

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OPPOSING EFFORTS TO CUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, although we must fix the economic problems America now faces, we cannot afford to obliterate important programs that educate and expose our citizens young and old to American culture. Our minimal investments in the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts yield large community benefits and must be protected. For this reason, I oppose the severe cuts proposed to these key programs via the FY12 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill.

The programs supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, or NEH, benefit millions of Americans each year. Last year, NEH made over 1,200 grants totaling \$143 million that benefited communities throughout our Nation—communities big and small, urban and rural. For example, over 4,300 college, community college, and school teachers benefited from education programs supported by NEH. Almost 22,000 citizens from museums, libraries, archives, and historical organizations obtained training in appropriate preservation and ways to expand public access to humanities collections. Approximately 35 million people benefited from 24 television and radio projects funded by NEH that produced 88 broadcast hours of programming related to arts and humanities.

My State of Illinois and my Congressional District have received vital support from NEH funds as well. These funds allowed cultural institutions to leverage their dollars to educate the public more broadly than would have been possible without these funds. From getting a grant to help expand the Hull-House Museum to the Illinois Meaning of Service program that works with thousands of young people to help them understand the nature and rewards of volunteerism. An NEH grant is contributing to the digitization of the papers of Abraham Lincoln so that these important historical documents are available to the Nation, not just to those in driving distance of Springfield. My constituents rely on these programs for education and cultural awareness. Especially during hard economic times when travel and vacations are not possible, the programming supported by the NEH provides significant educational resources for Americans.

Cutting funds to NEH will negatively affect our citizens, not help them. It is a unique source of funding for a wide range of local non-profit institutions and organizations across the country. NEH has already experienced dramatic funding cuts; slashing this program more will directly curtail programs and projects in millions of communities for minimal deficit

reduction, which means jobs will be lost, services will be gone, and local communities will lose educational opportunities. So I urge my colleagues to oppose provisions that would cut the National Endowment for the Humanities or the National Endowment for the Arts any further.

HONORING MR. MARK BUNGER, OF
NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of retiring California Highway Patrol Officer Mark Bunger, for his outstanding service in Napa County, California.

Mr. Bunger was born on Travis Air Force Base in 1959. He attended Napa Valley College and Cavalry Chapel Bible School, and later obtained his Federal Aviation Administration Pilot's Certificate and graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy.

Mr. Bunger has been a dedicated member of the California Highway Patrol for 29 years, 24 of which he served in Napa County. He has also been honored with the position of CHP Flight Officer Golden Gate Division Air Operations Unit with the Napa County Airport and served as the Public Affairs Officer for the highway patrol from 1995 to 2001.

Having grown up in Napa, Mr. Bunger has a deep sense of community and has chosen to get involved in projects which would improve the lives of Napa citizens. One of these projects was a program called "Every 15 Minutes," which simulates alcohol-related driving accidents and their aftermath at high schools throughout the state. His other projects include "Lights for Life," a sobriety challenge, "CHIP's for Kids," a Christmas toy drive, a high school driving program at Sears Point Raceway, and a Child SafetySeat Program.

Mr. Bunger is well known in the Napa Valley community for his wit and sharp sense of humor. He is fortunate enough to be surrounded by his loving family and life-long friends. He and his wife of 26 years, Laura, currently reside in Napa. Their two children Rebekah, age 20, and Joel, age 18, are both currently attending college.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Mark Bunger for his decades of devoted service to the Napa Valley community on this day.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 64TH ONE
WORLD DAY CELEBRATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 64th One World Day Celebration

held at the Cleveland Cultural Gardens at the Ukrainian Garden on August 28, 2011. This day of celebration also happens to fall after the 20th anniversary of Ukrainian independence which is August 24, 1992. The main component feature was the celebration of the presentation of the newly restored statue of Lesya Ukrainka.

Lesya Ukrainka was one of Ukraine's best poets and writers as well as a leading woman writer in Ukrainian literature. She was, in her short life, a significant political and civil activist for the freedom of Ukraine. This year happens to be the 104th anniversary of her birth in 1871 and the 50th anniversary of her statue's installation at the Ukrainian Garden.

