

through the Eastern Partnership program—in helping to build democratic, prosperous, and stable societies throughout Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Building on that progress is in the national interest of the United States; consequently, we call on the U.S. Department of State to direct needed resources to help support Ukraine's European choice.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEXAS HEALTH HARRIS METHODIST HOSPITAL HURST-EULESS-BEDFORD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the 40th anniversary of Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Hurst-Euless-Bedford (HEB). The hospital has been dedicated to serving the citizens of Northeast Tarrant County, Texas, where it has been improving the lives of the community with quality health care service.

The vision of an outstanding hospital was formulated through the cooperative leadership from the Cities of Hurst, Euless and Bedford. The cities acknowledged the growing healthcare needs of their citizens and, as a result, the cities formed the HEB Hospital Authority to plan and build the hospital.

Fundraising for the hospital occurred in 1969 and, shortly afterwards in 1970, construction began. The Cities of Hurst, Euless, and Bedford continued to raise funds for the project until the doors opened in June 1973.

Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital HEB is a fully accredited Cycle IV Chest Pain Center designated by the Society of Chest Pain Centers, and it also has a three-year accreditation, with commendation, from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. In addition, Texas Health HEB was the first hospital in Northeast Tarrant County to be certified as a Primary Stroke Center. Lastly, the hospital achieved the designation as a Level III Trauma center this year.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital HEB for serving the North Texas community for 40 years with outstanding health care practices.

HONORING SUSAN NUSSBAUM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, treasured playwright and author, Ms. Susan Nussbaum, on her 60th birthday. Susan has been a groundbreaking voice for persons with disabilities. Through her advocacy with disability groups, Susan has written plays and recently a remarkable book that has helped to change the perception of disabled people throughout Chicago and well beyond.

Susan acquired her disability in 1977 at the age of 24 in a car accident. She refused to

allow her newfound disability to define her after this tragic accident. In the 1970's, Susan became involved in the disability rights movement and helped to win key fights concerning wheelchair-accessible public transportation and the remodeling of sidewalks, schools, stores, and theaters. The strength and character she built through those wins continues to shine today.

Susan worked at Access Living, a wonderful organization in Chicago dedicated to inclusion, independent living and empowerment for people with disabilities. While working at Access Living Susan founded of the Empowered Fe Fes, a peer support and advocacy group of young women with disabilities. Susan knew that first and foremost, a girl with a disability is a girl, with the same feelings, emotions, wants, and desires of any other girl. The group gave young women with disabilities an opportunity to speak freely in a safe and private space and express the challenges and experiences they encounter on a daily basis. The Empowered Fe Fes challenges traditional stereotypes about disability and gender. My wonderful Constituent Advocate Taina Rodriguez, who has been helping residents in my district office for over 12 years, was Susan's assistant in the Empowered Fe Fe's and since she was in high school has had a special mother-daughter relationship with Susan.

Challenging stereotypes has defined much of Susan's work. On stage, Susan has written and directed plays that reframe disability through the lens of someone with an authentic disability experience. Her work has been showcased at Second City, Live Bait, Steppenwolf, and more. She has written such plays as No One As Nasty and Mishuganismo. "No One as Nasty" appears in a collection titled Beyond Victims and Villains: Contemporary Plays by Disabled Playwrights. Susan refuses to write her characters in a certain stereotypical light. Instead, she portrays them in a realistic manner, which has helped to change the stereotype of disabled characters. Susan's work has given voice to a disability experience that transcends the historical portrayal as someone who needs to be pitied, cured or worshipped. Too often, on television, in the movies, in literature, and on stage, people with disabilities are presented as bitter, depressed and pitiable, or as unnaturally heroic and inspirational. Rarely do you see a character with a disability defined as a full participant in our society who just happens to have a disability. I say rarely, because there are people like Susan Nussbaum.

