

26,000 attending members of the 2008 Centennial Boulé to their founding place of Washington, DC.

PLANO WEST BASEBALL CAP-
TURES NATIONAL CHAMPS
TITLE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, recently I congratulated the new high school baseball national championship team—Plano West Senior High School.

I also want to recognize additional people who contributed to the Wolves. Coaches: Greg Pierce, Assistant Coach; Greg Coutermarsh, Assistant Coach; Denny Garver, Assistant Coach. Players: Dustin Ellis; Sam Roberson; Ronnie Cooper—Student Manager; Karen Clark—Bat boy.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
175TH ANNIVERSARY OF SALEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Salem Lutheran Church is celebrating its 175th anniversary; and

Whereas, the congregation of Salem Lutheran continue to be active, enthusiastic members of our community; and

Whereas, the 175th anniversary of Salem Lutheran Church has drawn new and old congregation members to Evans Creek, Ohio to celebrate the life of their church: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Salem Lutheran Church and its congregation for their unwavering commitment, dedication and contributions to their community and country in recognition of their 175 years.

HONORING THE NEIGHBORHOOD
REVITALIZATION TAX CREDIT
PROGRAM

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

MR. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the achievements of the Neighbor Revitalization Tax Credit Program in New Jersey. This program allows New Jersey Corporations to allocate State corporate tax dollars to specific and approved nonprofit programs that revitalize a community.

Sanofi-Aventis pharmaceuticals took advantage of this program and dedicated \$1 million of their State corporate tax dollars to the Unity Square project. This project will acquire and develop 11 housing units for New Brunswick residents.

In addition to subsidizing the new housing, a portion of the funds will also be used to hire a nurse practitioner and a registered nurse to work extended hours at a local health clinic. The extended hours will enable the clinic to serve an additional 400 to 500 patients a year who would otherwise not receive medical care.

It is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Sanofi-Aventis, New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill, and the State of New Jersey for their dedication and creativity addressing unmet housing and medical needs.

PROMOTING HOMEOWNERSHIP AND
FAIR LENDING PRACTICES FOR
ALL AMERICANS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution calling on Congress to support the goal of increased and sustainable homeownership in the United States. It is absolutely vital that Congress recommit itself to the importance of homeownership programs, fair lending laws, and fair housing laws in achieving the goal of homeownership.

My legislation has been updated from its previous introduction as H. Con. Res. 107 of the 109th Congress to reflect the current status of the housing market and the enduring need to improve access to homeownership. Once again, this resolution would put Congress on record recognizing fair lending and housing laws enacted to prevent and combat discriminatory practices which undermine homeownership efforts for all Americans.

Today, the current foreclosure crisis is a major stumbling block on the road to homeownership. Many are finding it increasingly difficult to achieve the American Dream of homeownership, which was beyond reach even before the emergence of our current crisis. When it comes to the health and vitality of America's communities, affordable housing is key. Congress has a responsibility to foster and promote an active, growing, and fair housing market in light of the significant stress this market experienced in 2007 and 2008. Most Americans' primary investment is in their home, and homeownership is the most common way for families to build and pass on wealth from one generation to another.

This resolution recognizes how important the establishment of homeownership programs and fair lending and housing laws have been to equalizing access to homeownership for all Americans. In particular, eliminating the disparities in homeownership rates between white families and minority families continues to be a goal of critical importance. In 2008, the homeownership rate for white Americans was 72 percent, but the rate was only 47.2 percent for African Americans and 49.7 percent for Hispanic Americans. With almost 4,000,000 fair housing violations occurring annually, we must continue to support efforts aimed at ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to own a home.

This resolution also recognizes the detriment of predatory lending practices, which principally occur in the subprime market, and

their contribution to the housing market's worst slump in 16 years. As many as 2 million Americans will see their mortgage rates increase in the next 2 years. We must address the plight of borrowers victimized by predatory lenders and high priced mortgage alternatives by advocating consumer protections against abusive practices.

Madam Speaker, I first introduced this legislation with a number of my colleagues in 2005 and eventually garnered the support of 31 co-sponsors. To once again express the commitment of Congress to promoting homeownership, I have made a few key updates to this legislation. They reflect the current status of the housing market marred by the residual impacts of predatory lending practices, primarily in the sub-prime loan market. This legislation has also been updated to recognize specific initiatives to stem the rise of foreclosures.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friends who have joined me today to introduce this legislation, as well as the National Fair Housing Alliance, Fair Housing Center of the Greater Palm Beaches, and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, all of which have endorsed the resolution. I encourage my colleagues to support this necessary legislation and look forward to its expedient passage.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Special Olympics on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary. Special Olympics is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition.

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for athletes. In addition, every two years, athletes from all over the world come together to compete in the Special Olympics World Games. The United States and the State of Idaho are proud and honored to host the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games. This event will attract more than 3,000 athletes from over 100 nations to compete in seven Winter Olympic-type sporting events. This will be the largest multi-sport event ever held in the State of Idaho.

On July 23, 2007, my colleagues in the House of Representatives and I unanimously passed a resolution commending Idaho on winning the bid to host the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games. Among other things, this resolution expresses Congress's support for the 2009 Games, congratulates Idaho as the host of the Games, and applauds the goals of the Special Olympics to enrich the lives of people with intellectual disabilities through sports.

Madam Speaker, I have been privileged to work closely with Special Olympics and its staff both in Idaho and Washington, DC. I would like to commend the organization for the great work that it is doing on behalf of the thousands of Special Olympians throughout