

As a talk show host of a radio program at Latina 1580 AM Radio, Mrs. Ramos gave community organizations and elected officials the opportunity to provide information and create awareness about important issues affecting the community.

I am happy to honor Wanda Ramos, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her many accomplishments and her contributions to the Central Florida community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF CHAD M. BRANDT

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Chad M. Brandt for his contributions to the Central Florida community. Mr. Brandt was born in Melbourne, Florida, in 1970. He is a first generation Cuban-American who has witnessed firsthand the challenges that immigrants face in the United States. He has dedicated his life and career to serve the cause of the immigrants in his community.

Mr. Brandt received a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Florida International University and a law degree from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, both with honors. He is currently a member of the Florida Bar, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and admitted before the Florida Supreme Court and the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

Mr. Brandt is the owner and founder of Brandt Immigration, a law firm specialized in immigration law. He devotes a substantial portion of his immigration practice to deportation defense and representing individuals, families, and businesses during interviews and appearances before immigration officials. Additionally, Mr. Brandt assists clients in obtaining temporary visas and permanent resident status.

Mr. Brandt is also actively involved in his community. He is currently a board member of the statewide and the local chapter of the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting Hispanic entrepreneurs. He is also a member of the Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando. He has lectured on immigration law at the University of Florida Levin College of Law and his articles have been featured in the Orlando Sentinel and Ahora Magazine.

Mr. Brandt currently lives in Orlando, FL, with his wife, Jennifer, and his five children, Chad Jr., Emily, Ethan, Lily, and William.

I am happy to honor Chad Brandt, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his service to the immigrant community in Central Florida.

#### INTRODUCING THE DEBT LIMIT REFORM ACT

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Debt Limit Reform Act. This bill will reform the statutory limits on our nation's federal debt by providing the President of the United States with explicit authority to raise the debt ceiling without Congressional approval, and by removing intragovernmental accounts from the debt ceiling calculation. As Congress faces an ongoing government shutdown that has left hundreds of thousands of American workers without a

paycheck, we are getting ever closer to our nation defaulting on its debt obligations. On October 17th, the debt ceiling is expected to be breached. Democrats and Republicans must come together before then to act or risk a global economic catastrophe. This is exactly where we were just two years ago, and where we will be again in the near future if we do not take any steps to reform the way in which we calculate and consider our nation's debt.

Congress has legislatively limited federal debt for nearly 100 years, from the Second Liberty Bond Act of 1917 to the more recent Budget Control Act of 2011 and subsequent increases. These increases, however, do not address the fact that the current manner in which we determine the debt ceiling is no longer relevant to how we govern today.

We need a new debt limit law—one that takes the modern world into account. Under this bill, the debt ceiling will distinguish between mere accounting techniques and actual debt. No longer will debt owed from one branch of our government to another be considered the same as debt held by foreign governments, banks, pension funds, and other entities. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), of the \$16.699 trillion in outstanding debt subject to limit, roughly \$11.9 trillion is held by the public and about \$4.8 trillion is held by government accounts.

By excluding these government-held accounts from the debt limit calculation—particularly the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and the Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds that constitute the Social Security Trust Funds, Medicare Parts A and B, the Civil Service and Military Retirement Trust Funds, Unemployment Insurance, the Highway Trust Fund, Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Trust Fund, and Airport and Airway Trust Fund—we will have a more accurate view of our actual debt obligations.

