

# RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF BOB DICKERSON

## HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bob Dickerson of RESULTS, a grassroots organization dedicated to creating the political will to end poverty in the U.S. and abroad. Mr. Dickerson has contributed immeasurably to the local and international community over the last twenty-five years as a volunteer leader.

After working as an attorney in Seattle for a number of years, Mr. Dickerson left his law practice and began working nearly full-time as a RESULTS volunteer. His passionate and ever present voice for the powerless—especially children—is truly remarkable. In 2005, his work was recognized with the Thomas C. Wales Foundation Award for Civic Engagement and Passionate Citizenship.

As the RESULTS Seattle Group Leader, Mr. Dickerson has developed deep partnerships with powerful coalitions, elected leaders and the media. His work inspired Members of Congress and volunteers across the country on both sides of the aisle to serve as vocal spokespersons in support of the Global Poverty Act, the Education for All Act, the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Bob Dickerson for twenty-five years of excellence. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

# TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

## HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2014*

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, our ally and friend in Southeast Asia, Taiwan, will celebrate their 103rd National Day on October 10th. Known as Double Ten Day, it celebrates the start of the Wuchang Uprising which ultimately led to the formation of Taiwan as we know it today.

Double Ten Day has the same significance to Taiwan as Independence Day does to us here in the United States. It is a day that people are able to celebrate and remember the sacrifices that led to creation of Taiwan. Both the U.S. and Taiwan are relatively new; in July we celebrated our 238th anniversary and Taiwan is celebrating their 103rd.

On this occasion, I would like to note how important Taiwan is to my home state of Oregon. Last year, Oregon exports to Taiwan reached \$825.6 million. Taiwan became our 5th largest trading partner in Asia and the 7th largest in the world. From agriculture to machinery, Oregon products serve a large part of Taiwan's industries. There are more opportunities to capitalize on and I look forward to working to grow investments and exports to help both our peoples.

Again I wish a happy National Day to Taiwan. We look forward to continuing our friend-

ship and partnership on the many issues that we both face.

# IN RECOGNITION OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

## HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2014*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the San Mateo County Law Library, a unique California resource that provides public access to justice. The law library in Redwood City, founded in 1916, houses a wealth of information not available at other public libraries and is used by some 9,000 individuals a year. In addition to attorneys, legal professionals and students, ordinary citizens use the library to get assistance with landlord/tenant complaints, marital and child custody disputes probate questions, entrepreneurial pursuits, safety issues and a broad range of other legal issues. In fact, last year the general public constituted 26 percent of all library users.

Individuals without legal training are not left to their own devices to find and interpret legal literature. Librarians help everyone find answers to their legal questions, regardless of their educational background or financial circumstances. The appreciation for this service is best expressed by the public users themselves. One patron said, "The best legal librarians in the Bay Area. Superior kindness, knowledge and patience." Another said, "The staff here have made my life better, and for that I feel compelled to dole out some kudos to them."

The idea for law libraries was born in the Bay Area. In 1870, the San Francisco Law Library Act required the City and County of San Francisco to provide facilities and services at no charge and mandated access to county citizens. In 1891, the California Legislature adopted this practice at the state level requiring each county to have a law library. The libraries were not connected as a system, instead each county library rendered services according to the needs of its communities and was funded by the filing fees generated by the court system.

Because the state law does not provide any financial support to maintain the law collections or services, the San Mateo County Library is now at risk. Filing fees have dropped dramatically.

Before the San Mateo County Law Library opened at its current location at 710 Hamilton Street in Redwood City, it used to consist of two branches to serve the entire peninsula, one in San Mateo's Superior Court and the other in South San Francisco's courthouse. Due to funding cuts, support for the law collection at San Mateo's Superior Court had to be discontinued many years ago and then the courthouse was closed. Similarly, support for the law collection at the South San Francisco courthouse was discontinued in 2011 due to cutbacks and then the courthouse was closed. This created a Catch 22: as the courts closed and filing fees increased, fewer law suits were filed, more members of the general public used the law libraries to solve their legal issues, and the funding for the library dropped. The popularity of the San Mateo Law Library has ironically contributed to its threat of extinction.

