

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

Educators on their many years of unparalleled success and wish them well and best wishes as they continue to educate our children.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF VICKIE B. MULLINS
TO NORTHWEST FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Vickie B. Mullins upon her retirement from UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Extension as the 4-H Agent for Youth Development. For over forty years, Mrs. Mullins has served the Gulf Coast community, and I am privileged to recognize her success and myriad achievements.

From a very young age, Mrs. Mullins has called Northwest Florida home. Born in Andalusia, Alabama, Mrs. Mullins and her family moved in 1955 to Pensacola, Florida, where she graduated from Woodham High School and Pensacola Junior College. She continued her studies at Florida State University, receiving both a bachelor's and master's degree in Home Economics Education. Upon graduation, Mrs. Mullins performed post graduate work at Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi.

Leading up to her career as a 4-H Agent, Mrs. Mullins served the Gulf Coast in numerous capacities. She worked in the Escambia County School System from 1972 to 1973, taught in the Amory and Nettleton School Districts, served as the Mississippi State Board of Health Nutritionist, and directed and taught the Nettleton First Baptist Church Weekday Early Education Program. She was also an adjunct instructor at Pensacola Junior College and the University of West Florida and the Culinary Arts Instructor at Locklin Vocational Technical School 1993–1997, where she was selected as the Locklin Teacher of the Year. In 1973, Mrs. Mullins joined the Escambia County Extension Service and became the first Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Youth Agent in Escambia County. She later joined the Mississippi Extension Service in 1979, and in 1997, Mrs. Mullins joined the UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Extension, where she has served the last fifteen years as a 4-H Agent.

If there is one common thread sewn throughout her professional career, it is Mrs. Mullins' passion and dedication for bettering the lives of those around her. The positive impact Mrs. Mullins has made on the lives of our Nation's youth is unquestioned, and it is evidenced by the numerous accolades she has earned over the years. These include the Florida and National Extension Distinguished Service Award, the Florida and National Extension Meritorious Service Award, the Regional and National Power of Youth Award, the State, Regional, and National Beyond Youth Leadership Award, and the National 4-H Program of Distinction Award.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my gratitude to Vickie Mullins for her years of dedicated service to Northwest Florida. She is an inspiration to those around her, and we in Northwest Florida are blessed to have her as part of the community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Vickie;

her husband Dan; their three children Katie, Sarah, and Jackson; and their entire family all the best for continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH YEAR ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE BLESSING
OF THE GRAPES CEREMONY AT
THE HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN
CHURCH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Holy Trinity Armenian Church during their celebration of the 100th Blessing of the Grapes ceremony. This is a very special time for the Armenian community as they gather on this holy day.

The blessing of grapes is a special tradition within the Armenian Church. The ceremony takes place on a major feast day, "Assumption of St. Mary" which is a celebration of St. Mary being assumed into Heaven. Grapes have a symbolic significance in the Christian faith, and on this day they are considered to be forbidden fruit before being blessed by the Priest at the closing of the ceremony.

Holy Trinity Armenian Church is an historical landmark in Fresno, California. The first Armenian Church was destroyed in a fire in 1913, and the Holy Trinity Armenian Church was built at an alternate location. Armenian architect, Lawrence Cone, created the magnificent church as a sacred place for the Armenian community. It was the first traditional Armenian Church in the United States.

The Central Valley is home to thousands of Armenians, and as a community we must also celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church. They have made everlasting contributions to the City of Fresno, and our entire country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Year Anniversary of the Blessing of the Grapes Ceremony at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church. Their mission to provide an infinite amount of faith, hope, and love to the public is highly respected and praised.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF MASONIC LODGE
422

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Masonic Lodge 422 of Joliet, Illinois. Tracing their founding to the Civil War, the 250 members of Masonic Lodge 422 recently celebrated the longevity of their fraternal organization, and reflected on its early days in the Chicago neighborhood of Hyde Park.

Throughout history, Freemasons have dedicated their lives to cultivating good moral character both within themselves and their communities. They have consistently involved themselves in a variety of charitable causes, in their belief that one of their important roles is

to do good for society. The charitable commitments of the Joliet Freemasons include valuable medical services like the Illinois Masonic Medical Center and the Shriners Hospital for Children, as well as contributions to affiliated women and children's advocacy groups.

Over the years, Masonic Lodge 422 has maintained steady membership and has remained devoted to restoring the charitable and philosophic legacy of old Masonic orders. Members of those old orders include our founding fathers George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, whose prominence, accomplishments, and positive influence remain a motivational force for contemporary Freemasons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in not only honoring Masonic Lodge 422, but also in wishing this shining example of tradition, resilience, and generosity many more years of existence.

TRIBUTE TO ABBIE BURANNICE
BENN AND JACK BENN

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, On December 29, 1881, the union of Abbie Burannice Benn and Jack Benn in Morgan County, Georgia, blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, to this union fourteen children were born; Carrie Benn, Emma Benn, John Benn, Jack Benn, Willie Benn, Anderson Benn, Birder Benn, Joseph Benn, Elbert Benn, Lula Benn, Corlor Benn, Mattie Benn, Arthur Benn and Rosey Benn; and from the children of Abbie and Jack Benn, and we have seen and are seeing generations of many well respected citizens, so today we honor all of the matriarchs and patriarchs, who are pillars of strength for the Benn, Brinkley and Randolph families; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have many members of the Benn, Brinkley and Randolph families who are productive citizens in our District; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Benn, Brinkley and Randolph families have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Benn, Brinkley and Randolph families;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim, July 20, 2013, as Benn, Brinkley & Randolph Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, This 20th day of July, 2013.