

HONORING LATONYA DENISE  
COTTON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a determined young lady, LaTonya Denise Cotton. Ms. Cotton has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to make a positive difference in her community.

LaTonya Denise Cotton, a resident of Anguilla, Mississippi, was born on January 29, 1976 to Diane Cotton and Tom Davis in Hollandale Mississippi. She is a graduate of Anguilla High School.

LaTonya is the author of a historical novel called "A Small Payton Place in a Town Called Anguilla". She has plans to make a movie based on the novel. LaTonya has served as a volunteer through the AmeriCorps program as a career trainer in Sharkey County.

LaTonya has been a devout member of Union Chapel Baptist Church in Anguilla, MS for thirty one years. She is the proud parent of two girls, Dominique and Sumonia Cotton. She enjoys time with family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. LaTonya Denise Cotton for her dedication to serving her community.

TRIBUTE TO GARY JOB CORPS  
CENTER

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gary Job Corps Center for 50 years of providing successful service to the people of San Marcos, Texas.

Located on a campus of 1,000 acres at the former Gary Army Air Field, Gary Job Corps is the largest of 125 Job Corps campuses nationwide, enrolling a growing number of nearly 2,000 young men and women. The increasing number of enrollment at Gary Job Corps represents the fulfillment of President Johnson's 1964 promise he made while visiting the former Southwest Texas State University. President Johnson's promise was to develop a Job Corps camp to train young men and women in the skills that would allow them to contribute to their community and become leaders.

For 50 years, Gary Job Corps has continuously helped young men and women achieve their academic and professional dreams. In addition to providing vocational training for careers in health occupations, business, computers, cooking, driver's education, and numerous other industries, their alumni have continued their education to the student bodies of Texas State University, Alamo Community College, and other institutions of higher education.

Gary Job Corps has helped countless young Texans achieve their life goals, has helped bring economic growth, educational achievement, and the promise of a better future to Central Texas. I am happy to have this oppor-

tunity to congratulate Gary Job Corps on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, and I wish all of its staff and students many more years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 699

**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H. Res. 699, Welcoming African leaders to the first United States-Africa Leaders' Summit and African trade ministers to the 13th Forum of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

At the start of the new millennium, the United States Congress enacted the African Growth and Opportunity Act—AGOA—with broad, bipartisan support and with a view to expanding growth and opportunity in Africa like never before. In this legislation, Congress called for the establishment of high-level dialogues, including regular meetings by the President with his African counterparts. Now, fourteen years later, that vision is coming true.

Next week, the largest delegation of African heads-of-state in United States history will make its way to the White House. This will truly be a great day for America and a great day for our friends and partners from across the African continent, and I take immense pleasure in welcoming this historic delegation to our nation's capital.

Africa has six of the ten fastest growing economies in the world, over one billion people, sixty percent of the world's uncultivated agricultural land, and is likely to replace China as the biggest contributor to the global workforce by 2050. The people of Africa share the hopes and aspirations of all Americans for peace and prosperity across both our lands, and they are committed to strengthening economic relations through mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities which promote economic growth, development, poverty reduction, democracy, stability, and the rule of law.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act is one of those opportunities, and I would like to use this chance to emphasize the importance of renewing AGOA well before its expiration in September 2015. Since the passage of AGOA, U.S. exports to sub-Saharan Africa have increased from \$6.9 billion to \$23.9 billion, per capita income in sub-Saharan Africa has more than tripled, and U.S. investment in sub-Saharan Africa has increased six-fold.

Mr. Speaker, this Resolution, which already has broad, bipartisan support, recognizes the significant progress and hope that modern Africa represents today in global affairs and economic advancement with its booming demographics, increasing modernization, dynamic youth, and vast resources; and it acknowledges the many paths available for boosting cultural, trade, and economic relations and partnerships between the United States and Africa.

It is in the economic and national security interests of the United States to engage and compete in emerging African markets, to foster U.S.-Africa trade and investment, to support greater capacity building for Africa, and to invest in Africa's youth and emerging leaders.