Along with myself, several other dignitaries will attend and participate in the 64th One World Day Celebration such as President Paul Burik of The Cleveland Cultural Gardens federation, President Ihor Diaczun of United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, Most Reverend John Bura DD of Eparch of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, Lesya Ukrainka Poem "Rondo" recitation by Christina Skabyk, President Marianna Zajac of Ukrainian National Women's League of America, and Professor of History Mary Hovanec at Cuyahoga Community College.

The restoration of the monument and the rejuvenation program of the Ukrainian Garden along with the program for this event was organized by the President Dozia Krislaty of Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 8, Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 64th One World Day Celebration and the efforts of the people who made the time to collaborate and organize an event which commemorates the country of Ukraine and the efforts of its prominent political figure, Lesya Ukrainka.

TINO ADAME RECOGNITION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and admiration that I rise today to honor Faustino Adame, Jr. who is a dedicated community member and a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

Born January 27, 1947 in French Camp, California to Faustino Adame and Lupe Gutierrez, Tino is the eldest of four brothers and one adopted sister. Tino is the proud member of a family of veterans. His Father and his brother Joe are Marine Corps Veterans, his brother Frank is an Air Force Veteran, and his brother Henry an Army Veteran.

As a young man Tino attended Jefferson, Roosevelt and Fremont Junior Highs before graduating from Franklin High School in 1965. He went on to attend San Joaquin Delta College before joining the Marine Corps at the age of 19 on January 18, 1966.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Tino served as a Small Arms Proof Technician during the Vietnam War where he was wounded while participating in operation "Prairie" in Dong Ha Vietnam. Tino was discharged from the Marine Corps on October 31, 1967 and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, a Rifle Marksman Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Upon completing his military service, Tino began working for Tracy Defense Depot and married his wife, Mary Hope Lopez in June, 1970. Tino and Mary have been married for 45 years and though they do not have any children of their own—they have many nieces and nephews and more than 20 god-children.

Tino is an active and proud veteran, who served as the first Latino Commander of the Karl Ross Post 16 in Stockton, California. He also served as Chairman of the 4th of July parade, Memorial Day Ceremony and Veterans Day Ceremony and assisted in coordinating and carrying out many other events at the post.

Mr. Speaker, Tino Adame, is truly an outstanding individual who served his country, his family and his community with the utmost honor, compassion and dignity. I respectfully ask my colleagues to rise and join me in recognizing his service and dedication.

RECOGNITION OF HENRY L.
"HANK" LACAYO'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo, an exceptional individual who has dedicated his life to public service, community leadership and social activism. On August 20, 2011, the Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo Tribute Committee will be celebrating Hank's 80th birthday, and honoring him for his endless contributions to the county of Ventura, the State of California and our Nation.

Hank is currently serving a fifth term as State President of the Congress of California Seniors, a statewide senior advocacy organization. But Hank has been an active and engaged community leader for more than half a century. He first began his labor career in 1953, and was soon elected to become the President of UAW Local 887, representing over 32,000 workers at North America Aviation/Rockwell International in Los Angeles.

During his presidency Hank served as an instrumental figure in several events that forever changed our nation. Hank's activism during the civil rights movement was one of them. In August of 1963, Hank led a delegation from the L.A. area to join Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Washington DC. civil rights march. Hank also showed his support of Cesar Chavez by serving as a key individual in encouraging the UAW to financially aid farm workers.

Although Hank's trajectory has been focused within the work of labor unions, he has also been heavily involved within the Latino Community. Raised in Chihuahua, Mexico, Hank has stayed close to his roots and culture. He joined the late Willie Velazquez and Dr. Juan Andrade to help found the U.S. His-

panic Leadership Institute, and he served as its first President and Chairman of the Board. Hank also currently serves as the Chair of the Vision Committee and co-founder of Destino: The Hispanic Legacy Fund of the Ventura County Community Foundation.

Hank has been recognized on numerous occasions and has received various prestigious honors and recognitions. These include the Tri-Counties Labor Leader of the Year, The Pat Brown Institute Life-Time Public Service Award, California Lutheran University Exemplar Medallion and, among many others, the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute National Hispanic Hero Award.

