

politics. Today Mike resides in Los Angeles, and enjoys spending time with his four daughters Shelby, Melissa, Caroline, and Catherine.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. DAVIS, Mr. FARR, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. THOMPSON and Ms. WATERS and I ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in honoring the service of Michael "Mike" Roos, a remarkable Californian legislative leader and public servant.

#### HONORING CYNTHIA MARTINEZ

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 4, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Representative RON KIND, Representative ROBERT J. WITTMAN, and Representative FRANK LOBIONDO to recognize Cynthia Martinez upon her appointment as Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Cynthia is a twenty-one-year veteran of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a dedicated advocate of the agency's mission to conserve, protect, and enhance wildlife and habitats for the benefit of the American people. Ms. Martinez is also notably the first woman and first Latina to serve as the Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a testament to her leadership and passion for protecting our nation's wildlife and most treasured natural habitats.

Over the past twenty-one years, Ms. Martinez has been a dedicated public servant within the Fish and Wildlife Service. Her first experience with the Fish and Wildlife Service as a student trainee in the Arizona State Office soon grew into an impressive career that includes managing the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Nevada and serving as the Deputy Chief of the Refuge System. Her long career of service to the Refuge System demonstrates her devotion to enhancing and protecting the habitats and recreational opportunities that we all enjoy.

While serving as the Chief of the Refuge System Division of Visitor Services and Communications, Cynthia developed the Conserving the Future vision document, which outlines the agency's strategic plan for a robust and resilient Refuge System. This forward-thinking vision, predicated on sound, science-based planning and monitoring, illustrates that the future of the Refuge System is bright under Cynthia's leadership. Ms. Martinez also spearheaded the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, an initiative to engage and educate residents on the wildlife that share our urban spaces and to connect them with nearby refuges to promote stewardship and provide an opportunity to reconnect with nature.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Cynthia Martinez at this time. Her commitment and leadership of the National Wildlife Refuge System will ensure that our nation's pristine wildlife habitats and unparalleled recreational opportunities are preserved for years to come.

THE LOW ENRICHED URANIUM  
(LEU) FUEL BANK AND  
KAZAKHSTAN

#### HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 4, 2015*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kazakhstan and its commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. As the Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power, I recognize the complexities of nuclear power and would like to commend Kazakhstan for its leadership helping to prevent the spread of nuclear materials and to advance the responsible, peaceful use of existing civilian nuclear energy.

When it declared independence in 1991, Kazakhstan possessed the fourth largest arsenal of nuclear weapons in the world. By 1993, Kazakhstan had dismantled and secured its entire arsenal and chose to become an international partner in nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

On July 21, 2015, I had the opportunity to meet with His Excellency Kairat Umarov, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan. During the meeting we discussed Kazakhstan's ongoing commitment to these issues. On August 27th, Kazakhstan will partner with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to establish the world's first international fuel bank. This unprecedented facility, planned for nearly a decade, will help prevent the spread of nuclear materials and support the appropriate commercial use of nuclear energy. The fuel bank, controlled by the IAEA and operated in northern Kazakhstan, will maintain a reliable supply of low enriched uranium available to countries if they lose access to fuel supplies for their nuclear power plants.

The LEU Bank will provide a secure, guaranteed supply of nuclear fuel, paving the way for nations to pursue peaceful nuclear power under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) without the need for their own enrichment programs. Given the current global security environment and the recent focus on Iran's nuclear program, the establishment of the LEU Bank could also alleviate concerns that a country's peaceful energy program could be altered to produce weapons grade enriched uranium. As the world continues to explore the potential of nuclear power, we need a solution that removes the threat of enrichment from the peaceful development of nuclear energy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kazakhstan on this important announcement that will empower nations to unlock the power of nuclear energy, while eliminating the need for domestic enrichment programs that put our safety at risk.

HONORING CLARE WEBER OF HUDSON, WI, 2015 YOUTH "PAUL BUNYAN SERVICE ABOVE SELF" RECIPIENT

#### HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 4, 2015*

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you today to recognize Miss

Clare Weber of Hudson, Wisconsin for her unparalleled dedication to serving our community.

Miss Weber is the youth recipient of the 7th District's 2015 "Paul Bunyan Service Above Self Award," which recognizes a constituent who takes volunteering to new heights. I am proud to honor this young woman for her larger than life dedication to serving our community.

At just 17 years old, Miss Weber has already spent more than 1,000 hours volunteering with Youth Action Hudson, a local nonprofit: during that time she has played a big role in helping feed the hungry through both the Empty Bowl project and Hudson Backpack Program.

However, Miss Weber has also made it a priority to find new ways to give back. She recently organized an Operation Christmas Child project that collected dozens of gifts for children in Rwanda and Trinidad and Tobago and helped raise hundreds of dollars for the American Cancer Society.

From her nominator: "Since the first time I met her, I have continually been impressed and inspired by her dedication to service and I am certain that Clare will continue to be a catalyst for change in her school, church, and community."

