

Ellis Palmer, USN and the late Katherine Hooker Palmer. His mother was the granddaughter of Civil War Colonel George W. Hooker, an Antietam Medal of Honor winner of the 4th Vermont Volunteers who was later appointed Assistant Adjutant General of Union Army Volunteers by President Lincoln. Not long after Mr. Palmer's birth, his father left to take command of the submarine USS *Pollack*, which operated in the Pacific theater and served in several dangerous missions in Japanese waters.

America—and the world—will miss Mark. But as my colleagues on both sides of the aisle know—Mark's legacy will be with us for years and generations to come. When men and women escape the chains of 21st century oppression, they will be in Mark Palmer's debt as we, his friends, will forever be.

Finally, in rising to celebrate Mark I rise as well to celebrate his cherished partner in all that he accomplished during his distinguished career—his wife of 47 years, Dr. Sushma Palmer.

#### TRIBUTE TO MICKEY EDWARDS

#### HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable American, Mickey Edwards, who has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in recognition of his excellence in journalism, public affairs, and communication.

An Ohio native, Mr. Edwards has achieved continued success throughout his long career as a public servant. After receiving his education from the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma City University School of Law, he began his career in news media and public relations. He was later elected to represent the 5th Congressional District of Oklahoma for sixteen years and was a senior member of the House Republican leadership. He served as Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, was a member of both the House Appropriations and Budget Committees, and was the ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. After leaving Congress, he taught government and public policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, Harvard Law School, and Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute.

Mr. Edwards is a widely respected columnist and contributor whose work has appeared in news outlets including the Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Examiner, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post. He is the author of two books, the co-author of a third, and has contributed chapters to several more publications.

Mr. Edwards has chaired several task forces for the Brookings Institution, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Constitution Project. He has also been an adviser to the U.S. Department of State and is a member of the Princeton Project on National Security. He is currently a lecturer at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, is a vice president of the Aspen Institute, and is director of the Institute's Aspen-Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership program. I came to know, like, and

respect Mr. Edwards through the Aspen-Rodel program.

Mr. Edwards' impressive resume does not fully encompass the accomplishments of this extraordinary man. He continues to fight for cooperation between parties and for placing national interest ahead of political gain, encouraging and educating young Americans on the benefits of civil discourse and compromise. A man worthy of professional accolades and personal respect, Mr. Edwards is truly committed to his family, his community and his country. His is an example we should all strive to emulate. I am privileged to call him a friend and salute him for this tremendous and well-deserved honor.

#### YOM YERUSHALAYIM, JERUSALEM DAY

#### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 66 years ago today Israel liberated its capital city of Jerusalem during the Six-Day War, allowing Jews for the first time in decades to visit Judaism's holiest site, the Western Wall. That is why Jews across my home District in South Florida today are celebrating Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day.

In synagogues and community centers from Palm Beach, to Boca Raton, to Ft. Lauderdale, and indeed around the world, Jews are rejoicing with song, dance, and prayer, while also commemorating the solemn sacrifice of hundreds of Israeli soldiers whose lives were cut short in the Battle for Jerusalem.

Jerusalem has been the heart of the Jewish people for thousands of years. Through centuries of exile, Jerusalem remained the focal point of Jewish aspiration. In fact, Jews have always prayed toward the Western Wall regardless of where they stood geographically in the world.

That is why Israel's founding Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion said in 1947, "No city in the world, not even Athens or Rome, ever played as great a role in the life of a nation for so long a time, as Jerusalem has done in the life of the Jewish people."

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MT. MARIAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Mt. Mariah Missionary Baptist Church in Omaha, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrates a remarkable 200 years. The congregation of Mt. Mariah Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate this very significant anniversary with a Bicentennial Celebration on Sunday, May 12, 2013 at the Church in Omaha, Georgia.

