

and service, and I am pleased to congratulate the parish on reaching this impressive milestone.

As the Archer Heights community grew in the 1920s, George Cardinal Mundelein of the Archdiocese of Chicago recognized the need for a new Catholic parish in the area, and on June 8, 1928, St. Richard Parish was established.

While services were temporarily held in a storefront, men from the parish built a church on Kostner Avenue. This type of hard work and commitment has been a hallmark of the church's parishioners ever since. In 1947 St. Richard Parish School was opened and to this day provides an outstanding Catholic education for children in Archer Heights. Today, the members of St. Richard Parish continue their dedication to the community, building meeting rooms and a new parish center to provide a safe environment for area children and a focal point for the community.

From their first pastor, Reverend Horace Wellman, to their current pastor, Father Thomas Bernas, St. Richard's diverse group of parishioners continue to enrich the lives of their fellow citizens by providing the community with outreach programs, a strong school, and an unwavering commitment to their faith.

It is with great honor and privilege that I recognize the 80th anniversary of St. Richard Parish, which continues to meet the needs of parishioners and the community through liturgies, programs, and services. The parish offers spiritual direction, hope, and compassion to all of its members. I am proud to have in the Third District of Illinois such a vibrant example of the values and good works that can be provided by a church with outstanding leadership and committed parishioners. May these first 80 years be only the beginning.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, on roll call No. 460, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SERGEANT WALTER J. MORRIS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give homage to one of America's forgotten heroes, Sergeant Walter J. Morris, the first African-American U.S. Army paratrooper and a member of the 555 Parachute Infantry Battalion or "Triple Nickels". The Triple Nickels succeeded in becoming the Nation's first African-American parachute infantry battalion and the first African-American unit to be integrated into the mainstream U.S. Army during World War II.

Sergeant Morris is a pioneer who blazed a trail that many African-American paratroopers proudly follow today. This wasn't an easy ac-

complishment in a totally segregated army. The U.S. Army had a tradition of relegating Blacks to menial jobs with very little chance for advancement. Sergeant Morris routinely required his soldier to exercise and do calisthenics after the White soldiers left the field; this led to increased stamina and confidence in the Black soldiers. These exercises led to the creation of a "test" company of Black soldiers. The Black soldiers under Sergeant Morris' leadership were so successful that the company soon became the now famous "555 Parachute Infantry Battalion". Sergeant Morris was masterful in instilling pride and a sense of accomplishments in the men he led. His efforts led to the diversity we see in the military today.

His efforts are even more impressive when you fully consider the hardships and indignities Black soldiers had to endure. As a proud Black sergeant, Sergeant Morris, with polished boots and paratrooper wings, still had to use the "colored" toilets and drinking fountains, sit in segregated sections of theaters, go out of his way to avoid confrontations with racist police and was denied entry into the post's officers' club.

After his military service, Sergeant Morris continued to live his civilian life with distinction. In keeping with his pioneering spirit, in 1968, he became the first African-American bricklayer foreman in the city of New York with the Planet Construction Company. This accomplishment was another for Sergeant Morris on the path of opening additional doors historically closed to African-Americans. In 1973, he became the first African-American construction supervisor in the city of New York, working for the Bedford-Stuyvesant Corporation in Brooklyn until his retirement in 1983.

Sergeant Morris is truly a pioneer and has led a very distinguished life. His work to help end the color barrier in the U.S. Army and his fight to have the accomplishments of Black soldiers recognized paved the way for future generations to serve in an integrated U.S. Army. His legacy also includes being the proud father of Patricia Worthy of Washington, DC, and Crystal Poole of St. Petersburg, FL.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the lifelong accomplishments of Sergeant Walter J. Morris and his relentless pursuit to create new opportunities for African-Americans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT MONDAVI

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 365, a resolution celebrating the accomplished life and enduring legacy of Robert Mondavi, whose vision helped propel California winemakers as leaders in the international wine market.

