

Counties AFL-CIO Labor Council and congratulating Kevin McCabe and Vincent Lane. Their efforts to ensure equal rights and opportunities for workers is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

COMMEMORATING THE 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 37th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) is not only our close economic and security partner but a friend with whom we share many principles and values. Signed into law in 1979, the Taiwan Relations Act established the legal basis for our bilateral relations with Taiwan. I am pleased to say the U.S.-Taiwan bilateral relationship has continued to expand and grow stronger over the past thirty-seven years. As President Ma Ying-jeou remarked during The American Chamber of Commerce 2016 Annual Hsieh Nien Fan Gala, this relationship has also reaped benefits for the peaceful state of the East Asia and Asia-Pacific regions: "First, the development of Taiwan-U.S. relations and the trilateral interaction involving the U.S., Taiwan, and the mainland over the past eight years have led to the warmest relations in more than 60 years."

In a recent trip to Taiwan, I had the opportunity to experience firsthand our shared values and our close economic ties. In 2015, Taiwan was the United States' 9th largest trading partner and the bilateral trade between the United States and Taiwan reached \$67.4 billion. My home state of California has also benefited from the strong commercial partnership. For example, in 2014, California's export to Taiwan reached \$7.46 billion, making Taiwan California's 5th largest export market in Asia and 7th largest export market in the world.

Additionally, as we recently recognized the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II, it is appropriate to remember Taiwan's important contributions to the alliance that defeated fascist militarism. The United States and Taiwan work closely and that partnership continued as the United States helped Taiwan to overcome challenges and thrive following the end of the fighting.

As a friend of Taiwan, I look forward to continuing to promote policies that reaffirm our mutual commitment to democratic and economic development. I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 37th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,203,187,186,595.43. We've added \$8,576,310,137,682.35 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO BROOKE SUTPHIN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brooke Sutphin for being recognized by her peers to receive the 2015 Customer Service of the Year Award from the Madison County Chamber of Commerce. Her company, b.Shannon Designs in Winterset, is known throughout the region for its unique product of personalized jewelry.

Brooke has been designing and creating jewelry since 1995 when she graduated from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. Her specialty is seeking a unique combination of contrast and textures which catch the eye. It has been said that "A customer doesn't care how much you know until they know how much you care." (D. Ramon) Brooke Sutphin lives that motto every day in her dealings with the public. She cares about her community as much as she cares about her business and it shows with the recognition they bestowed upon her.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Brooke and all the citizens of Madison County in the United States Congress. I also invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating her on receiving this award and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING APRIL 17 AS WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 17 as World Hemophilia Day, a day where the international community speaks as one to honor the hundreds of thousands of people across the globe suffering from hemophilia. Now, more than ever, we must renew our commitment to hemophilia patients, ensure that they can receive the most advanced care known to modern medicine, and redouble our efforts to discovering new treatments—and ultimately a cure—for this dangerous condition.

Hemophilia is a genetic disorder that prevents blood from clotting properly, making even seemingly slight injuries a terrifying prospect for a bleeding episode that can lead to serious injury and even death. While the disease is rare in statistical terms, an estimated 400 newborns are diagnosed with the disease every year, and approximately 20,000 hemophiliacs live in the United States at this very moment. And all too often, this vulnerable patient population is put into jeopardy by the financial hurdles obstructing access to the in-

tensive care needed for combatting such a pervasive disease.

Too many American families are faced with the daunting challenge of tackling the financial burden of hemophilia—a burden that can grow to \$250,000 a year or more. This World Hemophilia Day, I stand to speak out on behalf of the patients battling this complicated disease and hope that by raising awareness in this body, we move closer to a day where the treatment of hemophilia is practical, sustainable, and accessible for all Americans.

MARY BETH RADIGAN

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Beth Radigan, an outstanding educator and Hillsborough County's 2016 Teacher of the Year.

After graduating from Ohio University with a degree in Special Education, Ms. Radigan began her illustrious career in special-education classrooms, including nine years in Hillsborough County as an educator for autistic and intellectually delayed students. She currently serves as special education teacher at Plant High School in Tampa, Florida. As a proud parent of a Plant High School student, I know firsthand how invaluable an educator is in developing the potential in all children. Ms. Radigan's passion for education is so well established in our community that she was selected from a pool of hundreds of nominees as the Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year.

Accompanying her passion in the classroom, Ms. Radigan serves as a Special Olympics coach. Students in her classroom learn important life skills through numerous additional programs that she has spearheaded. In 2012, Ms. Radigan's class founded Pawbucks coffee, a coffee service, where her students have the opportunity to improve their job skills, social skills and independence. They are responsible for managing the business by making coffee, setting up the carts, selling and delivering coffee, answering phone orders and counting the total daily sales. Beyond practical skills, Pawbucks coffee has given students the opportunity to feel a great pride and a part of the school community.

In addition to the coffee service, she and her students founded an organic garden that recently received a Florida Agriculture in the Classroom grant to buy a hydroponic tower. You can also find her students leading the cheering section at the weekly football games through the Paw Prints Cheerleading. Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year Mary Beth Radigan has shown time and time again her unwavering commitment and compassion to go above and beyond for her students. She has created a meaningful and enriching experience for all of her students and will leave a lasting legacy as a teacher with endless compassion and drive.

It is one of my greatest honors to champion our community's excellent students and educators in Congress. On behalf of the constituents of the Fourteenth District of Florida it is our honor to recognize Mary Beth Radigan for her exemplary career of educating our community's youth.