Recently, her achievements as a writer have gone beyond the stage and expanded into literature. Her novel, Good Kings, Bad Kings, earned the 2012 Barbara Kingsolver PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction. The novel follows the lives of young people with disabilities as they tell their stories about abuse, neglect and love while living in a state institution. Barbara Kingsolver presented Susan the award and said, "The characters in Good Kings Bad Kings made me laugh, over and over again, and cry and cheer. This is fiction at its best . . . A stunning accomplishment."

Susan's body of work has transformed the way we think about disability. I encourage everyone, including my colleagues, to read Good Kings Bad Kings.

Among friends she's been called "Disability Culture Queen" and by her family she's known

as "Comrade Auntie Sue," "Mami" and just plain "Sue." Congratulations to Susan Nussbaum on your many amazing accomplishments, and a very happy 60th birthday!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 573 I was unable to be present for the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING IN SAFE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the importance of investing in safe infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists. I recently read a report presented by the Sierra Club and League of American Bicyclists, entitled The New Majority: Pedaling towards Equity, and as someone who rides a bicycle regularly, I think there's a lot to be excited about in their findings.

Across the nation, bike ridership is up—and the numbers are impressive. From 2001 to 2009 there has been a 22% increase in bike trips among white Americans, 50% for Hispanics, 80% for Asian Americans, 100% among African Americans, and there's plenty of room for those numbers to grow.

Unfortunately, concerns about access to safe infrastructure remains a barrier for many would-be riders. I believe we must do more in Congress to address that. It's a simple fact that when we invest in complete streets with safe pedestrian and bicycle pathways, we create communities where businesses want to invest and families want to live. That is why I plan to introduce a bill in the coming weeks that will create innovative new ways of financing non-motorized infrastructure projects. I am hopeful that this legislation will attract bipartisan support here in Congress, so that Americans of all age and background can enjoy equitable access to safe roads.

TRIBUTE TO COACH ROBERT L. STRAYHAN

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Coach Robert L. Strayhan of Baytown's Carver High School touched the hearts of the many Carver and Lewisville High School athletes, students, fellow faculty members, staff members and family and friends who had the privilege of knowing him and who had the chance to be coached or mentored by him; and

Whereas, Coach Strayhan, as he was known to all of his students, joined the faculty of George Washington Carver High School of Baytown, Texas in 1952 and remained there until May of 1967. He served as assistant football coach and head basketball coach. Coach Strayhan had strict standards for his athletes and students, making them stay focused on assignments and grades; and

Whereas, Coach Strayhan instituted a 'no pass, no play' rule long before the state of Texas mandated such a rule; and

Whereas, Coach Strayhan made sports fun and was a 'hands-on' coach; and

Whereas, Robert L. Strayhan had strong moral values, encouraging the young people under his guidance to avoid teen pregnancies, drug abuse, gangs, underage drinking and teen smoking; and

Whereas, Coach Strayhan did not use his athletes only for winning games, but encouraged them to go to college and worked hard to help them obtain scholarships, regardless of race; and

Whereas, Coach Strayhan was very justly proud of his days at Carver High School; Be it therefore

Resolved: That I, Congressman STEVE STOCKMAN of the 36th District of Texas, am proud to join the many other friends and members of the Baytown community in honoring the life and work of Coach Robert L. Strayhan—a shining example to his many friends, athletes and students, to the City of Baytown and to his fellow Americans. May he long be remembered.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LOW-WAGE FEDERAL CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE BACK PAY ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Low-Wage Federal Contractor Back Pay Act of 2013, to grant back pay to federally contracted retail, food, custodial and security service workers who were furloughed during last month's federal government shutdown. The bill, which would amend the current continuing resolution, would apply to all three branches of the federal government. The idea for the bill was brought to my attention by these federally contracted service workers, some of whom work here on the Capitol grounds providing Members of Congress and congressional staff with daily services.