It is also in our national interest to advocate good governance, a respect for human rights and constitutional term limits, and support for civil society organizations which contribute to enduring economic and social development.

Mr. Speaker, this Resolution demonstrates that the United States Congress stands beside Africa in promoting peace and prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic. I look forward to your timely support of H. Res. 699 on the eve of the United States-Africa Leaders' Summit, as we prepare to welcome our African friends and partners to this nation's great capital for a truly historic occasion. Thank you very much.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STARTUP  
ACT OF 2014

**HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Mr. VALADAO of California, introduced the bipartisan Startup Act of 2014. The Startup Act provides immigrant entrepreneurs and foreign graduates of U.S. universities with the opportunity to appeal and extend their visa by two years on the condition that they secure financing from a U.S. investor and demonstrate the ability to create jobs and bolster the U.S. economy.

If they are able to demonstrate success, by securing additional funding, generating revenue and creating jobs, they would be eligible for legal permanent residency, enabling them to continue to create more American jobs, expand and improve their business, and reinvigorate the United States as the land of opportunity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Our history as a nation has been defined by immigrant innovators, pioneers, and entrepreneurs. Many of the world's best and brightest minds come to this country seeking the freedom and resources necessary to turn their ideas into successful businesses. Transformative U.S. companies including Google, Yahoo, Pfizer, Intel and eBay all began as startups founded by immigrants.

Today, foreign born entrepreneurs come to the United States, graduate from our universities and start businesses on our soil, only to find that our country's archaic, complex visa restrictions make it difficult for them to stay in this country and continue to develop their business, contribute to our economy, and create American jobs.

This places us at a competitive disadvantage at a time when our foreign competitors are catching up. For example, in 2009 foreign innovators were awarded more patents than U.S. inventors for the first time; whereas a decade ago the U.S. held 57 percent of all patents worldwide.

With two Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, it's easy to see the benefits of immigrant innovators in my home state. Freeport-McMoRan is a leading natural resource company which employs thousands of Arizonans. Avnet Inc. is another innovative Phoenix based company and one of the largest distributors of electronic components, computer products, and embedded technology.

We also have a multitude of smaller startups founded by foreign entrepreneurs.

Sumiko Glenn emigrated from Japan and after graduating from Texas Tech University, founded her own tax consulting firm, Glenn Consulting LLC, in Mesa, Arizona. Gelie Akhenblit left Moldova with her family to come to Arizona, where her later studies in Communication at Arizona State University led her to launch NetworkingPhoenix.com as a way to fill the advertising needs of our state through social media. In the state of Arizona, immigrants make up 13.4 percent of population; own 19.6 percent of businesses, and start 31.5 percent of new businesses.

If we are going to protect America's position as the global leader in innovation, we must ensure that tomorrow's entrepreneurs have every opportunity to build and develop their ideas on American soil. The Startup Act of 2014 will create high-wage jobs here in the United States, spur private investment and economic growth, and help ensure that America remains globally competitive. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF VIRGINIA LEE ROSE

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Virginia Lee Rose. Virginia was truly a pillar in the Madera community. Her time and energy spent to better the lives of individuals throughout the region will always be remembered.

Virginia was born on September 27, 1934, in Rayville, Louisiana. She attended Merritt College in Oakland, California where she received an Associate's Degree. After graduating, Virginia worked as a Probation Aide with the Alameda County Probation Department.

In 1953, Virginia moved to Madera, California. She and her husband, John, built a very nice life together and raised two beautiful daughters, Margaret and Jacklyn.

Virginia's philanthropic efforts and hard work were crucial to the development of numerous public, private, and nonprofit organizations in Madera County. Some of these organizations include the Madera County Chamber of Commerce Crime Prevention Commission, the Madera County Cultural Diversity Committee, and the Interagency Child and Youth Services Council. Virginia volunteered with over 15 organizations throughout the community, demonstrating her dedication to improve the lives of residents in Madera.

Virginia's good work and efforts never went unnoticed. She was honored with numerous awards from the community, including: the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award, the Victim Services Volunteer of the Year award, and the Golden Apple Award from the Mariposa/Madera Chapter of the Association of California School Administrators. Additionally, Madera Community Hospital recognized Virginia for dedicating 15 years of service to the hospital.

