

She hails from a large, close-knit multi-generational family spanning in age from newborn to age 93.

It is a joy and pleasure to join with Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale in honoring Susan Schwartz for her many and myriad accomplishments for the synagogue and, ultimately for her community. We are all better off for her being among us.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL DANIEL

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 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.

Rachel Daniel is a sophomore at Dawson High School in Brazoria County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

PROCESSING POLITICS

The purpose of creating this nation, The United States of America, was so that the people could have a say in their leaders and politics and people were willing to go against everything they believed and start a war just to earn the right to this liberty. After all the hardships that the Founding Fathers of our nation suffered through in order for us to have a representative democracy, we the people of the United States of America have not only an obligation towards nation but also towards ourselves. Our nation depends on each and every citizen to make an informed decision as well as pick the best people to represent us, and all citizens of America deserves to have leaders who they support and trust.

We were given the rights and freedoms that many nowadays take for granted, but they really should be treasured, valued, and taken advantage of. That is why it is paramount that every citizen of America takes part in the political process. It is the people's chance to express their views for all to hear and to support what has taken centuries to achieve.

The political process is what holds this nation together. It's when our nation unites in the form of many different parties to decide who is fit to run our nation. The people, who are chosen, are the ones who lead us as a nation with the help of many. If we don't participate in the political process of choosing these leaders and then helping to implement new laws and policies, there is no longer any point of having a representative democracy, and everything that has been fought for will have been fought for in vain. All those lives lost for our freedom and democracy will be lives lost in vain. All the blood, sweat, and tears will be in vain. The political process of our nation is what makes us great. Not our education. Not our manufacturing. But, instead, our political process and the unity of the United States of America.

HONORING MRS. GERTRUDE
GRENADA

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hometown Civil Rights era activist, Mrs. Gertrude Grenada. Mrs. Grenada has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Mrs. Gertrude Grenada was born March 16, 1933 in Hinds County, MS. Growing up in Bolton, Mississippi, Mrs. Grenada witnessed and experienced a multitude of injustices during an era of legal segregation and Jim Crow. Although at times frightened by intimidation tactics used against her family and others in her community, Mrs. Grenada maintained a resilient and determined spirit to make strides toward ending laws targeting the civil rights and liberties of African Americans.

She received her formal education at the Southern Christian Institute (SCI), located in Edwards, Mississippi. After graduating from SCI, she attended Jackson State University and received a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. For many years, she played an instrumental part in educating preschool children through the Hinds County HeadStart Program.

In addition to her commitment to education, Mrs. Grenada was very active in local strategizing and planning meetings with Freedom Riders and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Because of her determination to invoke positive change during the Civil Rights Movement, Mrs. Grenada also participated in a number of marches, most notably alongside other well-known Civil Rights pioneers, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Medgar Evers. In 1972, Mrs. Grenada volunteered her time to assist in the election of her hometown's first African American mayor. Her lifelong efforts toward establishing change in her community will be felt for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Gertrude Grenada for her astounding resolve to actively contribute to the cause during the Civil Rights Era in her community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISABLED MILITARY CHILD PROTECTION ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Disabled Military Child Protection Act. This important bill would enable military retirees, investing in a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), to transfer their benefit to a Special Needs Trust (SNT) to provide long-term care for a disabled child.

Under the SBP, a military retiree can have a portion of his or her monthly retired pay withheld in order to provide, after his or her death, a monthly survivor benefit (55% of base amount of military retired pay at the time of the retiree's death) to a surviving spouse or

other eligible recipient(s). However, by directing SBP annuity payments to an SNT, the retiree may ensure that a dependent, disabled child might continue to qualify for certain benefits, such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Medicaid, that are means tested. As you know Mr. Speaker, assets placed into an SNT are not generally counted as income or assets for the purposes of determining eligibility for these benefits. Current individual care costs for a disabled child could exceed \$100,000 a year if he/she has assets greater than the Medicaid threshold.

A SNT can be created by anyone, but there is no current mechanism for a military member to designate a Trust as the beneficiary of his/her SBP. This legislation would enable a SNT transfer similar to what is available to the general public today. This is an equity issue; currently, civilians can create a SNT for their permanently disabled children to ensure they receive care beyond their guardian's death, and are not subject to an income means-test. It is only fair to allow retired military personnel to prepare for the long-term care of their disabled children.

As of March 2011, CBO estimates that the bill would increase mandatory outlays by \$123 million over the 2012–2021 period. The mandatory cost is not directly attributed to DoD, but rather reflects the increased costs to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Medicaid, since affected dependent children who are currently ineligible for those benefits would become eligible. This legislation would impact approximately 1,065 military dependents who are currently incapacitated beneficiaries under SBP.

This bill would help many Americans who have nobly served our country, like one of my constituents who has a son named Thomas. Thomas was diagnosed with severe autism by the age of 2 and is non-verbal, communicating primarily through hand leading to express he is hungry, wants to take a shower, or go for a car ride. He is unable to independently perform routine activities of daily living such as dressing or tending to his personal hygiene, much less make himself something to eat, ask for help, or let someone know he is in pain. Thomas requires supervision and assistance, around the clock, to ensure his safety needs are met. Other than his severe autism diagnosis, Thomas is healthy and expected to live a normal lifespan. Our constituent, a single parent, is nearly 38 years older than Thomas, and has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. The passage of this bill would allow him the flexibility to plan for Thomas' future care and well-being.

In the name of decency and fairness, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and allow our military personnel some well-deserved peace of mind, knowing that their disabled children can be adequately provided for long after they are gone.