Hank has been able to expand his life legacy to many broad aspects of community leadership and public service. It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join with me in wishing Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo a happy 80th birthday and in saluting him for his years of public service and community leadership.

HONORING THE SONOMA COUNTY
INDIAN HEALTH PROJECT OF
SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor the Sonoma County Indian Health Project on its 40th anniversary, celebrated August 19, 2011.

Sonoma County Indian Health Project was founded in 1971 to provide health care to the Native American population residing in Sonoma County. Since its establishment, the Indian Health Project has grown considerably, serving evident unmet needs in our community and leading to its move into the large, modern health care facility it occupies today.

Through its relationship with the California Area Indian Health Service, the Sonoma County Indian Health Project assists in serving not only a large Native American population, but also a non-Indian population lacking sufficient access to care. Hundreds of families and individuals from communities across our region seek care at the facility each year, from traditional medical or dental treatment to nutritional consultation or transportation services for those in isolated areas.

Supported by the Cloverdale, Dry Creek, Lytton, Graton, Manchester-Point Area, and Stewarts Point Rancherias, the Indian Health Project also puts an emphasis on providing its services in a manner that respects and contributes to Indian culture. It is a symbol of the strength and determination of our Native American community and a proud part of what makes our region unique.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join us in thanking the Sonoma County Indian Health Project for its longstanding contributions to the health and welfare of Sonoma County, and in wishing the organization many more years of success.

THE IJAW DIASPORA CONVENTION
AND EDUCATION TRUST FUND

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the launching of the Ijaw Diaspora Convention and Education Trust Fund and the presentation of the Ijaw History Project by the Ijaw Community in the Diaspora.

From August 19 to August 20, 2011, the Ijaw Community in the Diaspora is assembling in New Jersey along with the nine governors of the Niger Delta States and scores of dignitaries and officials in Nigeria and the United States with Distinguished Prof. E. A. Alagoa of the University of Port Harcourt to present the "Ijaw History Project"—A Five Year Landmark Research Project on the Ijaw people and to launch the Ijaw Diaspora Convention and Education Trust Fund.

The Ijaw History Project and the Ijaw Diaspora Convention and Education Trust Fund are being launched with the support and endorsement of the Special Guest of Honor for this prestigious event, His Excellency Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Nigeria Governors Forum.

Mr. Speaker, this historic event will focus on "Transforming Niger Delta Ijaw Communities through Investment in Education and Capacity Development"; and promote the core beliefs of the Ijaw Community in the Diaspora. The organization stands for the power of literacy to end poverty, injustice, discrimination and violence; strengthen peace, democracy and prosperity; transform lives, families, communities and societies; reduce high infant mortality and preventable infectious diseases, and adapt to the challenges of globalization and technology.

The Ijaw Diaspora Education Trust Fund will be used to support the Federal University at Otuoke Bayelsa State's current efforts to develop a library, provide University Scholarships and develop special projects such as research, education and training in Biotechnology to further the efforts of the U.S. based Corporate Council on Niger Delta Affairs in the development of a Biotechnology Industrial Park.

The Federal University at Otuoke Bayelsa State is in the heartland of the Ijaw community of the Niger Delta and is a major contributor to meeting the goals of the US-Nigeria Binational Commission on meaningful development of the Niger Delta Region in the areas of food security, regional and economic security, environmental mitigation and energy.

Mr. Speaker, the Ijaw Education Trust Fund has the potential to have a lasting beneficial influence of on countless families, individuals, and institutions in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Ijaw Community in the Diaspora and Bayelsa State Nigeria.

I express my gratitude for the influence and contributions the Ijaw History Project and the Ijaw Diaspora Convention and Education Trust Fund will bestow to meeting the goals of the US-Nigeria Binational Commission on meaningful development of the Niger Delta Region.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to the supporters and donors of the Ijaw Diaspora Convention & Education Trust Fund on

being presented with the "International Leadership Award on the Advancement of Education and Capacity Development in Niger Delta Ijaw Communities."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF PAUL DUNCAN, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH FOR THE LONG BEACH COMMUNITY BUSINESS NETWORK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to rise to pay tribute to the late Paul Duncan, the Director of Outreach for the Long Beach Community Business Network, LBCBN, and one of the leading and influential figures in the LGBT community of Long Beach, California.

