

who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Pastor Ulysses Ponder has given of himself to lead Poplar Springs Baptist Church these past twenty-seven (27) years; and

Whereas, Pastor Ponder under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Poplar Springs Baptist Church as a known crowned jewel in our district for years, enriching the lives of thousands; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has shared his time and talents for the betterment of our community over the past twenty-seven (27) years by preaching the gospel, teaching the gospel and living the gospel; and

Whereas, Pastor Ponder serves as a man of the cloth in the church, community and family; he is always teaching the Word and he puts the Word into action daily; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Pastor Ulysses Ponder for his leadership and service for our District as he celebrates his 27th Pastoral anniversary; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim May 3, 2015 as Pastor Ulysses Ponder Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 3rd day of May, 2015.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAND HAVEN VFW POST ON 10 SUCCESSFUL YEARS OF RIB FEST

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grand Haven VFW Post 2326 for their efforts to assist veterans and their families through their annual "Rib Fest" fundraiser event.

Celebrating its 10th year, the Rib Fest event brings together West Michigan restaurants to compete in an event that raises funds for veterans and their families as well as maintaining the group's individual VFW post.

The event's most significant community contribution is the Ward-Goff Scholarship Fund established by VFW members in honor of Elwin Ward and Richard Goff. The Ward-Goff Scholarship is awarded to a child, grandchild or great-grandchild of a good-standing member of the Grand Haven VFW post. Each year the award is given in remembrance of these two American patriots who gave their lives for their country during the Vietnam War.

Through their events like the annual Rib Fest, or many other areas of community involvement, the Grand Haven VFW Post 2326 continues to prove to future generations the values that make America great. I wish the 2015 Rib Fest all of the best, and look forward to sharing a meal with our veterans.

RECOGNIZING NOAH MASIH, WINNER OF NATIONAL NUMBER KNOCKOUT

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Noah Masih, a 6th grader from Clearwater, Minnesota. Noah is a national champion, having recently won the National Number Knockout.

The National Number Knockout is a math competition for students ages 9–14, and competitors play to improve their calculating speed. The competition involves a board of 36 numbers and use of dice to create an additional variable. Noah beat out 15 other finalists to claim the title.

I am always awestruck by those who find their passion in numbers. Noah's feat is nothing short of impressive, and is a testament to a fantastic homeschooling program.

I know I speak for the 6th District when I say we are so proud of Noah and his accomplishments, and I look forward with eager anticipation to seeing what the future holds for this bright young scholar.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in congratulating Noah Masih on his success in mathematics.

A TRIBUTE TO ELLEN LEMKE

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ellen Lemke of Bedford, Iowa on the celebration of her 100th birthday today, on May 18, 2015.

Ellen is a pillar of her community and has a legacy of service to others that we should all aspire to. She is still an active member in her community who volunteers her time at the local nursing home where, as she says, she likes to "read to the old folks." She also stays involved in her church and other community organizations like the Community Singers, a group that travels to nine surrounding communities to perform to nursing homes. She was awarded the 2013 Iowan of the Day award, an honor that is bestowed to Iowans who have truly made a difference in their communities. She continues to write a weekly news column for the local paper, the Bedford Times Press.

She has exhibited the integrity, Iowa pride, hard work and dedication that make all of us proud. She has left an incredible legacy to her family that includes her children Rita and Henry, and her community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Ellen in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ms. Lemke on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her continued health and happiness in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. NIKI TSONGAS**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I will be absent from the House May 18th through May 21st to attend my daughter's wedding.

TRIBUTE TO REV. NIOLENE A. DURHAM

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, twenty years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ at Amanda Flipper African Methodist Episcopal Church in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, the Reverend Niolene A. Durham under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Amanda Flipper African Methodist Episcopal Church as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman of God has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her inspiration, words of encouragement, tireless works, and outreach ministries, that have been and continue to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Pastor Durham is a spiritual warrior, a woman of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all she is a visionary who impacted and transformed our society as a whole by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with not only her Church, but with also our District and the world; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Pastor Niolene A. Durham for her outstanding leadership and service to our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim April 25, 2015 as Reverend Niolene A. Durham Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of April, 2015.

HONORING JOSHUE LEYVA FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO SERVING HIS COMMUNITY AND THE COACHELLA VALLEY

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mr. Joshue Leyva, a mature young pre-medical student. Joshue's talent, integrity, dedication and passion for community service are indications that he unquestionably will fulfill his goal of becoming a doctor and serve the underserved communities of the Coachella Valley.

Joshue, a second generation immigrant, is a shining example of how migrant families contribute to and make our great nation stronger.

