HONORING THE 36TH DOUBLE CHAI ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE BETH KODESH

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Temple Beth Kodesh of Boynton Beach, Florida, on the occasion of their 36th Double Chai Anniversary. Temple Beth Kodesh has become an integral part of our vibrant, diverse community in South Florida, and it is truly an honor to represent its congregants here in Washington.

Temple Beth Kodesh comes from humble beginnings. In 1976, a small group of Jewish residents in Boynton Beach began holding services in each other's apartments in Village Royale on the Green. Less than a decade later in 1983, with the help of generous donations from members of the community, construction of Congregation Beth Kodesh was completed.

The story of Temple Beth Kodesh is also one of perseverance in the face of hardship. In 2004, Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne destroyed the temple and much of the surrounding area. Although devastated by the loss, congregants worked tirelessly to restore and reopen the synagogue in time for the 2005 high holidays.

Temple Beth Kodesh has thrived due to the dedication and hard work of its living past Presidents Leo Birdie, George Brindis, Fred Brown, Mike Friedland, Roy Haas, Irwin Hochman and Bob Rosenthal. I am proud to represent constituents who have dedicated the last 36 years to bringing Jewish Americans together to worship. I commend their efforts, and it is my hope that Temple Beth Kodesh continues to serve the South Florida community for years to come.

IN COMMEMORATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this February we recognize and celebrate the 36th commemoration of Black History Month. This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great Nation, and pay tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, heroes, and leaders like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce, U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, Astronauts Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford Jr. and Mae C. Jemison, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks just to name a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our Nation become a more perfect union. The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose struggles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of African American women in shaping our Nation's history. As such, this Black History Month we honor groundbreaking "Black Women in American Culture and History" like U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all. Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today's and tomorrow's generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America. We must work to get Americans back to work. We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensible contributions to this great Nation. It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.

RECOGNIZING MR. JASON PIERRE-PAUL AS A SUPER BOWL CHAMPION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Jason Pierre-Paul, a defensive end for the New York Giants. Known by his family, friends, and fans as JPP, Jason played a pivotal role in the 2011 season for the Giants and helped lead his team to victory over the New England Patriots at this year's Super Bowl.

JPP was born in Deerfield Beach, Florida and attended Deerfield Beach High School, which is located in Florida's 23rd congressional district. Originally a basketball star, after suffering a serious leg injury, he transitioned to football during his junior year of high school. Despite being new to the sport, he went on to play college football at the University of South Florida. After an impressive college career, he was drafted by the Giants in the first round of the 2010 National Football League (NFL) Draft.

Without JPP leading the team with 16.5 sacks this season and being the steadiest defense player throughout the year, the Giants would not have been crowned Super Bowl champions. One of the lasting images of this game will undoubtedly be JPP's celebration with his father. When he was an infant, his father, Mr. Jean Pierre-Paul, lost his vision and therefore has never been able to watch his son play football. Super Bowl XLVI was the first NFL game that Jean had ever attended. Their celebratory embrace on the field after the game was truly an emotional event to see.

It is these kinds of moments that illustrate the strength and courage that our children admire in athletes. JPP's parents emigrated from Haiti in 1983, and overcame many obstacles to ensure that he had every chance to succeed in life. Learning from his father, JPP overcame injuries and a lack of experience to become a Super Bowl champion.

After his win, JPP said, "It was awesome to experience this in just my second year." "Man, it's a blessing. We just got to stay humble as a team and see what the future holds for us."

Mr. Speaker, Jason Pierre-Paul's personal story highlights the promise of our great Nation. People from all backgrounds have the opportunity to achieve tremendous success in life. It is my distinct honor to commend JPP on all of his accomplishments and for his Super Bowl win.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, due to a previously scheduled doctor's appointment, I was absent from votes in the House yesterday afternoon (Tuesday, February 7th) and missed rollcall votes 40–42. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 40 (the Tonko Amendment to H.R. 3581, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act) and 41 (motion to recommit H.R. 3581), and "no" on rollcall vote 42 (final passage of H.R. 3581).

COMMENDATION OF ALESCIA MARABOUSHONTRELL HOLLOWELL

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alescia Maraboushontrell Hollowell for her scholastic achievement, community service, and being named Miss Black Michigan USA 2012.

Ms. Hollowell, a native Detroiter, served as class vice-president and graduated magna cum laude from Cass Technical High School in 2005. While a student at Michigan State University, Ms. Hollowell was a Ronald McNair Scholar, peer mentor, and Dance Team member. Ms. Hollowell made the Dean's List and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science—Health Studies. Currently, Ms. Hollowell is a full-time graduate student at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health.

