

KAZAKHSTAN'S COMMITMENT TO ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to Washington, DC to participate in the Nuclear Security Summit, we see that the basics of water and energy in Central Asia need attention.

In order to obtain electric power for the industrial development, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan for several years have been trying to build hydroelectric dams on their mountain rivers. Uzbekistan sees this as a threat to their agriculture in the Fergana Valley and has made clear its adamant opposition. The only winners, if this conflict results, will be the armed extremist armies that will gather new supporters on every side of the battle.

Nuclear energy is a safe, sustainable, and affordable energy source. Kazakhstan, together with the International Atomic Energy Agency and other outside partners, established the world's first Low-Enriched Uranium (LEU) Fuel Bank. This Fuel Bank, which Kazakhstan has committed to support through facilities and resources as the host nation, provides a secondary market for LEU to guarantee that all nations have an energy source for peaceful civilian nuclear power. Affordable energy remains a prerequisite for modernization of the economies of the countries of Central Asia. More importantly, radical groups will have less impact on the region since the threat of a water crisis is not a major concern.

Kazakhstan is a suitable location for the international energy center. President Nursultan Nazarbayev is a proven leader having the respect of all of Kazakhstan's neighbors. The southernmost region of Kazakhstan is close to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Additionally, Kazakhstan is not involved in water disputes; therefore, it can guarantee the supply of electricity to all the countries. The absence of conflicts with the neighbors and international authority of Kazakhstan make it an ideal electric energy hub for the region.

Kazakhstan has a great opportunity to take a lead in transforming the whole Central Asian region into a more stable and prosperous place. I applaud President Nazarbayev and the Kazakh people for their continued commitment to civilian nuclear energy and Central Asia's development.

HONORING GENERAL MARC A. CISNEROS

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor General Marc Anthony Cisneros, who recently received the Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a volunteer organization whose members donate their time and energy toward pre-

serving American history, funding scholarship programs, and honoring great Americans like General Cisneros who have dedicated their lives in outstanding service to the United States of America.

General Cisneros led an illustrious career in the U.S. military from 1961 until 1996. He is most remembered for his role as a commander of the U.S. Army South in the 1989 Panama invasion, where he led the effort to depose General Manuel Noriega. It was his leadership that minimized casualties while achieving a total victory in the war.

I join the Daughters of the American Revolution in thanking General Cisneros for his service.

HONORING THE MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Marine Mammal Center in honor of its 40th anniversary. Located in Sausalito, California, the center seeks to expand knowledge of marine mammals and to inspire conservation efforts in the Bay Area and beyond.

Founded in 1975, the Marine Mammal Center works to advance the lives of ocean mammals and their habitats through rescue operations, rehabilitation, scientific research, and education. They have rescued and treated more than 20,000 animals over the past four decades, providing care across more than 600 miles of California coast. Additionally, their education programs engage approximately 50,000 children and adults each year through field trips, teacher training, and volunteer opportunities.

Along with providing direct care to individual animals, the Marine Mammal Center remains committed to protecting our water environments. Their ongoing awareness campaigns—from encouraging people to eat sustainable seafood to educating on the harmful effects of trash in our oceans—have made a lasting impact, and their scientific research has helped shed light on factors that impact the health of marine mammals, including the harmful effects of climate change.

The Marine Mammal Center has been a force of nature in ocean protection efforts, not just in Marin County and the California Coast but around the world. Their small but mighty staff oversees more than 1,100 volunteers, and their researchers have contributed to hundreds of publications over the years. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor and thank the Marine Mammal Center on their 40th Anniversary for their unyielding commitment to our oceans and the creatures that call it home.

PORTION OF HIGHWAY 18 RENAMED TO HONOR MILITARY VETERANS

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an important ceremony that took

place in my district on Friday, April 8, 2016. A stretch of State Highway 18 located in the San Bernardino mountains was dedicated as the "Rim of the World Veterans Memorial Highway." I want to thank California State Assemblyman Jay Obernolte for authoring Assembly Concurrent Resolution 21, which was the legislation that was passed by the California State Assembly to rename Highway 18.