Paul Duncan died on August 6, from an aneurysm in Las Vegas where he was representing the LBCBN at the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's weeklong conference in Las Vegas. He was 72 years old.

Paul Duncan was born November 18, 1937, in Pueblo, Colo. A short time later, he and his family relocated to Los Angeles. He began his professional life in banking and later opened his own insurance and property management company and published equine magazines. He later lived in Australia, where he managed a horse ranch and deer farm for many years, before returning to the United States and settling in Long Beach.

Those who knew and worked with Paul describe him as a figure larger than life, and not just because of his imposing 6-foot-3-inch frame and fondness for cowboy hats and boots, but because of the bigger impact he had on people. Wherever he went, whomever he met, Paul made you feel that you were his "mate."

According to Stacey O'Byrne, president of the LBCBN, "Paul created a vision that crossed cultural, political and generational boundaries. He was full of cheer and endless dedication to helping new and existing gay and gay-friendly businesses create lifelong bonds with other members of the community."

Paul Duncan spent the last ten years of his life working tirelessly to connect LBCBN, known informally as the Long Beach Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce to business organizations from Hawaii to Washington, DC. Mr. Speaker, the untimely death of Paul Duncan is a great loss to his family and to countless persons who counted him as a friend. He leaves giant shoes to fill but I am confident that the work he began and advanced will be continued by all of us who have been inspired by his example.

I would like to request a moment of silence in his honor and memory.

HONORING J VINEYARDS AND WINERY OF HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize and honor J Vineyards and Winery of Healdsburg, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

J was conceived and developed by Judy Jordan, an exuberant, fiercely independent 25-year-old who saw an opening in Sonoma County's wine landscape for a high quality, all-American sparkling wine brand. It was a lofty goal for a product that was first made in an old, ramshackle prune processing barn that routinely flooded when the nearby Russian River overflowed.

From those humble beginnings, J sparkling wines have become some of the finest in the world. The winery's J Vintage Brut is a fixture on high profile wine lists and top hotels around the world. Queen Elizabeth sipped J at the White House. Mikhail Gorbachev spoke of world peace with a glass of J in his hand, and J sparkling wines were the official celebratory bubbles of the Academy Awards Governors Ball for 4 consecutive years.

To produce this remarkable wine, Ms. Jordan and her team rely on ten distinctive vineyard estate properties located throughout the Russian River Valley Appellation. These vineyards have at least 20 different soil profiles, with each vineyard displaying a different soil type and distinctive microclimate. This diversity allows J winemakers to coax the best flavor characteristics from each vineyard.

Ms. Jordan also came to the realization that her vineyards would also be ideal for producing site-specific, cool-climate Russian River Valley varietal wines such as Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Gris in addition to her sparkling wines. These wines were added to the portfolio and have become immensely popular products.

J's ten estate wines will be "Certified Sustainable" in 2012 by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance. After a number of energy savings initiatives were implemented throughout the winery, J was named a "Green Winery" in 2010.

One of the first wineries to offer food and wine pairings to visitors in the "Bubble Room," J was also named "Best Winery Tasting Room" by Sunset Magazine in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, from its humble beginnings, J Vineyards and Winery has become an international success story and one of the linchpins of the Sonoma County wine industry. It is therefore appropriate that we honor them today on their Silver Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE WEALTH GAP AMONG RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, although our economy is gradually improving, we can-

not ignore the fact that the economic crisis remains a daily reality for millions of Americans, nor can we ignore the fact that the crisis unevenly affects certain groups of citizens, such as racial and ethnic minority groups.

