

resource for students and the greater college community. Today, the Student Association gives voice to the concerns and interests of students through its support of more than 80 campus clubs and organizations.

SUNY Plattsburgh prepares students from across New York to compete in a rapidly-changing global economy. By fostering the values of scholarship, diversity, and inclusion on campus and in the greater community, the Student Association has contributed immeasurably to the university's mission.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all current and former members of the SUNY Plattsburgh Student Association for reaching this milestone, thanking them for all their contributions to the Plattsburgh community, and wishing them all the best in years ahead.

CONGRATULATING THE SLOVAK CLUB OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Slovak Club of Merrillville, Indiana, as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, the Slovak Club is hosting a celebratory event on Saturday, September 28, 2013, at the club hall in Merrillville, Indiana.

The Slovak Club of Merrillville was first established in 1913 when a group of Slovak men joined together with the goal of preserving Slovak heritage and tradition at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Gary. The group initially called themselves the Slovak Political and Educational Club. After World War II, members of the club wanted a permanent home and purchased property at 11th Avenue and Harrison Boulevard in Gary. The Ladies Auxiliary was established in 1950, and once the new building was complete, the auxiliary began hosting dinners featuring shrimp, fish, and traditional Slovak fare, which were tremendously successful. The organization continued to grow over the next twenty years with membership exceeding more than 450 members. By 1979, the organization's Board of Directors sold the Slovak Club building in Gary, and members began meeting at the Slovak American Legion Post #367. The current home for the Slovak Club in Merrillville, at 69th Avenue and Broadway, was completed in 1986. For the past 100 years, Slovak Club members have dedicated their time and efforts to many charitable organizations throughout the community, and for this they are to be commended.

I would like to take this time to recognize the Slovak Club officers and Board of Directors. The officers are President Ronald Mayersky, Vice President Randall Mayersky, Treasurer John Dienes, Financial Secretary Kenneth Dienes, and Recording Secretary John Brezik. The Board of Directors include Robert Deliget, Peter Guip, George Murray, Donald Engel, Paul Rogers, Joseph Koveck, John Stofko, William Mindas, and Ed Mayersky.

I would also note with pride that my 97-year-old father, former Gary Mayor John Vis-

losky, continues his membership in this noteworthy fraternal organization, as do I.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Slovak Club of Merrillville, Indiana. The Slovak community has played an important role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. For their commitment to civic endeavors and to preserving Slovak traditions, the Slovak Club's leaders and membership are worthy of our highest praise.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP)

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 100th anniversary of the Saint Paul Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and acknowledge their tremendous efforts to defend the ideals of justice and equality for all people. The origins of the Saint Paul NAACP are closely tied to those of the national organization, which is the oldest, largest and most recognized civil rights group in the country.

The NAACP was founded when civil rights leaders of the Niagara Movement were joined by others calling for justice following the Springfield, Illinois Race Riot of 1908. The Niagara Movement was founded by prominent black leaders including W.E.B. Du Bois and Minnesota's own Frederick L. McGhee. Mr. McGhee was a Mississippi native who moved to Minnesota after law school, where he became the first African-American in Minnesota in history admitted to practice law. Involvement in law and politics propelled Mr. McGhee to the forefront of the civil rights movement as a champion of social equality, leading national efforts against racial discrimination and violence. Of the Niagara Movement, W.E.B. Du Bois said the honor of founding the organization belonged to Mr. McGhee, who first suggested it. After just the second meeting of the Niagara Movement, Mr. McGhee returned home to Minnesota and helped organize a civil rights protection and advocacy group in the Twin Cities. By 1913, Saint Paul members of this group called to order the first meeting of what became the capitol city's own NAACP branch. Thus, the Saint Paul NAACP was born.

