the former Director of the FAA William J. Hughes Technical Center, passed away on Friday, August 9, after suffering a heart attack.

Larry Williams served as the director of the Technical Center from 1982 to 1987. After leaving the Center, he went on to work with aviation-related companies in the private sec-

tor. He was a consultant for aviation giants such as Booz Allen Hamilton, CSSI, and others. He was part of a small joint team sponsored in part by the FAA and NASA that developed NextGen architecture and related projects. In January 2012, Larry was appointed to the NextGen aviation park board of directors.

The Virginia resident spent many years working for the FAA, between New Jersey and Washington, DC, including 10 years as the automation and surveillance engineering chief. Larry was recognized as an expert in the aviation industry throughout the country.

He came in contact with and touched many people throughout his career in aviation. His dedication and loyalty to the aviation industry and to the ideals of ensuring safer skies for those who fly will be missed. He exemplified the positive human values of kindness, dedication, and dignity, and was an outstanding example to all who knew him. Larry Williams was truly a remarkable gentleman; a loving husband, father, and grandfather; and a great friend to all of us.

#### COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S "I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. This incredibly moving oration set the stage to bring equal rights to all people; his words are as poignant and touching today as they were when spoken fifty years ago.

From the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963, Dr. King delivered this now famous speech while hundreds of thousands of onlookers participated in the March on Washington. The speech began with reference to the Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery in the United States and brought about hope for the future; however, Dr. King continued to highlight how there was still more work to be done, even one hundred years after Lincoln made that address. Then, through an artful combination of skilled writing and improvisation, Dr. King delivered what is arguably one of the most memorable speeches of our Nation's history.

In his speech, Dr. King envisioned a Nation where the families of former slaves and those of former slave owners would live together in harmony. He urged people to look past years of racial segregation, injustice, and inequality to join together as one. He did so, as all parents would, with the hope that his children could live in a land free from hatred. Dr. King stated that this was the freedom that our Founding Fathers fought so hard to protect, so we owed it to them and ourselves to create this change.

Perhaps Dr. King did not know how monumental this one speech would become to the American civil rights movement. It allowed many Americans to reflect on years of racial separation and realize that change was on the horizon. Unfortunately, Dr. King did not live to

see this dream realized, but his "I Have a Dream" speech helped pave the way for the success of the civil rights movement and remains an important lesson on history and equality to this day.

As organizations throughout our Nation join in commemorating the anniversary of this momentous speech, I would like to recognize and thank Operation People for Peace, and its Chairman Arthur Rocker, Sr., who has partnered with over four hundred churches and organizations throughout the Gulf Coast to collect food donations to help feed thousands of families, as well as, thank the Southern Christian Leadership Conference chapters of the Gulf Coast, the National Congress of Black Women chapters of the Gulf Coast, and all organizations across Northwest Florida for their efforts. We are truly blessed to have these organizations helping to keep the memory of Dr. King's words fresh in the minds of the people in our community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to recognize the Fiftieth Anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking those throughout Northwest Florida for hosting celebrations along the Gulf Coast to commemorate this incredible speech. Most importantly, we would like to remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his tremendous service to this Nation and his efforts to put an end to racial inequality.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR ROBERT S.  
SWENSON, USAFR, RETIRED

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize Major Robert S. Swenson, USAFR, Retired. Major Swenson, a World War II veteran who did not receive his Bronze Star Medal for his bravery during the Varsity Operation in 1945, received his medal on August 10, 2013 at the Trigger Time Convention in the City of SeaTac, Washington.

In 1945, as a glider pilot in the 435th Troop Carrier Group, 75th Squadron, Major Swenson and his fellow airmen distinguished themselves when enemy infantry mounted a counter attack. The 435th Troop Carrier Group fought and repelled the attack of approximately 200 enemy soldiers, a tank, a self-propelled artillery, and two 20mm flak guns.

