

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.

HONORING THE MEXICAN
AMERICAN COUNCIL**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 organization that has touched the lives of innumerable people in South Florida, and continues to shine light on the economic, educational, and social issues many Latino Americans face.

For over three decades, Mexican American Council, led by Maria Garza, has served as an organization dedicated to bettering the lives of Mexican American migrants otherwise facing great adversity in their communities. This organization started as a organization serving South Dade County, Florida, and now serves as a national model for serving members of the Latino community. Focusing on everything from raising Mexican American cultural awareness to providing scholastic and scholarship assistance to children of farmworkers, Maria Garza and the Mexican American Council have managed to assist community members encountering increasingly varied obstacles and continues to reach them in meaningful ways.

Under the leadership of Maria Garza, the Mexican American Council serves as an exemplary organization for social service, cultural inclusion, and community engagement, and has undoubtedly earned our respect, admiration, and gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH
SHERMAN**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Elizabeth Sherman, a resident of Sandwich, Massachusetts, who celebrates her 100th birthday today.

Elizabeth, or Betty as her family and friends know her, was born on May 3, 1913, to the Burns family. She later married Alvin Sherman of Brookline, Massachusetts. Betty and Alvin would go on to raise their five children together: Ann, Bud, Mary, Jeanie, and Elaine. The Sherman family later settled in Arlington, outside Boston. Betty, a dedicated and caring mother, also helped support her family by working as a secretary at Harvard University and the Chase Brass & Copper Company.

The Shermans enjoyed many summers at their vacation home on the Cape, and Betty and Alvin would later retire to Sagamore Beach. Though Alvin passed away in 1995, Betty's loving family has grown to include six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Elizabeth Sherman on this joyous occasion of her 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING THE LADIES IN WHITE

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 women who have worked tirelessly towards the advancement of human rights in Cuba, and continue to shine a light on an imperative cause for freedom right in our backyard.

For the past 10 years, the Ladies in White has served as a leading pro-democracy organization of the Cuban human rights movement. Known for being white-clad in symbolization of peace, the women of this organization are all relatives of political prisoners and have remained steadfast in their fight for freedom. They are renowned for their weekly, non-violent, silent protests, and just yesterday received the Salcharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in an award ceremony delayed eight years because of oppressive travel restrictions.

The women of the Ladies in White continue to fight with courage and dignity for the betterment of the lives of the millions of people who call Cuba home, and have undoubtedly earned our profound respect and admiration.

RECOGNIZING NORTHERN VIRGINIA
FAMILY SERVICE'S 2013
COMMUNITY CHAMPION AND
LEGENDS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Lizama as this year's Northern Virginia Family Services Community Champion and also to honor Earle and June Williams who have been named the 2013 Northern Virginia Family Services Legends of Northern Virginia.

Since its founding in 1924, Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS) has addressed the growing needs of families throughout our region. NVFS works to improve its clients' lives through a variety of programs in five mission initiatives: housing, child and family enrichment, health access, emergency assistance, and workforce development. Today, 33,000 individuals and families receive assistance each year.

The Community Champion Award is a recognition given each year to someone who has made immeasurable contributions to children and families in Northern Virginia. More than 25 years ago, George Lizama founded Production Solutions and PS Digital, one of the country's largest mail and digital marketing firms providing services to numerous nonprofit organizations, such as the American Heart Association, Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity, Capital Area Food Bank, and Human Rights Campaign.

Whether he's in a march for the homeless or cleaning up a park, George carries a strong sense of duty and gains a great deal of reward in volunteering. He embodies passion around the clock. In fact, one cannot distin-

guish the "business George" from the "volunteer George."

During his 14-year involvement with NVFS, George served on the Board of Directors for 11 years and chaired the Gala Sponsorship and Auction Committees. George is receiving NVFS' Community Champion Award this year in recognition of his unwavering sense of excellence in service to his company, his industry, his community, but most of all because George is "passion personified" and one of the most dedicated volunteers you will ever encounter.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams have lived in Northern Virginia since 1970 when Earle's company, BDM International, Inc. relocated to McLean. In 1972, he became President and CEO of BDM, where he served until his retirement in 1992. Under his leadership, BDM's employment grew tenfold to 4,300 and annual revenue grew 550% to \$424 million.

Earle is an Emeritus Director and Past Chairman of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, Emeritus Director and Past Chairman of the Business/Industry Political Action Committee, past Chairman of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, past Chairman of the Naval Research Advisory Committee, a Permanent Director and Past International Chairman of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, and former member of the Virginia State Board for Community Colleges.

In addition to being involved in her husband's work at BDM, June became deeply involved in the community. She participated in a major way in the George Mason University annual Arts Gala, joined the Capital Speakers Club, became involved in P.E.O. (a philanthropic educational women's organization), joined Achievement Rewards for College Scientists, and served on the Board of the Fairfax Symphony.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending NVFS for 89 years of service to our region's most vulnerable families and congratulating this year's deserving honorees. I also thank the staff, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners for their dedication and ongoing support of NVFS.

HONORING RICHARD BLANCO

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 made incomparable use of poetry as a canvass for activism and exaltation, and remains a mantel of inspiration for the innumerable people who encounter his work.

Known for his poetic ingenuity and having served as the inaugural poet at the 57th Presidential Inauguration, Richard Blanco joins the ranks of venerated artists and activists as Maya Angelou and Robert Frost. As the first immigrant, first Latino, and first openly gay person to serve in said role, Richard remains a beacon of hope for increasingly diverse individuals in our community and beyond. Further, as an alumnus of Christopher Columbus High School and Florida International University, Richard serves as a special source of delectation for the millions of people who call South Florida home—many of whom I represent.