Virginia will be greatly missed by John, Margaret, Jacklyn, her granddaughters, Shanel, LeeAnn, and Amanda, and many relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the life of Virginia Lee Rose, an individual who dedicated her life to improving the lives of others. Her presence will undoubtedly be missed, but her impact and influence in the community she loved dearly will never be forgotten.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MR. OSCAR JESUS CANTU

#### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Oscar Jesus Cantu, a championship boxer from Kingsville, Texas.

Oscar is a lifelong resident of Kingsville, Texas and has been boxing since the age of eight at Kingsville Boxing Club. In 2009, Oscar graduated from H.M. King High School with honors and continued his education at Texas A&M University—Kingsville.

In 2012, Oscar was an alternate on the U.S. Olympic boxing team. He holds the World Boxing Council's USNBC Title won in Kingsville, Texas on March 22, 2014 and is currently ranked within the top one hundred boxers in the super-flyweight class by the International Boxing Organization.

Oscar actively gives back to his Kingsville community and manages an organization named "I Am Second," which encourages students to avoid destructive behaviors and find hope, peace, and fulfillment. Additionally, he serves as a role model to children by volunteering as a boxing coach at the Kingsville Boxing Club.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor Mr. Oscar Jesus Cantu and his contributions to the sport of boxing. Further, I appreciate you joining me in recognizing his contributions to Kingsville, Texas.

#### HONORING MRS. MARY LEE TAYLOR

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a former educator and longtime community activist from Tallahatchie County, MS, Mrs. Mary Lee Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor is 101 years old. She was born January 17, 1913 in Paynes, MS. Her years have been long and her mind is full of many stories her eyes have seen. I am talking about trying times, historical eras, blue skies, and personal achievements.

Mrs. Taylor is a 1936 graduate of the Tallahatchie County Training School. She went on to continue her education at Rust College in Holly Springs, MS and at the Mississippi Vocational College (now referred to as Mississippi Valley State University) in Itta Bena, MS. There she received her Bachelor of Science Degree.

Her age has not had an effect on her memory which brings smiles to her face. One of her personal achievements is that Mrs. Taylor

is the only person in her family who received an education, according to her son, Mervyn Leon Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor taught 1st grade and adult education classes. Another achievement of Mrs. Taylor is that she was one of the original pioneers who led the effort to bring the Head Start program to Charleston and across Tallahatchie County. Her list of fighting for the citizens of Tallahatchie County and surrounding communities goes on to include road improvements in the Black community, and bringing electricity and telephone service to the Black communities.

Her son, Mervyn, said his mother wasn't just active locally but also overseas. She traveled to poverty stricken areas on mission trips. Mrs. Taylor was also an active member in her church, St. Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.) Church. She served as president of the local missionary, president of the Northern District Episcopal faith domination, and missionary president of the northern and southern Mississippi C.M.E. conferences.

Mrs. Taylor is the widow of the late Mr. Jimmy M. Taylor. She now lives in the Blue Cane Community, right outside of Charleston.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Mary Lee Taylor a pioneer in her community who has helped to pave the way for others, like you and me, to come along.

#### "ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE" ENERGY APPROACH

#### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of an "all-of-the-above" energy approach for our nation's future. By taking this fair and reasonable approach to domestic energy exploration and production, we can properly care for the energy needs of families and businesses in New York, and across the country, while promoting American jobs, boosting national security and taking care of the environment.

Last year, 13 percent of electricity in the United States was produced from renewable sources, ranking us second in the world. This development has improved environmental quality while providing power to our nation's homes and businesses. Since I care about our fellow Americans health, this is the right thing to do. Additionally, the growing use of alternative and renewable fuels lower imports of foreign energy, improves our national security by reducing foreign energy consumption, and creates jobs for families across the country. In addition, clean natural gas development is bringing with it job growth and revitalizing manufacturing in towns and cities across America.

We can create jobs, provide quality energy to American businesses and families, care for the environment and support national security if we, as a nation, focus on an "all-of-the-above" energy approach.