A study by the Pew Research Center released last month demonstrates starkly the wealth gap among racial and ethnic minorities in this Nation. Although all racial and ethnic groups experienced loss of wealth during this economic crisis, the wealth of African American and Latino households dropped dramatically. For example, the median net worth of a white family now stands at 20 times that of a black family and 18 times that of a Hispanic family, roughly twice the gap that existed before the economic crisis. Even more startling, this is the largest wealth gap since data started being collected in 1984. Other findings of note that reflect the uneven economic difficulties among groups of citizens include the fact that approximately 35 percent of Black households and 31 percent of Latino households had zero or negative net worth in 2009, compared to only 15 percent of white households. The Pew findings echo those of a recent study by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) that found that the Great Recession has decimated the black middle class. This study found that the median wealth of black households dropped 84 percent from 2004 to 2009, essentially wiping out the economic gains that black Americans made since the early 90s.

There are multiple factors that contribute to the wealth gap—disproportionate investment patterns, experience of unemployment, and education debt are a few. The Pew study highlighted the fact that white families are typically able to diversify their investments in housing as well as stocks and bonds, whereas minorities usually invest heavily in housing. The housing crisis then contributed to wealth disparities because minority families lost everything and had few (if any) other investments on which to fall back.

African Americans and Latino Americans disproportionately experience both unemployment and long-term unemployment, which further contributes to the wealth gap. African Americans stand at the highest unemployment levels since 1984. Most recently, the black unemployment rate averaged 16.1 percent in April, May, and June 2011, compared to an average of 7.9 percent for whites during the same periods. The unemployment rates for recent high school graduates who were white were 9.5 percent and 21.4 percent in 2007 and 2010, respectively. In contrast, the unemployment rates for recent high school graduates who were black were 20.3 percent and 31.3 percent, respectively. Thus, the unemployment rate of 21.4 percent in the middle of the recession for white high school graduates was about the same level of unemployment for black high school graduates at the beginning of the recession. Similarly, recent black college graduates have the highest unemployment rate among college graduates. With regard to long-term unemployment, researchers at the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment at the University of California at Berkeley recently found that African Americans represent only 11 percent of the labor force, but 22 percent of the long-term unemployed. Thus, African Americans are twice as likely to experience long-term unemployment compared to their representation in the labor force. Similarly, Latino Americans

represent 15 percent of the labor force but 17 percent of the long-term unemployed. In contrast, white Americans experience unemployment and long-term unemployment at lower rates than their representation in the labor force. These discrepancies are problems that we cannot sweep under the rug.

The costs of higher education exacerbate the problems of differential investment and unemployment that contribute to the wealth gap. Recent analyses by Mark Kantrowitz, the publisher of FinAid.org found that student loan debt in 2010 surpassed credit card debt for the first time. The report—Trends in Higher Education Series 2010—found that black graduates with bachelor's degrees exceeded other racial and ethnic groups for highest debt. For 2007 to 2008, 27 percent of black graduates with bachelor's degrees had over \$30,500 in debt, compared to only 16 percent of white graduates, 14 percent of Latino graduates and 9 percent of Asian American graduates. The high-cost of college creates a two-fold obstacle for black households to become middle class. Some youth may choose not to attend higher education given the costs, dramatically reducing their income and ability to enter the middle class. Other youth face overwhelming debt that combines with poor job opportunities that make a middle-class lifestyle difficult to obtain.

These studies demonstrate that black families will face serious obstacles to becoming middle class, furthering the wealth gap. High rates of unemployment and college debt will make it difficult for recent graduates to enter the middle class. These difficulties with obtaining well-paying jobs are expected to grow given the discussion of continued cuts in public sector jobs and capital investment in the name of deficit reduction.

So my fellow colleagues, I urge us to address the wealth gap head on. It affects our economy and the well-being of our citizens. Right now, we need to do everything we can to rebuild our economy. We need to fix our economy, and we need to help our citizens who have borne the brunt of the economic crisis recover. Government intervention and investment are needed to make our Nation's economy and households strong again.

CONGRATULATING THE FIRST
MONTANA TEAM TO QUALIFY
FOR THE LITTLE LEAGUE
WORLD SERIES.

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, history records important events and the people involved, which, on a grand scale, are significant to us all. But history is also recorded at the local level, and to mark a historic occasion in sports for a team from the great state of Montana, I recognize the Billings BigSky Little League All-Stars who became the first team from Montana to earn the right to compete with the world's best in the Little League Baseball World Series.

