

shared the great plans we had for our districts and this great nation. Herman and I were part of the 1970 Congressional freshman class. Herman was also the man who gave Percy Sutton, David Dinkins, Basil Paterson, and me the special label: the Gang of Four. He was always driven and persistent, called himself "the first Puerto Rican everything," and won the respect for being a fighter. Congressman Herman Badillo will be truly missed.

My friend, Herman Badillo, will always be remembered as America's first Puerto Rican-born Congressman and a fixture in New York City politics for four decades, championing civil rights, jobs, housing and educational reforms. Born in Caguas, P.R., on Aug. 21, 1929, Herman was the only child of Francisco and Carmen Rivera Badillo. Upon moving to the continental United States, he learned English and was an excellent student at Haaren High School in Manhattan. Being a hard worker since a young age, he labored as a dishwasher, bowling pinsetter, and accountant and graduated with high honors from City College in 1951. Herman went on to graduate from Brooklyn Law School as valedictorian in 1954, then settled into law practice in New York. Badillo served his community as a public servant on many fronts. Besides his election to four terms in Congress, he was a city commissioner, the Bronx borough president, a deputy to Mayor Edward I. Koch, a counsel to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, a candidate for state and city comptroller, and for many years a trustee and then board chairman of the City University of New York.

I was honored to serve with Herman during his seven years in Congress in the 1970s, when he pushed urban renewal, antipoverty programs, voting rights and bilingual education. Herman has been a treasure to the people of our community as well as a true testament to the American Dream. Herman Badillo will forever remain in our hearts.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EDEN PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend the Eden Prairie High School Football Team on winning the Minnesota State Championship.

The Eagles capped off an undefeated 13–0 season with a hard-fought victory over Totino-Grace in which they trailed at halftime by 14 points. Senior running back Will Rains led the way with 230 yards rushing and 3 Touchdowns, but the victory by Mike Grant's unit was a complete team effort.

With their backs against the wall, the Eagles dug deep to claw their way back and win their fourth consecutive big school title.

Football is a unique sport in that every play requires 11 teammates working in unison to be successful. It takes perfect execution combined with skill and of course, a large amount of toughness to make a deep play-off run and win a title.

Eden Prairie's commitment to excelling on the gridiron is even more noteworthy when combined with the requirements of a student-

athlete. Maintaining commitments in the classroom, with their families, and fitting in a social life is not easy for a group of teenagers—but these young men were able rise to the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to once again congratulate the Eden Prairie Eagles for bringing home the state title!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 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 \$17,993,213,058,619.35. We've added \$7,366,336,009,706.27 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING HEAVENLY ANGELS DAYCARE CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Heavenly Angels Daycare Center.

The Heavenly Angels Daycare Center opened on August 8, 2006 with Mrs. Emma Bell as owner and director, in Port Gibson, Claiborne County, Mississippi on Church St.

Mrs. Bell loves children and started Heavenly Angels Daycare Center with 8 enrolled from 6 months to 3 years old. She also had an After School Program with 6 children up to 12 years old.

Through the years, the Heavenly Angels Daycare Center has grown and in 2008 a Pre-K Center was included to better equip children who started in the center to be able to successfully start 1st grade.

Heavenly Angels Daycare Center has been progressing for 8 years with a current full capacity of 87 children, who are enjoying the process of learning and the After School Program has 27 children.

Mrs. Bell, because of her hard and diligent work at Heavenly Angels Daycare Center has received a trophy honoring her as Businesswoman of the Year.

Mrs. Bell has been married for 25 years to a husband that loves and supports her. They have 5 children: 4 boys and 1 daughter, Janice, who has worked with Heavenly Angels Daycare Center since its opening and graduated from Jackson State University with a Business Degree.

Heavenly Angels Daycare Center's slogan is: To look, listen and learn and every child succeeds. Mrs. Bell stated that "When they come through our doors, we make sure that they get the learning that they need. They all are smart children."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Heavenly Angels Daycare Center for caring and educating children.

HONORING DAVE CUELLAR

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dave Cuellar of Veterans Helping Veterans for his outstanding volunteer work with New Mexican veterans.

A Vietnam veteran himself, Mr. Cuellar had a distinguished career as a Gallup police officer after serving his country in the Army. Before retiring as a police lieutenant, he helped to protect and serve Gallup for over 22 years. In 2003, Mr. Cuellar was inspired to help start Veterans Helping Veterans, an organization dedicated to providing informational and social support for veterans in the Gallup area. The group provides critical help to veterans navigating the Veteran Administration's benefit and healthcare systems. More importantly, Mr. Cuellar has created an open and welcoming network run by veterans for veterans. His group is all inclusive, working with veterans young and old, from all backgrounds and all branches of the military to create a voice for all veterans.

Words alone cannot express our full appreciation and gratitude for the service of our veterans, and the deeds of volunteers like Mr. Cuellar help make a difference in the lives of our veterans who often face many challenges when they return home from active duty. Veterans Helping Veterans is a great example of a remarkable volunteer organization that is having a positive impact in the community. I thank Dave Cuellar for both his service and for his work with Veterans Helping Veterans.

HONORING CHAIRWOMAN FUDGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE on her extraordinary leadership as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

With conviction and passion, she defended the change we have all worked so diligently to achieve since the CBC was founded in 1971.

Throughout her career in Congress, MARCIA's passion for the advancement of the least among us, regardless of race, color or creed, has served her constituents in Cleveland well. This tireless advocacy made her an excellent choice for the CBC chair.

During her tenure, she was fearless in promoting the goals of the CBC and advancing our fight to confront critical issues that are confronted by the communities we represent.

