

can reach anything I put my mind to, and I know that with their advice and my hard dedication I can get very far in life. Hispanics are people who never give up when it comes to accomplishing their life goals and will face sacrifices and have dedication to reach their goals and persuade others to do the same.

Hispanic Heritage may fade away in families who move to live in the United States and adopt another culture. As a Hispanic, I consider it my duty to make sure that my heritage is not forgotten. As my parents have done with our family, I will ensure that our heritage is protected for generations by telling others about our traditions and customs. When I have a family of my own I will tell them all the memorable stories my parents told me about our family traditions. I will continue to use traditions, such as the piñatas, language, posadas, dances, and foods, to keep the Hispanic heritage alive in my life and inculcate those values to my descendants.

As a proud Hispanic I will never forget where my family's roots initiated. Even though I live in a different country with a different type of life and traditions, my Hispanic heritage will always remain in my memories and deep in my heart.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST
SERGEANT JAMES A. KEATING
MEMORIAL

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 2, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the First Sergeant James A. Keating Memorial Monument in Sharon, Massachusetts.

I was never fortunate enough to meet my uncle, Sergeant James Keating, as he was killed in the line of duty while bravely fighting for our country in World War II. A Silver Star recipient, Sergeant Keating was a man I greatly admired growing up, and his memory lived on in our family as a true example of what it means to serve one's country.

As a Member of Congress, I believe one of my most important responsibilities is to honor the men and women who have given so much to ensure our freedom. I am thankful for the countless individuals who have served the United States, and for the people who work every day in order to honor our veterans and active-duty servicemen.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the dedication of the First Sergeant James A. Keating Memorial Monument in Sharon, Massachusetts. I ask that my colleagues join me in this recognition, and in honoring all of the men and women who have given so much in service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING VARSITY BRANDS
AND THE SERVICE OF FLORIDA'S
YOUTH ON NATIONAL SCHOOL
SPIRIT DAY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 2, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Varsity Brands and the

service of Florida's youth on National School Spirit Day. In 2009, Varsity Brands designated the second Friday of October as National School Spirit Day to showcase the differences cheerleaders and dancers make in their schools and communities—as mentors, community service leaders, and positive role models.

Varsity Brands, which holds the Universal Cheerleading Association's (UCA's) National Championships and the International All Star Championship at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, has encouraged school cheerleaders and dancers to take part in community service activities, pledging more than 465,000 community service hours since 2009.

In conjunction with National School Spirit Day on October 11, 2013, Varsity Brands launched Cheer for a Healthier America, a program aimed to enlist high school student cheerleaders, dancers, and student athletes as ambassadors to get local elementary school kids more involved in physical activities and teach them about making healthy choices.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I applaud the service of Florida's youth and Varsity Brands in conjunction with National School Spirit Day. May their example of sportsmanship and community inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

RECOGNIZING NEAL INGALLS
SANDERS FOR HIS 33 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE OPEN DOOR
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 2, 2013

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Neal Sanders for his 33 years of faithful service on the Board of Directors of the Open Door Community Health Centers.

Originally from Covina, California, Neal Sanders has demonstrated a life-long commitment to community service, including a successful career as one of the most highly respected and desired criminal defense attorneys of Humboldt County. A graduate of California Western in San Diego, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree followed by his Juris Doctorate at McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento. Neal Sanders is a member of the California State Bar, lifetime member of the Traynor Society, and recipient of the American Jurisprudence Award. His passion for helping others extends beyond his career to his roles as former chair and commissioner of the Human Rights Commission, former board member of the Humboldt Arts Council, former board member and chair of Redwood Legal Assistance, and current board member of the Open Door Community Health Centers.

