

family who are some of our most productive citizens; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Carreker-Jones family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in Washington, DC; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Carreker-Jones Family; Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim, July 25, 2014 as The Carreker-Jones Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of July, 2014.

DOMINICAN STATE PARADE AND FESTIVAL OF NEW JERSEY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dominican State Parade and Festival of New Jersey on the 25th Anniversary of their dedication in the promotion and celebration of Dominican culture and values. The Dominican State Parade and Festival of New Jersey has reached a milestone that few other organizations in our community can claim, and has made many valuable contributions throughout our great State of New Jersey over the past 25 years.

Founded in 1989, the Dominican State Parade and Festival of New Jersey celebrated to commemorate the restoration of independence for the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Restoration War, a guerilla war between nationalists and Spain, who had recolonized the country 17 years after the Dominican Republic had gained independence from Haiti, ended with Dominican victory and is celebrated in August.

For the past 25 years, the Dominican State Parade and Festival of New Jersey has been a great event in the Dominican community in the State of New Jersey. It was initially celebrated in August in celebration of the restoration of independence but is now celebrated during the month of September.

The Dominican State Parade and Festival of New Jersey had its beginnings with the election of a board of directors composed of men and women members of Club Dominicano Ramon Matias Mella and Casa Dominicana de Paterson. My good friend, Ms. Elsa Mantilla, was elected as the first president followed by 15 other individuals who have led this organization.

Ms. Elsa Mantilla has returned to serve as president of the Dominican State Parade and Festival of New Jersey and has been serving since 2004. For the past 10 years, Ms. Mantilla has devoted herself by taking on the management responsibility of the activity, with the help of previous presidents.

The Dominican State Parade and Festival of New Jersey has served to project Dominican values in the State of New Jersey, which stand out in culture, sports, arts, folklore, as well as providing an opportunity for many

youths to be recognized within the social and political environments of the state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, all Dominican State Parade and Festival of New Jersey members, and all Dominican-Americans in New Jersey as they celebrate this amazing milestone. It is without question that all those affiliated with the Dominican State Parade and Festival of New Jersey have a great love for their heritage and their dedication and loyalty to project Dominican values in America is commendable.

RECOGNIZING JON CASEY OF THE SOUTHLAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jon Casey of the Southlake Fire Department in Southlake, Texas. Casey was honored yesterday, September 7th, by the Southlake Baptist Church during a special service for first responders. Though only having been a firefighter in Southlake for a short time, Casey has demonstrated noteworthy courage and dedication to serving others.

Jon Casey was hired by the Southlake Fire Department on June 17, 2013. In little more than a year, he has made a difference in the lives of those around him numerous times. He and his colleague, Kevin Barry, stayed with fellow firefighter, Justin Speaker, and cared for him as he went through a medical tragedy and eventually passed away. Later they helped his family when they came to town to mourn and settle affairs.

On another occasion, Mr. Casey was off duty and driving outside of Southlake with two other firefighters, Kyle Warden and Isaiah Gonzalez, when they approached an overturned and ablaze ATV. They sprang into action and gave medical attention to an 11 year old girl who had been trapped underneath it and found nearby with severe burns. They then accompanied the local paramedics who arrived afterward and continued to provide needed assistance. They have since visited her at Parkland Hospital's burn unit and have followed her recovery.

Instances of Mr. Casey going out of his way to help others have also been noted in ways that would seem small but that made a world of difference to those whom he has touched. He was among three firefighters who helped Betty Hawthorne, a woman who was traveling and had pulled over at their station for help with her power window that would not roll up. Little did they know that she was coming from the funeral of a dear friend and lost many other loved ones that year. She was deeply distraught and was driving hours on a blistering hot day to see her grandson play in a baseball game. Along with Lieutenant Marshall Urbanosky and Engineer Tony Peyton, Casey successfully repaired her window. Their compassion left Betty with such an impression that she wrote a letter to the Fire Chief, describing the whole story with great gratitude.

