

National Scoliosis Awareness Month brings together all members of the scoliosis community, including physicians, patients, families, and businesspeople to raise awareness about this condition. Diagnosing scoliosis is a simple procedure that takes less than 30 seconds, and early detection allows physicians to monitor the condition and, if necessary, begin treatment before serious complications—including chronic back pain and impacted heart and lung function—even begin. Raising awareness is therefore crucial to the fight against scoliosis.

Between two and three percent of the American population suffers from scoliosis, and the number of family and friends who are impacted by this condition numbers many millions more. While serious complications of scoliosis are largely preventable, affordable care and public awareness are necessary in order to maximize the effectiveness of treatment. National Scoliosis Awareness Month promotes a positive public awareness message that elevates the visibility of scoliosis and empowers those individuals whose lives have been touched by this condition. It is a time for us to recommit ourselves to reducing its impact in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing June as National Scoliosis Awareness Month, and in thanking organizations such as the National Scoliosis Foundation and the Scoliosis Research Society, as well as their many supporters, for making it all possible.

A TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR PILACHAI

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Arthur Pilachai of Boy Scout Troop 249 in Council Bluffs, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. The work ethic Arthur has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Arthur and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

TRIBUTE TO HEDGESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2013 Hedgesville High School baseball team. The Eagles defeated Cabell Midland High School 4–2 to win the West Virginia Class AAA State Baseball Championship on Saturday, June 1, 2013.

Hedgesville High School is located in a rural part of Berkeley County, West Virginia, which is part of the district I represent. The school has claimed many state titles over the years, but one always seemed to slip away. The Eagles earned their first trip to the West Virginia State Tournament since 1974 by defeating Hampshire High School 4–3 in the regional final. They moved on to face Parkersburg South in the Class AAA semifinal game and defeated that team 6–3. This launched the Eagles into the title game for the first time in school history.

The Eagles found themselves trailing Cabell Midland at the beginning of the game, but soon rallied to a 4–2 lead and never looked back. The Eagles brought home the first baseball championship in Hedgesville High School history.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of West Virginia, I would like to congratulate the 2013 Hedgesville High School Eagle baseball team on their state championship. They have made their hometown extremely proud.

HONORING JANELLE BEDEL

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the powerful voice of Janelle Bedel of Rushville, Indiana.

Janelle Bedel was diagnosed with Pleural Mesothelioma on May 1st of 2007. Since her diagnosis, and throughout her treatments, Janelle has been a tireless and strong messenger for mesothelioma and asbestos awareness. Mesothelioma is a cancer most commonly caused by exposure to asbestos fibers.

In recognition for Janelle's advocacy efforts in the community, the City of Rushville designated June 6th, 2013 as Janelle Bedel "Wonder Woman" Day. The city will also embrace Janelle's message on the urgent need for additional asbestos awareness by recognizing September 26th as Mesothelioma Awareness Day, which will coincide with the National Mesothelioma Awareness Day.

In addition, the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization is joining in the recognition for Janelle's online and community awareness efforts by awarding her with the organization's Alan Reinstein Award, which is the highest honor ADAO presents. The ADAO works to eliminate asbestos disease through national education and advocacy efforts.

I ask the 6th Congressional District and entire State of Indiana to join me in keeping Janelle and her family in our thoughts and prayers and in celebration of her continued ef-

forts to raise awareness among our communities about the impact of this disease.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SBA'S NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the small businesses across our nation on the 50th anniversary of National Small Business Week. Small businesses are the backbone of our country—making up 50 percent of American jobs—and are essential to our economic recovery. It is our job as Members of Congress to provide support from Washington to small businesses by reducing unnecessary regulations and improving access to credit and small business assistance programs.

As a former small businessman, I am proud to serve on the House Small Business Committee and to use my prior experience to promote the interests of this vital sector of our economy. There is so much work to be done to help small businesses prosper. That is why I support legislation to create a stable business environment by passing a budget that reduces the deficit, simplifying the tax code for all Americans, and continuing to support essential small business assistance programs. To that end, the first bill I introduced was the Partnering with American Manufacturers for Efficiency and Competitiveness Act to foster more efficient manufacturing capabilities in small businesses, to promote competitiveness, and to create jobs. Having seen firsthand the havoc hurricanes can cause for small businesses, I also recently introduced the Small Business Disaster Reform Act to help small business owners recover more quickly in the wake of natural disasters.

Since coming to Congress, I have met with several small business groups, and recently hosted a small business roundtable in my district. I also have met staff from Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and SCORE, and I will continue to push for full funding for both of these organizations that play a crucial role in supporting small business growth. I ask my colleagues to recognize the significance of these organizations and the importance of preventing proposed cuts to SBDCs in the budget. We must also immediately consider legislation that creates jobs and those that help provide America's small businesses with new incentives to grow and hire.

This week represents half a century of recognition of the importance of small businesses and I am proud to join in commemorating National Small Business Week and thanking small businesses across the nation for the important work they do. They create jobs and stimulate the economy, all in the face of tremendous personal risk. I urge my colleagues to stand with me in support of small businesses and in creating an economic climate where they can thrive.

Mr. Speaker, on the 50th Anniversary of Small Business Week, it is clear that Congress still has much more work to do to help small businesses, but by working together we can better support the backbone of our economy to create jobs and continue on the path to economic recovery.

SNAP CUTS IN THE FARM BILL

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the \$20 billion cut over the next decade to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, included in the reauthorization of the Farm bill and supported by some of my colleagues on the House Committee on Agriculture. SNAP is the cornerstone of our nation's nutrition assistance safety net and touches the lives of over one in seven Americans. To highlight the importance of this critical safety net, last week I participated in a one day SNAP Challenge by limiting my total daily food budget to \$4.50—the equivalent of the daily benefits received by individuals living in Michigan.

