

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SOUTH FLORIDA AFTER-SCHOOL ALL-STARS

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary program that has touched the lives of thousands of young people across South Florida, and continues to shine a light on the importance of engaging our youth in programs that can help support and guide them.

For almost two decades, the South Florida After-School All-Stars has provided year-round programs to at-risk youth in successful efforts to better steer and empower our young people. This organization started as a summer camp servicing less than 50 students in 1997, and has since grown into a full-service program reaching over 4,000 students a year. With programs in fields ranging from health to scholastic achievement, this organization has managed to engage young people with increasingly varied interests and continues to reach them in meaningful ways.

The South Florida After-School All-Stars serves as an exemplar organization for youth engagement, and has undoubtedly earned our community's admiration, respect, and gratitude.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS DIRECT DEPOSIT AND DIRECT PAYMENT VIA ACH MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as the Direct Deposit and Direct Payment via ACH Month. Administered by NACHA—The Electronic Payments Association, and governed by the NACHA Operating Rules, the ACH Network facilitates direct account-to-account consumer, business, and government payments, and links virtually every one of the more than 13,000 financial institutions in the country. I commend NACHA's commitment to consumers and to providing a safe, secure, and reliable network for direct account-to-account consumer, business, and government payments.

The California, Georgia, New England, and Upper Midwest ACH Associations formed NACHA in 1974 to establish uniform operating rules for the exchange of Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments among ACH associations. With the aid of ACH, financial institutions located anywhere in the United States have been able to exchange ACH payments under a common set of rules and procedures since 1978. Annually, the Network processes more than 21 billion Direct Deposit and Direct Payment transactions totaling almost \$37 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing May as Direct Deposit and Direct Payment via ACH Month.

HONORING LEEWOOD K-8 CENTER

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of students and teachers that came together to make a great and lasting impact on the South Florida community, and continues to shine a light on the cause for environmentalism and the pivotal role our young people can play in promoting such.

For over a decade, the Leewood K-8 Center has been a school commemorated for its successful efforts in educating and empowering young people of South Florida. This school has consistently taught students through both in and out of the classroom experiences, and has most recently been named one of five nationwide grand prize winners of the Solve for Tomorrow STEM Competition by Samsung. Leewood was chosen for its inception of a sustainable garden project, and has not only engaged our youth in infinitely meaningful ways, but has done so towards the betterment of our community and beyond.

Leewood K-8 Center serves as an exemplar institution for innovation towards a more sustainable future and youth activism, and has undoubtedly earned our community's admiration, respect and gratitude.

LOWER BUCKS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, The Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce has been a beacon in the business community for more than a half-century—helping to inspire achievement and success among its members through a myriad of educational programs, events and camaraderie. Chamber membership is its strength. The organization has grown and thrived because of its members, notably those entrepreneurs and business owners who were among the first to join and who remained active for more than 50 years.

The group of original members began as the Chamber began—with hope and expectation—leading the way for others. Those who signed on in the earliest days, proved to be consistent, loyal and supportive to the Chamber membership and the wider business community. Business leadership sparks economic growth and success inspires, and for their role in the budding Lower Bucks Chamber of Com-

merce we are grateful and will continue to cherish our friendship and business relationship. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the duration of my time.

HONORING JORGE CELEDÓN

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a gifted man whose work in the arts and the advancement of human rights and peace in Latin America, specifically in the Republic of Colombia, is truly making a difference.

Jorge Celedón is an innate artist who sings music rooted in the desires and efforts of the Colombian people who seek peace in their homeland. His 20 year career as a singer has been recognized with multiple awards, including a Grammy Award in 2007 for his album titled "Son para el Mundo."

While achieving success as a recording artist, Jorge's music career has helped fuel his charitable work. Recently, he worked closely with United for Colombia, a non-profit organization based in Colombia and Washington D.C. to help the victims of mine explosions. Thanks to Jorge's efforts, many children in Colombia are now enjoying open spaces free from dangerous land mines.

In honor of his outstanding music career and dedication to peace in one of the world's most beleaguered regions, I ask that we recognize Jorge Celedón for his commitment to making the world a better place.

ONE-MINUTE REMARK OF SEQUESTRATION/BUDGET CONFERENCE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in years, Congress is poised to pass a budget that the American people deserve—one that reflects our nation's values, invests in jobs and economic growth, pursues balanced deficit reduction, and strengthens the middle class.

The House and Senate acted on two competing proposals last month, but these plans have languished because the Republican Leadership refuses to appoint conferees. Why? Perhaps consensus would have to be reached.

Back in the real world, \$85 billion in indiscriminate cuts from sequestration continue to take their toll on our national security, health, and economic growth.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office projects 750,000 jobs will be lost from sequestration in this year alone. This alarming projection is proving to be reality with headlines from across the country citing jobs lost in

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

defense, research, healthcare, education, tourism—the list goes on and on.

Nearly a hundred thousand Head Start slots are facing elimination. Cuts to housing vouchers for 140,000 low-income families have begun. Unemployment benefits have been cut by 11 percent for millions of unemployed workers.

Is this the America we come here to shape and serve? I don't.

It's time for Congress to complete the job of producing a budget. There's no reason to stop the conference process in its tracks when our constituents, our families, and our middle class have demanded a reasonable, responsible budget that advances their interests and strengthens our economy.

Let's set aside partisan political games, halt backroom talks and unnecessary delays, and engage in a full, open, transparent debate about our priorities and the path forward for our budget and our country.

