

the American Story for All, early and under budget, to the President of the United States.

Since that time, the notion of a Smithsonian American Latino Museum has continued to gain support from a diversity of people and places. Despite that long-standing support and almost 20 years later, we are still not there yet, but we are getting closer.

To move forward in our effort, the House and Senate must pass the Smithsonian American Latino Act. Our bill would do 3 things:

Designate the now-vacant Arts and Industries Building (AIB) within the Smithsonian Institution as the location of the museum, including an annex that would be constructed underground and adjacent to the AIB. The bill requires that the planning, design and construction of the museum be harmonious with open space and visual sightlines of the National Mall.

Provide the Board of Regents 18 months to conduct a study to determine the best way to plan, design, fund and construct the Museum of the American Latino, taking into account the Commission's report.

Authorize private fundraising to begin for the planning, designing and construction of the museum.

Upon the bill being passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President, the Smithsonian American Latino Museum would be on its way to becoming the 20th museum within the Smithsonian Institution, forming part of the world's largest museum and research complex.

Many may ask: at this moment in time how can we afford to create a new museum? The better question is how can we not?

These are challenging times. And in these times, the arts, culture and humanities have a distinct role to play in helping unite us during episodes of adversity and prepare us to share in the prosperity to come. Cultural and historical institutions play a critical role in investigating, educating, sharing, celebrating, preserving, and convening the American people—as we are doing today—to show that we are in this together.

Mr. Speaker, the Smithsonian Institution was created for the purpose of helping increase and diffuse knowledge. It is in that same spirit that we seek to advance the Smithsonian American Latino Museum effort. Just like the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of the American Indian, The National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National Air and Space Museum, and others, the future Smithsonian American Latino Museum will help display America in its full bloom.

IN HONOR OF THE PARADISO  
FAMILY

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 15, 2013*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on September 2, 1912, Arthur Rose Eldred of New York earned this Nation's first Eagle Scout Award. Arthur would be the first of three generations of Eldred's to rise to the rank of Eagle; his son and grandson hold the honor as well. The title of Eagle is an exceptional and extraordinary achievement earned by just

2% of Boy Scouts. This uncommon accomplishment is precisely why, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael and Cheryl Paradiso. On Saturday, March 16, 2013, Daniel Paradiso will be the fourth child of Michael and Cheryl to attain scouting's highest honor. Their daughter, Stephanie, has achieved the Gold Award in Girl Scouting and their three sons, Tony, M.J., and now Daniel have all earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

A century has passed since Arthur Eldred earned our Nation's first Eagle Award. One hundred years later, dedicated parents Mike and Cheryl Paradiso provide the guidance, support and commitment for their children just as Arthur Eldred did for his son and grandson. Congratulations, Mike and Cheryl for your extraordinary achievement.

CONGRATULATING DAVID J.  
JOHNS ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS  
DIRECTOR OF NEW WHITE HOUSE  
INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL  
EXCELLENCE FOR AFRICAN  
AMERICANS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 15, 2013*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Secretary Duncan's appointment of David Johns to head the new White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. David's expertise will be critical in helping to address the academic challenges that many Black students face. America's educational system has undergone a remarkable transformation in the years since segregation, and we must continue to move forward to ensure equality of access and opportunity for education for all.

Here in Congress, I have advocated for advancing the educational opportunities for minorities through increased funding to public schools, federal fellowships, and tuition reimbursement programs. However, substantial obstacles to equal educational opportunity still remain in America's educational system. Black students lack equal access to effective teachers and principals, safe schools, and challenging college-preparatory classes. It is no coincidence that over a third of them do not graduate from high school on time, and those that do are not nearly as prepared as their peers. I look forward to working with David to bridge this gap and to provide all Americans regardless of race or gender the skills they need to compete in the workforce.

Education is the key to success in today's world, and everyone in America is entitled to equal opportunity to obtain a degree, get a good paying job, and live fulfilling lives. America needs to come together to solve the problems of today in order to create a brighter future tomorrow. I am confident that David Johns will help us get there sooner."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION  
OF DELTA ENTERPRISES IN AS-  
SISTING THE MOST VULNER-  
ABLE VICTIMS OF SUPERSTORM  
SANDY

**HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 15, 2013*

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contribution made by Delta Children's Products and it's President, Mr. Joseph Shamie, in assisting the most vulnerable victims of Superstorm Sandy.

