

its 2014 theme, Hispanics: A legacy of history, a present of action, and a future of success. The people of the United States will once again celebrate the histories, cultures, and traditions of our Hispanic American brothers and sisters from September 15, 2014, through October 15, 2014.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins each year on September 15, the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile observe their independence days on September 16 and September 18. Since its inception as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, which later became National Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988, Americans have taken this time to not only pay tribute to the rich culture and traditions of Hispanic Americans, but also to reflect on the numerous contributions they have made that have led to improvements within their communities, and in turn, a better America.

Our nation's success is reliant upon the rich heritage and cultural diversity of its people. Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the many Hispanic leaders and members of our communities who have added to the prosperity of the United States in every facet of society including medicine, business, arts and entertainment, sports, education, politics, and the military.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month. Throughout America's history, present, and future, the Hispanic community has played and continues to play a major role in enriching the quality of life and culture of our great nation, and for their outstanding contributions they are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING MATTHEW BARMANN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Barmann. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 419, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Barmann for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on September 15, 2014. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

Roll Number 497—H.R. 5018—to establish the Law School Clinic Certification Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—aye.

HONORING GEORGIA INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Georgia Industries for the Blind as they celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Since the opening of its first manufacturing plant in 1949, Georgia Industries for the Blind has been creating, sustaining and improving employment opportunities for people who are blind. Georgia Industries for the Blind is part of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and operates from its corporate headquarters in Bainbridge, Georgia. They have operations in three other facilities in Georgia that collectively employ over 100 blind individuals. They are proof that a workplace should be welcoming to the talents of all people and should be a critical part of everyone's efforts to build an inclusive community and a strong economy.

Georgia Industries for the Blind has demonstrated the importance of raising awareness throughout the year about disability employment issues and to acknowledge the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities.

It is with great pride that I recognize the contributions of Georgia Industries for the Blind to the personal and economic independence of blind individuals not only during National Disability Employment Awareness Month, but throughout the entire year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, due to a change in floor schedule, I was unavoidably absent on Monday, September 15, 2014.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows: On rollcall No. 497, I would have voted "aye" (September 15) (H.R. 5108, To establish the Law School Clinic Certification Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes (REP JEFFRIES)).

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF EL PASO BRANCH OF THE NAACP

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Congresswoman BARBARA LEE of California, to honor and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the El Paso Branch of the NAACP.

Founded in 1914 by civil rights activist Dr. Lawrence Aaron Nixon, the El Paso Branch was the first branch of the NAACP established in the state of Texas. The El Paso Branch's long history is rich with examples of El Pasoans taking the lead to end discrimination in Texas.

In 1923, the Texas legislature passed a law which prohibited African-Americans from voting in Democratic primaries. On July 26, 1924, with the sponsorship of the NAACP, Dr. Nixon took his poll-tax receipt to a Democratic primary polling place and was refused a ballot. Thus began a twenty-year struggle in which Dr. Nixon and his El Paso attorney, Fred C. Knollenberg, twice carried their case to the United States Supreme Court. It was not until the landmark decision in *Smith v. Allwright* ended the white primary that the way was cleared, and on July 22, 1944, Dr. and Mrs. Nixon walked into the same El Paso voting place and voted in a Democratic primary.

In 1955, the El Paso Branch sought to challenge the segregation clause contained within the state constitution. The NAACP asked Thelma White, valedictorian of segregated Douglass High School in El Paso, to challenge the law. With the assistance of the NAACP, she submitted her application to Texas Western College (now the University of Texas at El Paso). Texas Western returned Ms. White's application along with her unopened transcripts.

Ms. White's attorneys, including Thurgood Marshall, filed suit in federal district court in March 1955, claiming White's rights of equal access to an education had been violated. That summer, in anticipation of an adverse ruling from the court, the University of Texas (UT) Board of Regents voted to allow Texas Western to admit African-American students, while promising to investigate desegregating the main university in Austin at a later date. Ms. White's attorneys refused to abandon her suit, and on July 18th, Federal District Judge Robert E. Thomason issued a declaratory judgment on her behalf, permanently enjoining the UT system from denying her or any other African-American student the right to study at Texas Western. He further ordered all Texas universities to immediately desegregate. That fall, both Texas Western College and the main university in Austin admitted their first black students. In El Paso, twelve students gained admission to the school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the El Paso Branch of the NAACP and the extraordinary work they have done to make our community, the State of Texas and our country a more just world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 15, 2014, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 497, "yea."

HONORING ALEXANDER LAPP**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Lapp. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alex has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alex remodeled a loft at Liberty Christian Fellowship Church in Liberty, Missouri, repainting it and adding railings and other safety improvements as the church converts the loft from a space for teenage youth to a space for children to meet.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Alexander Lapp for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF NANCY STEPHENS CAMPBELL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to honor Nancy Stephens Campbell on occasion of her 100th birthday.