More importantly, though, I would like to commend the members of American Legion Post 360 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9624 for their tireless efforts to make this dedication come to fruition. Renaming Highway 18 to honor the sacrifices of the men and women who served in our Armed Forces exemplifies the respect that residents in the mountain communities of San Bernardino County have for our veterans.

I look forward to seeing the new signage on my next trip to the mountains. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making this special day possible but, most importantly, thank you to the veterans who've made America the greatest nation on earth.

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY'S GRAVITATIONAL WAVE DISCOVERY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, our understanding of the universe leapt forward when gravitational waves were first detected. I rise today to recognize that achievement and honor six researchers from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) who were part of one of the most significant scientific discoveries in a century.

While hundreds of scientists worked together to make this discovery, I am especially proud of the researchers from RIT—James Healy, Jacob Lange, Carlos Lousto, Richard O'Shaughnessy, John Whelan, and Yuanhao Zhang. All of these researchers are members of RIT's Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation, which is led by Manuela Campanelli. Her team was one of the first groups to initially solve Albert Einstein's strong field equations describing black hole mergers. Because of this legacy, it is fitting that the recent discovery helps further confirm Einstein's general theory of relativity.

As the only microbiologist in Congress, I know that every scientist hopes to have their predictions verified by direct observation. I also know that this is relatively rare, so I stand in awe of this RIT team that accurately modeled the merger of two black holes and predicted the gravitational waves that were detected. This monumental achievement marks yet another chapter in Rochester's rich history as a center of scientific innovation and discovery.

Rochester has helped pioneer important research and develop innovative products such as the Kodak Brownie camera, the Norden bombsight, and myriad high-powered lasers. Established in 1829, RIT has not only played a critical role in Rochester's past, it continues to ensure that Rochester remains a global center of excellence. RIT makes invaluable

scientific contributions to the research community, but it is also a cornerstone of the Rochester community and helps provide local businesses with the talent they need to flourish.

Perhaps one of the most exciting aspects of this discovery is that it allows us to pose new questions and push the bounds of our collective knowledge. There's no doubt in my mind that RIT will play an essential role in these forthcoming discoveries, and I am proud that millions of people will continue learning about the world around us thanks to the contributions of researchers like Dr. Campanelli and the other members of her team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding all of the individuals who helped contribute to this monumental discovery and especially the six researchers from RIT. These Rochesterians have helped fundamentally change our understanding of the world, and I am proud to support their work in Congress.

HONORING CULTIVATING CODERS

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cultivating Coders, a technology startup from Albuquerque which, on March 13, 2016, won "Startup of Year" at Tech.Col's South by Southwest interactive festival in Austin, Texas.

This past November, Charles Ashley III and Charles Sandidge founded Cultivating Coders which takes an eight-week coding boot camp on the road to tribal, rural, inner-city, and otherwise underserved communities. The program provides graduates with knowledge of full stack web development theories and practical experience including web languages PHP, JavaScript, and HTML. Additionally, the company pairs students with small businesses and nonprofits in our community that need assistance with large web application development. This offers local companies access to technology services and creates job opportunities for the students.

Only 5 months old, Cultivating Coders beat out 18 other startups to share the top prize with another startup called MentorMint. But Ashley and Sandidge are just getting started. Sandidge explained their enthusiasm behind attending the competition, "If [Cultivating Coders] can find large scale partners—IBM, Microsoft, those places that see the benefit of what we're doing and where we're doing it, and helping with diversity in tech—that's a win for us at South by Southwest."

Cultivating Coders is increasing the number of minorities in the technology industry and creating new jobs in the process. Mr. Speaker, we need more forward thinking companies like this which serve our communities, promote local businesses, train future leaders in technology, increase diversity, and drive innovation. I look forward to watching Cultivating Coders continue to grow and achieve success. Congratulations Cultivating Coders, keep up the great work.