During the 100 years since it was founded, the Saint Paul NAACP has produced nationally influential leaders like Roy Wilkins, who served as the National Executive Director from 1955–1977. Under Wilkins' direction during the turbulent Civil Rights era, the NAACP boldly investigated brutality, murder, segregation, discrimination and fought to end the suppression of minority voters at the ballot box. True to its origins, the Saint Paul NAACP continues to focus on economic disparities, health care, education, voter empowerment and the criminal justice system as it advocates for social justice and the inclusion of all citizens in the democratic process, regardless of racial, ethnic or religious lines.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the courageous and honorable work of the Saint Paul NAACP as staff and the many volunteers who make it a success celebrate its 100th anniversary.

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY'S UPSTATE NEW YORK/VERMONT CHAPTER

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the generous staff, volunteers, and supporters of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Upstate New York/Vermont Chapter. On Saturday, September 28, in recognition of Blood Cancer Awareness Month, 1,000 walkers will gather at Siena College in Loudonville, NY for the chapter's Light the Night Walk. Participants have raised more than \$200,000 to fund treatments that are saving the lives of blood cancer patients.

I am delighted to formally recognize the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for its hard work, community spirit, and dedication to fighting cancer. By bringing people together at Siena and similar events around the country this month, the society is making great strides in its mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

Blood cancer is the number three cancer killer in our country. Nearly 149,000 Americans are expected to be diagnosed in 2013. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society has invested almost \$1 billion in research, contributing to the development of life-saving drugs. Since 1963, myeloma survival rates have more than tripled. Lymphoma survival rates have more than doubled. Leukemia survival rates have more than quadrupled.

This movement is made possible by the friends, families, and co-workers of cancer patients who form fundraising teams around the Nation. These efforts culminate in inspirational evening walks in over 200 U.S. communities, including the Siena campus and the city of Burlington, VT. Last year the Upstate New York/Vermont Chapter raised \$1.1 million, hosted 19 educational seminars, welcomed 300 attendees to monthly support groups, and disbursed more than \$300,000 in patient financial support.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to this organization for bringing the light of hope and caring to the dark world of cancer. May God bless and protect these good citizens and their loved ones.

ACKNOWLEDGING AND PREVENTING SUICIDE AMONG VETERANS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on the lives of the nearly 30,000 Americans who die each year by their own hands, it is important that we recognize the emotional and mental trauma that

our nation's veterans specifically face while serving abroad and at home. As we recognize September as Suicide Prevention Month, I believe that there are important steps that we can all take to acknowledge and prevent suicides among our veteran population.

Each day, an estimated 22 veterans commit suicide, or one veteran every 65 minutes. Veterans commit suicide at more than double the rate of the civilian population, which has totaled to more than 49,000 deaths between 2005 and 2011. Veterans make up nearly one in every five suicides nationwide. This is simply unacceptable.

Our veterans face unspeakable challenges in the defense of our nation. Every day, they must endure mental and emotional trauma while spending months, if not years, in foreign countries away from their family and friends. The unique circumstances of their work often have a lasting impact on their physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

As our veterans return home, it is critical that we provide them the sufficient resources and support needed to minimize or reduce any trauma. The Department of Veterans' Affairs, working in conjunction with Members of Congress, has the power to provide this support. Now more than ever, as the number of suicides continues to grow, it is absolutely imperative that we act swiftly and decisively to end this before any more lives are needlessly lost.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to our veterans to address this tragedy now. It is clear that as long as the number of suicides among our veterans continues to increase, there is plenty more that we can do as lawmakers and leaders to minimize the number of tragedies.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,444,833,205.56. We've added \$6,111,567,784,292.48 to our debt in 5 years. This is \$6.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and its 2013 theme, Hispanics: Serving and Leading Our Nation with Pride and Honor. From September 15, 2013, through October 15, 2013, the people of the United States will once again celebrate the history, culture, and tradition of our Hispanic American brothers and sisters.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins each year on September 15th, the anniversary of the

independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th and September 18th, respectively. Since its inception as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, which later became National Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988, Americans have taken this time to not only honor the rich culture and tradition of Hispanic Americans, but also to reflect on the countless contributions they have made to their communities and to America.