TRIBUTE TO GORDON HENNICK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gordon Hennick on the occasion of his 100th birthday on March 30, 2016.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Gordon's life. Since his birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Gordon has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In his lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Gordon in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish him a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Gordon on reaching this incredible milestone and wishing him even more health and happiness in the years to come.

HOSTILITIES BETWEEN
AZERBAIJAN AND ARMENIA**HON. RYAN K. ZINKE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deepest concern over the recent surge in hostilities along the Line of Contact between Armenia and Azerbaijan which needlessly claimed dozens of lives on both sides.

These skirmishes come just days after a successful visit by Azerbaijani President Aliyev with Vice President BIDEN and Secretary Kerry. Azerbaijan has been a staunch ally to the United States. It is critical to regional stability and global security that the recent hostilities be deescalated.

It is no secret that Russia does not support the Southern Gas Corridor Project. This pipeline has been championed by Azerbaijan and would provide critical energy security for America's friends and allies in Europe. Accordingly this latest upsurge in fighting is another sign of Moscow's meddling in the affairs of states along its borders. As we have seen in Eastern Ukraine and Georgia, Russia continues to exploit separatist movements along its periphery to pressure our friends and allies in the region. Unfortunately, this is not the first time that Armenia, Russia's key regional ally, has been used as a proxy to intimidate our partners, including Azerbaijan and Georgia.

These latest hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia remind us of the urgency to find a peaceful solution to the protracted conflict. I urge the Administration to step up its efforts towards a peaceful solution and work with both sides to stabilize the region. Meanwhile, in the face of increasing Russian interference and aggression against its neighbors, the United States must remain steadfast in its support of friends like Azerbaijan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. SEBASTIAN LUJAN "BEN" BENAVIDEZ

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Sebastian Lujan "Ben" Benavidez, a longtime Fresno civil rights leader, who passed away on April 4, 2016, at the age of 69. Mr. Benavidez will undoubtedly be remembered by the legacy he created through serving the community as a positive role model to all of those he encountered.

Born on November 4, 1946 in Miami, Arizona, Mr. Benavidez was the son of Arizona copper miners. He moved to Fresno, California in 1962. He graduated from Washington Union High School, and continued on to attend Fresno City College. After college Ben worked for Parlier Unified School District. Mr. Benavidez is appreciated by many individuals throughout California, but he is especially treasured in the San Joaquin Valley, where he worked tirelessly to improve civil and economic rights for individuals throughout the region.

Mr. Benavidez was a leader and spent decades advocating and working to improve the lives of immigrant families in the rural communities of the San Joaquin Valley and California. He became actively involved in the Mexican American Political Association (MAPA), serving as President for 13 years. As President of MAPA, Mr. Benavidez fought to expand opportunities in education, and led an effort to increase minority participation in local government. In the 1980s and early 1990s, he led boycotts and walkouts that helped more Latinos win city and school board positions. His efforts to expand opportunities for minorities in education decisions led him to take on Dinuba, and Kings Canyon Unified School districts in a battle to eliminate at-large elections, to ensure that school boards were reflective of the communities they served.

Mr. Benavidez's unrelenting pursuit for social justice made him known to be fearless, and he demanded fairness. He fought for equality and improved educational opportunities for immigrant, migrant and minority children. He educated parents about their civil rights and their enormous political potential. Mr. Benavidez's contributions to his community, his philanthropic endeavors, and his work to expand small minority owned businesses led him to be honored by Parlier Unified School District with an elementary school named after him. In 2007, The Fresno Bee recognized Mr. Benavidez with the Latino Legends of the 20th Century Award, and in 2011, Mr. Benavidez was honored for his civil rights work, in advocating for minority civil and economic rights by the Greenlining Institute.

Without question, Mr. Benavidez's integrity, honor and long-lasting involvement in the Central Valley made him a reputable man. He was well known, beloved, and shown enormous appreciation by anyone who had the pleasure of calling him a friend. Mr. Benavidez leaves behind his loving family, including his wife of 49 years, Gloria, their two sons and two daughters, their respective spouses, twelve grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It is my honor to join his family in celebrating the life

of this amazing man, who will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor the life of Mr. Ben Benavidez. He will be remembered for his contributions and service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO DAN MEHMEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Dan Mehmen of Atlantic, Iowa, for being recognized as the Ambassador of the Year by the Atlantic Area Chamber of Commerce.

Dan is new to the Atlantic area, stepping into the community in 2015. To be a friendly neighbor and community leader, Dan has taken an active role in the Atlantic Area Chamber of Commerce. As an Ambassador for the organization, he visits local businesses to welcome them to the community, attend grand opening ribbon cuttings, and shares information beneficial to a new or local business. In presenting the award, his peers recognized his faithful attendance at Chamber-related events throughout the year, while showing enthusiastic support for area businesses and his fellow Ambassadors.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Dan for earning this award and for taking an active role in his community. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dan and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Wednesday, April 13, 2016, has been designated "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy." I am pleased to join my colleagues in recognizing the unique contributions to our civilization from those of Greece and of Greek American descent.

Democracy was first born in Greece over 2,000 years ago, based on the fundamental principle of consensual government self-determined by free citizens. The ideas forged in ancient Greece by brilliant minds of the day have such clarity and force that 2,000 years later they still hold more power than a host of armed weapons.

The priceless ideas of democracy and equality born in ancient Greece have strongly shaped the American national identity, which became a beacon of freedom and dignity to individuals. They continue to give hope and inspiration to the millions around the world who yearn to live in a free society like ours. Greece set the example for us and we, in turn have set the example for countless others.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that the Congress has set aside this national day of celebration again in 2016. Each year, it seems, we