These intra-governmental accounts are the means by which the Treasury tracks payouts and obligations to other government entities. They are accounting techniques, not debts. These funds serve to help retired workers and their families, the families of deceased workers, and disabled workers and their families. In addition, they provide inpatient hospital stay and medical insurance benefits; fund programs for civilian and military retirement; provide unemployment benefits to eligible workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own; fund road construction and mass transit projects; provide insurance for long-term services in the case of disability; and fund the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). They need not be considered the same as our government's debt for purposes of calculating the debt ceiling.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when partisan gridlock is having a devastating impact on our nation's economy through a government shutdown and further threatening to destabilize global financial systems, this legislation represents a common sense solution to modernizing the way in which we calculate our nation's debt and increase the debt ceiling. By excluding intragovernmental accounts from the Treasury's debt ceiling equation and authorizing the Executive to alter the ceiling as needed, the Debt Limit Reform Act will help Congress avoid some of the last-minute showdowns that have become all too common in recent years. In this way we can begin to tackle the real challenges facing this country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week September 23, 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Rollcall vote No. 484: H.R. 1961, "nay;"  
Rollcall vote No. 485: H. Res. 354, "yea;"  
Rollcall vote No. 486: H.R. 3095, "yea;"  
Rollcall vote No. 487: H.R. 2600, "yea;"  
Rollcall vote No. 488: Journal Vote, "yea;"  
Rollcall vote No. 489: Grijalva Amendment, "aye;"  
Rollcall vote No. 490: Napolitano Amendment, "aye;"  
Rollcall vote No. 491: Senate Amendment to H.R. 1412, "yea;"  
Rollcall vote No. 492: H.R. 3096, "aye;"  
Rollcall vote No. 493: H. Res. 361—Martial Law Authority Rule, "nay;"  
Rollcall vote No. 494: Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule, "nay;"  
Rollcall vote No. 495: H. Res. 366—Rule providing for consideration of both the amendments to the Senate Amendment to H.J. Res. 59, "nay;"  
Rollcall vote No. 496: H.R. 2251, "yea;"  
Rollcall vote No. 497: Motion to Concur with the Senate Amendment with a House Amendment, Part 1 (Paulsen), "yea;"  
Rollcall vote No. 498: Motion to Concur with the Senate Amendment with a House Amendment, Part 2 (Blackburn), "nay;"  
Rollcall vote No. 499: H.R. 3210—Pay Our Military Act, "yea;" and  
Rollcall vote No. 500: H.R. 2848—Department of State Operations and Embassy Security Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2014, "yea."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 14, I missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 548.

#### HONORING JIM MURAKAMI OF SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor and pay tribute to Jim Murakami, a great community leader who dedicated much of his life to advocating for the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which achieved redress for the 120,000 United States citizens of Japanese descent on the West Coast that were wrongfully incarcerated in internment camps during World War II.

Mr. Murakami was born and raised in Santa Rosa, California. When WWII broke out, Mr. Murakami and his family were first incarcerated in the temporary internment camp in

Merced, California and were later moved to the camp at Amache, Colorado.

After Mr. Murakami graduated from high school, he joined the Army and served two years in Germany. After he was discharged, Mr. Murakami returned to his hometown of Santa Rosa, where he raised a family with his wife of 59 years, Margarete, and where he lived until his death in 2012.

Mr. Murakami joined the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) in the early 1950s and quickly rose through the ranks of the organization. He was the president of the local JACL chapter, the first governor of the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District, as well as the national vice president of the organization from 1972–1975 before becoming the national president from 1976–1978.

During his tenure with the JACL, Mr. Murakami worked tirelessly on the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, finally seeing it passed and signed into law by President Reagan in 1988. The Act required a Presidential apology and a symbolic payment to the surviving internees who were subjected to forced relocation.

In addition to his work with the JACL, Mr. Murakami was also a member of the Santa Rosa East Rotary for more than 50 years as well as a permanent member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was a regular financial supporter of the Hannah Boys Center, the Sonoma County Museum, and his local fire department.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Murakami was forced to endure dreadful circumstances that most of us have never, nor will ever, experience. In the face of this adversity, Mr. Murakami not only served his country in the Armed Forces when called upon but also worked tirelessly to right the injustice he experienced through his advocacy for the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Mr. Murakami was a valuable, contributing member of his community, both locally and nationally. It is therefore appropriate that, on this 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, we honor and remember him today for his many contributions.

#### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 15, 2013*

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

#### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARIA LUYANDA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Maria Luyanda for her leadership within the Central Florida Hispanic Community.

Maria Luyanda was born in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico. She attended college at Missouri University and completed courses in accounting at Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She began her career as a teller at Banco Popular de Puerto Rico, where she was recognized for her professionalism and later became assistant manager.

In 1998, Maria was hired by American Airlines Credit Union as manager of the San Juan, Puerto Rico office. During her time at American Airlines, Maria established a loan system to benefit the employees of the Carib-

bean islands and was soon appointed Regional Director. She was later promoted to Executive Director and became part of the World Association of Credit Unions, as operational adviser. In this position, she had the opportunity to help smaller credit unions organize their operational capabilities and to experience financial growth.

