

the past decade this group has worked to leverage funds and build new private-public partnership and establish unique and nurturing mentoring relationships that have ensured women have equal opportunity to start their own business.

The success of the Center is realized in the economic gains and confidence generated by its many participants and program graduates. Yet, for every success, there is a daily reminder that the Center's work is not complete as our region's entrepreneurs and small business owners remain in need of the valuable resources, experience and support needed to strengthen our economy and to create equal opportunities for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is with appreciation and acknowledgement of their important contributions, that I rise to congratulate all those responsible for achieving this milestone as the Women's Business Center celebrates its 10th anniversary in the Montante Cultural Center on the campus of Canisius College.

RECOGNIZING CHRIS COX, AN AMERICAN PATRIOT AND ONE-MAN MEMBER OF THE MONUMENT MILITIA

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an American who has shown enormous commitment to our country and veterans during this stalemate in Washington. In response to the partial government shutdown, Chris Cox, a resident of South Carolina, travelled to Washington to assemble the Monument Militia—a one-man mission to maintain the National Mall.

As some of our leaders in Washington, D.C. are unwilling to negotiate with members of the opposite political party to devise a solution to re-open the federal government—something the American people want and deserve—our national monuments and museums remain closed and National Park Service employees normally tasked with keeping the Mall clean remain furloughed.

Therefore, Mr. Cox took it upon himself to ensure the lawn of the iconic Lincoln Memorial was mowed and kept tidy for the thousands of veterans who will descend on our nation's capital this weekend for the Million Vet March.

When Mr. Cox was asked why he travelled from South Carolina, armed with just a chainsaw and lawn mower, to clean up our National Mall, he responded, "These are our memorials. If they shut down our memorials, we're still going to take the trash out, we're going to clean the windows, we're going to cut the grass, we're going to pull the weeds, we're going to do the tree work."

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Cox just this weekend when riding my bike around the monuments—surveying how the shutdown has impacted our National Mall. Mr. Cox, carrying his state flag of South Carolina, expressed his sincerest hope that he would be able to clean the area around the Lincoln Memorial to the World War II Memorial because our veterans

dedicated their lives and fought for us so we should fight and honor them, even if the government is shut down.

This is the American spirit. This is the attitude and perseverance our Founding Fathers demonstrated in the face of adversity. Patriotic acts, like the ones recently displayed by Mr. Cox, serve as a great reminder of how Washington should conduct itself in this frustrating time.

I again offer Mr. Cox my sincerest and humble gratitude for his service and commitment to our nation and its veterans, as well as the passion and conviction that led him to Washington to make sure our National Mall looks its best for our heroes.

HEAD START CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, after months of refusing Democratic calls to negotiate a replacement to the sequester that slashed over \$400 million from the Head Start budget this year and eliminated slots for 50,000 children, I'm pleased to see some of my Republican colleagues acknowledging the importance of this early education program. However, to truly serve these kids and their families, we should pass a clean CR that will immediately send funding to those centers that did not receive their payments last week and then we should work together to replace the damaging sequester cuts.

A clean CR would reopen all programs for vulnerable children and their families. It would provide funding for the Community Action Agencies that represent one-third of all Head Start grantees. It would fund child care programs that help parents find affordable and safe places for their children when the Head Start day ends. And it would fund the Social Services Block Grant that helps fill gaps in services to help low-income families get back on their feet.

All of these vital programs are ignored in the resolution on the Floor today. I urge the Speaker to let the House vote on the Senate-passed CR and reopen the government now.

RECOGNIZING THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY AND CONSERVATION TRUST

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (River Parkway Trust) in celebration of its 25th anniversary. The land around the San Joaquin River is protected due to the efforts of the River Parkway Trust, and we must thank them for all of their hard work.

The formation of the River Parkway Trust began in 1988 when citizens, landowners, and

agencies joined together to outline their goals. Over the past 25 years, the River Parkway Trust has worked with 18 land owners to protect almost 3,000 acres of land. In addition to the number of land purchases made by associates of the San Joaquin River Conservancy and the California Wildlife Conservation Board, the total amount of protected land has increased to over 4,000 acres.