Southlake Fire Department Deputy Chief Wade Carroll, reflecting on Jon Casey, has written that he cannot "help but think that his kind heart toward those in need has driven his career choice, his actions, and the actions of

his friends. Because of people like [Jon] the fire service will continue to stand for showing the compassion of Christ to those in need." The City of Southlake will be most fortunate as Casey continues to devote himself to public service, both on and off duty.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Jon Casey on his well-earned community recognition for his exceptionally sacrificial and caring service as a member of the Southlake Fire Department.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MS. LEE STURTEVANT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congress members ANNA ESHOO and MIKE HONDA, to recognize the impact of Ms. Lee Sturtevant's lifelong service on the County of Santa Clara. We would like to express our deep sadness over her passing on August 7, 2014, in San Jose at the age of 91.

Ms. Sturtevant was a life-long, dedicated, selfless, and influential activist in Santa Clara County, particularly in her tenacious leadership capacity within the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee and of Democratic Activists for Women Now (DAWN). A committed Democrat, she believed in the government's importance in advancing opportunities for those who had none.

Ms. Sturtevant dedicated her life to getting women involved in politics. In 1974, she successfully managed the campaign of Assemblywoman Leona Egeland, the only woman serving on the Assembly at the time. In 1981, Ms. Sturtevant served as my Chief of Staff when I was first elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. She was a staffer for many other Santa Clara County area elected officials over the years, including Congressman Honda.

Ms. Sturtevant was a dedicated advocate for those with developmental disabilities. She worked as a teacher and librarian for the Cupertino School District, and served on the San Jose Unified School District Board of Education. She had walked precincts for Franklin D. Roosevelt, organized community college professors, and conducted workshops on collective bargaining for the Detroit United Auto Workers. Ms. Sturtevant's continued hands-on involvement in key social issues cannot be overstated.

We join Ms. Sturtevant's family, colleagues, and the Santa Clara County community to express our heartbreak and great sense of loss. Ms. Lee Sturtevant was a source of tireless advocacy for social change and improvements in the lives of others and a tremendous force for good. She was a leader, advisor, and a mentor to many women and girls over the course of her impressive career. She leaves Santa Clara County and our world a better place and will be dearly missed.

RECOGNIZING GARY RALPH
VANCOUR

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gary Ralph VanCour. For many years, Mr. VanCour has given his time and energy to promote his community and encourage its success.

Mr. VanCour has served for the past seven years as Co-Chair for the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Committee, working diligently to promote the Commemoration and ensure that it continues to be an event of the highest quality. As a member of the War of 1812 Bicentennial Council: Lake Champlain Region, Mr. VanCour has worked with the Adirondack Coast Visitors Bureau to promote heritage tourism for the region.

Mr. VanCour is also a retired Social Studies teacher and Department chair for the Beekmantown Central School District in New York State. He served as President of the New York State Social Studies Supervisory Association and is currently the Town of Beekmantown Historian. He is widely respected for his work in the field of education, having led efforts to align the Beekmantown Central School curriculum with New York State Social Studies Standards.

Mr. VanCour is a father and grandfather as well as a musician and community volunteer. Each of us can learn from his extraordinary dedication to serving his community.

CONGRATULATING BRADEN
MUSCARELLO ON RECEIVING
PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Braden Muscarello for being awarded a Kennedy-Lugar YES Abroad scholarship to study in Oman during the 2014–2015 academic year. Braden, a sophomore at William P. Clements High School in Sugar Land, Texas, is one of only 65 American students selected to serve as YES Abroad youth ambassador to educate other countries about American culture.

As a YES Abroad student, Braden will help foster mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of Oman to promote friendly and peaceful relations. She will live with a host family in Muscat, attend a local high school and participate in activities with her Omani peers. Not only will she educate others about American culture, she'll also bring back her own experiences of Omani society and values and help build a social foundation for the development of a strong bilateral relationship between our two countries.