Throughout America's history, people of Hispanic descent have played a major role in the development and progress of our nation. National Hispanic Heritage Month also celebrates the many Hispanic leaders and members of our communities who have added to the prosperity of the United States in every facet of society, including medicine, business, arts and entertainment, sports, education, politics, and the military.

America's success is dependent upon the rich heritage and cultural diversity of our people. I rise today to pay tribute to the countless Hispanic Americans who have made America a better place to live. For their contributions, they are worthy of our highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month. The Hispanic community has played an important role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana and the United States. Let us commend our Hispanic brothers and sisters who have contributed so much to the improvement of our communities and who have helped shape our great nation.

MISSOURIAN AWARD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Bob Beine, Cheryl Burnett, Leon Combs, Charles Edwards, Dwayne Holden, Norm Ridder, Dr. Bharat Shah, Erick Taylor, Mike Williamson, Rudy Farber, C.J. Huff, and Glenna Wallace as this year's recipients of the Missourian Award.

The Missourian Award recognizes Missourians who have positively impacted their communities, state, or nation through contributions in civics, arts, business, or politics.

The late Charles Edwards was awarded for his many years of service at CoxHealth and Cox Medical Plaza. Bob Beine is the president of Beine Automotive Group and has served on the Ford Motor Co. National Dealer Council, the Ozarks Technical Community College Foundation board of directors, and the Springfield First Community Bank board of directors. Cheryl Burnett is director of development for Missouri State University, and served as coach of the Missouri State women's basketball team and is a member of two halls of fame. Leon Combs is the chair of the Skaggs Foundation and owner of the Beaver Creek Elk and Cattle Ranch.

Dwayne Holden leads Custom Metalcraft Inc., a small business he started in 1977 that focuses on customized metal work. Norm Ridder has served as an advocate for chil-

dren's issues, serving for eight years as Springfield Public Schools' superintendent. Dr. Bharat Shah has promoted health care innovation through his invention of four different medical devices. Erick Taylor is the president and CEO of Pyramid Foods, which operates 48 stores in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas and frequently holds charity events. Mike Williamson led Empire Bank for 26 years and has held a number of leadership roles in the community.

Glenna Wallace has been the chief of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe since 2006. Rudy Farber has served as CEO and president of Community Bank and Trust and former chairman of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. C.J. Huff was honored for his service as the superintendent of the Joplin R-VIII school district.

Each of these recipients has served the community and nation in a unique way and made a positive impact for Southwest Missouri. The hard work and dedication to their respective fields and to the community displayed by these leaders is exceptional.

I am proud of these honorees for each receiving the 2013 Missourian Award and even prouder to call them my neighbors; they make such an incredible positive impact on the Southwest Missouri community. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring their achievements.

COMMENDING DR. ARTHUR N. MARTINEZ

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Arthur N. Martinez for his leadership of 20 years to El Rio Community Health Center, in Tucson, Arizona, one of the biggest community health centers in the Nation. Dr. Martinez's personal outreach and accomplishments have been instrumental to Arizona. Dr. Martinez has worked diligently to improve the quality of health care to the underserved in the community.

Dr. Martinez obtained his BS and MD from the University of Arizona in Tucson. He completed his occupational medicine residency at the University of AZ after a general surgery internship and urology residency at the University of TX. Dr. Martinez began as a staff physician at El Rio in 1986. After obtaining his MS in Health Administration from the University of CO, he became the Medical Director of a Medicaid HMO in CA. He has been the Medical Director at El Rio since 1993.

Through his leadership, he has developed systems for El Rio Community Health Center that have rightfully gained national attention. Some of his early accomplishments include a 360 degree provider evaluation system and a physician productivity incentive system. Early in his tenure, he was a quality accreditation expert who assisted other health centers to successfully implement measures to improve quality of care for millions of Americans.

Among his numerous other contributions Dr. Martinez has: created a nationally recognized Clinical Pharmacy Program, developed a residency program from a teaching health center collaboration, integrated oral and behavioral