

neighborhood through Benedict's nationally recognized Community Development Corporation, led negotiations with the U.S. Department of Education for the MSIs/HBCUs on Title IV issues, and served as Chairman of the United Negro College Fund Member Presidents.

Dr. Swinton's able stewardship has achieved results. Last year, Benedict ranked 14th in Washington Monthly's baccalaureate college rankings, which rated schools based on their contributions to social mobility, research, and service. In 2011, the college received the Higher Education Civic Engagement Award from the Washington Center in recognition of its outstanding contributions to our community. People have taken notice—since Dr. Swinton became president, the college's enrollment has more than doubled.

The presidency of Benedict College is only the most recent position in which Dr. Swinton has distinguished himself. He previously served as Dean of the School of Business at Jackson State University and as Director of the Southern Center of Studies in Public Policy at Clark College. He is a renowned scholar, specializing in the economic status of African Americans. His scholarly work has been featured in an impressive array of publications, including the National Urban League's *The State of Black America*, *American Economics Review*, *The Review of Black Political Economy*, *Public Administration Review*, *Journal of Urban Analysis*, *Business in Society*, and "... And Miles to Go Before I Sleep," a scholarly collection published by the Institute for Public Service and Policy Research of the University of South Carolina in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

With Benedict's emphasis on community service, it is fitting that Dr. Swinton has used his economic expertise to benefit the public. He was the first African American Chairman of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce Board in the organization's 92-year history. He helped organize a group of investors to create South Carolina Community Bank, the only minority-owned bank in the state. Dr. Swinton has shown his commitment to be long-term, having served as an economic advisor to the National Urban League since 1980 and on Black Enterprise magazine's Board of Economists since 1990.

With such an illustrious career, it is no surprise that Dr. Swinton has received numerous honors and awards, including the National Economic Association's Samuel Z. Westerfield Award, the Phi Beta Sigma Lifetime Achievement Award in Education, and the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor. In 2007, he was elected to the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Swinton on this milestone. I look forward to continuing to work with him in the years to come, and I wish him Godspeed.

IN HONOR OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF ZANESVILLE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many achievements of the Rotary

Club of Zanesville on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the club's founding.

For a century, the citizens of Zanesville and Muskingum County have benefited from a group of men and women who are committed to promoting community service. A milestone such as this certainly deserves recognition. The Rotary Club of Zanesville's history spans two World Wars, the birth and demise of the Soviet Union, the spread of mass transportation and the advancement of high speed, global telecommunications. Throughout this, the Rotary Club of Zanesville's members have served their community and worked to improve the lives of their neighbors.

Service to others and service to the community are timeless American traditions and hallmarks of what has made our nation so great. For 100 years, the members of The Rotary Club of Zanesville have fashioned a reputation that reflects their core values of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership. Through projects like The Phoenix Award and the Rotary Club Christmas Party for Zanesville Special Needs Students, the club continues Rotary International founder Paul Harris' vision of a group of business professionals gathering in friendship and fellowship to create positive, lasting change in their community and around the world.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I thank the Rotary Club of Zanesville for their service to the community. I wish them continued success in the next 100 years.

BRITTANY EXLEY'S ESSAY

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Brittany Exley attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

"No matter where you stand politically—even if you are unsure of what your political ideology is—it is important to take part in the process of shaping our government" (Brad Henry). The awareness gained by being involved in the political process is not only a good thing but a fantastic thing because ignorance can be dangerous. Also being active in politics is one of the very few ways, in today's world, that one human can change the nation just by voting or stating their ideas and opinions.

If more people were involved in politics there would be more people that are more aware of what is happening in the world outside of themselves. They could listen to the reports on other nations and their relationships with each other. However, they

wouldn't just hear about other countries and their problems but what is going on within our own nation, both good and bad aspects of it. Young people are the biggest group of non-voters within the United States' population of able voters. They believe that they have too much work and things to do that they do not vote, which is one of the few ways that they could influence the government's direction and create a bigger voice for themselves. If they were to get involved they would be more aware of the occurrences happening in all the world's countries and every relationship each nation has with one another. Therefore the young people would be more knowledgeable, less ignorant, and have more ability to state and try to stand up for their views in the political process.

If you had the chance to change the world for the better by one simple action, would you? Being active in shaping the government is one way to do this. Voting for the change or way you believe the government should be ran is your voice, why not use it? One person's vote can determine who is in office, what bills are passed, and the actions of the government. If a person votes it takes their values, beliefs, and opinions are one more step closer to actually happening. Voting, stating, and claiming their ideas and opinions can influence other people's beliefs around them and can eventually shape the government.

Taking an active role in the government can transform politics to fit your own views, and change for the better of the nation. It can also make you more aware of your surroundings and less ignorant of what is actually happening in the world. Being active within the political process can change the world in many ways.

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT 36TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on April 11, we marked the 36 year anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, which serves as the legal foundation of our nation's important and enduring relationship with Taiwan.

The United States and Taiwan are united in common interests and a shared commitment to freedom and democracy. The Taiwanese people share our same cultural values of respect for individual liberties, freedom of speech, adherence to the rule of law, and support for human rights. Taiwan also shares a similar political system and works with our nation on issues of global security and counterterrorism.

In addition to this close cultural, political, and security relationship, the United States and Taiwan also share a thriving economic partnership. Bilateral trade between the United States and Taiwan surpassed \$67 billion last year, making Taiwan now our 10th largest trading partner—an impressive feat considering Taiwan's relatively small size of only 23 million people. In fact, my home state of Florida exported nearly \$300 million worth of goods to Taiwan in 2013 alone, supporting jobs and livelihood for American workers.