Mr. Speaker, please join me today to recognize Miss Weber for answering the call to selflessly serve our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY ON AUGUST 26, 2015

#### HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 4, 2015*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in recognition of the 95th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, granting voting rights for women. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in marking August 26, known as Women's Equality Day, a significant landmark in American history as we acknowledge, honor and celebrate the vast and vital contributions that women have made to our country.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and other dedicated supporters for women's equality convened the First Women's Rights Convention in July 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York. They advocated for the right to own property, protection from domestic violence, and other social reforms that promoted equality, including voting, and never wavered in that pursuit. Stanton wrote a Declaration of Sentiments that called for "all men and women" to be recognized as created equal under the law, thus beginning the 72-year struggle for suffrage that ended in 1920.

2015 is the Bicentennial year for Elizabeth Cady Stanton who was born November 12, 1815 in Johnstown, New York. Celebrations of her extraordinary life are taking place throughout the year. Stanton met Susan B. Anthony in 1851 and they began a 50-year partnership advocating for suffrage and women's equality; however both women did not live to see the passage of the 19th Amendment. As the mother of seven children, Mrs. Stanton can be proud of the legacy she left to her descendants, one of whom is today spearheading a

committee tasked with placing a new statue of these two amazing leaders in New York. They gave a voice to millions of women and changed history forever following Anthony's vow that "failure is impossible."

A unique crossroad of history resides at 77th and Central Park West in New York City with statues of two U.S. Presidents, Theodore Roosevelt astride a horse outside the American Museum of Natural History and Abraham Lincoln who stands on the steps of the New-York Historical Society. Near Lincoln is a statue of abolitionist Frederick Douglass symbolically carrying books at a building that safeguards history. I am pleased to announce that permission was granted in May 2015 for a suffragist statue to be installed at the West 77th Street entrance to Central Park. It will be the very first statue of a woman in this park's 160-year history.

New York City Park Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver awarded this site for a statue of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, pioneering leaders of the women's suffrage movement. Included in the sculpture design are the names of many remarkable women instrumental in the fight toward winning the vote. Its installation in September 2017 will coincide with New York State's Centennial of women's voting rights. The New-York Historical Society announced that in the transformation of its fourth floor there would be a new Center for the Study of Women's History that will present special exhibitions, as well as public and scholarly programs.

Over 50 million visitors each year are welcomed to New York City, with over half reporting they spend time in Central Park. Placing the Stanton and Anthony statue at this highly visible locale that resonates social justice will undoubtedly draw local residents and visitors of all nations to history lessons that include the story of the equal rights and suffrage movements in America.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that we give tribute on August 26, 2015, the 95th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, to the early suffragists who were steadfast in their pursuit

of equality for all citizens, which is a sacred trust that we must continue to support today.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF AMBASSADOR NUNO BRITO

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 4, 2015*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NUNES and Mr. VALADAO to recognize the service of our good friend Nuno Brito, the Ambassador of Portugal to the United States. After four years of hard work, Ambassador Brito deserves to be commended for all of his tireless efforts to strengthen the special bond between Portugal and the United States.

Born in Angola, Brito earned his degree in law from the University of Lisbon and joined the Portuguese diplomatic service shortly thereafter. He began his career with Portugal's Diplomatic Service in 1984 as part of the Americas Department. Brito first served at the Portuguese Embassy in Washington, DC, from 1987 to 1993. This time in Washington, DC, laid the foundation for his continued career as an effective statesman for the people of Portugal. Brito then served as Deputy Alternate Representative to the Security Council at the United Nations during Portugal's term as a non-permanent member for 1997/1998. Following a stint as Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, Brito also served as Political Director of Portugal and co-chair of the Portuguese-U.S. Standing Bilateral Commission.

On February 23, 2011, Brito presented his credentials to President Barack Obama and expressed his desire to focus on expanding the U.S.-Portugal relationship beyond political and military cooperation to science, technology, and energy initiatives. He pursued these goals by actively engaging with the Con-

gressional Portuguese Caucus, especially on subjects that benefitted from Portuguese expertise such as issues with Africa, the Americas, and across the Atlantic. Furthermore, Brito's experiences from the United Nations, U.S.-Portuguese Standing Bilateral Commission, Luso-Spanish Commission for Trans-border Cooperation, and other roles within Portugal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave him an edge for practicing diplomacy and advocacy in the United States. This especially showed during Brito's work to bring understanding and cooperation to NATO maneuvers and to the operation of Lajes Field in the Azores.

Bruto led numerous initiatives to support and engage Portuguese-American communities throughout the United States. Earlier this year, Brito invited Portuguese-American federal, state, and local elected officials to celebrate Dia de Portugal in Washington, DC. The full day of events was a wonderful representation of not only the special relationship between our countries, but of Brito's innate ability to bring people together and raise awareness of Portuguese culture and values.

Another example of Brito's leadership on behalf of Portugal is bringing IBERIAN SUITE: global arts remix to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The IBERIAN SUITE featured dozens of performances from Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking communities over a three-week period. It was an unprecedented opportunity to explore the contributions of Portuguese and Spanish cultures to the development of the arts around the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NUNES, Mr. VALADAO, and I ask our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Ambassador Nuno Brito and his many contributions to the U.S.-Portugal relationship. His dedication to fostering cooperation between American and Portuguese society is surpassed by none. It is an honor to call him a friend and we wish him the best of luck in his next position.