Staten Island and Brooklyn were ravaged by the unprecedented force of this natural disaster, leaving thousands of residents without homes or even the bare necessities of life.

While the damage of Superstorm Sandy uprooted the lives of so many it also left the most vulnerable victims of this tragic event, infants and young children, without the essentials they needed to provide for their well being.

As a resident of Brooklyn, Mr. Shamie saw firsthand the devastation left in Sandy's wake, and understood that there would be a desperate need for child care products. Moving swiftly he ensured that Delta Children's Products filled this much needed gap in supplies by donating cribs, changing tables and infant supplies to those affected.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Shamie and Delta Children's Products for their overwhelming support in helping to protect and care for the most vulnerable victims of Superstorm Sandy, and I ask you to join me in recognizing their commitment to the ongoing recovery effort.

RECOGNIZING MARIA FOOTE AS  
THE 2013 OKALOOSA COUNTY,  
FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL SUP-  
PORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE  
YEAR

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 15, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Maria Foote as the 2013 Okaloosa County Educational Support Professional of the Year. I am honored to recognize her achievements and dedication to the students and teachers of the Northwest Florida community.

Since 2008, Mrs. Foote has worked as an English Language Learner (ELL) interpreter at Destin Elementary School. While serving the Okaloosa County School District, Mrs. Foote has never wavered in her commitment to the ELL program and her students. She works tirelessly to facilitate learning amongst students, teachers, and the community. In a school district that comprises a high ELL population, Mrs. Foote's role as an interpreter is extremely critical, as she translates conferences, documents, and provides academic support. Mrs. Foote also continuously accepts new challenges, and when the Okaloosa County School District began English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) class for families, she was tasked as the liaison between ELL families and the district facilitator.

She has accepted and carried out this role with grace and excellence.

Out of her passion for service, Mrs. Foote's involvement extends beyond the classroom. She is active in fundraising activities to benefit the English Language Learner population, as well as readily answering calls for help after school hours. It is not uncommon for Mrs. Foote to go above and beyond for the families of Okaloosa County, as she places their needs before her own. The significant improvement and learning gains demonstrated by students working with Mrs. Foote truly exemplify her steadfast commitment to excellence and desire for her students to succeed. Instructors like Mrs. Foote leave a perpetual impact on their schools and community.

Mrs. Foote's efforts and hard work have not gone unnoticed. She has been widely recognized and honored for her accomplishments in the school and community and is the recipient of several awards, including Service Beyond the Call of Duty awarded by Northwest Florida State College and Taking the Lead Organizing Projects awarded by AmeriCorps.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Maria Foote on her achievements and contributions to the Okaloosa County School District. She is a dedicated teacher, an inspiration to her students, and an honorable public servant. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Foote, and we wish her all the best for continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE SALINAS VALLEY MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 15, 2013*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System on its sixtieth anniversary of caring for the health needs of Monterey County. Community leaders began fundraising for a new hospital in 1941. World War II postponed those efforts. They resumed in 1947, after the State of California passed an act allowing taxation districts to be established in local communities for the building of hospitals. All funding for the hospital was local; no state or federal funds were used in the project.

The hospital was named Salinas Valley Memorial to honor the memory of "the men and women of the armed forces who made the supreme sacrifice for their community and their nation." It opened on April 20, 1953 with 138 beds, 100 employees and 45 physicians. President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent a letter of congratulations in which he wrote, the "People of Salinas have every right to be proud of this admirable example of local self-reliance and initiative." Roy Diaz, who survived the Bataan Death March, was in attendance at the dedication; he still lives in the area and will help Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System celebrate its anniversary.

The hospital was state-of-the-art when it opened. Still, the advancements in technology over the next twenty-five years were greater than the founders could have imagined. Partnerships with universities and other healthcare organizations like Visiting Nurses and Doctors On Duty allow Salinas Valley Memorial to expand and deliver world-class health care into communities across the Central Coast. It is currently licensed for 269 acute care beds. Today there are more than 1,600 employees with more than 250 physicians on staff.