California's County Law Library Statute was a direct result of the progressive movement in the late 20th century when disparity in wealth resulted in armed clashes between the working and moneyed classes. Lawyers were considered tools of the rich and the law libraries were tools for the common man to be his own lawyer. Justice Conrad Rushing wrote: "The establishment of law libraries was not by any means the most important feature of what grew out of the progressive movement, but it nevertheless spoke strongly to the idea of equality under the law."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to honor the important role the San Mateo County Law Library continues to play today by providing access to legal support services and justice. May it be saved for all San Mateo County residents as a symbol and manifestation of "equality under the law."

# THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRANSFIGURATION ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF WILLIAMS- BURG, BROOKLYN, NY

## HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2014*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Transfiguration Roman Catholic Parish of Williamsburg, Brooklyn as it celebrates its 140th anniversary. The church is commemorating this special year by hosting a series of events celebrating the parish and community's rich history.

A church of humble beginnings, Transfiguration originated to serve Irish Catholic immigrants. Its first Mass was celebrated in 1874 by Friar John Fagan in a carpenter's shop on Hooper Street. In 1875, Transfiguration R.C. Church was dedicated. As the congregation and diversity grew, so did the needs of the parishioners. In 1912, the Sisters of St. Joseph established a parochial school that educated thousands of students until 2006 when it closed its doors.

In the late 1900's there were 500 Puerto Ricans living in New York City, and by the 1930's the population increased to more than 45,000. Many of these families moved to Williamsburg and settled in the Southside/Los Sures community near the Transfiguration parish where they lived among Irish Catholics, Italians and Jews. Transfiguration embraced the Latino community and adopted changes to its ministry and services to meet the spiritual, social and educational needs of its new parishioners. In 1956, after his ordination, Monsignor Bryan J. Karvelis, a then young priest came to the parish and saw first-hand the conditions and social needs of the families it served.

Transfiguration, under the leadership of Monsignor Karvelis, worked to improve the lives and social and economic status of the poor and refugee community it served. It founded and helped create organizations like the Southside Mission, the Transfiguration Parish Federal Credit Union, Southside Immigration Services, Nuestros Ninos Daycare Center, a men's shelter and food pantry and Casa Betsaida, a hospice residence opened during the AIDS crisis for individuals infected with the virus. Monsignor Karvelis served

Transfiguration R.C. Church for close to half a century until he passed away in 2005. The street outside the church was named in his memory.

Today, under the leadership of Monsignor Anthony M. Hernandez, Transfiguration continues thriving. My fellow colleagues, please join me in celebrating the 140th Anniversary of Transfiguration Roman Catholic Parish, a parish that continues its rich history of faith and social progress.

#### MARKING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964

### HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2014*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

There is an old saying to the effect that the best time to plant a tree, protect a forest, and make a promise to the future is either 50 years ago—or today. Fifty years ago, visionary leaders committed themselves and our nation to protect and preserve public lands for generations to come. The Wilderness Act of 1964 is as important today as it was then.

I represent the Eighth District of Minnesota, where we are blessed to have one of the most beautiful and pristine wilderness areas in America in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAV). I was so proud to be an original sponsor of the law that created the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness during my first service in Congress in the 1970's. Working with great environmental leaders like former Congressman Don Fraiser, and my late colleagues Congressman Jim Oberstar and Bruce Vento, we carved out and preserved the Boundary Waters for generation upon generation to come. I consider this one of my proudest achievements.

In addition to BWCAW, the Superior National Forest, Voyageurs National Park, the North Shore of Lake Superior, and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway are other national treasures we enjoy, and are committed to protecting.

We live up North, despite the long winters, because we love the land and understand the need to assure that future generations will have the same opportunities we have to enjoy the great out of doors.

I call upon my colleagues to continue fighting to set aside more of our nation's special places as wilderness areas—protecting our wild lands and the air, water and creatures that bless them.