Ms. Campbell was born September 16th, 1914 in Borden Springs in Cleburne County, Alabama. She went to school in Chulafinnee through 7th grade, moving to Ranburne schools in 9th grade. She graduated from high school in Selma in 1933. After graduating, Nancy returned to Cleburne County to teach. She married Hugh Campbell, of Heflin, and together they had four children. Between their children Hugh Jr., Jim, Linda and Ann, Ms. Campbell has 10 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Nancy Campbell taught preschool at Heflin First United Methodist Church for many years, and the children there began to call her "Nannie." She has been a member of Chulafinnee United Methodist Church her entire adult life. Ms. Campbell has resided at Au-

tumn Cove Retirement Community in Anniston for the past three years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Ms. Campbell's 100th birthday today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH "BEBO" MANJIKIAN**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long, full life of a beloved constituent, family man, athlete, gardener, centenarian, and genocide survivor: Joseph "Bebo" Manjikian.

I had the great pleasure of celebrating Bebo's 104th birthday with him and a great many members of his family, the Armenian community in the San Gabriel Valley of California, and other local elected officials. Bebo was an extraordinary man and an example of triumph over tragedy.

He was a man who, well into his 90s, was power-lifting and competing in the Senior Olympics, winning gold medals no less. Bebo trained by staying active with a unique blend of traditional exercise and his diligent gardening, tilling the soil and tending to his cherished fruit trees. It was said that if everyone did this, the way Bebo did, their fitness would be rewarded with good crops and a beautiful garden. And in many ways, this was the philosophy of Bebo's life. He believed in being a role model through his actions. He would say, "You have to walk the walk."

Bebo was also a genocide survivor. He was born in 1910 in the Armenian village of Kessab, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire. His father, an Armenian officer conscripted into the Ottoman Army, was killed in the Armenian genocide of 1915. Bebo and the rest of his family were driven from their village and forced into exile by Turkish soldiers. Their village was destroyed and they endured sickness and hunger, walking for miles. They could not stop or they risked being shot, so his mother fed her children with weeds and grass. Eventually Kessab became part of Syria after World War I and Bebo was able to return. And, though his life would ultimately take him far from his childhood home, he ended up marrying a woman also from his village, named Sara. Bebo rejoiced in Sara's traditional cooking, harkening back to the couple's roots. They never forgot where they came from, and never ceased to keep their best memories and traditions alive.

Bebo was a self-taught man and entrepreneur of great skill. At 18 he left his village again and settled in Palestine, where he lived for over two decades and worked as a mechanic for the British Army. In 1950 he came to the United States with his young family and settled in Inglewood, California, where he operated his own mechanic shop for 25 years. His family recalls that he could fix anything, and he would tell them "In Kessab, there were no Home Depots." Once again, he taught others through his example, not only sharing his skills but also his belief in empowering himself and others. He also spoke a remarkable seven languages, despite much formal education. These included German, French, Hebrew, Turkish, Arabic, English, Armenian, and Kessaberen.

Perhaps most of all, Bebo was a family and community man. He and Sara eventually moved to the West Hills and spent much time with family in Pasadena. They had three children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Bebo was always quick to help a relative or friend in need, opening his home to them. After his retirement he worked at Camp Kessab, an Armenian youth camp in California focused on traditions from Bebo's home village. He was instrumental in keeping the place going. Bebo was deeply devoted to his family and community, sharing stories and testifying to over a century of history, still sharp in his mind.

His loss is a loss for all of us. He was an incomparable repository of experiences; an unbelievable specimen of physical and mental acuity; an exemplary citizen and humanitarian. But most of all Bebo was an inspiration to know. He will be greatly missed and long remembered; he who always walked the walk.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TRINI MESTRE-QUIROZ

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Trini Mestre-Quiroz. Mrs. Mestre-Quiroz is an example of leadership and dedication.

Born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, she moved to New York at age fifteen. She later moved to New Jersey where she met her late husband, Jose Manuel Mestre, and became a mother to two wonderful daughters, Jacqueline and Jeannette.

Upon moving to New Jersey, Mrs. Mestre-Quiroz began her lasting commitment to civic involvement. She was instrumental in the creation of several community-based organizations, including the first multi-cultural, multi-lingual day care center in New Jersey.

Due to her community leadership, Mrs. Mestre-Quiroz was selected to become the first minority female to serve as an assistant to a Mayor of a major city in New Jersey. She was later appointed to serve as one of 200 nationwide Community Service Specialists for the Department of Commerce.

During the early seventies, Mrs. Mestre-Quiroz worked tirelessly with the students and faculty at her alma mater, Rutgers University, in order to further the implementation of affirmative action measures. Her efforts helped persuade the university to hire its first Hispanic Dean of Academics at its Newark campus.

Mrs. Mestre-Quiroz is active in politics and has been involved in local and federal elections in New York, New Jersey, and Florida. She currently serves as Secretary and Chair-in-Waiting for the Black, Latino and Puerto Rican Alliance for Justice of Florida.

I am honored to recognize Trini Mestre-Quiroz, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her lifelong commitment to serving her community.