Many federally contracted workers in federal agencies earn little more than the minimum wage with few, if any benefits, and while others are unionized with little better wages, all are the lowest paid workers in the federal government and should not be punished because Congress failed to do its job and keep the government functioning for 16 days. Congress did the right thing when it gave back pay to federal employees, who work in the same buildings as these low-wage service workers. However, both groups of workers were victims who deserve to be made whole. I recognize, of course, that contract workers are employees of contractors, but the distinction between federal workers and at least the lowest-paid

service workers who serve the federal government and its employees and keep, for example, their premises clean, fails when it comes to a deliberate government shutdown. Unlike many other contractors, those who employ low-wage service workers have little latitude to help make up for lost wages. Low-wage federally contracted service workers could least afford the loss of pay during the shutdown, and should not now have to go to work every day with everyone else in their federal buildings having received back pay except for them.

The nation's capital is the high-profile home of the federal government's collusion with those that pay low wages through leases and contracts with federal agencies. At least this legislation would provide some parity to these low-wage federal contractor workers.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

OBAMACARE

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, it's been seven weeks since the debut of the Affordable Care Act's website, and the reviews of the roll-out are in. Opinions from news organizations and commentators from across the political spectrum are nearly unanimous—Obamacare is an unmitigated disaster.

One constituent of mine, Cynthia from Novi, Michigan, tried to sign up for Healthcare.gov after her employer told her she'd be losing her plan. Her first attempt to access the exchange saw her kicked off the website. After finally getting a quote for coverage, she saw that the price of her same coverage had skyrocketed.

Jason, also from Novi contacted me about his experience with Obamacare. He has a family of four and likes his current plan because, quote "worked for me and my family" unquote. He recently received a letter from his insurance company explaining that the ACA had caused his plan to be cancelled effective January 1st. His new premium is 73% higher than his old premium.

These are just two stories that exemplify the havoc that this law is wreaking on the American people. It cannot be fixed. Passing a delay, now, is like telling the captain of the Titanic to just hold out a little longer after the iceberg struck. It must be repealed.

HONORING CINDY MARKS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Cindy Marks, the 2013 President of the California School Boards Association. I want to recognize Cindy for her dedication to education over the past fifteen years. In addition to being a junior high and high school Health Education speaker, she spent the past thirteen years as a host family for unwed pregnant teens, and the past eleven years as a mentor at an inner city Apartment Complex in Modesto working with

at-risk youth and youth gang members. These are only a few among her many achievements that deserve to be recognized.

As President of CSBA, Cindy chairs a number of CSBA Task Forces and Councils. These include the Educational Legal Alliance Steering Committee, the Linked Learning Task Force, and CSBA's Superintendents Advisory Council. She is a member of the Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership Board of Directors and she represents CSBA on the Education Coalition, a consortium of education stake holder groups.

In addition to serving in these leadership positions at a regional and state-wide level, Cindy has served on numerous county-level committees pertaining to at-risk youth and student achievement. She was appointed by the legislature to the "Joint Committee to develop a master plan for education—Kindergarten through University." She is currently a member of the task force on k-12 Civic Learning, a joint task force established by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye and State Superintendent of public instruction Tom Torlakson. The task force will bring definition to the skills, knowledge, and dispositions that students and community members need to be informed of. Cindy leads the sub-group on Business and Community Partners.

In 2013, President Cindy Marks was named, "Elected Woman of the Year" by California Women Lead, a nonprofit, nonpartisan association of women holding—or aspiring to hold—elected or appointed office. She was among five women honored by the organization this year.

Moreover, Cindy has served on a variety of prestigious national governance-related committees including the "100 District Leader Network for Citizenship and Service Learning," a collaboration among national education associations such as the National School Boards Association and the American Association of School Administrators. She also serves on the National School Boards Association Pacific Region Board.

Cindy is also a board member for the Latino Emergency Council, the city Ministry Network, and a founding member of the Dr. Parker Steering Committee to address the achievement gap and how it relates to African American students.

Cindy's passion for education, her expertise across a wide-range of policy areas from school finance and fiscal reform to dropout prevention and school discipline, safe schools, and state and federal legislative issues make her one of California's outstanding education leaders.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Cindy Marks for her hard work, dedication to education, and for serving as an inspiration to others around her. I wish her great success in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DELEGATE JOE JOHNSON

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to Delegate Joe Johnson, who has dutifully served Southwest