After the battle, a request was made by Major Charles O. Gordon that all members of the 435th Troop Carrier Group be given due recognition. However, at the end of the war, the order was lost and went unfulfilled. The records have since been conserved at the Silent Wings Museum Archives and Major General Kenneth Dahl, Deputy Commanding General, I Corps at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, will formally present the Bronze Star Medal to Major Swenson at the convention.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Major Robert S. Swenson, USAFR, Retired, for his fearlessness and dedication to serving his country.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY HURD

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one man, Bobby Hurd who has given so much of himself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, his work is present in the gospel music industry for all to see, and "The Bobby Hurd Show" has been instrumental in spreading the gospel and promoting gospel artists in the Metropolitan Atlanta area and beyond; and

Whereas, this giant of a man accomplished so much during his time on earth, he was an electrician by trade, a promoter by talent, a community advocate by concern and a friend to all; and

Whereas, he gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life to uplift those in need, he never asked for fame or fortune he just wanted to help somebody and to inspire anybody by being involved in community activities and spreading the gospel; he encouraged everybody to do the same by witnessing him walk the walk and talk the talk; and

Whereas, Bobby Hurd led by doing both behind the scenes and on the front lines, he was an ambassador of goodwill who will be truly missed; and

Whereas, Bobby Hurd was a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a friend; he was our warrior, our patriarch, a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of our community until his end; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia recognizes Bobby Hurd as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby attest to the 113th Congress that he is deemed worthy and deserving of this Congressional Honor by declaring Mr. Bobby Hurd U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, This 12th day of July, 2013.

STATEMENT ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP ERIC R. FIGUEROA, SR.

**HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Bishop Eric R. Figueroa, Sr. During his 30 years of service, Bishop Figueroa has ministered to thousands and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of all those he encountered. In honor of his three decades of service to our community, Bishop Figueroa was honored at a celebratory banquet on Monday, May 20, 2013 at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach, New York.

In 1983, Bishop Figueroa founded New Life Tabernacle, which has been an important part of our community. In addition to his ministry at the church, Bishop Figueroa has dem-

onstrated a strong commitment to improving the lives of the people of Brooklyn through the Family Life Development Center. The Center provides an impressive range of services which include: a food pantry, drug rehabilitation programs, juvenile alternatives to incarceration, mentoring, counseling, college preparation, scholarships, and senior citizen programming. He recognized the needs of the people of Brooklyn and found solutions. His work has provided critical services to those most in need.

Bishop Figueroa's efforts as a founding member of Brooklyn Congregations Together, which united church communities in the borough to best meet the needs of the people, are commendable. The community remains indebted to the New Life Covenant Fellowship, which educates and empowers new leaders. Bishop Figueroa is truly a gifted teacher, preacher, and singer.

He is an inspirational leader whose work would not have been possible without the love and support of his wife Doreen Figueroa and their devoted children and grandchildren. We thank his family for sharing him with us all. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Bishop Figueroa on his 30th pastoral anniversary. For his commitment to the people of Brooklyn and to his service of those less fortunate, he is worthy of the highest praise.

COMMENDING ALPHA DELTA  
KAPPA INTERNATIONAL HONORARY ORGANIZATION FOR  
WOMEN EDUCATORS

**HON. MO BROOKS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women Educators on its sixty-six years of dedicated service and proclaim October 2013 as Alpha Delta Kappa Month. Established in 1947, Alpha Delta Kappa's goals have been to establish high standards of education, give recognition to outstanding educators, build a fraternal fellowship among educators and to promote educational and charitable projects and activities enriching the lives of individuals everywhere.

With a membership of over 33,000 educators representing all fifty U.S. states, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Jamaica and Australia, Alpha Delta Kappa is committed to educational excellence, personal and professional growth and for collectively channeling their energies toward the good of their schools, communities, the teaching profession and the world.

Women in education constitute a great portion of the nation's working force and are constantly striving to serve their communities and nation in educational, cultural, and charitable programs leading to harmony, happiness, and peace among all people.

Over the last few years, the members of Alpha Delta Kappa have given altruistically to the communities they serve by raising nearly \$14.5 million dollars and volunteering over 2 million service hours.

I congratulate Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women