

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

their 150th anniversary and providing a great source of pride and excitement to Platte County. I wish them 150 more years of greatness to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHANNON WU

#### 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.

Shannon Wu is a senior 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?

As the age of 18 creeps up on me slowly around the corner, the thought that I will be a legal adult and will be able to become a registered voter looms overhead. As a senior in high school, some of my peers are already 18, and were 18 at the time of the 2012 presidential election, and yet, I constantly hear them griping and complaining about who's president and which legislations are passed and which aren't. Yet, these are the same exact people who don't seize their rights and actually vote.

What ground does the government have to say that all their decisions are based off the voice of their constituents when less than 60% of the people are actually voting? As our country enters a more progressive era, both socially and economically, it's the most detrimental time for citizens to become involved in the political process. The new issues and concerns that have emerged within the past few decades are some of the most controversial topics to have ever been brought to the table. Thus, without political participation, how will the government act accordingly to the views of the citizens?

Because bills are created and passed in the three branches of the government, and our congressmen, senators, and president are the ones who vote to pass or veto a bill, people believe that voting on the matter won't make a difference. However, it is more important than it ever was to have input from the constituents in order to smooth out the bumps and bubbles in the laws governing our country. Furthermore, by getting involved in the political process, citizens will be able to select a candidate that encompasses the ideals and values of the greater majority of the people and create their own "check" upon the government by electing those they deem qualified and supportive of their opinions. This then protects democracy and reducing the possibilities of tyranny, oligarchy, and anarchy. Most importantly, the government will pass laws that will be enforced, and, if people become involved in the political system, these rules will reflect the desires of the majority of the constituents, rather than the thoughts of politicians.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM TRULY

#### 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 remarkable public servant, Dr. William Truly, who was the first elected mayor of Canton, Mississippi in May 2009.

Originally from New Smyrna Beach, Fla., Mayor Truly relocated to Canton, MS in 1978, after completing medical school at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Truly became an active member of the community. In 1996 he founded the Truly Medical Center that was one of five medical centers in Canton, MS. He has long served as an advocate for justice and a voice for the people of Canton, including serving as an Alderman-At-Large.

During his inauguration, Dr. Truly pledged to take the "City of Lights" (Canton, MS) in a new direction by increasing economic development and seeking more industry.

Since taking office, Mayor Truly has also set out on an ambitious agenda to revitalize Canton by focusing on improvements to public safety, education and making government more accessible to citizens. He is an active participant in his community and currently serves on a number of different Boards.

In addition to being the city's leader, Mayor Truly continues to practice medicine at different hospitals as the Chief Medical Director. Dr. Truly is married to the former Wassie Booker and has five children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. William Truly for his dedication to serving others in need.

#### RECOGNIZING TERRI LYNCH FOR HER EXTRAORDINARY WORK ON BEHALF OF OLDER VIRGINIANS

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2013*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the outstanding contributions of Terri Lynch in making Arlington and the Commonwealth of Virginia a better place to live in your twilight years.

Terri Lynch, MPA, has been the director of the Arlington County Agency on Aging since 1982. She helped to establish a network of services and programs in the Arlington Aging & Disability Services Division, including many that became state and national models. She consistently provided assistance and expertise to the Arlington Commission on Aging and Commission on Long-Term Care Residences. In 2006, she provided primary staff support for the County-Board's Elder Readiness Task Force that assessed the status of Arlington's capacity to serve older adults.

Ms. Lynch was president of the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging from 2000 to 2002. She was a cofounding director and vice chair of the Consumer Consortium on Assisted Living from 1996 to 2003. She has served on the Policy Board for the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Pro-

gram, the Advisory Committee for the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, the Board for the Virginia Elder Rights Coalition, and the Virginia Legal Services Corporation Board. She is a founding member of Northern Virginia Womenade, a giving circle that aids nonprofit organizations.

Ms. Lynch has been a long-standing driving force in the Northern Virginia Aging Network, comprised of the region's agencies on aging and commissions on aging, as well as aging service and advocacy groups. NVAN has produced a state legislative platform since 1983, which has resulted in advances in community-based aging services, accessibility, housing, mental health and long-term care.

Ms. Lynch has been a leader in the field of aging at the local, state and national levels. She has received more than 20 distinguished honors, letters of appreciation and superior performance awards. She received the prestigious Winston Award from the Arlington County Bar Foundation in 2007 which recognizes members of the local community for longstanding public service, promotion of democratic ideals and the advancement of the rule of law. She received the Culpepper Garden Elder Services Award in 2009.

Ms. Lynch has been recognized multiple times by elected officials, policy-makers, community advocates and colleagues. They acknowledge her creativity, strategic thinking, administrative and advocacy skills, energy, and sheer ability to make things happen for the benefit of older people. She is always innovative, ahead of the curve, and exercises leadership that counts for elders. Ms. Lynch is retiring on June 28, 2013, and I salute her long track record of success and the positive differences she has made. I look forward to her continuing work in the public interest.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO PROVIDE A CREDIT AGAINST TAX FOR HURRICANE AND TORNADO MITIGATION EXPENDITURES

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2013*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Hurricane and Tornado Mitigation Investment Act of 2013. This legislation seeks to encourage individuals and businesses to take proactive preparedness measures to protect their property from potential storm damage. Recent tornado outbreaks across the country this spring, and the impending start of the Atlantic hurricane season, remind us that weather-related emergencies and disasters are ever-present. The bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow individual and business taxpayers in certain states a tax credit for a portion of their qualified hurricane and tornado mitigation property expenditures for any taxable year. They would be eligible when they take steps to improve the strength of a roof deck attachment; create a secondary water barrier; improve the durability of a roof covering; brace gable-end walls; reinforce the connections between a roof and supporting wall; protect against windborne debris; or protect exterior doors and garages. In short, this