The protected land provides individuals with a place to enjoy outdoor activities. One of the signature attractions of the River Parkway Trust is the Lewis S. Eaton Trail. The trail is used daily by bikers and hikers. It truly is a gem in our Central Valley.

A priority of the River Parkway Trust is to encourage young people to visit the river. Many school districts participate in field trips, so thousands of students have the opportunity to view the beautiful nature and landscape. In addition, the River Parkway Trust has a summer youth program that provides children with a week full of fun river activities. Each year, more than 1,000 youth visit the camp.

The River Parkway Trust also serves as a "natural defense" to floods. It keeps pollution from flowing into the water; therefore, preventing our drinking water from becoming contaminated. The River Parkway Trust has contributed to restoring the area's cultural past so that symbolic structures like the Riverview Ranch on Old Faint Road do not disappear. Maintaining structures that are significant to the area is important for the 20,000 visitors that go to the parkway each year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust as they celebrate 25 years of preserving the invaluable land around the San Joaquin River. Their outstanding commitment to protecting the Central Valley's natural resources must be commended.

IN HONOR OF TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join Taiwan in celebrating its National Day.

The United States and Taiwan enjoy a long, enduring relationship. Our partnership, codified in the Taiwan Relations Act, has been of great benefit to both our nations. Earlier this year, I was pleased to support legislation which, was signed into law, that encourages Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization.

To further our relationship, I support more bilateral exchanges between our two nations and would encourage my colleagues to familiarize themselves with the cultural and economic benefits that this relationship has produced.

Once again Mr. Speaker I rise to congratulate Taiwan on its National Day and I am confident that the close relationship between United States and Taiwan will continue for many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT TO REAUTHORIZE THE PRE-DISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a bill to amend to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the pre-disaster hazard mitigation program.

First authorized in 2000, the pre-disaster hazard mitigation program has a proven history of saving taxpayer money by investing in cost effective projects that are designed to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property in the event of a disaster. As the old adage goes: an ounce of prevention is worth its weight in gold.

This is true for the pre-disaster hazard mitigation program. In 2005, the Multi Hazard Mitigation Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences found that for every \$1 spent on mitigation, \$4 was saved in potential disaster costs. Other corollary benefits and indirect savings at the local level and within the business sector were also identified. Moreover, the Congressional Budget Office confirmed the cost savings of the program. Using a different analysis, the CBO found in 2007 that for every \$1 spent on mitigation, \$3 was saved in potential disaster costs.

But it is not just empirical studies that have confirmed the benefits of this program. There are numerous examples of flood control projects, voluntary acquisitions of real property located in flood zones, and the construction of safe rooms that have saved lives and prevented future damage. Areas that have experienced flood damage in the past, and have flooded again, experienced reduced or no damage thanks to effective mitigation. For instance, in Iowa, pre-disaster mitigation funds were used to purchase riverfront homes from homeowners that had suffered flood damage and then converted to green space. When the area subsequently flooded again, there was no new damage, thanks to the pre-disaster mitigation efforts.

With today's ongoing fiscal challenges, increasingly severe storms, and escalating effects of climate change, it makes sense for our country to prepare for these disasters now in order to prevent or reduce damage. Smart planning to mitigate the adverse impact of disasters not only saves lives, but saves money—especially over the long run.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy when there were initial damage estimates in the billions of dollars, many Members from both sides of the aisle streamed to the floor to express sympathy to the victims, as well as decry the extent of the damage and large costs. This program represents an opportunity to curb similar costs in the future while also saving lives and protecting property.

It is time to reauthorize the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Program at a sufficient level to make an impact. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOSE ALVAREZ

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Jose Alvarez, Commissioner for the City of Kissimmee, for his outstanding career and service to the community.

Mr. Alvarez was born in Cuba, and moved to the United States in 1971. He was raised in Miami, where he worked for the Bridge and Road Engineering Department of the Florida Department of Transportation, before relocating to Central Florida.

