

Andrew W. Cooper, a community activist, was the impetus for this historic change. A year after the Voting Rights Act became law he sued New York State officials in a case called *Cooper v. Power*. The ensuing legal battle led to the redrawing of the now historically famous 12th Congressional District of New York (the district was later reapportioned to parts of the 11th District and now 9th Congressional District).

The ruling set in motion a monumental shift in voting rights in New York and beyond, redefining political representation for people of color. It was built on the foundation of civil rights gains made in the south and helped push the agenda for Voting Rights nationwide.

As a woman of color, a witness to the reelection of our nation's first Black President, and the U.S. Representative for the Ninth Congressional District, which is a majority-minority district covered under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, I am deeply concerned by the potential ramifications of this case and the impact of its ruling on people of color and their right to vote.

Most recently a Brooklyn elected official wrote an editorial questioning the validity and significance of Brooklyn's classification as a Section 5 covered jurisdiction. Brooklyn NY has one of the largest concentrations of people of color in the nation. It is also worth noting that another elected official from Brooklyn appeared in "Black face", just this Sunday. These types of hostile inquiries and acts erode the fabric of American democracy and speak to the heart of why Section 5 preclearance is vital to the realization of justice and equality.

In many areas, racially polarized voting and the intent to disenfranchise Black voters demonstrate that the requirements of Section Five remain crucial to the basic function of our democracy.

The 9th Congressional district of New York, which I presently represent, was birthed in 1965 when Andrew Cooper brought suit under the Voting Rights Act against racial gerrymandering and in response to widespread and prolific discriminatory voting practices in Brooklyn. This suit gave birth to New York's 12th Congressional district and the election in 1968 of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman ever elected to the U.S. Congress to whom I have the distinct honor and privilege of succeeding almost 40 years later.

Even in the years after the formation of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971, people of color remain underrepresented at every level of elected offices.

These are just a few examples of why Section 5, and in particular its preclearance clauses, are essential to ensure that changes to voting rules and practices do not result in voter suppression, retrogression, and discrimination.

Without the existence of majority-minority districts, the voices of millions of Americans will be excluded from Capitol Hill; and their perspectives would not inform public debate. Without Section 5 covered districts, our democracy would exist in form, but not in fact.

When I was elected to Congress in 2006, and after Congress had just reauthorized the Voting Rights Act, I would never have thought that today we would be re-litigating issues that I believed were long since settled and resolved.

It took our nation over 200 years to obtain the victories of the Civil Rights Movement,

now less than 50 years after the Voting Rights Act was signed into law are we truly to believe that systemic racial discrimination and voter suppression has ended?, I think not!

These advancements in the struggle for equality, permitting All Americans to freely exercise their right to vote will take more than a lifetime to protect and preserve. Jurists of the Supreme Court, a word of advice- If it ain't broke, don't fix it!

#### ST. MARKS PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

#### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. Mark's Parochial School in Bristol Borough, PA. On December 27, 1887, St. Mark's Parochial School was opened and officially blessed, becoming the first parochial school in Bucks County. St. Mark's School was initially staffed by The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and Father Ward, who was Pastor of St. Mark Parish from 1879 to 1887, is considered the founder of Catholic education in Bristol. For the next 125 years, the school would become an integral part of the Bristol Borough community.

Thanks to its dedicated teachers and staff, St. Mark's Parochial School provides students with a high quality and well-rounded education in a Christian environment. It helps children develop a strong sense of morality and concern for their fellow neighbor. Further, members of St. Mark's routinely demonstrate an active presence in fostering their community. The school has become a great source of pride for the Borough of Bristol.

St. Mark's shows promise and growth as an institution and will continue to cultivate young minds. Because the school serves as a model of excellence in education and an active participant in community development, it is my pleasure to honor St. Mark's Parochial School of Bristol Borough on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### SEQUESTER HARM IS "ABSOLUTELY OVER-HYPED"

#### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Mayor Bloomberg says, "Spare me!"

He said yesterday that the Administration's efforts to scare people about the sequester have gone too far.

He said, "In all fairness, on Monday, we'll be able to police the streets."

He said "there's a lot of posturing" and that statements about laying off employees, closing down hospitals, and letting prisoners go "are not good for the country."

