

Annually, the Center provides assistance to more than 5,000 victims of domestic, sexual and elder abuse in addition to providing prevention education to children, teens and adults across Central Illinois.

On top of her decades of leadership with the Center, Martha has served her community through other leadership roles with the Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Illinois Certified Domestic Violence Professionals Board. As so many can attest to, Martha has been a true asset to the Peoria area.

Mr. Speaker, Martha has spent her life dedicated to serving her community and the state of Illinois, and we are very gracious for all she has done. I wish her all the best going forward.

RECOGNIZING HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Holy Cross Lutheran Church of St. Cloud, Minnesota, for their 125th anniversary.

In 1890, Holy Cross Lutheran Church opened its doors. The congregation worshipped near the St. Cloud State University campus until they outgrew their facilities and in 1996 relocated to Clearwater Road.

For 125 years, generations of central Minnesotans have gathered together to worship under this church's roof. Today, more than 1,000 people celebrate their faith and love of Christ in this vibrant and growing faith community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in congratulating Holy Cross Lutheran Church on their anniversary. May they have many more fruitful years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROJECT HEAD START

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as the author of H. Res. 92 and the Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, it is with great pride and deep appreciation for the opportunities this great nation affords to its citizens that I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Project Head Start, one of the signal achievements of the Great Society and boldest initiatives launched by the nation in the War on Poverty.

Launched in the White House Rose Garden on May 18, 1965, by President Lyndon Baines Johnson, the aim of Project Head Start was bold and audacious in its scope and design.

As President Johnson stated in announcing the opening of a new front in the War on Poverty with the launch of Project Head Start:

"We set out to make certain that poverty's children would not be forevermore poverty's captives. . . .

"This means that nearly half the preschool children of poverty will get a head start on their future. . . .

"These children will receive preschool training to prepare them for regular school in September. . . .

"They will get medical and dental attention that they badly need, and parents will receive counseling on improving the home environment."

Conceived as an eight-week summer program designed to provide pre-school training not just to prepare 5 and 6 year-olds to enter regular school the following September, but also to give nearly half the preschool children living in poverty "a head start on their future."

At its launch, the Head Start Program, administered by the Office of Economic Opportunity and wonderfully and skillfully led by its Director, Sargent Shriver, consisted of 2,500 projects, covering 11,000 Child Development Centers, serving about 530,000 poor children in every state of the Union.

Mr. Speaker, President Johnson recognized that the bleak future waiting for children trapped in poverty was not a phenomenon concentrated in the inner-cities of the large urban cities of the North but could be found in every region in every state in the nation.

That is why the Head Start Program was launched not as a mere demonstration project limited to a handful of counties, but as a program national in scope serving every city, suburb, and rural area in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the Head Start Program provided pre-school training to prepare poor children to enter regular school and help put them on an even footing with their classmates as they entered school.

But it also had an even higher aim and loftier purpose, and that was to assist children prepare for the challenges they will face in life and to combat poverty's great weapons—hunger and malnutrition; illness and poor health; ignorance and cultural deprivation.

Project Head Start was from the start a national undertaking, utilizing the services of 41,000 professionals, including teachers, doctors, dentists, nurses, nutritionists, employing more than 47,000 persons, who were assisted by more than 500,000 volunteers.

Based on its initial success as a summer program, the following year, in 1966, Head Start was funded as a primarily part day, 9 month program, largely through existing community action programs.

In later years, the Head Start Program would be expanded to serve children with disabilities, Native Americans, homeless children, and to provide bilingual and bicultural migrant and seasonal programs serving 6,000 children in 21 states.

Today, the Head Start Program serves nearly a million poor children, including: 160,829 enrolled in Early Head Start for 3-year olds; 910,833 enrolled in Head Start; 20,627 American Indian/Alaska Native children enrolled in Head Start; 4,722 American Indian/Alaska Native children enrolled in Early Head Start; 32,082 children of migrant or seasonal workers enrolled in Head Start; and 40,853 homeless children enrolled in Head Start.