Mr. Alvarez has tirelessly served the Hispanic community in Kissimmee, Florida while also achieving success in the local real estate market. He has held many positions both in the public and private sector including the Board of Directors for League of United Latin American Citizens, the Board of Directors for National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals, and the Board of Directors for Osceola Association of Realtors. He has demonstrated a thorough understanding of both the business and real estate market.

In 2012 Mr. Alvarez was elected to be Commissioner for the City of Kissimmee. He has developed a flourishing career and earned the respect of his constituents for his dedicated service to the community. Mr. Alvarez is happily married to his wife Darlene, with whom he has five daughters and two grandsons.

I am happy to recognize Mr. Alvarez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his proven commitment to his community and leadership in Osceola County.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF JONATHAN EVANS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Jonathan Evans for his commitment to public service.

Jonathan possesses a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration, both from the University of Central Florida. He is currently working on another Master's Degree in Business Administration from Saint Leo University.

Jonathan has worked as a public servant for several Central Florida communities including the City of St. Cloud, the Town of Celebration, the City of Largo, and Haines City. Jonathan was hired as the Haines City Assistant City Manager on July 16, 2012, and was appointed as Acting City Manager on May 16, 2013. Prior to his work in Haines City, Jonathan worked for the City of Largo for nearly 6 years as the Assistant to the City Manager.

Jonathan is a full member of the Florida City and County Management Association, FCCMA, and has served on numerous boards for the organization. He is also a member of the International City/County Management Association, ICMA, and is taking the required steps to become an ICMA Credentialed Manager.

Jonathan has a strong grasp on municipal government, and a great work ethic that has not gone unnoticed. He has received numerous awards including the United Gold Award, the Children's Empowerment Award, and was

named the Employee of the Month by the City of St. Cloud.

I am happy to honor Jonathan Evans, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his outstanding leadership and public service.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ELLEN OCHOA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the inspiring career of Ellen Ochoa, astronaut, engineer, and Director of NASA's Johnson Space Center.

Ellen Ochoa received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from San Diego State University in 1980. She then went on to attend Stanford University, where she received a Master of Science degree and Doctorate in Electrical Engineering.

She was selected by NASA in January 1990 and became the first Hispanic female astronaut in July 1991. Her technical assignments in the Astronaut Office at the Johnson Space Center included crew representative for flight software, computer hardware and robotics, Assistant for Space Station to the Chief of the Astronaut Office, lead spacecraft communicator (CAPCOM) in Mission Control, and Acting Deputy Chief of the Astronaut Office. As a veteran of four space flights, Ellen has logged nearly 1000 hours in space.

Ellen is a pioneer of spacecraft technology. She is a co-inventor for three patents for an optical inspection system, an optical object recognition method, and a method for noise removal in images. At the NASA Ames Research Center, she led a research group working primarily on optical systems for automated space exploration. She has received numerous awards for her accomplishments including NASA's Exceptional Service Medal, Outstanding Leadership Medal, and four Space Flight Medals.

Since 2007, Ellen has served as Deputy Director of the Johnson Space Center, helping to manage and direct the Astronaut Office and Aircraft Operations. On January 1, 2013, Ochoa made history again by becoming the first Hispanic and second female director of NASA's Johnson Space Center.

I am happy to honor Ellen Ochoa, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her exceptional career, numerous accomplishments, and contributions to the Hispanic community.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JOSE FELICIANO

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize Mr. Jose Feliciano, a Puerto Rican musician whose international success is a true testament to his amazing talent.

Mr. Feliciano was born in Lares, Puerto Rico. At the age of five he immigrated with his parents and siblings to New York City. Due to congenital glaucoma, he was left permanently blind at birth. However, his disability has not hindered his passion for playing music. Mr. Feliciano's love for music began at the age of three, when he first accompanied his uncle on a tin cracker can. By the age of six, he had taught himself to play the concertina simply by listening to records and practicing. When Mr. Feliciano received his first guitar, he spent hours practicing each day and started taking classical lessons with a guitar instructor.

In 1963, Mr. Feliciano signed a contract with RCA Records. Over the course of his career he has had numerous chart-topping singles in multiple countries. His famous single, 'Feliz Navidad,' tops the charts every year during the holidays. The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers named 'Feliz