The Mayor said, "Spare me, I live in that world. I mean come on, let's get serious here."

In today's National Journal Daily, Steve Bell, senior director of the Bipartisan Policy Center, says the sequester is "absolutely over-hyped."

He says, "A sequester will occur and the next day the likelihood is that almost no one will know that it started."

The choice is simple. We can cut now or crash in the very near future.

The press says the sequester will hurt the economy. Actually, the sequester is miniscule in comparison to the harm to our economy from the President's tax hikes, Obamacare, and environmental overkill.

#### HONORING MINNIE DODGE

#### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Ms. Minnie Dodge, Administrative Manager for the Modesto Chamber of Commerce, who is retiring after 14 years of outstanding service to our community.

Ms. Dodge attended Boise State University. During her time in the state of Idaho, she worked for L.B. Industries, Inc., the Larry Barnes Foundation, and was the co-owner of Omega Construction.

Minnie then relocated to California, where she was hired at the Modesto Chamber of Commerce as the Customer Service Manager in February of 1999. During her years at the Chamber, she was on several committees, including the Ag Aware Luncheon, the Harvest Luncheon, the Good Egg Breakfast, and the Modesto Chamber of Commerce Leadership Steering Committee. In July 2002, Minnie was promoted to Administrative Manager.

Minnie and her husband, Tony Meli, will soon be moving back to Boise, Idaho. Her family includes children Nicole, Cherene and her husband Steve, and Shane and his wife Tracy; along with their grandchildren Emily, Ashley, Conner, and Jack.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Minnie Dodge for her numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed the vote on Monday, February 25, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 47, H.R. 667—To redesignate the Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range.

#### HONORING JESSE J. JOSSELL, JR.

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable veteran of the Korean Conflict from 1954–1957, Pastor Jesse J. Jossell, Jr., of Marks, Mississippi.

Jesse was born in Coahoma County on September 5, 1935 to the late Jesse J. and Cordelia B. Jossell, Sr. His family later moved to Quitman County, Mississippi where he attended school and in May 1954 he graduated from Marks Industrial High School. He received his Associate of Arts Degree from Coahoma Junior College in May 1959. In 1961, he received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Jackson State College, now Jackson State University. He also attended Howard University in 1965. In 1969, he earned a Master of Science Degree in Natural Science from Oklahoma State University and later a Master of Education Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision in 1973.

From 1960 until 1973, Jesse Jossell worked for the Quitman County School District in Marks, Mississippi as a classroom science teacher and science supervisor before accepting a principal position at the Falcon Junior High School in 1973.

In 1973, Jesse Jossell was asked to seek the office of Superintendent of Schools in the upcoming State and County Elections in 1975. Just four years earlier, the leadership in the black community under the new voting rights law sought to test this new tool. Jesse by far was the most attractive candidate and offered the best opportunity to elect an African-American to a countywide position. For two years, voter registration was the order of the day. More than 1,500 African-Americans were added to the voter rolls by qualifying deadline. Although Jesse and the other black candidates were not elected, three years later he was elected the first African-American to the Quitman County Board of Supervisors.

Jesse Jossell was later called into the ministry, where he has served as Pastor of Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church since 1984. Through his work as pastor, he has provided child care to working mothers, especially single low-income and those trying to better themselves by going to school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Jesse Jossell, Jr. for a life of dedication to bettering the lives of the least among us.

#### HONORING CONNECTICUT'S PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the 26 Peace Corps members from eastern Connecticut who are currently serving in the Peace Corps around the world. For five decades, the Peace Corps has supported international diplomacy through the promotion of peace, goodwill, and social and economic equality. I am proud that these young Connecticut residents have devoted part of their lives to help improve the lives of others.

Among these eastern Connecticut volunteers is Keith Esposito, a resident of Gales Ferry and a Boston University graduate who is teaching English in Ukraine. Emily Howell Heller, a Niantic resident and Connecticut College graduate, is serving in Panama as an Environmental Education volunteer. Justin Lamountain, who is serving in the Philippines,

is a forest and land management consultant as part of the Peace Corps Response program.