Over the last few decades, Taiwan's economic and political ascension, with close American cooperation, has proven to be one of the great success stories in Asia, and we look forward to many more decades of friendship and mutual support.

**A TRIBUTE TO EMILEE RICHARDSON**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Emilee Richardson for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Emilee has the determination and drive to be successful in all of her pursuits, which is highlighted by her exemplary work with the Science Center of Iowa. As the Marketing and Communications Manager, she utilizes her management abilities to develop new programs, like the Girls in Science Initiative to encourage girls to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In her free time, she serves on several boards to help young people in her surrounding community such as the Lead Like a Lady, Young Nonprofit Professionals Network and American Marketing Association Iowa. In all aspects of her life, Emilee is an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Emilee in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Emilee on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

**HONORING LYDA HILL**

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Lyda Hill, the 2015 recipient of the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award from Southern Methodist University's Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility.

Ms. Hill has been a philanthropic fixture in the Dallas community for many years and has generously donated to the many causes in which she strongly believes. An alumnus of the Hockaday School in Dallas, Ms. Hill donated \$20 million to fund the all-girls school's science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) program. Ms. Hill recently donated \$10 million to the "I Stand for Parkland" campaign at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and \$50

million to the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's Moon Shots Program in Houston which has a goal to eliminate cancer through improved detection and treatments.

Ms. Hill has tirelessly advocated for science through her generosity and time dedicated to the causes in which she believes. In 2013, Ms. Hill was recognized as the only single woman on the Philanthropy list for her estimated hundreds of millions of dollars in donation to organizations focused on "game-changing" innovation and science research. In 2010, Ms. Hill became a member of The Giving Pledge, an initiative created by Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett that encourages the world's wealthiest people to commit a large majority of their wealth to charity. Ms. Hill certainly gives strategically and generously and has pledged to donate all of her assets to charity, mostly during her lifetime.

Ms. Hill is the daughter of the late Margaret Hunt Hill, for whom the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge which spans the Trinity River in Dallas was named. Ms. Hill supported the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge project and several other community revitalization projects in the Dallas area. Ms. Hill has chaired non-profit groups such as the Crystal Charity Ball, Junior League of Dallas, and the Dallas and Texas chapters of the American Heart Association.

Ms. Hill was the recipient of the President's Volunteer Action Award and the Best of America Award in 1985 and in 1988, she was named "Outstanding Volunteer in Texas" by the Governor. Ms. Hill has earned many awards throughout her lifetime as her contributions to health, science, public radio, education, and veterans generously continue. I appreciate the opportunity to recognize and congratulate Lyda Hill on the occasion of her winning the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award.

**PAOLA OBISPO'S ESSAY**

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Paola Obispo attends Manvel High School in Manvel, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

In order for our current government to function at its optimal levels, participation in our democracy is vital. If citizens of the United States are not aware of how the political process works they are powerless and have furthermore failed to aide their country in reaching its full potential. It is imperative that today's citizens be knowledgeable about politics because it is only by actively participating in our political system that

change and improvement will come to our nation. The question "Why should people be politically active?" has a simple answer. People should be politically active so that the government reflects the interests of the people who are being governed. In order for all important problems in our government to be addressed all stakeholders must make known their intent to be heard.

The bigger and better question in politics should be: Why are some groups of people not voting or further becoming politically active? According to the PBS News hour website, only 34.6% of eligible voters turned up for the 2014 midterm election.<sup>1</sup> This number had not been so low since 1944 when World War II was being fought. Statistics like this reveal the truth behind our democracy and the fact that the majority of the people do not rule as most Americans do not participate.<sup>2</sup> Although considerably more people do vote in presidential elections the percentage only rises to 58.2%.<sup>3</sup> This new presidential turnout percentage while impressive compared to the midterm participation percentage appears dull when compared to political participation found around the world. It would be easy to point an accusatory figure at those how abstain from voting as lazy, irresponsible, and ignorant people who deserve underrepresentation. However, by accepting this stance it is assumed that a vast number of Americans poses those negative characteristics. Therefore, there must be an underlying cause to this systematic disenfranchisement epidemic.

Possible causes to this disenfranchisement would include the effects of voting dilution through political gerrymandering and restrictive voting procedures. It is impossible to deny that gerrymandering those not occur as the odd shapes that compromise districts speaks for itself and the fact that they tend to always benefit the artist of such bizarre and abstract divisions leaves a lot to be said. However despite laws that prohibit this malicious practice, lawmakers still blatantly ignore the law. This act is not only harmful to the opposing part as they lose an election, it is harmful to democracy itself as it teaches Americans that their voice is not important and will be impeded by those very people meant to protect their liberty. Another possible cause of voter discouragement could be stricter voting requirements such as the Voter ID law that was conveniently passed right before the election. The most malicious aspect of this law is that it was passed right before an election and stripped many voters of their right to vote.

**HONORING CONSUELO RAYMOND KAZEN**

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Consuelo Raymond Kazen, a lifelong Laredoan and wife of our former colleague, the late Congressman Abraham "Chick" Kazen, Jr.

Consuelo R. Kazen died Sunday, March 22, 2015 in Laredo, Texas. Over the course of her long life, Mrs. Kazen gave her "considerable creative talents and passion" to a number of community organizations, building up a reputation as a widely revered citizen and well-respected teacher.

She was actively involved in the Pan American Round Table, the Texas Senate Ladies Club, the Texas State Teachers Association,