I wish Braden the best of luck as she studies in Oman this year. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Braden Muscarello for earning a Kennedy-Lugar YES Abroad scholarship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that while I was in Washington for much of Friday, August 1, 2014, I was unable to vote on legislation considered that day due to previously scheduled events in the district.

If I had been able to vote that day, I would have voted as follows:

On the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 700, roll No. 474, I would have voted "no."

On consideration of H. Res. 700, a resolution to waive certain requirements under Clause 6(a) of House Rule XIII, roll No. 475, I would have voted "no."

On the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 710, roll No. 476, I would have voted "no."

On consideration of H. Res. 710, a resolution providing the rule for H.R. 5230 and H.R. 5272, roll No. 477, I would have voted "no."

On Passage of H.R. 5230, Supplemental Appropriations Related to the Humanitarian Crisis at the Southwest Border, roll No. 478, I would have voted "no."

On Passage of H.R. 5272, to prohibit certain actions with respect to deferred action for aliens not lawfully present in the United States, roll No. 479, I would have voted "no."

On Concurring to the Senate Amendments to H.J. Res. 76, Emergency Supplemental Funding to Israel for the Iron Dome Defense System, roll No. 480, I would have voted "yes."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

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 \$17,756,856,045,819.45. We've added \$7,129,978,996,906.37 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING MS. SUSAN HAMMER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Susan Hammer and congratulate her on her Cornerstone of the Arts Award, a timely and well-deserved honor.

From the beginning of her career in public service, Ms. Hammer worked tirelessly to link San Jose's civic future to the continued growth and development of its arts and cultural insti-

tutions. Indeed, she entered public life in 1969 by founding a community art museum that became the San Jose Museum of Art. She was instrumental in saving the historic building now home to its administrative offices from destruction.

Ms. Hammer's unwavering support of the arts continued throughout her illustrious career. As the 62nd Mayor of San Jose, Ms. Hammer led the creation of San Jose's first cultural plan, which served as the blueprint for the evolution of the Office of Cultural Affairs and led to arts education reform. Ms. Hammer created San Jose's first cultural tourism program, worked to build The Tech as a museum of national stature, and fought to complete the Guadalupe River Park. Ms. Hammer made sure that The Rep got a permanent home in San Jose. Together with the San Jose State University President, Ms. Hammer developed the idea of creating a joint library and was part of a committee that raised \$16.5 million for the completion of San Jose's stunning Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

Ms. Hammer is a trailblazer when it comes to the development of San Jose area's thriving community and dynamic culture. As Mayor, she focused on affordable housing, child care, education, the arts, and the revitalization of the San Jose Downtown.

Ms. Hammer is truly the "cornerstone" of the San Jose arts community and sets the highest standard for public service. Unsurprisingly, in her retirement, Ms. Hammer continues to be civically involved and active in community and educational organizations.

I wish to congratulate Ms. Susan Hammer on her Cornerstone of the Arts Award and express my gratitude for her exceptional leadership and lasting impact on the San Jose art and cultural landscape.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL JOB
CORPS ASSOCIATION'S 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and congratulating the National Job Corps Association on their 50th Anniversary. Over the course of 50 years, millions of at-risk youth have been forever changed by Job Corps' comprehensive residential, academic and career preparation programs.

In my hometown, the Flint Genesee Job Corps Center provides a vital service to our community by serving hundreds of disadvantaged youth between 16 and 24 years of age, inclusive, by providing high school diplomas and career technical education to young men and women.

In addition to academic and employment training, these Job Corps Centers throughout the country provide social skills training and other services to empower young men and women to obtain and hold a job, enroll in advanced training, attend college, or enter the Armed Forces to defend the interest of the United States around the world.

It is timely and appropriate that we join Flint and Genesee County in celebrating the National Job Corps Association and its accomplishments, including reducing the cycle of