HONORING THE DOMINICAN
HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION OF
FLORIDA

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization of extraordinary individuals who have dedicated their lives to bettering the lives of others, and continue to shine light on the pivotal roles health care professionals play in our communities.

Since its inception in 2011, the Dominican Health Care Association of Florida has served as an outstanding organization in the Dominican, Floridian, and health care communities. Comprised of health care professionals with ties to the Dominican Republic, this organization not only accentuates unique health care issues faced by both providers and patients today, but particularly issues faced by such persons of color. Focusing efforts on everything from advancing goals of Dominican health care professionals to informing health care reform in Florida and beyond, this organization has continually worked towards the betterment of the experiences and lives of increasingly diverse and eclectic members of our communities.

The Dominican Health Care Association of Florida serves as an exemplar organization for health care advocacy and community engagement, and has undoubtedly earned our community's respect, admiration, and gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE REVEREND DR.
EUGENE JOHNSON ON HIS 20TH
PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY AT
MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
IN CENTREVILLE, VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Reverend Dr. Eugene Johnson on his 20th Pastoral Anniversary at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Centreville, Virginia.

Mount Olive Baptist Church has served the spiritual needs of those in the Centreville and Northern Virginia communities for nearly 120 years, and Dr. Johnson's leadership has positioned this institution for another century of success.

Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and raised in nearby Oakville. His father was a minister and his mother worked avidly for the good of the community. Dr. Johnson received a Bachelors of Architecture Degree from Southern University, Baton Rouge, in 1970. He earned his Master of Divinity Degree at Howard University in 1989, and in 2006, the Richmond Virginia Seminary conferred on him the prestigious Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree for his exemplary leadership and service.

Before assuming full time pastoral duties at Mount Olive, Dr. Johnson was known as a national expert in design, art, and architecture. He served as the principle Resident Architect with the Federal Highway Administration and was credited as being the first African American in many of the agency's national accomplishments. Dr. Johnson has been recognized for his efforts that resulted in the designation of "All-American Road" to the historic Selma-to-Montgomery March for Voting Rights route. This march, led by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., began on March 21, 1965 with 3,200 marchers. Four days later, on March 25, 1965, 25,000 marchers had joined.

In 1992, Dr. Eugene Johnson assumed the leadership of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Under his guidance, the Church has experienced unprecedented growth in not only the number of members, but also in its activities and influence. Membership has increased nearly ten-fold from 250 members in 1992 to more than 2,000 today, including many young people.

Dr. Johnson has led efforts to expand the Church's influence in the larger community, creating ministries to encourage health and physical fitness, provide tutoring, SAT/PSAT prep, and computer skills training, and serve the spiritual needs of others in our community, including seniors and those who are incarcerated. He has also established partnerships with local schools to foster the academic achievement of minority students. He is an active supporter and participant in foreign mission programs, and under his leadership, Mount Olive has extended its outreach activities around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson on this momentous occasion, and in commending him for his contributions and service to Mount Olive Baptist Church and our community.

HONORING JOEL FURNARI

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary person who has touched the lives of countless young people across South Florida, and continues to shine a light on the cause of empowering our youth through better guidance and support.

For almost three decades, Joel Furnari has served as the Athletic Director at South Dade

Senior High School in Homestead, FL, and has continued to impact the lives of student-athletes both on the field and off. Mr. Furnari was sure to make a holistic impact on South Dade, doing everything from bringing the school to have a top Athletic Department, to helping many student-athletes enter college. As Mr. Furnari prepares to retire, he is commemorated for his dedication to our youth, and the great and lasting impact he has made on the South Florida community.

Mr. Joel Furnari serves as an exemplar person for serving and enriching the lives of others, and has undoubtedly earned our community's respect and gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO TY WOODS

HON. JOSEPH J. HECK

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to pay my most solemn respects to and commemorate the life of Ty Woods, a former Navy SEAL and my constituent who was killed in the attack on the American diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, on the occasion of his name being enshrined on the American Foreign Service Association memorial plaque.

The memorial honors "diplomatic and consular officers of the United States who while on active duty lost their lives under heroic or tragic circumstances." The events that surrounded the untimely loss of Ty Woods were at once tragic and heroic and it is fitting that his name be added to the memorial. He lived a life of service to his country and in the end made the ultimate sacrifice in its defense.

After twenty years of honorable service in the Navy, Ty, who led raids and reconnaissance missions in the most volatile parts of the Middle East, could have chose a life of relative ease as a decorated war hero. Instead, the man who Secretary of State Hillary Clinton memorialized as having "the hands of a healer as well as the arm of a warrior," again answered the call to serve and joined the State Department Diplomatic Security team.

Since 2010, Ty protected American diplomatic personnel in dangerous posts from Central America to the Middle East but it was at Benghazi where he demonstrated exemplary courage under fire. In Benghazi, while defending an under-secured, besieged diplomatic mission, Ty Woods gave his life so that other Americans could escape to safety. According to reports, Ty saved the lives of thirty staff members by heroically engaging the insurgents even after sustaining mortal wounds. For his heroism in the face of grave danger, Ty has earned his place on the memorial that hangs at the State Department. His name joins dozens of others who have given their lives in the service of the country they loved.

Ty Woods was a loving son, husband, and father who lived up to the highest ideals of the United States Navy and the State Department. I thank him for his service and his selfless sacrifice and commend to his memory yet another honor so well deserved.