

IN HONOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL FLORIDA'S GOLDEN
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Central Florida on the occasion of its golden anniversary. Located in Florida's 7th Congressional District, UCF is one of America's great education institutions.

Over the past 50 years, UCF's campus has grown from what was once a commuter school with limited academic programs to today having nearly 60,000 undergraduate and graduate students and over 10,000 faculty and staff on 12 campuses spread across the vast footprint of central Florida. Through the tireless efforts of its first University President, Dr. Charles M. Millican to its current President Dr. John C. Hitt, UCF has become the second largest university in the United States. Today's student body is composed of some of the brightest minds from Florida, the Nation, and around the world while assembling some of the finest faculty and senior staff professionals in the country. Under the direction of Dr. Hitt, UCF has achieved high admission standards, dramatically increased research funding, built new state of the art facilities and established significant partnerships with major research institutions. The campus now features an on-campus stadium, indoor sports arena, increased and modern campus housing and the impressive development of the UCF College of Medicine at Lake Nona. UCF has been named one of the Nation's top 5 "up-and-coming" schools according to U.S. News and World Report while advancing in the annual overall best colleges rankings released each year.

UCF has become a national leader in research with an outstanding academic reputation. Its regional assets include a collaboration of military commands, advanced simulation research coupled with the strength of UCF's renowned Institute for Simulation and Training. Further boasting its commitment to high-tech research, UCF is home to CREOL, The College of Optics & Photonics, a world-renowned graduate college for optical science and engineering education. UCF is also nationally recognized as having the top hospitality management program in the country, residing on the Rosen College campus in the heart of Orlando's entertainment and tourist district.

I join my Florida colleagues and Members of Congress in extending congratulations to the University of Central Florida on reaching this important milestone. I have watched with pride the positive growth and impact of this great institution of higher learning. Central Florida, the State and Nation are richer for the investable contributions of its students, faculty and staff, and outstanding graduates. Looking back over these past 50 years with excitement for the next 50, Mr. Speaker, I would again like to extend my congratulations to UCF and join others in saying: Go Knights!

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE & GIL
TRENUM AND THE 3RD ANNUAL
TOM MCHALE MEMORIAL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michelle and Gil Trenum on receiving the Sports Legacy Institute's, SLI, Legacy Award for their role in improving programs for concussion management in Prince William County, Virginia. I also commend SLI on the occasion of its 3rd Annual Tom McHale Memorial for its commitment to improving the prevention and treatment of concussions.

The Sports Legacy Institute is a non-profit organization that uses medical research, treatment, education and prevention to minimize the threat of concussions. Each year the Sports Legacy Institute sponsors the Tom McHale Memorial to benefit its efforts to lower the risks and end the tragic effects of brain trauma. Tom McHale was a collegiate and professional football player as well as a successful business owner. McHale tragically died at the age of 45 and later became the third former NFL player diagnosed with Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, CTE. CTE is a degenerative brain disease linked to a history of concussions and head injuries.

Michelle and Gil Trenum have championed concussion management and CTE education within the Prince William County Public Schools. The Trenums became advocates for more comprehensive concussion education after losing their own son, Austin, to the effects of multiple concussions and CTE. In 2010, Austin was a mature, vibrant, charismatic 17-year-old student at Brentsville District High School. Everyone who knew Austin says that he loved his family, his friends, and football. He played fullback and linebacker on his high school varsity football team. After Austin's untimely death in September of 2010, his parents donated his brain to Boston University, where doctors discovered injuries consistent with CTE.

Since then, Gil, a representative on the Prince William County School Board, along with his wife, Michelle, have pushed for urgent comprehensive changes to the parent and student concussion education laws. As a result of their advocacy, Prince William County Schools implemented concussion education policies an entire year earlier than originally required by the state. Concussion education in Prince William County includes a mandatory one-hour seminar for students trying out for sports and their parents. The policy also has strict return-to-play guidelines and thorough concussion education for school athletic trainers.

I commend the Trenums for transforming their grief into an opportunity to achieve systemic changes that will help local athletes, coaches, and parents make better decisions concerning concussion management.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our appreciation to Michelle and Gil Trenum for making sports safer for our children. The Sports Legacy Institute chose deserving recipients for its Legacy Award. The Trenums have proven to be passionate and effective advocates on behalf of concussion prevention and treatment.

HONORING THE AMERICAN
MUSLIM ALLIANCE OF FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Muslim Alliance of Florida. This organization does excellent work for so many people around the State.

Foremost among those is its annual scholarship dinner for graduating high school seniors. Now in its sixth year, the scholarship program received applications from 138 students at 56 high schools across Florida, and will present ten winners with an award on June 1, 2013.

Past awardees have enrolled in some of America's most prestigious colleges and universities, as well as continued to excel in their chosen fields of study.

I am very proud of the Alliance, and am privileged to have so many of its members live in my Congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the American Muslim Alliance, and express my most sincere gratitude for all that they do in our community. I also want to congratulate this year's winners, and wish them much success in their future endeavors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,734,032,974,210.27. We've added \$6,107,155,925,297.19 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING EVAN VOSS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Evan Voss is a junior at Pearland High School in Brazoria County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

A SOCIAL CONTRACT

At the time when the U.S. government was created, the Framers of the Constitution generally believed that all men, though created equal, were naturally greedy and selfish, and that without proper leadership or guidance, the world would be wrought with anarchy and chaos. The political philosopher.

Thomas Hobbes best demonstrated the views of western government officials at the time when he wrote that in its natural state, mankind would instigate a “war of all against all”, where man would live forever in fear of death, a solitary, isolated, and animalistic life. This being said, the only way to protect mankind from itself was through social contract and the creation of governing

body. This body would protect its citizens and in return, its citizens would give up several of their natural rights. This was the original function of the federal government.

This original purpose of the government is the true purpose of the government, that is to say that to keep the social contract established between the governing and the governed valid, the federal government must protect its citizens. This desire to protect, however, has, in recent times, changed the government into an overbearing figure. It has been called “Big Brother” for a reason, and, although it does fulfill its end of the social contract, it is to the degradation of the people. Yes, the people agreed to sacrifice several of their natural liberties to be secure, but now, it seems that instead of pro-

tection from themselves, the citizenry of the United States require guard against the United States itself. The interference of the government in individual personal affairs has led to growing mistrust among the people towards the very thing that originally protected them.

To resolve this issue, the government must simply return to its foundation, its core. In doing so, the people will feel that the social contract conceived between themselves and their protector has been honored and is valid. Because, inevitably, a well liked and well perceived national government holds more power than that of one that is thought to be dishonest and a threat to the very lives it is obligated to protect.