Maria moved to Orlando, Florida in 1998 and served as the assistant Vice President of Banco Popular. In 2004, she started Luyanda Insurance with her son Jose, a company dedicated to looking for innovative products to satisfy the local market. Maria was also the treasurer and vice president of the Hispanic American Professional and Business Women Association and on the Board of the Hispanic Youth Group of Deltona. Maria currently serves as the President of the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce and is on the Advisory Board for Polytechnic University's Orlando Campus.

I am happy to honor Maria Luyanda, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her continued leadership within the Central Florida community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF ZORAIDA ANDINO RIOS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the public service of Zoraida Andino Rios. Zoraida was born in East Chicago, Indiana. Her passion for social justice started when she was studying at Saint Joseph's College where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Education. As a student, she was the founder of an organization called "Palante" and was the assistant director of a college TV program, "Know Your Community," which informs Latino students about issues affecting the Hispanic community. She is the proud mother of her two children, Carolina Raquel and Gilberto Antonio. Her pride and joy is her granddaughter Analiz Diana Balderas.

In 1979, Zoraida moved to Puerto Rico and worked for several community services companies. In 1986, she returned to Indiana and began advocating for the rights of the Puerto Rican and Latino community. She served as President of Madre Atrevete Muevete Ahora (MAMA) and Secretary of the Latino Historical Society. She was also active with the Northwest Indiana Voter Registration and Education Foundation, United Citizens Organization, and United Farm Workers. Zoraida was the co-founder and President of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women and received their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000. She also received the Roberto Clemente Community Service Award from the Northwest Indiana Coordinating Counsel.

After moving to Florida with her family, Zoraida became the founder and President of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women's local chapter in Orlando. She is also a member of the Asociación Borinqueña and La Casa de Puerto Rico. In 2008, she got involved with various social justice groups and served as Vice President for Frente Unido 436 and Vice President of the National Council of Puerto Rican Rights. She is also involved with the Black, Latino, Puerto Rican Alliance for Justice and is founder and co-director of the Orlando chapter of the National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights. She is currently working on her project "Boricua," a tool to unite the worldwide Puerto Rican community.

I am happy to honor Zoraida Andino Rios, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her public service to the Hispanic community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MELISSA MCGUIRE- MANIAU

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize an amazing woman in my community, Melissa McGuire-Maniau.

Melissa McGuire-Maniau was born in Puerto Rico, raised in Orlando and is a veteran of the United States Air Force. For the last eight years Melissa has been proudly married to her husband, a native of Mexico. Together they have three girls.

Melissa has been at the forefront of the fight for comprehensive immigration reform and has helped build a movement in Central Florida for the rights of immigrants. Melissa's journey in the immigrant rights movement started in 2005 when she began to study her husband's immigration case. After living in the United States for over twenty years, her husband was still an undocumented immigrant facing deportation. Seeking legal status and citizenship for her husband was nearly impossible.

On October 5, 2011, Melissa's husband was taken from their home and sent to a private immigrant detention center in South Florida. Having worked as a volunteer with several immigrant rights organizations, Melissa used her experience to fight back. Thanks to the support and collaborative efforts of the community, Melissa's husband was eventually released. Her husband became a legal permanent resident in April 2013.

Over the last several years, Melissa and her family have volunteered with the National Farm Worker Ministry. Melissa is now the Immigration Chair of the Youth and Young Adult Network of the National Farm Worker Ministry, and serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Florida Immigrant Coalition. Melissa is currently in the Pre-Law Program at Rollins College working towards becoming an immigration attorney in order to continue the fight for justice for all immigrant families.

I am happy to honor Melissa McGuire-Maniau, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her service to our country and her community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VANESSA HALL FERREIRA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the courage and commitment of Vanessa Hall Ferreira. Vanessa was born and grew up as the youngest of six in Bridgeport, Connecticut. As a young child, Vanessa grew up in a housing project with her single mother, 4 sisters, and brother. Vanessa was the first in her family to graduate high school. She married her high school sweetheart Alfredo Ferreira in 1971 with whom she has two daughters and three grandsons.

Vanessa began her bakery career in 1983. She got a full time job in the bakery of a grocery store, which she really enjoyed. She moved to another grocery store chain where there were good worker protections and was able to earn a pension and get 100% vested. In 1995, she decided to move the family to Florida.

In 1998, Vanessa got a job at Walmart as a cake decorator. It was a great place to work even though the pay was not much. When she asked for a 75 cent raise, Walmart denied her, saying it was too much. She left to work at a competitor grocery store where she received training, great benefits, and higher wages.