In the Northwest Regional Championship game, the Billings Big Sky All-Stars defeated Bend South Little League, from Bend, Oregon, 7-1. The victory gave Big Sky Little League

the regional title and a place in the 16-team field of national and international Regional Champions competing for the 65th Little League World Series Title.

Championships at any level are never given away, they are earned, and not just from one day of competition. Titles are won beginning with a love and respect for the game, a dedication to being the best you can be, and an appreciation for all those who help you reach for your goals.

The Little League logo carries the words, "Character, Courage, Loyalty," helping to promote strong values in our youth and our communities. Congratulations to the players and coaches of the Billings Big Sky Little League All-Stars for coming together in championship form, and for upholding the Little League values in sportsmanship and excellence. Your family, friends, fans and fellow Montanans are proud of your accomplishment.

Billings Big Sky Little League All-Stars: (number, name, positions) 33—Ben Askelson P/C, 45—Sean Jones P/3B, 13—Pearce Kurth P/1B, 22—Brock MacDonald P/OF, 19—Patrick Zimmer P/SS, 2—Jet Campbell 2B, 1—Connor Kieckbusch 2B/OF, 25—Ian Leatherberry IF/P, 24—Dawson Smith 1B/OF, 10—Andy Maehl OF/C, 27—Cole McKenzie OF/IF, 11—Gabe Sulser OF, Gene Carlson—Manager, Mark Kieckbusch—Assistant Coach, Tom Zimmer—Assistant Coach.

HONORING THE WILBUR FAMILY

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituents, the descendants of Samuel Rathbone and Mary "Polly" Halstead Wilbur who are celebrating their 125th consecutive annual family reunion in Nicholson, Pennsylvania.

Samuel Rathbone Wilbur was born on December 20, 1782, in Plainfield, Connecticut, and settled in Nicholson, Pennsylvania, in 1805. He was the son of Elizabeth Benjamin and Oliver Wilbur, a Revolutionary War soldier. Mary "Polly" Halstead Wilbur, the daughter of Samuel and Hannah Harding Halstead, was born January 14, 1791, in a log cabin in Nicholson. Polly's father, Samuel, was one of the signers of the 1794 petition asking for the creation of the township of Wilkes-Barre. Polly's grandfather, Isaiah Hallstead, was the scrivener of the petition that formed Nicholson Township in 1795.

Samuel married Polly in 1814. They established a large family in Nicholson, having 10 children. Samuel passed away at the age of 52. Polly, now a single mother, raised all 10 of their children, and lived until the age of 93.

A large percentage of the Nicholson population and the surrounding area is directly attributable to the 10 Wilbur children, their 47 grandchildren, and 84 great-grandchildren. At one time there were so many descendants living in the area that each year for the family reunion the passenger trains of Lackawanna would make a special stop in Nicholson for the masses of people attending the family reunion.

As one of the early pioneer families to settle in Pennsylvania, a considerable number of the Wilbur family descendants have lived in Nich-

olson and the surrounding area for over the past 200 years. The Wilbur reunions are not just a typical gathering to renew acquaintances, but rather a tribute to the preservation of the historic richness of our forefathers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor this great Pennsylvania family tradition and ask my colleagues to join me in praising the Wilbur's commitment to family, their community, and our nation.

RECOGNIZING CARLIE ERDMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize Mr. Carlie Erdman on the occasion of his 100th birthday celebration. Mr. Erdman was born on August 11, 1911 in a sod house near Benkelman, Nebraska. He arrived in Missouri as soon as he could, though, moving here when he was just two months old. In 1936 he married his late wife, Arlene Thompson, on June 20th.

Mr. Erdman has been a lifelong farmer in Northwest Missouri and a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church. Carlie was my neighbor for as long as I can remember. In fact, he taught my brother Todd and I to water-ski at Big Lake. He spent many gorgeous summer afternoons boating at Big Lake and enjoying the water.

It is amazing, Mr. Speaker, when you stop and look at all the historical events that Carlie has seen firsthand. He saw the Great Depression, Pearl Harbor, the First Man on the Moon, the invention of the computer, the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster, September 11th, and so on.