The hospital has won numerous awards for its cardiac care center from such organizations as the American Heart Association and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. In 2011, it was honored as being one of only 110 U.S. hospitals given the international designation of baby-friendly by the World Health Organization and UNICEF.

Mr. Speaker, I know the whole House joins me in congratulating Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System on its anniversary, and wish them many more years of quality service to the public.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MINERVA JOHNICAN

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 15, 2013*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a champion for the rights of women, a leader in her community and a stalwart for Civil Rights, Minerva Johnican, who passed away in her hometown of Memphis, Tennessee. I was proud to call her my friend and she will be greatly missed throughout the City of Memphis.

Minerva was born in Memphis on November 16, 1938 and was the sixth of seven children to John Bruce and Annie B. Johnican. She attended Hamilton Elementary and High School and began her college studies at Central State College in Ohio before graduating from Tennessee State University in 1960.

After graduating from college, Minerva earned her certificate in library science from the University of Memphis in 1965. She served in the Memphis City Schools system as a teacher and librarian for a total of 18 years, and later, she became the head librarian at Colonial Elementary School. She was always active in politics. However, her interest crystallized in 1967 when she was driving home from school and heard on the radio that a group of ministers were maced while marching for the rights of sanitation workers in downtown Memphis. From this experience, she became an instrumental member of Citizens on the Move for Equality, which advocated for higher wages for sanitation workers. In 1971, she founded the Inner City Voter Education Committee that helped inner-city 18-year-olds register to vote. During this time, she also founded the Volunteer Women's Round Table, which was a coalition of women from different racial backgrounds who worked

to support women in the Democratic Party. Additionally, in a sign of her future political aspirations, Minerva worked on Shirley Chisholm's presidential campaign.

Over the next 15 years, Minerva's political accomplishments broke several glass ceilings for African-Americans and women. In 1975, Minerva became the first woman to serve on the Shelby County Quarterly Court, now called the Shelby County Commission, and held this seat for two four-year terms. I was honored to work with her on the Board of Commissioners and one of our proudest achievements was establishing the MED Hospital when others wanted a smaller hospital. In 1983, she became the first African-American elected to represent an at-large district on the Memphis City Council. As a City Councilwoman, she founded the Building Better Bridges for Memphis Task Force, which encouraged African-Americans and Caucasians in Memphis to work together on community problems. In 1987, Minerva came in second in a six-way race for city mayor. Not to be discouraged from public office, in 1990, she became the first African-American and the first woman to be elected Shelby County Criminal Court Clerk. During her time as County Clerk, she automated the Clerk's office and implemented computers to maintain records, making it easier and more efficient to serve the needs of Memphians and staff. Her vision for improving the County Clerk's Office earned three national awards.

After leaving office in 1994, Minerva worked as a managing loan officer at Mid-America Mortgage and transferred her skills into opening up her own company, OMO Mortgage Financial Services. Although she no longer served in a public office, her passion for public service and community involvement continued. She was a vital member and supporter of my campaigns in 2006 and 2008 and she served as Co-Campaign Manager for Herman Morris's mayoral run. Minerva also served on the board of directors for the Mid-South Muscular Dystrophy Association, Mid-South Chapter of the ACLU, NAACP, and numerous other organizations.

Throughout her public and private sector work, Minerva received countless recognition for her diligence and commitment to the city of Memphis. The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis honored her with the Legends Award in 2009. In addition, she was awarded with the Distinguished Leadership Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, History Makers Award from the National Council of Negro Women, and the NAACP Life Membership.

Sadly, Minerva lost her battle with cancer on Friday, March 8, 2013 at 74 years of age. She will be remembered as a pioneer for her tireless public service at a time when women were not expected to take a leading role. Her dedication to improving her community is unparalleled. Minerva's passion led her to take risks during an era of heightened racial tensions and to encourage people from across racial lines to work together for the betterment of the city. Hers was a life well-lived. Thank you, Minerva, for coming our way.