Tracing its roots back to the antebellum era, the church was an illustration of the segrega-

tion and slavery practices of the South. From 1813 to 1856, the black community of Omaha worshipped with the white community although only a select number of blacks were allowed to attend church, including the overseer, the maids and the cooks. They had to sit in the back of the church and were not allowed to participate. As time passed, more members of the black community were allowed to attend the worship service but remained unsatisfied with the arrangement of services being held at Summer Hill Baptist Church, as it was known then.

After the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1865, the black community of Omaha was still discontented with the church service arrangement and called for a church of their own. In 1866, the white community had a church built within the city limits of Omaha and donated the old church to the black community. It was then used as both a school and a church and the name was changed to Mount Mariah Missionary Baptist Church.

In 1890, a church was built within the Omaha city limits for the black families living and working there so they wouldn't have to walk as far on Sunday and be tired for work on Monday. The church continued to grow and formed an organization named the "Mt. Mariah Baptist Church Association."

In 1911, the church bought six acres of land for \$412.00 to build a new church, fellowship hall and cemetery. This structure stood until a tornado tore through the Omaha area and destroyed the church. Through the sadness and the tears came a firm resolve and an unyielding faith in the Lord to build a new church. After working hard to raise the funds, on November 9, 1947, the new church was dedicated with much prayer, song, and joy.

Throughout the years, the church was remodeled and improved with help, funds and donations from its members. It has seen many great leaders, each one leaving their lasting mark on the church. Today, under the leadership of Pastor Marcus B. Hunter, the prospering church looks back on 200 years of hardship, unending faith, and ultimate success.

The story of Mt. Mariah Missionary Baptist Church, which began during a dark and divided time in our nation's history, is a truly inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mt. Mariah Missionary Baptist Church in Omaha, Georgia for their long history of coming together through the good and difficult times to praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

#### HONORING THE DOS PALOS DIVINO ESPIRITO SANTO

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th "Festa do Divino Espirito Santo" or the Festival of the Divine Holy Spirit in Dos Palos, California. This annual festa is a lively gathering that promotes family reconciliation and peace, through prayer and charity.

The celebration began in the early 1920s when Azoreans began to emigrate from the Azore Islands to Dos Palos. In 1923 the Divino Espirito Santo, DES, Association was incorporated, and it stands as one of the city's oldest organizations. The Dos Palos DES has been successful over the past nine decades due to the donations and support from residents, business owners, dairymen, and ranchers. The organization is supported by individuals of all backgrounds and faiths. The money that DES raises goes to their annual celebrations, scholarships for young men and women, and parks for children. They also provide assistance to those who are in immediate need.

Dos Palos DES is known for its sense of community and comradeship. Neighbors are like family in Dos Palos, and there is no question that there is a sense of loyalty between everyone. Each year, the Festa do Divino Espirito Santo serves as a place for citizens to come together, appreciate their town, and enjoy each other's company. The traditional meal of sopas is served to over 2,000 people.

As someone with a strong Portuguese background and up-bringing, I truly admire all of the efforts made by Dos Palos DES. The individuals who have put together this wonderful celebration must be recognized for all of their hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Festa do Divino Espirito Santo as residents from all over the Central Valley celebrate the 90th celebration. These wonderful traditions are passed down from generation to generation, and we can expect that Dos Palos DES will be hosting celebrations for many years to come.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHILD SUPPORT RECOVERY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Ranking Member DOGGETT and other Members of the Human Resources Subcommittee, introduce the International Child Support Recovery Improvement Act of 2013. This bill is nearly identical to H.R. 4282, which passed the House by voice vote on June 5, 2012, and serves as the implementing legislation for the Hague Convention on International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance. This multilateral treaty, to which the Senate provided its consent in 2010, provides for the structured exchange of information and consistent enforcement of international cases of child support.

The bill also builds on the Subcommittee's recent bipartisan efforts to standardize data within and across social programs. This includes applying to the child support enforcement program the same no-cost data standardization provision recently enacted in the child welfare, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and unemployment insurance programs.

