

of young people and their families, providing a sense of community, care and stability.

We also recognize Aaron “Cliff” Webster, the Executive Director of Kingman, for over 40 years of leadership. His background managing multifaceted programs on a shoestring budget has made him essential to maintaining the success of Kingman over the years. Mr. Webster has successfully led Kingman through difficult and changing times with a commitment to nurturing D.C.’s youth. He has worked to create an environment where young people can thrive in their academic and athletic pursuits, and we thank Mr. Webster for being a source of stability and guidance to all who pass through Kingman’s doors. His love and dedication for the families of Kingman and the District of Columbia make Aaron “Cliff” Webster a role model for our children.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Aaron “Cliff” Webster and in congratulating Kingman Boys and Girls Club for 50 years of service to children and families in the District of Columbia.

WELCOMING CHIEF MINISTER Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY TO NORTH TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2019

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I stand today in recognition of India’s newly-elected Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. It is my honor to congratulate him on his recent election and to welcome him on his visit to Dallas, Texas on August 17, 2019.

The Chief Minister’s visit represents an ongoing effort to promote economic development between the United States and India, and his participation will help facilitate a discussion about business opportunities that currently exist between both countries. This bilateral relationship that has been fostered over the years has proven especially valuable to the economies of Texas and Andhra Pradesh, both of which benefit from strong business ties.

The 24th District of Texas is home to a booming information technology industry, world-class medical facilities, and the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. It is also home to a large Indian-American population, many of whom immigrated from Andhra Pradesh and have contributed to the District’s status as a magnet for world-class professionals. Cultivating a mutually beneficial relationship is clearly valuable to the economies of Texas and Andhra Pradesh and we look forward to the continued collaboration between our countries.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in welcoming Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to the United States of America and to the great to the State of Texas.

NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE VITALIZATION ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2019

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Native American Language Vitalization Act, which would help preserve the indigenous languages of the United States through grants to postsecondary institutions to support Native American language education programs and the pipeline of language instructors.

Native American languages are part of our nation’s cultural heritage and are as diverse as the rich cultures of American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and the Native peoples of the Pacific U.S. territories. Over the course of our nation’s history, Native Americans have faced discrimination and government policies that restricted or banned the use of their indigenous languages. These policies have contributed to the decline in speakers of Native American languages. Without action, many of these languages, from Chamorro to Refaluwasch to Cherokee, are at risk of disappearing. Congress recognized this urgency in passing the Esther Martinez Act in 2006 to strengthen Native American language immersion programs. However, we must do more at the postsecondary level so that future generations have the programs and quality instructors necessary to not only preserve but increase the use of their ancestral languages.

The Native American Language Vitalization Act invests in indigenous language education by creating a dedicated grant program under the Higher Education Act to provide the resources Native-serving colleges and universities need to develop or strengthen their indigenous language programs. Schools can use the grant to provide in-service training for language teachers, develop curriculum, professional development of faculty, and create innovative programs, including language immersion. Eligible institutions can also partner with other organizations to reach students in early childhood education programs through grade 12.

I thank Representatives SCHRIER, GABBARD and CASE for cosponsoring the bill. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to help preserve the indigenous languages of the United States for future generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND ILLUMINATION CELEBRATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Grand Illumination celebration in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts.

Each year, since 1869, friends, family, and visitors to the island have gathered in the Oak Bluffs Campgrounds to share in this wonderful tradition. What started as an annual ceremony welcome the Governor of Massachusetts to

Martha’s Vineyard has become the vibrant and beloved celebration that we know today. Led by the Martha’s Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, those who live in the beautiful Victorian cottages lining the campground, decorate their houses with scores of colorful lanterns. Many of the lanterns have been passed down from friends and families for generations, with some in use for over 100 years.

As the Grand Illumination evening settles in, thousands of people come to the Oak Bluffs Campgrounds to observe the quiet beauty of the dancing lights before them. Neighbors and strangers alike share a serene and spiritual moment of reflection and contemplation as the Grand Illumination ignites the dark night. For 150 years, the people of Oak Bluffs have set an example of togetherness and community for others around the country, setting aside any differences in a show of unity—especially in challenging times when our nation has been in need of unity.

Madam Speaker, on this milestone 150th anniversary of the Grand Illumination, I am proud to honor the Martha’s Vineyard Camp Meeting Association and the people of Oak Bluffs for their dedication to unity and tradition in the community. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking those who have organized the event, the Martha’s Vineyard Camp Meeting Association and all those who have helped to make it happen. I wish them all the best in the many years to come.

HONORING FRANK AND NATALIA NEVES ON 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank and Natalia Neves of Hilmar, California who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on their native island of Terceira. Mr. and Mrs. Neves are great pillars in their community and act as examples to us all with the longevity of their marriage and their commitment to their children and the Hilmar community.

Frank and Natalia were born and met on the small island of Terceira in the Azores Archipelago off the coast of Portugal. In 1969 the Neves left Terceira and their dairy farm which they had owned for 10 years and immigrated to the United States. After they arrived in the United States, they settled in the small town of Hilmar, in the San Joaquin Valley. Once in Hilmar, Frank and Natalia started their family and extensive community service.

Throughout her career, Natalia worked at the local Foster Farms plant in Livingston for over 30 years. Frank was the plant manager of Besnier USA for 23 years. Natalia and Frank are the proud parents of three children, Frank, Lee and Leanna. Frank went on to be a Police Officer, Leanna received her master’s degree and currently works for EJ Gallo Winery and Lee received his law degree and now works as a political consultant. They have 5 grandchildren, one of which, served as the California Dairy Princess, representing and advocating for the Dairy industry on local and state levels. Their children credit their success in life to their parents’ commitment and dedication.

Mr. and Mrs. Neves have had a deep dedication for serving their community; their integrity, honor, and longtime service to the Central Valley has made them cherished figures. Frank served as the Head of The Knights of Columbus Lady of Assumption Church. Through the fraternal service organization,

Frank was able to give back to his community, volunteering hundreds of hours and raising money for his community. Frank also served as the President of Oakdale FES, a community organization dedicated to bringing the Portuguese community closer. Their commitment to their marriage, their family and the Hilmar

community will continue to leave a lasting impact on their family, friends, and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50 years of marriage of Frank and Natalia Neves and their tireless service and devotion to their community.