HONORING THE BRICK STORE MU-
SEUM IN KENNEBUNKPORT,
MAINE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the

Brick Store Museum, located in historic Kennebunkport, Maine, for achieving accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums.

Since 1936, the Brick Store Museum has offered generations of locals and visitors the opportunity to explore the rich history of one of Maine's most prominent port cities.

The Brick Store Museum's focal point is a building constructed in 1825 as a dry goods store by William Lord. The exterior remains much the same as when it was built, giving today's visitors a glimpse of what life was like nearly 200 years ago.

I am proud of the museum's commitment to preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting Kennebunkport's important role in our history. Many students have passed through its rooms, gaining knowledge, understanding, and a stronger attachment to the area where they have grown up.

I share the Brick Store Museum's belief that the history of our oldest towns is crucial to understanding where we are now and where we are headed. As Maine continues to advance into the future, the Brick Store Museum offers an important tether to our past.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 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 \$16,738,788,832,145.30. We've added \$6,111,911,783,232.22 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING MR. WALTER BRUCE, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Walter Bruce, Jr., who is a remarkable public servant.

Mr. Walter Bruce, Jr., an 84-year-old native of Durant, Miss., was born May 30, 1928. He is the son of the late Mr. Walter Bruce, Sr. and the late Mrs. Georgia Bruce. He had seven sisters and six brothers and a loving wife, Louise, who are all deceased.

Mr. Bruce, Jr. was educated in Holmes County and grew up in the country where his parents were small farmers. Historically, he is mostly known for his dedicated work to the civil rights movement in Holmes County. He started the county's Freedom Democratic Party (HFDO). The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party was an American political party created in Mississippi in 1964, during the Civil Rights Movement. It was organized by black and white Mississippians with assistance from the student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Council of Federated

Organizations (COFO) to challenge the legitimacy of the white-only U.S. Democratic Party.

Mr. Bruce participated in marches and boycotts in Holmes County and in Jackson, Miss.. He and others worked with nationally noted activist Fannie Lou Hamer of the Mississippi Delta. He was extremely instrumental in bringing about emergence of black elected officials in Holmes County as well as black police officers.

Prior to his work in the civil rights movement, Mr. Bruce organized an all-black Little League Baseball Team which he headed for 16 years. He is also founder of the legendary gospel singing group, Soul Travelers of Durant, Miss. After 54 years, he still heads the group today.

Mr. Bruce is the father of two adult daughters and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Walter Bruce, Jr. for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

NATIONAL AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC DAY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of their 95th anniversary.

The Republic of Azerbaijan has been helpful to the United States, committing troops to our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq and providing airspace and the use of its airports for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan has also joined all 12 international conventions on counter-terrorism and they support regional cooperation to fight terrorism through local agreements and participation in NATO, the Organization for Security in Europe, and others. Azerbaijan also provides a key alternative route for the oil and natural gas supplies of Central Asia to reach Europe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Azerbaijan's 95th anniversary.

HONORING ERIC MESCH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Eric Mesch has been involved in adult Jewish education programming at Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale where he teaches on topics of interest, and for several years, organized the all-night learning program on Shavuot. Last year, Eric organized an event in memory of Matt Fenster z"l, in which members of many different Jewish communities came together to mark the completion of the study of the Mishnah. Eric is also a member of the Board of Directors of Mechon Hadar.

For as long as he can remember, Eric's connection to Jewish study has been intense, complex and defining. He grew up on Staten Island in a Conservative Jewish home and synagogue, but attended the Orthodox

Yeshiva of Flatbush in Brooklyn from third grade through high school. Later, as an undergraduate at Yale College, Eric majored in religious studies and also spent a semester at Yeshivat Hamivtar in Israel. After college, Eric attended Columbia Law School, graduating with his J.D. in 1995.

Eric met his wife Rachel while they were undergraduates at Yale but they didn't start dating until his senior and her junior year. Their relationship blossomed over good coffee, something that is still important to them. They married in 1995 and in their first year of married life they lived in Jerusalem where Eric was a law clerk to the Supreme Court of Israel and Rachel continued her graduate work at Hebrew University. They have three children, Abby, Eliza and Sam.

Eric is a partner with the law firm of Dickstein Shapiro LLP, focusing on bankruptcy-related and other complex commercial litigation while Rachel is a professor of French literature and chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Yeshiva University.

I congratulate Eric for all the good work he is doing at the Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale. He had made CSAIR and the Riverdale community a better place.

HONORING THE PLATTE COUNTY FAIR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Platte County Fair for celebrating 150 years of providing entertainment and excitement to its attendees.

The very first Platte County Fair was held in 1858. However, the fair did not become an annual event until 1863. The first fair in 1858 was planned on Oct. 6 and took place only a short time later from Oct. 21–23, with 400 people in attendance.

The fair was a great success and continued until 1860, when the Civil War prevented the fair from taking place during the years of 1861 and 1862. The fair was praised as "an honor to the soil and people" and "a glorious reunion of a prosperous and happy people."

On December 16, 1861, Platte City was ravaged by a Civil War raid. However, not even the devastation of Platte City was enough to keep its resilient citizens down. Just 22 months later, proud Platte Countians filled the fairgrounds for the First Annual Platte County Fair, which was held October 21–23, 1863.

The fair has been held annually since 1863, establishing itself as the oldest continuously running county fair west of the Mississippi River. The entire event is privately held and sponsored by a not-for-profit organization run by volunteers. The fair now spans four days, featuring many great events such as the demolition derby, a truck and tractor pull, the Queen contest, and more. The Platte County Fair is also home to many great sources of entertainment including a floral hall, a carnival, a fiddle contest, and the Dirty Shame Saloon, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding the Platte County Fair for celebrating