If these cuts are enacted into law, nearly 2 million low-income Americans will lose benefits and 210,000 children from low-income families will lose free school meals, which may be their only meal of the day. My colleagues claim that cuts are needed to reduce the federal debt. However, every major deficit reduction package signed into law over the last thirty years has always been negotiated according to the principle of not increasing poverty or inequality.

Moreover, families are already facing cuts to SNAP benefits. Under current law, the temporary boost in benefits provided in April of 2009 by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are scheduled to end on November 1. This expiration of enhanced benefits will cause a family of three to experience a \$20–\$25 month deduction in benefits, which amounts to a cut of \$1.40 per person per meal. This reduction, coupled with the draconian \$20 billion cut proposed in the Farm Bill, is simply cruel.

In 2007, 26.3 million Americans participated in SNAP nationally. In 2012, more than 46.2 million people received benefits—doubling of the number of participants in 2007. This is a testament to the fact that when people struggle to put food on their tables during an economic downturn, SNAP is able to respond to meet their needs. SNAP is our nation's most important anti-hunger program and we must protect it for the future sake of vulnerable children and families. I encourage my colleagues to stand up for low-income Americans and fight for this vital safety net.

HONORING JUNETEENTH,
VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Vallejo Juneteenth Celebration.

On Saturday, June 15, 2013, the Solano County African Family Celebration Committee marks the City of Vallejo's 25th anniversary of the Juneteenth Celebration. Juneteenth is the national observance of African American freedom from slavery in June of 1865. Juneteenth

is also a time to also celebrate the positive contributions of African Americans nationally and locally, and to promote a cultural connection of the observance as an opportunity to build strong communities through access to health services and education resources.

For over two decades the Solano County African Family Reunion Celebration Committee has served the community with its network of volunteers serving as the African American Family Reunion Committee, AAFRC.

The AAFRC has partnered with local non-profit and for-profit health care organizations to provide free health services to community. The Juneteenth celebration also emphasizes education as the key to a successful future and includes participation by local educational institutions and after school programs that seek to increase the number of African American students enrolling in college.

Mr. Speaker, on this occasion it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the Juneteenth Celebration in Vallejo, California on the 25th anniversary of their momentous event. I join our colleagues in celebrating the African American Community of Solano County's rich history and wishing them a successful 25th year with many more to come.

HONORING HAROLD A. PETERSON
III**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Mr. Harold A. Peterson III, President/Chief Executive Officer of Community Hospice, Inc. who is retiring after 18 years of outstanding service to the Central Valley.

Community Hospice, Inc. is a non-profit, standalone Medicare Certified hospice headquartered in Modesto, with a branch office in Stockton, and a 16 bed inpatient facility; the Alexander Cohen Hospice House is located in Hughson, California. Community Hospice provided compassionate care to over 1800 patients last year and 260 patients on a daily basis. Beyond medical and nursing care; the organization provides bereavement support to those in the community who have lost a loved one. Additionally, Community Hospice operates six Hope Chest Thrift Stores, a logistics and recycling center, a durable medical equipment division, and the Community Hospice Foundation, which raises additional funds to support the hospice mission.

Prior to coming to Community Hospice, Mr. Peterson worked for 23 years in a Fortune 500 food manufacturing company. Harold has held positions from front line supervision to Senior Vice President of Distribution; a position he had held the last seven years.

In addition to a busy work schedule, Harold has a history of active involvement in the community. Following is a partial list of his participation: 17 year member of Modesto Rotary, Past Chair of the Stanislaus County Economic Development Company, Past Chair of the Stanislaus County Private Industry Council, Past Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties, Past member of the Board of Directors for the Hughson Cham-

ber of Commerce, Past Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Stanislaus County, Past member of the Board of Directors of the California Hospice and Palliative Care Association (CHAPCA), Past Chair of the Tri Valley Credit Union, and graduate of the 1990 Modesto Chamber of Commerce Leadership Modesto. Most recently, Harold has been a Supervisory Committee Member of the Community Trust Credit Union.

Harold has received many acknowledgments for his volunteer work, which include receiving the Hughson Business Man of the Year award in 2008, J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award in 1995 and the United Way President's Award in 1994.

Harold and his wife, Kathy of 42 years have three grown sons, and with their wives, five grandchildren. The Peterson family lives in Modesto, California. They enjoy playing golf and travelling in their motor home to visit family and friends. Harold is a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War and holds a Bachelors Degree from the University of San Francisco in Organizational Behavior.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Harold A. Peterson III after numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

HONORING LEHMAN COLLEGE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am a graduate of Lehman College and I am proud of that. I have a Bachelors degree and a Masters degree and the education I received at Lehman College has served me well. I am proud of my Bronx roots and have had the honor of representing the Bronx for many years, first in the New York State Assembly and now in the U.S. House of Representatives. I was a member of the first graduating class of Lehman College in 1969 and in 1994 I was honored to give the commencement speech to the school's 25th graduating class.

The first office for which I ever ran was the Student Government at Lehman and the skills I honed there and as president of my fraternity laid a strong foundation for me as in my life in public service.

For four generations, Lehman College, and its predecessor, the Bronx branch of Hunter College, have given students a first-rate liberal arts education in preparing them for careers in teaching, business, social work, the health sciences and other areas. The school's more than 360 full-time faculty members represent a broad spectrum of scholarship in over 30 fields and includes seven Distinguished Professors, the highest rank attainable within City University of New York.

Lehman's more than 63,000 alumni are making important contributions to industry and organizations both professionally and within their communities here, and across the nation and the world.

Lehman has more than 90 graduate and undergraduate programs for the more than 12,000 students who enjoy some of the finest academic and athletic facilities available. These include state-of-the-art labs in biology, geographic information science, and new