Another volunteer, Chelsea Krieger, is serving as a HIV/AIDS technical health advisor in Malawi. Chelsea previously spent a year in Honduras through the Peace Corps; however, the Honduras program was suspended only a year into her service. Chelsea completed a Master's in Public Health and was motivated to apply for a Peace Corps response position to use her knowledge to assist those in need. Lantham Avery Jr. is currently serving in Kenya, a country currently experiencing unrest in the wake of the upcoming national elections. Additionally, one of my former interns, Gabrielle Tassone from Montville, is serving in Madagascar as an education volunteer. Other eastern Connecticut residents are serving in countries from Armenia to Tanzania to Gambia, and Kenya.

As we recognize the 52nd Anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps program, it is important to recognize the over 210,000 American volunteers that have participated in this important service program. Volunteers have shown the international community the American value of service in over 139 countries. This program provides the best and brightest of our young people the opportunity to represent their country abroad, by teaching English, by assisting with economic development programs, and by providing necessary support to small communities throughout the world. As we begin Peace Corps month, I am hopeful that we can all recognize all of these invaluable contributions to American values and global understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these distinguished volunteers from Connecticut and across the country, for their contributions to the developing world and for embodying the core value of service we all share.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ALLIANCE FOR LUPUS RESEARCH'S 10TH ANNUAL WALK WITH US TO CURE LUPUS

#### HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alliance for Lupus Research's tenth annual Walk With Us To Cure Lupus. Since its creation, Walk with Us To Cure Lupus has promoted awareness in our community and raised over one million dollars in support of medical research aimed at curing this disease.

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease in which a person's immune system attacks normal, healthy tissues. The underlying causes are unknown, and there is no cure. This disease may cause damage to various parts of the body including skin, joints, and internal organs. As a chronic disease, those who suffer from lupus can endure months of symptoms that may reemerge as flares throughout their lives.

It is estimated that over 1.5 million Americans have lupus, including 100,000 people in my home state of Florida. The worldwide total is now over 5 million. It is important that we

continue to support research to develop better treatments and find a cure, educate our friends, families, and health care professionals to improve diagnosis and treatment, and promote awareness of this disease and advocate on the behalf of those who are affected by it.

I am especially proud of the many Floridians who have contributed to these efforts. In particular, I would like to recognize my good friend and the district director for Florida's 21st Congressional District, Wendi Lipsich. Wendi was diagnosed with lupus 25 years ago. While she is well-known for her energetic advocacy on behalf of seniors, children, and families throughout our community, she deserves special recognition today for her contribution to the Alliance for Lupus Research. Ten years ago, with the help of her friends Allison Rubin and Randy Netko, Wendi launched the first annual Walk With Us To Cure Lupus event in South Florida. Eight hundred people attended the first walk in 2004 and raised \$200,000. Each year since, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised exclusively for the purpose of research into curing lupus. In total, the Alliance for Lupus Research has committed \$81 million to develop a greater understanding of this disease and find a cure.

This weekend on March 3, 2013, hundreds of participants will join together at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida to walk together in support of lupus research. I commend all of the participants and donors that will make the tenth annual Walk With Us To Cure Lupus a success. Congratulations to Wendi, Allison, and the other organizers of this year's walk. Together, you are providing hope to the millions of families touched by lupus and bringing our nation closer to finally discovering a cure.

#### INTRODUCING THE EVERGLADES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION ACT

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Everglades for the Next Generation Act.

Everglades restoration is unfortunately at a standstill. All of the projects that can be started are already underway and nearing completion. It has been six years since the last Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Projects (CERP) were authorized. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is supposed to be the vehicle for these authorizations, but clearly is not sufficient. In the 12 years since CERP was signed into law, Congress has passed only one WRDA bill. An awkward state of limbo is not the future Congress had in mind for the Everglades when it passed CERP, and it is not the future that the American people deserve. Congressional inaction has persevered for far too long despite bipartisan support for restoration.

Regardless of the real progress, restoration efforts will not succeed without the next generation of projects, which cannot begin without further Congressional authorizations. That is exactly what this bill does: authorizes the shovel-ready projects which have been awaiting another WRDA. Additionally, this legislation will make it easier for the Army Corps of