Additionally, the Head Start Program serves 136,120 children with disabilities, 15,632 pregnant women, and provides services to 771,840 families.

In my home state of Texas, the Head Start Program serves 661,000 poor children under

the age of 5, including 2,471 homeless children, 8,370 children with disabilities, and provides services to 53,333 families.

And in my home city of Houston, a remarkable organization called AVANCE has been serving the needs of low-income children and families since its founding in 1973.

AVANCE offers Head Start, Early Head Start, Parenting, Healthy Marriage, Fatherhood, and other programs designed to prepare and help low-income children, students, and families reach their potential.

Mr. Speaker, not only has the Head Start Program been a great benefit to its direct beneficiaries, it has provided substantial economic and social benefits to the nation as a whole.

Research studies have shown that for each dollar invested, the Head Start program yields a rate of return on investment (ROI) of 7–9 percent and the program is responsible for the direct creation of 236,591 jobs, with an average annual salary of about \$31,000 for Head Start teachers with baccalaureate degrees.

Mr. Speaker, another societal benefit of the Head Start Program is the improved health of the children and families it serves.

Research has shown that the mortality rates for 5–9 year-old children who had attended Head Start are 33–50% lower than the rates for comparable children not enrolled in Head Start.

Moreover, Head Start children are less likely to fall victim to childhood obesity and are at least 8% more likely to have had their immunizations than children who did not attend preschool.

Mr. Speaker, the Head Start Program has been an unqualified success for the more than 31 million children and parents it has served since its inception in 1965.

And so it is that we can look back with pride on the 50 year record of this bold and innovative program.

But we cannot yet be satisfied because our work is not done and will not be done until every eligible child is afforded the opportunity to get a head start in life the program provides.

Today, only 42 percent of eligible low-income preschoolers are actually served by Head Start and less than 4 percent are in Early Head Start.

But we should not let the fact that we have more work to do to strengthen the Head Start Program detract from the joy and happiness we are justified in deriving from its half century of success and its vindication of our optimistic belief in the capacity of Americans to solve pressing national problems when people of goodwill work together in the spirit of cooperation rather than conflict.

The record of the Head Start Program shows that it can be done and that President Johnson was right—the Head Start Program was and is "one of the most constructive, and one of the most sensible, and also one of the most exciting programs that this Nation has ever undertaken."

And its reward for this bold act is the collective service and contributions to the betterment of society made by the 31 million children that have been served by the program over the past 50 years.

I thank the 100 colleagues who co-sponsored H. Res. 92, and especially the 65 members who joined me as original cosponsors of the resolution.

I also wish to express my thanks and appreciation to Chelsea Ukoha and Gregory Berry of my staff for their exceptional efforts and work on this wonderful tribute to a program that has contributed so much to the richness and vitality of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on H.R. 1191 (Roll Call Vote 118), the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 on May 15, 2015. I would like to reflect that if I had the opportunity to vote on H.R. 1191, I would have voted Aye.

I strongly support the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 and I believe we are at a critical point where Congress must be afforded the opportunity to review any deal with Iran. Although I support the ongoing negotiations of the Iran Nuclear Framework, I strongly believe the United States must ensure Iran is denied any opportunities to further pursue its nuclear ambitions. It is critical that the final deal require a comprehensive inspection and verification vehicle, including the right to “anytime, anywhere” inspections. Iran must also remove all its enriched uranium and comply with six United Nations Security Council resolutions to reveal the extent of its prior nuclear work. Most importantly, I believe we must exercise extreme caution before lifting any existing sanctions. Iran must demonstrate compliance with the deal before any sanctions are lifted. Furthermore, the United States must have a structure in place to immediately reimpose these sanctions if Iran is found violating any terms of the agreement.

Iran’s nuclear program remains a threat to the international community. A nuclear-armed Iran would pose enormous challenges to the national security of the United States and our allies including Israel. Signing a final deal will only be the first step—the United States and the international community must continue to work together to provide the necessary oversight in order to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

INTRODUCTION OF FIREARM RISK PROTECTION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Firearm Risk Protection Act, innovative legislation to promote safe gun ownership.