When Joshue's family arrived in the U.S. in 1980, they came with nothing, searching for a new beginning and a better life for their children. Overcoming hardship through hard work, their son Joshue became the first in his family to graduate from a university, my own alma mater, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Despite his young age, Joshue has an extensive list of accomplishments. He was one of the first student participants in the Future Physician Leaders (FPL) mentorship program, created to address the physician shortage crisis in our communities. In 2011 Joshue showcased his leadership, becoming the founder of "A Healthier Future," a community outreach program to provide health education and medical screenings to the most vulnerable populations in the Coachella Valley. He was also a lead research and volunteer coordinator for the Coachella Valley Healthcare Initiative. Joshue's dedication to community service also crossed national borders when he became a volunteer for the Ministerio de Salud, a program that every year gives free medical care to vulnerable populations in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Joshue Leyva has been an integral and essential part of my District staff, committed to excellence in public service for the betterment of our communities. As he leaves my office to pursue his dreams—an American Dream—I wish him well and look forward to reading about his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER H. ISAAC, JR. FOR HIS OUTSTANDING MILITARY SERVICE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing Lieutenant Colonel Alexander H. Isaac, Jr., for his 22 years of distinguished military service and to congratulate him on his retirement from the United States Armed Forces.

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander H. Isaac, Jr. has been decorated with numerous medals, awards and service distinctions. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen.

LTC Isaac began serving his nation in the United States Army in 1993 with the 3rd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry). Here he served as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Assistant Operations Officer, and as a Rifle Company Executive Officer. During his time with the "Golden Dragons," LTC Isaac had multiple deployments throughout the United States, Central America, and a deployment to Haiti as part of Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY. In 1999, LTC Isaac assumed command of A Company, 2-2 Infantry, and his company was deployed to Kosovo in support of Operation JOINT GUARDIAN.

In 2001, LTC Isaac was assigned to Military District of Washington as a project officer where he designed the command's centralized Cyber Operations Center. In 2003, LTC Isaac was selected to support the Coalition Provi-

sional Authorities' staff as Special Projects Liaison between the Iraqi Ministry of Communications and U.S. Embassy in Iraq.

In 2010, LTC Isaac was selected as the Task Force liaison to the National Counterterrorism Center in McLean, Virginia. In 2011, LTC Isaac was one of three officers responsible for the establishment of a robust data analytics program within Special Operations Command as well as implementing a next-generation visualization system for the Joint Interagency Task Force—National Capital Region, a subordinate unit within Joint Special Operations Command.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Lieutenant Colonel Alexander H. Isaac, Jr. and extend my heartfelt appreciation to him for his years of service to our great country.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEAD START PROGRAMS

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Head Start program. Since its enactment, Head Start has helped more than 30 million families prepare for a lifetime of learning. Last year, nearly 36 thousand children in my district were a part of this program.

Head Start's fundamental purpose is to ensure that every child starts life on an equal playing field, regardless of their parents' income, country of origin, or zip code. It provides hard-working families access to comprehensive preschool programs that include nutritional, social and other services critical to early childhood development. Education is our nation's great equalizer—and few investments are more meaningful and have a larger return to society than programs like Head Start.

It's simple: when children receive quality, early childhood education, we give them the best chance to succeed. Studies have shown that kids who have been through Head Start are healthier, more academically accomplished, and more likely to make positive contributions to society.

My family understands first-hand just how life changing this program is. Head Start gave my family the tools we needed to succeed; tools that stretched well beyond the classroom. I would not be here today if it were not for the life changing resources and quality education that Head Start provided. On this 50th anniversary of Head Start, I renew my commitment to strengthening and extending this vital program, so that every child—regardless of their circumstance—has the best opportunity and chance to succeed in life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, Friday, May 15, 2015 I was away from the Capitol to attend my daughter's graduation from the University of Missouri Medical School. Due to this event,

I was unable to vote on any legislative measures on this date.

On the amendment of Mr. ROHRBACHER of California, Amendment No. 23 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 233, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

On the amendment of Mr. LAMBORN of Colorado, Amendment No. 27 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 234, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

On the amendment of Mr. BLUMENAUER of Oregon, Amendment No. 32 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 235 to H.R. 1735, had I been present I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Amendment No. 38 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 236, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

On the amendment of Mr. NADLER of New York, Amendment No. 41 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 237 to H.R. 1735, had I been present I would have voted "no."

On Motion to Recommit with Instructions H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 238, had I been present I would have voted "no."

On Passage of H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, Rollcall Vote No. 239, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING FOSTER CARE MONTH

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Foster Care Month and acknowledge the foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other community members who ensure that every child has an opportunity for a brighter future.

I am honored to be a founding member of the Congressional Caucus for Foster Youth, a caucus that allows Members to gain a better understanding of the current state of foster care throughout the nation and identify potential federal policy modifications that could improve outcomes for the children in our country's foster care systems.

In my home state of Texas there are more than 69,000 children in foster care, which is nearly 14.9 percent of the 463,000 children and youth in foster care nationally.

Nearly two of every three (65%) of children who are not placed in a permanent home emancipate themselves from the system and are often left unemployed, without a place to live and resort to homeless shelters.

2015 marks the 103rd anniversary of the Children's Bureau which works to support, assist, and improve the lives of children in foster care.

Throughout its history, the Children's Bureau has published the Minimum Standards of Child Welfare, which acknowledges the importance of keeping children in their own homes or providing a "home-life" experience with foster families as well as overseeing the temporary placement of 8,000 European children in WWII.

Before the creation of the Children's Bureau, children in foster care would often be