As Miss Black Michigan USA 2012, Ms. Hollowell works with girls to address issues of body image, self-esteem, and teenage obesity.

Ms. Hollowell's scholastic achievement and belief that education is the key to lifelong growth and empowerment is inspiring to young women in Metro Detroit and throughout our nation.

Ms. Hollowell's passion for public service is evident. It is with great honor that I recognize Ms. Hollowell and wish her the best in her career and at the Miss Black USA 2012 pageant.

IN HONOR OF HOLLY BORG

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Holly Borg of Santa Cruz has just been named one of the top honorees in California by the 2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Borg is being recognized for founding her school's Interact Club and serving as the Governor of Interact's District Council. Under Holly's leadership, the district raised more than $100,000 to support ShelterBox International, an organization that provides long-term shelter for families affected by disaster.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions that these young citizens have made. Youth volunteers like Ms. Borg are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 17 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Ms. Borg should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I heartily applaud Ms. Borg for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others.

CELEBRATING THE MURRAY CITY LIBRARY CENTENNIAL

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Murray City Library, which is celebrating its centennial this year. As in many communities throughout the state of Utah, Murray City's library began as an effort of local volunteers wishing to promote the value of reading, literacy, education, and self-improvement to its residents.

For many years prior to 1912, the Murray City Women's Club operated a library and reading room available to the entire community. On May 7, 1912, the Murray City Mayor and Commission voted to accept the Women's Club donation of its book collection and to set aside a library fund to establish, operate, and maintain a free public library. The vision of these citizens and their elected officials created an institution that has served the community with distinction since 1912.

Over the course of the century that followed, the Murray Library continued to grow and promote its core values of providing friendly, responsive, accountable, respectful, and inclusive service to its community. It is now locally governed by a dedicated volunteer Board of Trustees that encourages everyone to celebrate the Library's past, present, and future. The Murray City Women's Club and the citizens' group Friends of the Library continue to support and promote a strong and independent library where the community can gather and share common interests and concerns.

The Murray City Library, like all of Utah's public libraries, plays a critical role in providing our citizens with the information they need to live, learn, and thrive in our society. I would therefore like to celebrate the one hundred years of community service provided by the Murray Library and look forward to another one hundred years of excellence.

COROLLA WILD HORSES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 306, the Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act. This bill is a responsible and well-studied solution to the on-going debate regarding wild horse populations. Generally, when we discuss wild horse populations we are trying to find answers on how to curb the rapidity of herd growth. Yet today we are here attempting to support the expansion of the dwindling Colonial Spanish Mustangs that roam on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

These graceful and social wild animals have captured the hearts and minds of Americans for hundreds of years. They are stunning to watch as they roam free on public lands and remain an historical national treasure. It is imperative that we protect and ensure a viable future for the Corolla wild horse population.

Currently, the Corolla wild horses are at risk of being reduced to a herd of 60 horses. According to scientific research led by Texas A&M University's Dr. Gus Cothran, a herd of horses that small is unsustainable because it lacks sufficient genetic diversity. A healthy population for the herd would be in the range of 110 to 130 horses. H.R. 306 takes heed of this warning and ensures that steps to responsibly increase the herd population are taken without affecting the other endangered species and refuge lands in the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge.

In the past, I have advocated for significant changes to current herd management practices to ensure humane and responsible population management on public lands. Such concerns are shared by the public and Members of Congress alike. I support this bill and will continue to work to ensure that wild horse populations are protected.

TRIBUTE TO GARY WILLIAMS

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, as the representative of the Sixth District of Maryland and a proud graduate of the University of Maryland, I commend your attention to the University of Maryland's recently retired mens' basketball coach, Gary Williams.

Gary Williams started for three years and was team captain of the Terps during his senior year at the University of Maryland before he graduated in 1968. As a graduate student in 1969, he began his coaching career at the University of Maryland.

After great success as a coach at other colleges, Gary Williams leaped at the chance to be the Terp's head coach in 1989 though the team was battered by setbacks. Fighting back tears at his first news conference, Gary explained, "I never thought I'd have the opportunity to come back and coach at Maryland because . . . you very rarely get the opportunity to do that."

Only one other coach in history engineered a greater win-loss turnaround during his first year than Gary Williams at UMD. Gary is one of only seven college basketball coaches since 1980 to guide his alma mater to the Final Four and the first since 1974 to lead his alma mater to a national title—which he did in 2002. Gary Williams also led his teams to seven victories over top-ranked opponents—more than any other coach in history. Though retired as a coach, Gary Williams is continuing to work at the University of Maryland.

Gary Williams, thank you. Your loyalty to our beloved University of Maryland, your integrity, and your example of dedication to the pursuit of excellence on and off the basketball court sets an example that all Americans can be proud of and should emulate.