Too often, our communities are left looking for answers after horrific tragedies inflicted with dangerous firearms. A requirement to carry liability insurance is a market-based solution that would hold gun owners responsible for the risk their firearms present, and create incentives for responsible gun safety practices.

The Firearm Risk Protection Act would harness the power of insurance markets to allow

professional actuaries to determine the risk presented by each gun and gun owner. Just as with car insurance, higher-risk owners of firearms would face higher premiums, while responsible owners could qualify for reduced rates.

As gun violence continues to inflict scars on American families and our communities, Congress should look for new ways to promote gun safety and prevent future tragedies. I hope my colleagues will join me to support this forward-thinking legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL R. MARTIN UMBARGER

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Hoosier and American, Major General R. Martin Umbarger, the Adjutant General of Indiana. Major General Umbarger is retiring after eleven years as the leader of the Indiana Army and Air National Guard, the Indiana Guard Reserve and support staff totaling more than 15,800 personnel.

Major General Umbarger began his career as an enlisted soldier for the Indiana Army National Guard in 1969. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant after graduating from the Indiana Military Academy as a distinguished military graduate. He has served as the Deputy Commanding General for the Reserve Component in the U.S. Army Forces Command, Assistant Division Commander for Training for the 38th Infantry Division, and as Commanding General of the 76th Infantry Brigade.

Major General Umbarger earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in business from the University of Evansville and attended the United States Command and General Staff College and United States Army War College. Major General Umbarger has directed the pre-mobilized training, deployment and redeployment of most of the Indiana Army and Air National Guard in support of the Global War on Terrorism. He has served as a member of the Secretary of the Army’s Reserve Forces Policy Committee and currently serves on the Secretary of Defense’s Reserve Forces Policy Board.

As Secretary of State, I had the privilege of working with Major General Umbarger to protect Hoosiers serving in the military, both out-of-state and overseas, by promoting and improving absentee voting processes. Major General Umbarger recognized the importance of ensuring that those fighting for our freedom had the opportunity to vote for those sending them into harm’s way. He truly values the rights of the men and women under his command, and they know it.

As Indiana’s Fourth District Representative, I have also worked with Major General Umbarger on legislation which would study the structure of our military and how reserve components can be best utilized.

Major General Umbarger is one of the most accomplished adjutant generals in the country and a valuable leader in Indiana. He has led the Indiana National Guard and served our state and nation with integrity and distinction over his 45 year career in the Armed Forces.

I wish him and his family the best of luck as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives.

THANKING MS. SHARON ANN PORTER FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to thank Ms. Sharon Ann Porter for her more than fifteen years of outstanding service to the House of Representatives, in a number of administrative and support roles.

Ms. Porter began her career in the House in February 2000 as the Data Entry Specialist under the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Eager to learn and help carry out other duties, Ms. Porter was promoted to Financial Counselor in February 2001. As Financial Counselor she was responsible for the processing of payments as well as reimbursements requested by House offices, including Member, Committee, and Leadership offices. Ms. Porter worked diligently in all her roles, processing a large volume of payments on a daily basis, as well as forming long-lasting friendships with her customers and co-workers.

Additionally, Ms. Porter has offered her expertise during each House Service Fair, by volunteering extra time to assist with disseminating valuable information to House employees and customers. She was also instrumental in the transition to the new digital document management and electronic voucher submission known as E-Voucher, which streamlines services to House offices.

Ms. Porter’s work ethic, diligence, and dedication have made her an invaluable asset to the CAO organization. She has consistently provided excellent customer service to Members and staff. Her outgoing personality, positive attitude, and sense of humor have endeared her to many colleagues and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Sharon Ann Porter and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her distinguished service to the House of Representatives as well as the nation it serves. I wish Ms. Porter and her family all the best as she begins this new chapter in her life.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR AN EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA I

SPEECH OF

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. Con. Res. 3, a concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to be held on June 7, 2015, to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

This annual celebration honors King Kamehameha I who established a unified Kingdom