Robert Mondavi was born to a family of Italian immigrants on June 18, 1913. In 1923, his father moved the family to Lodi, California, to pursue an interest in the grape business. Following in his father's footsteps, a young Robert Mondavi began working at Sunny St. Helena Winery in the 1930s, and then later at

Charles Krug Winery after his father had purchased the business.

Less than three decades later, Mr. Mondavi had founded the Robert Mondavi Winery to fulfill his vision of developing world-class Napa Valley wines. He later went on to establish the first French-American wine venture, one of many international collaborations. These efforts helped to drive the Mondavi name to be synonymous with premier California wines.

However, Mr. Mondavi's accomplishments were not limited to the wine industry. His philanthropic and charitable contributions to the community, including founding the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science at the University of California at Davis, the Robert and Magrit Mondavi Center for Performing Arts at UC Davis, the Napa Valley Wine Auction, which has raised millions of dollars for local charities, and his tireless efforts for the conservation of American farmlands all have left an indelible impact on our country.

Mr. Mondavi's bold innovations laid the foundations for many of the wine growers in my Congressional District. His efforts contributed to the success of these wineries now enjoy as one of the world's pre-eminent wine making regions. Mr. Speaker, Robert Mondavi's life and leadership should be applauded, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert Mondavi by passing this important resolution.

ADA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, as a co-sponsor of H.R. 3195, the ADA Amendments Act, I rise in strong support of the bill.

One of the most fundamental principles of our great nation is that all people, regardless of color, gender, or ability have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The ADA was passed to further this principle, and to ensure equal opportunity and access for individuals with disabilities.

When Congress passed the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, it was intended to be interpreted broadly in order to protect the rights of all individuals, regardless of ability.

Sadly, the Supreme Court ignored these intentions.

Over the last ten years, the Supreme Court has ruled that those who use mitigating measures such as medication or eyeglasses to manage their disabilities are not "disabled enough" to qualify for relief under the ADA.

Under the Court's ruling, people with conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, heart disease, cancer, and mental illness are repeatedly denied employment based on their disability, only to be denied relief for not being disabled.

This simply makes no sense.

The ADA Amendments Act will restore the original intent behind the ADA, and clarify the definition of disability to prevent future mistakes by the courts.

Americans with disabilities have been denied their civil rights for too long.

The ADA Amendments Act will restore these rights, and help protect people with disabilities from future discrimination.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 3195.

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO
SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6307 a bill that makes a number of critical changes to the child welfare system to better connect children in foster care with the services, healthcare and education programs they need.

This bill includes legislation I introduced earlier this year which would provide tribes with the same direct access to federal funding for foster care and adoption services that states currently receive. Under current law, funds under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act cannot go directly to tribes, leaving Indian and Alaska Native children living on tribal lands without direct access to services which are an entitlement to all other children in similar circumstances. While most tribes provide some level of basic foster care or permanency services, they are not able to provide the comprehensive level of services that children under state custody receive via Title IV-E.

My legislation, which has been included in this bill, would remedy this situation by providing equity to Native American children who are in need of foster care and adoptive services. It would do this by allowing tribes to apply to the Department of Health and Human Services to directly administer Title IV-E foster care and adoption programs.

This legislation is supported by many child welfare organizations including Child Welfare League of America, the North American Council on Adoptable Children, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Public Human Services Association as well as numerous tribes and tribal organizations.

I urge you to support H.R. 6307 to make sure that all children in foster care have a better chance at success in school and the workforce.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF BLACK MUSIC MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H. Con. Res. 372, a resolution I introduced honoring June as Black Music Month. This bill honors the outstanding contributions that African American singers, composers, producers, and musicians have made to the United States and the world.

This resolution expresses our appreciation for and the value of the contributions of African Americans to various genres of music. The roll call of African Americans who have contributed to the uniquely American born but internationally acclaimed mode of music is stellar and stunning. This music, often created

against incredible odds, has served as a chronicle of our time and enriches our Nation.