However, the greatest tribute to Carlie is not his longevity. You see, everyone in Atchison County knows Carlie. He is the first one there if you ever need help, and he is the first one there if you have something to celebrate. It's a tribute to the kind of person Carlie is that if you ask people who know him, they all say the same thing: Carlie is a good man, a good neighbor, and a good friend.

Mr. Speaker, this Sunday Carlie's friends and family will gather to mark this extraordinary occasion. I hope that the whole House will join me in celebrating Carlie's 100th birthday and wishing him good health.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FARM
AID 2011 BENEFIT CONCERT HELD
IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURAL
WORKERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Farm Aid's 2011 benefit concert. Each year, Farm Aid organizes a concert to bring together a wide variety of musicians, farmers and fans for one mission: "keeping family farmers on their land."

Farm Aid board members Willie Nelson, Neil Young, and John Mellencamp established the first Farm Aid concert in 1985 to educate farm

owners about the loss of family farms and to raise funds to keep farm families on their land. Dave Matthews joined the Farm Aid Board of Directors in 2001. The Farm Aid concert is the longest running benefit series concert in America. The organization raised more than \$39 million to endorse a resilient family farm system of agriculture by “promoting food from family farms, growing the Good Food Movement, helping farmers thrive, and taking action to change the system.”

Farm Aid 2011 was held at the Livestrong Sporting Park in Kansas City, Kansas, on August 13th. The event showcased homegrown concessions featuring local, organic, or family farm sourced ingredients. The board members, along with other acclaimed artists, helped in promoting the organization and its mission of protecting family owned farms. The board members Willie Nelson, Neil Young, and John Mellencamp, David Matthews along with other artists such as Jason Mraz, Jamey Johnson, Jakob Dylan, Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real, Will Dailey & the Rivals, Billy Joe Shaver, Robert Francis, Ray Price, Rebecca Pidgeon, Heart of Darkness, John Trudell, and the Blackwood Quartet gave their time and talent to help family farmers who are under extreme economic pressure.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Farm Aid 2011 for helping family farmers thrive all over the country while inspiring millions of people to learn about the importance of maintaining family owned farms.

IN OPPOSITION OF BALANCED
BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO THE
CONSTITUTION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution represents bad economics—pure and simple. To require a balanced budget every year without regard to the state of the economy would threaten to make recessions more frequent, more protracted, and deeper. It would require greater cuts to spending at the time when the Federal Government would be needed most to use countercyclical policies to aid its citizens and states in weathering economic crises. It would jeopardize our nation’s credit by making default a more regular likelihood.

A balanced budget amendment is a good sound bite, but it is not good policy. The ability to borrow in a time of crisis to help our states and citizens is a critical tool to aid our nation during economic crisis. A balanced budget requirement risks substantial harm to our economy, to Social Security, to military and civil service retirement systems, to critical government activities, and to our most vulnerable citizens. During economic hardship, federal revenues decline and safety net programs become even more vital lifelines, causing deficits to rise. Rather than allowing the Federal Govern-

ment the flexibility to institute a variety of economic stabilizers, a balanced budget amendment would force the Federal Government to cut benefits or raise taxes exactly when such responses are least effective and more likely to further weaken the economy and result in higher deficits. As Robert Reichauer explained in 1992, a balanced budget amendment “would undermine the stabilizing role of the Federal Government.”

I cannot fathom how policymakers would risk default and serious economic damage to our nation in order to make the elderly pay more for medicine, poor children go hungry, and low income students skip college in order to give that money to corporate jet owners, hedge fund agents, wealthy citizens who own multiple homes, and oil companies that already earn tens of billions of dollars in profits.

During times of challenge, I resolutely believe that the mantle of responsibility for caring for the poor and struggling falls squarely on the shoulders of government, not primarily on the charity of individual citizens. In such times of hardship and strife, government leaders should extend help to the needy, not advance the wealth of the most secure. With so many of our children and youth bearing the brunt of our nation’s economic hardship, I am committed to protecting all of America, not just the privileged. For these reasons, I resolutely and steadfastly oppose a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.