The data provision is designed to recognize the need for standards in the exchange of data both across state-level programs and between states and the federal government. The

goal is to better organize data within programs so that data can then be more easily shared across multiple human services programs that serve similar populations.

The data provision recognizes that multiple standards may well be needed to address different types of data exchanges, and that some data exchanges may already be standardized. It provides some authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to exercise some flexibility in situations where standardized systems are found to operate efficiently. Certain sectors, such as financial institutions, that interact with covered programs have well-established data exchange standards that need to be taken into account and should serve as the base for moving forward. In the case of child support, this data provision does not require that systems such as the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS) be retrofitted, but instead encourages incremental, cost-effective implementation of consistent data standards across human services programs.

I invite all Members to join me in supporting this important legislation and look forward to its speedy consideration. That way we can take the next step toward ratifying the Hague Convention so that more child support is collected in international cases, providing more children the financial support they deserve.

#### PROCLAIMING SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support National Arson Awareness Week, which runs from May 5th–11th this year.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has made tremendous strides in educating the public about the dangers of Arson during its annual Arson Awareness Week. This year's theme, "Reducing Residential Arson," is focused on ways for community members to come together and develop plans to combat arson in their neighborhoods. According to USFA, over 14,700 law enforcement agencies report 43,400 arsons every year.

This is an issue that hits home for my constituents in the city of Lewiston, who have endured three large fires during the past week. The fires have destroyed over 79 apartments and left roughly 200 people homeless. Firefighters from Lewiston and the surrounding communities have performed heroically to contain the fires and protect residents from harm. These brave men and women place themselves at enormous risk every day to keep us safe, and I applaud them for their efforts.

USFA is recommending a number of strategies to help communities better protect themselves against arson. Neighborhood cleanups have enabled residents to remove flammable materials and identify possible hazards. Groups have also had success by improving internal and external security for their homes and at abandoned properties. Working together, we can all help make our communities a safer place to live.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in recognizing National Arson Awareness Week for its

role in helping our communities educate themselves about ways to combat arson.

#### DRURY UNIVERSITY'S THREE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Drury University's Men's Basketball and Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Teams on their national championships.

Drury University is the only school in the NCAA at any level in this 2012–13 school year to have won three national championships.

The Panthers Basketball Team won in dramatic fashion over Metro State to win 74–73 after they overcame a 17-point deficit to win on a last minute free throw in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 7. This is Drury's first NCAA-II National Basketball Championship, and it also marked Drury's 23rd straight win of the season. They won through their hard work and the sheer determination to win.

I want to commend Head Coach Steve Hesser, Assistant Coaches Ja Havens and Steven Gum, and Graduate Assistant Brandon Kimbrough for guiding the team through its extraordinary season. Coach Hesser did a remarkable job, and the National Association of Basketball Coaches honored Coach Hesser as its National D-II Coach of the Year, an award he certainly deserves.

Drury University's Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Teams, coached by Brian Reynolds, swept the titles on March 9 in Birmingham, Alabama. This was the ninth straight national championship for the Drury Men—a record for NCAA Division II schools—and the fourth national title in the last five years for the Drury Women. I also want to commend Assistant Coach Jason Hite, Diving Coach Richard Hackett, Graduate Assistant Michal Winiewicz, and Graduate Assistant Marta Stepien for all their work this year.

I also congratulate Coach Reynolds, who was named National Coach of the Year for both the men's and women's competitions for his efforts this year. Coach Reynolds has developed a truly unique and dominant program.

The Springfield community is proud of the Drury teams for reaching such a high level of success. Drury University won three national titles and three national championships in the span of a month. Drury's national championships are remarkable achievements, and the teams will have memories to last a lifetime.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Drury Panthers on their outstanding athletic performances this year.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE WATER QUALITY PROTECTION AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2013

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I join with 27 of my colleagues in introducing bipartisan legislation to make long,