Her staff certainly impressed us with their unparalleled work ethic, enthusiasm, responsibility and flexibility to meet the needs of so many Members. They demonstrated great aptitude in communicating urgent matters to us in a timely and effective manner.

The Chairwoman was unwavering in her strength as she gracefully tackled the harsh political battles we were confronted during this Congress.

She has left a huge imprint in the CBC and will be missed by all of us who have come to

respect and appreciate her very much as our leader.

I look forward to working with MARCIA and the rest of my Colleagues on the CBC in the 114th Congress as we continue our efforts to put America back to work, cut our deficit responsibly, tackle tax reform, and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to pursue the American Dream.

RECOGNIZING POTH HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Poth High School Women's Volleyball Team for their ninth state championship win under the leadership of Coach Patti Zenner.

On Saturday, November 22nd, the Poth Pirettes emerged victorious over Brock High School during the UIL Class 3A State Final. This was a defining match for the Pirettes, marking their fourteenth appearance at the state tournament and ninth state championship win. With this recent victory, the Poth Pirettes are now tied for the second most championship wins in state history. Pirettes Volleyball Senior Alyssa Kruse was awarded Most Valuable Player of the championship.

Mr. Speaker, this is a momentous occasion for Poth High School and I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Pirettes Women's Volleyball Team for its record-setting victory. I thank you for this time.

INTRODUCING THE AFRICAN DESCENT AFFAIRS ACT IN RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill recognizing persons of African descent on the occasion of the December 10, 2014 launch of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

As our country fights to realize justice for Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Aiyana Jones, John Warner, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and many others, we must not forget the names—Stephen Lawrence, Oury Jalloh, Mark Duggan, Zyed Benna, Bouna Traore, and many others—who are victims of similar injustices in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

The International Decade provides an opportunity to join efforts with countries around the globe to, over the next 10 years, develop and implement national strategies honoring the vast contributions of people of African Descent and to combat continuing issues of prejudice and discrimination such as those currently gripping our nation.

To aid these efforts, I have introduced the African Descent Affairs Act. The Act seeks to improve the situation of people of African descent around the world by establishing within

our State Department a Global Office of African Descent Affairs to establish global foreign policy and assistance strategies for people of African descent. Furthermore, it creates a "President Obama Fund" to support anti-discrimination and empowerment efforts by African descent-led civil society organizations, and requires annual State Department human rights reports to include a section on discrimination faced by people of African descent. U.S. foreign policy strategies such as these have improved the situation of vulnerable groups internationally and would greatly assist in responding to increasing levels of prejudice and discrimination faced by people of African descent around the globe.

The International Decade reaffirms the importance of inclusion and the full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent on the occasion of the launch of the Decade by supporting the African Descent Affairs Act.

HONORING RAINBOW LEARNING & DAYCARE CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable Rainbow Learning & Daycare Center.

Rainbow, opened in June 2007, is operated by the owner/director, Mrs. Pernada Jackson. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Rainbow's mission is to provide child care services and a safe learning environment that focuses on the developmental needs of the children. The center serves families in Leland, Mississippi, and the surrounding towns.

Rainbow strives to provide a quality early childhood education program filled with love and compassion for children. They believe that children are the most important resource and that the early childhood experiences are crucial in the development of their future.

Rainbow's belief is that the family is the strongest influence in the child's growth and development. They extend the child's home experience and provide new and different experiences of value. Rainbow's program is based on the knowledge that children learn best through play and active hands-on activities. Using developmental appropriate materials to stimulate and explore their potential is their goal.

Growth occurs in developmental stages and each stage must be offered, encouraged and supported. Rainbow's classrooms are arranged in an environment that presents maximum opportunities for cognitive development, discovery learning and an awareness of cultural diversity. They offer clean and spacious learning centers that offer a wide variety of daily activities to encourage and challenge each child.

Rainbow's learning environment will empower children and enhance self-esteem by creating an atmosphere where social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development

can take place. By encouraging children to learn and develop at their own level, they will gain the confidence of self-importance. Rainbow offers children guidance and understanding, so they will have the opportunity to explore their world in a safe and controlled environment.

Rainbow provides nutritional meals and snacks. All meals meet the nutritional guidelines set by the USDA.

Each caregiver receives on-going training through staff meetings and during early childhood conferences and workshops that are held throughout the year. All Rainbow employees are trained in Pediatric CPR and First Aid. Rainbow accepts all children regardless of race, color, creed, and sex, religious or ethnic backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Rainbow Learning & Daycare Center for its dedication to serving others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I missed two recorded votes on December 9. I would like to indicate at this point how I would have voted had I been present for those votes.

On Roll Call No. 552, on Motion to Recommend the California Emergency Drought Relief Act 2014, I would have voted "aye."

On Roll Call No. 553, passage of the California Emergency Drought Relief Act 2014, I would have voted "nay."

IN HONOR OF NEW MEXICO STATE TREASURER JAMES B. LEWIS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James B. Lewis, who is retiring after a career devoted to public service. Most recently, Mr. Lewis served as New Mexico State Treasurer, a position he held for the last 8 years.

Mr. Lewis' long and distinguished career includes serving our country in the Army and serving New Mexico in many notable positions, such as Chief of Staff to Governor Bruce King, Chief Clerk and Chief Executive Officer of the New Mexico State Corporation Commission, Director and Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, President of the National Association of State Treasurers, and immediate past President of the National Association of State Auditors, Controllers, and Treasurers. In 1986, Mr. Lewis became the first African American to be elected to a statewide office in New Mexico, and is also the first and only African American to be appointed and then elected to office three times.

His tenure in the Treasurer's office will be remembered for his efforts to increase transparency and raise public awareness and understanding of this important office and the