When Neal Sanders joined the Open Door Board of Directors in 1980, he joined an organization committed to expanding access to quality health care on California's north coast, regardless of age, income, or ability to pay. Through 33 years of unprecedented growth, he has served in a variety of positions including chair of the board. Neal Sanders helped guide Open Door from a small storefront operation to being the largest primary care provider in Northern California. He was instru-

mental in securing the USDA loan that helped build the Humboldt Open Door Clinic in Arcata—the first fully functional health center in the Open Door system. Neal Sanders continues to share his time, talent and commitment as an active board member and leader in health care access for all residents of the north coast.

Mr. Speaker, Neal Ingall Sanders' dedication to serving his community, and specifically his decades of service to the Open Door Community Health Centers, is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of his many contributions to the people of Northern California.

RECOGNIZING ROUND LAKE AREA
AMERICAN LEGION POST 1170
AND HONORING EDGAR AND
ERIK GARCIA FOR ORGANIZING
ITS RENOVATION

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 2, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inspiring story of Erik and Edgar Garcia's plans to renovate the Round Lake Area American Legion Post 1170 in my district.

Post 1170 was beginning to show its age. The walls, the floors, the chairs, the lights—serious renovation was needed. The veterans who fill its halls deserved better.

Two young, enterprising brothers from Boy Scout Troop 275 decided they would lead it. With the help of Troop Leader Paul Socha, Commander Steven Hall and their fellow scouts, Erik and Edgar designed their plan and organized the support they needed. But, willing as they all were to do the work, they still needed supplies—lots of supplies.

That's where the local Home Depot came in.

With donated materials and gift cards, Home Depot single-handedly covered 90 percent of the total cost. More importantly when the time came to start the work, 30 Home Depot employees pitched in to help with the labor.

Finally, with the supplies fully paid for and the tremendous outpouring of support from the community, Erik and Edgar's plan was not only off the ground, but soaring. Today, Post 1170 is bright and brand new. The turnaround is remarkable, though not surprising given the vision, dedication and hard work shown by Erik and Edgar and their fellow scouts.

Mr. Speaker, I am immensely proud of what our community was able to do together. They rallied behind Troop 275, and the results are nothing short of remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, this is an inspiring story and another example of why our communities in Illinois's Tenth District are so close and so strong.

HONORING THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF SAN JOSE HIGH

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 2, 2013

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague Representative MIKE HONDA to recognize the 150th Anniversary of San Jose High School.

It is not often that we get to honor an institution established during the Civil War; one that has witnessed our country's greatest triumphs, and withstood our greatest challenges.

Founded in 1863, San Jose High is the second-oldest public high school in California. With humble origins in the second-story room above Orbon's flour store, it has been destroyed by earthquake, rebuilt and relocated many times, but San Jose High has persisted.

When it arrived at its current location in 1952, the original building was selected by the New York City Museum of Modern Art as one of the forty-three outstanding buildings of the postwar period.

Although it is responsible for the education of a number of successful Alum, San Jose High has the rare distinction of having educated four members of Congress: the Honorable John Anderson; former Secretary of Transportation, the Honorable Norman Mineta; our colleague Representative MIKE HONDA; and my predecessor, the Honorable Don Edwards.

San Jose High has a history of establishing forward thinking and unique educational programs. In 1985 it began offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma, a qualification widely recognized by the world's leading universities. The program's challenging and rigorous course work attracts students from all over Santa Clara County.

Not one to rest on its laurels, in 2007 San Jose High created a specialized engineering program to encourage students to enter STEM fields and prepare them for their continuing education. The curriculum includes courses on Engineering Design, Digital Electronics and Biotechnical Engineering. Coupled with the state-of-the-art Career Technology Engineering Building, opened in 2010, San Jose High is ensuring that its students are prepared for a 21st century economy.

We wish to congratulate San Jose High School on its 150th anniversary, and commend its faculty and staff, both current and former, for their hard work and dedication in educating the children of San Jose.

THE PASSING OF JEANET HALL

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 2, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary Christian whose life of service to both God, and her fellow man, was an inspiration to both her children and her community.