Civil rights demonstrators often marched to the cadence of “People Get Ready” or the numerous gospel or spiritual songs created in the fields by slaves. One of the most beloved gospel songs of all time is “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” by Hall of Fame composer and writer Thomas Dorsey. The music of African Americans is the music of America, and has historically transcended social, economic and racial barriers to unite people of all backgrounds. Young America danced to the rhythm of the sound that emanated from Stax Records of Memphis, Chess Records of Chicago, and from my home town of Detroit, Michigan, through Motown.

Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, The Four Tops, Diana Ross and the Supremes, Jackie Wilson, Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, Anita Baker, and The Temptations are just a few of the tremendously talented artists that hail from the great city of Detroit. Detroit is the also the birthplace of music mogul Berry Gordy’s great Motown empire. Motown ushered in a new wave of talent and music across the world. The Motown Sound was brilliantly and meticulously crafted in what is now Hitsville, USA, the original Motown studio located in my district. The impeccable standards of excellence in craftsmanship set Motown and Detroit apart as trailblazers in several musical genres, as recognized through their numerous Grammy Awards, NAACP Awards and other accolades. Motown did far more than produce music. It broke substantial barriers to help to unite the world across race, class and gender lines.

Although Motown has received the most international acclaim for the music produced during the infamous Motown era that spanned decades, Detroiters have also made other tremendous contributions to the musical world. The historical Black Bottom district was a hub for big bands and legendary jazz artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie and Duke Ellington. Detroit is also well known for its immense contributions to gospel music. Reverend C.L. Franklin, Della Reese, The Winans and the Clarke Sisters all have roots in the City of Detroit.

Detroit’s copious musical history and myriad of noteworthy, award-winning contributions have instilled a great sense of pride in all of its citizens and, hopefully, all Americans. Take some time during the month of June to exhibit said pride and honor all those Black artists that made indelible contributions to the soundtrack of our lives. Give honor to whom honor is due. Join me in spending this month immersing yourself and your loved ones of all ages in the rich array of music that African-Americans have contributed to our great Nation. I encourage all Americans to utilize the celebrations to honor the men and women who have created some of the most influential music our Nation has ever produced. I also want to honor the radio stations and the DJs, like Frankie Darcell, that play this timeless and wonderful music. As we spend time recognizing the contributions of these artists, let us remember that this music is not just African-American music. This music is American music—an integral part of all Americans’ heritage.

NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of National Homeownership Month. This month marks the 40th anniversary of the landmark 1968 Fair Housing Act, which opened the dialogue of equal homeowner opportunities and growth. The National Homeownership Month continues with the same principles by promoting the very core of American values of fairness, opportunity, and growth.

National Homeownership Month reflects the importance of homeownership and the American dream. For most Americans, owning their own home will be their largest and most significant financial investment. It represents security, builds neighborhood pride, and is essential in creating positive productive communities.

National Homeownership Month focuses on creating affordable housing opportunities for all and economy sustainability. Home affordability and financial education is the key to overcoming the housing crisis and promoting good housing practices and policies. Financial education not only directly benefits American families, but, in turn, helps to ensure a robust and strong economy.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we continue to empower people of all races, economic status, and backgrounds who desire to own their own home. It is a valuable stabilizer for both families and communities.

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO
SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6307, the Fostering Connections to Success Act of 2008.

First, let me thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) for their leadership and bipartisanship in crafting this effort to assist children and families in our Nation’s child welfare system.

Madam Speaker, young people in the child welfare system have done nothing wrong. They are victims of abuse and neglect. H.R. 6307 will provide Federal support for kinship care, increase adoption incentives, and provide assistance for foster youth up to age 21. This bill opens the door by addressing many issues facing children in foster care and those who care for them.

I am particularly proud that our Subcommittee Chairman, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) shared the words of my constituent, Mr. Anthony Reeves, a former foster care youth about the importance of making these changes. I am honored to have another outstanding young woman and former foster care youth from Georgia,