#### IN HONOR OF FAMILIES IN TRANSITIONS ‘I AM ONE: NEW HAMPSHIRE DAY TO END CHILDHOOD HOMELESSNESS’

### HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2014*

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was so pleased to join Families in Transition for the ‘I AM ONE: New Hampshire Day to End Child-

hood Homelessness’ on September 4. I am a social worker by trade and by heart. I can remember just twenty years ago when people saw the issue of child homelessness as the government's problem, not the community's. And yes, the federal government needs to play a role, and so do the states, and so do the cities. But we also need people involved. We need these wonderful non-profits, like Families in Transition, who can do so much on the ground in our communities. Thanks to all attendees for caring, because we know that, in New Hampshire, 25 percent of the people who are homeless are children.

What does it mean to a child, at the end of the day, to have no place to go home to? What does it mean to a child if there isn't a medicine chest there if they feel sick, there's not a refrigerator if they're hungry, there's not a bed to sleep in? And what does it mean to a child when they find out that the people and groups at I AM ONE are coming together to help them? It means everything. Absolutely everything.

Thank you so much for the work that you do. This is a great community and a great state because we work together on these issues. And we're going to solve the problem of child homelessness together.

#### HONORING THE CELEBRATE NASHVILLE FESTIVAL

### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2014*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute Celebrate Nashville, a festival honoring the many great cultures in our city.

Nashville is not just any city; it's the friendliest city in the south. We welcome visitors with gracious southern hospitality and country twang. But there is so much more to Nashville than meets the eye. What makes Nashville truly unique is the people who come from all over the world.

One in six of our residents is foreign-born, and we could not be more proud of our multicultural heritage. In 1995, a group at Vanderbilt's Scarritt-Bennett designed the first Celebrate Nashville event so cultures could share their gifts with everyone. Thanks to great community partners, it has grown to be one of the city's biggest annual events, bringing together more than 40,000 citizens.

From music and dance to food and crafts, Celebrate Nashville showcases everything that makes our city unique. It highlights the best of our past through displays of heritage with the promise of our future.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to salute the Celebrate Nashville Cultural Festival for its commitment to our citizens and our community and for promoting all cultures in our city.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

### HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2014*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on this September the 19th, 2014 at VFW Narrows Bridge Post #10018 and nationwide;

Whereas, there remain over 83,000 men and women unaccounted for, who have served our country in conflicts since World War II;

Whereas, the families and comrades of those missing hold out hope as the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office works to bring each person home;

Whereas, a grateful nation mourns and remembers those heroes who have given their lives to the service of our country; and

Whereas, the surviving brothers and sisters in arms of the fallen resolve steadfast to forge a new commitment year after year in pursuit of resolution and remembrance of those no longer with us; now, therefore, I, DEREK KILMER, Representative of Washington State's Sixth Congressional District, hereby proclaim the continued gratitude for those men and women who have served before us, and for those who continue the search for our servicemembers who are not forgotten on this POW/MIA Recognition Day.

In witness thereof, I call upon those here today, and those who will in future years join us, on this solemn remembrance, to keep the promise to bring home all those who are captured or killed while serving our great nation.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KERN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

### HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2014*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Kern County Farm Bureau's 100th anniversary, and to commend this organization which has done so much for Kern's hardworking farming families.

The foundation of Kern County's rich history rests with our agricultural heritage. When the first Californians settled in Kern, they brought their seeds with them, planting carrots, cotton, potatoes, citrus groves and vineyards, which they passed down through the generations. The most recent fruits of their labor—the 2013 harvest—tallied more than six billion dollars. Whenever our farmers sow, our whole valley and nation prospers.

A hundred years ago, the creation of Kern County Farm Bureau forged a coalition of 200 farms and 200 families, uniting to lend a neighborly hand through drought, earthquake and fire. These were the farmers who founded Kern's first reservoir system with water brought down from the mountains, who built 800 square miles of canals to make the valley bloom. By their labor, Bakersfield, Kern County and our region flourished; our population boomed. By a succession of horticultural breakthroughs—irrigation drip lines, and precision sprinklers to name a few—Kern County's farmers have learned to do more with less water, leading our state and nation with some of the most innovative and effective conservation practices. In the last fifty years, Kern's farmers have doubled our valley's crop yield without adding a single drop of water to their allotment. Our farmers have humbly overseen