Jeanet Hall passed away on Thursday, November 21st, 2013 at the age of 76. Though

she is no longer with us, she leaves behind a lifetime of selflessness. Jeanet lived for her family, attending to her seventeen children, sixty eight grandchildren, sixty-three great grandchildren, ten great-great grandchildren, three adopted daughters; two nephews, two nieces, two great nephews, one great niece; and two Godchildren.

All the while, she was also involved in ministry at Bethel Baptist Church and served faithfully in the choir, driving the bus for the Evangelism Ministry and attending all special programs and church activities.

I extend my condolences to Jeanet's family and friends, but may they, as well as all of us, take strength in the selfless contributions and sincere love that Jeanet has left for us to emulate.

TRIBUTE TO JFK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 2, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the passing of an extraordinary and progressive individual, our 35th President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy. President Kennedy was elected during a time period when change was imminent even in the midst of resistance. Throughout a tumultuous time in this country's history, President Kennedy stood strong against those who saw this nation's progress as a threat.

During the height of the civil rights movement, President Kennedy's willingness to engage in the struggle for the equal rights of all people transcended the era. He embraced civil rights and encouraged an entire nation to join him in the fight for justice. His civil rights engagement was seen as a turning point in the fight for equality.

President Kennedy also advocated for technological advancement and encouraged unprecedented innovation during his time. As the ranking member on the Science, Space and Technology committee, I admire the will of President Kennedy to further our country's space exploration capabilities. President Kennedy placed an emphasis on the country's scientific competitiveness that few considered necessary. President Kennedy displayed a courageous and resilient vision for this country that is consistent, in every way, with the title of Commander-in-Chief.

Today, many cities around the country, including my district in Dallas, will hold ceremonies to commemorate his legacy. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his legacy. May his eternal flame continue to burn as a symbol of his lasting impact on this country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
HONORABLE CALVIN SMYRE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 2, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished public servant,

devoted man of Faith and dear friend to my wife, Vivian and me, Georgia State Representative Calvin Smyre. Representative Smyre was honored for his contributions to Greater Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church on Sunday, November 24, 2013 at 11 a.m. in Columbus, Georgia.

Representative Smyre earned a degree in Business Administration from Fort Valley State University. In 1974, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives as its youngest member at 26 years of age. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to serve with Representative Smyre during my own tenure in the Georgia General Assembly, and we became great friends.

A longtime statesman, Representative Smyre has built a repertoire of legislative accomplishments. He currently serves on the Appropriations Committee and the Rules Committee and is the former Chairman of the House Minority Caucus. He played major roles in authoring and sponsoring important legislation, including the legislation making Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a state holiday; creating the Georgia Dome, home of the Atlanta Falcons; and creating a new Georgia State Flag. He is President Emeritus of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.

In addition to his legislative achievements, Representative Smyre has also built a successful business career. He has served as Executive Vice President of Corporate External Affairs of Synovus and President of the Synovus Foundation. He also serves as one of eight members of the company's Corporate Executive Group. Synovus, a Columbus, Georgia-based diversified financial services holding company, has been named one of Fortune magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For" in America multiple times.

Yet, Representative Smyre is more than a legislator, he is more than a business executive, he is a servant to all humankind and still finds time to serve his community. He has held leadership and membership positions on numerous boards, foundations and organizations. Dr. Maya Angelou once said that, "I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back." Representative Smyre continues to throw a prodigious amount of love and service back to the Columbus, Georgia community, the State of Georgia, and our country.

But most importantly, Representative Smyre is a devoted Man of God. Greater Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church has been his home for more than fifty years, the members of the congregation are his family, and worship is his sustenance. Representative Smyre has made numerous contributions to the Church and for that, he has been honored with the "Calvin Smyre Tree of Life." This is the Church's way of thanking Representative Smyre for pouring his heart, body, and soul into Greater Ward Chapel A.M.E.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, Greater Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church, and the Columbus, Georgia community in honoring Georgia State Representative Calvin Smyre for his dedicated service, leadership, and faith.