HONORING LINDA BECK

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as executive director of the Indian Valley Public Library, Linda Beck's dedication and advocacy has inspired a community and, now, after 28 years she is retiring. It is widely known that libraries can be the heart of the community: Billions of Americans gravitate to public libraries each year to read, borrow books, and study. During Linda Beck's tenure, the role of the Indian Valley Public Library expanded to include services beneficial to the greater community, including Internet access for library-goers who may search for employment, schools and general information at their leisure. As executive director, she, and scores of volunteers, have improved the lives of many citizens and inspired both children and adults to read for enjoyment and learning. And so we salute Linda Beck on this milestone, thank her for the leadership she provided and wish her many active retirement years.

RIVERHEAD FREE LIBRARY

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to honor the Riverhead Free Library's 120 years of service to the community.

Whether it is the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, or the community libraries in our home districts, it is important we recognize the tremendous value provided, even in today's technology-driven society. Since the earliest human civilizations, libraries have served as locations where information has been safeguarded and preserved, in the hopes that future generations are able to read and learn about the events of that time period. Today, our libraries' services to local communities are invaluable, providing important information to our constituents, and serving as meeting locations where people gather or relax and unwind. Libraries are also crucial to ensuring younger generations have access to information for school assignments and otherwise expand their knowledge base.

The Riverhead Free Library was organized and founded on April 4, 1896. The word "free" holds special significance, as it meant that all community residents of the time could borrow books without charge. The Library helped to grow and develop the diverse and bountiful community that Riverhead has become today. This service continues into the present, where members of the community go to utilize the wealth of information the library contains, and learn about the great ideas of both past and present. Today, the Library is chartered to serve over 32,000 residents of the Riverhead Central School District, and more than a dozen towns on the East End of Long Island.

It is my distinct honor to represent the Riverhead Free Library in the First Congressional District of New York, and I am grateful for all of the services it provides to my con-

stituents. 120 years of service to the public is no simple feat. It is only through the hard-work and dedication of its employees, and the tireless hours spent overseeing its maintenance and preservation, that have made the library the great center of learning and knowledge it is today. I would like to thank the employees of the Riverhead Free Library and the community of Riverhead for helping to preserve such a significant and special place in my district.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL WAR DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the 155th anniversary of the start of the Civil War today, my colleague Representative DONNA EDWARDS joins me to introduce a bill to recognize and preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington located in the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland. The defenses of Washington, including forts, unarmed batteries and rifle trenches, created a ring of protection for the nation's capital during the Civil War. This bill would redesignate the 22 Civil War Defenses of Washington currently under National Park Service jurisdiction as a national historical park, and allow other sites associated with the Civil War Defenses of Washington that are owned by a unit of state governments to be affiliated with the national historic park through cooperative agreements. This bill would also require the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the storied history of the Civil War for both the North and the South, including the history of the defenses of Washington and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, being assembled, arrayed and conveyed for the benefit of the public for the knowledge, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

The Civil War Defenses of Washington were constructed at the beginning of the war, in 1861, as a ring of protection for the nation's capital and for President Abraham Lincoln. By the end of the war, these defenses included 68 forts, 93 unarmed batteries, 807 mounted cannons, 13 miles of rifle trenches, and 32 miles of military roads. The major test of the Civil War Defenses of Washington came with the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, when Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early, directed by General Robert E. Lee, sought to attack the nation's capital from the north, causing Union Forces threatening to attack Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, to be withdrawn. General Early was delayed by Union Major General Lew Wallace at the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864, and was stopped at the northern edge of Washington at the Battle of Fort Stevens on July 11–12, 1864. The Shenandoah Valley Campaign ended when Union Lieutenant General Philip Sheridan defeated General Early at the Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia, on October 19, 1864.

Nearly all the individual forts in the Civil Defenses of Washington—on both sides of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers—were involved in stopping General Early's attack, and the Battle of Fort Stevens was the second and