

On Saturday, October 17th, the museum will hosted an all day celebration and open house to mark the anniversary as well as the opening of El Museo's newly renovated facility. Two new exhibitions will be on display, one of which highlights four decades of El Museo's permanent collection. And to dramatize El Museo's impact on the cultural life of New York City, the Empire State Building was illuminated in the museum's signature mango-yellow color for the entire weekend, so the city as a whole could share in this momentous re-opening.

Madam Speaker, from humble beginnings in East Harlem's Puerto Rican community, this landmark of learning and wonder has emerged as a destination for people from all over the world. They come for many reasons: for the history that is taught, for the remarkable work on display, and, not the least of all, people come to El Museo to feel connected—connected to the past and the future of the Latino diaspora in this great international city. El Museo's holdings and exhibitions are a gift to all New Yorkers and to the world, and for this reason I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 40th Anniversary of El Museo del Barrio.

RECOGNIZING THE JACOB MICHAEL DAVIS FOUNDATION 4TH ANNUAL EVENT

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Jacob Michael Davis Foundation located in Macomb County, Michigan. This non-profit organization was created in the loving memory of 7-year old Jacob Michael Davis, who sadly passed away in 2005 after a hard fought battle with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

The organization will be hosting its 4th Annual Banquet and Fundraiser on November 14th in Shelby Township, so I want to highlight the great work the foundation has performed over the few short years since its inception.

The foundation has carried forward Jacob's legacy—his giving spirit and his unique ability to comfort other young patients while he himself was seeking medical treatment. The foundation has also picked up his torch of hope as it continues to spread his light of compassion and pass his courage on to other families who unfortunately have had to cope with childhood cancer. Although based in the State of Michigan, the Jacob Michael Davis Foundation has extended its helping hand across this great nation, from coast to coast and places in between.

The effects of any childhood illness can be devastating on a family. The emotional and financial distress can leave a mother and father feeling like they have no options, and sometimes even worse with a negative outlook on the future. With so many variables to deal with, families can easily become overwhelmed and lose focus of the primary objective—the care, treatment and recovery of the child.

But these fears and unknowns are exactly the reason why the Jacob Michael Davis Foundation was created. The foundation is a source of comfort to assist families with those

unexpected financial burdens not necessarily covered by insurance. For example—travel and temporary housing expenses, medical equipment, mental health programs, academic and school tutoring support, post-treatment survivorship programs and bereavement counseling. These are just a few of the economic barriers that the foundation seeks to remove.

The Foundation's goal is to help families keep their energies focused on the recovery and the healing of the child. Amazingly, the staff, volunteers and board members of the Jacob Michael Davis Foundation do not accept any form of monetary compensation, ensuring that every possible cent is spent to assist those families in need. This certainly speaks volumes about the people who believe in the foundation's mission and the remarkable work they have achieved, continue to achieve and hope to achieve in the future. It certainly is my honor to commend all the volunteers for their charitable and dedicated work.

Furthermore, I am pleased to announce that last month I added my name as a cosponsor to H.R. 1230 which was introduced by my colleague, Representative Doris Matsui, from California. This legislation seeks to establish a National Acquired Bone Marrow Failure Disease Registry and authorize research on bone marrow diseases. I encourage other Members to support this bill and join in the fight to defeat this disease.

In conclusion, I offer my support to the Jacob Michael Davis Foundation on this special occasion. I wish everyone in attendance all the best and hope you have a very successful evening. You are helping to sustain a wonderful cause. I know that in memory of Jacob you will never lose faith in your mission and your passion will be forever alive.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INSPECTOR GENERAL AUTHORITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the "Department of Justice Inspector General Authority Improvement Act of 2009." This Act will authorize the Department of Justice Inspector General to investigate attorney misconduct within the Department of Justice.

Whether we have a Democratic or Republican administration, I believe we should have strong and vigorous oversight of the Department of Justice. At present, however, the Department of Justice Inspector General is limited in his ability to investigate allegations of misconduct. Instead, present law, to the surprise of many, requires that all allegations of wrongdoing by the Department of Justice attorneys be investigated not by the Inspector General, but by the department's Office of Professional Responsibility.

In contrast with the statutorily independent Inspector General, the Office of Professional Responsibility is supervised by the Attorney General. It is absolutely contrary to human experience to believe that the counsel to the Office of Professional Responsibility can aggressively and independently investigate high level officials in the department when the Attorney

General himself has authority over such investigation.

This limitation on authority does not exist for any other Inspector General of other agencies. Accordingly, the Department's Inspector General should have the same power Inspector Generals have throughout the government to investigate any and all allegations of wrongdoing that arise in their department.

In the last Congress, I offered this provision as an Amendment to H.R. 924, the Improving Government Accountability Act. It passed the House, however, it was stripped from the final Bill when the measure went to the Senate. I am introducing this legislation again today because I believe that transparency and vigorous oversight are essential to maintain the checks and balances of our constitutional system.

As documented in my recently released report, "Reining in the Imperial Presidency: Lessons and Recommendations Relating to the presidency of George W. Bush," there was serious misconduct on the part of Department of Justice attorneys, including alleged misconduct by high level politically appointed attorneys, in connection with hiring attorneys for the Civil Rights Division or in other components of the Department. However, due to the unique limitations on his power, it was difficult for the Inspector General to fully investigate these allegations. I certainly trust those sorts of abuses are unlikely to recur in this Administration.

This legislation will help prevent future abuses and politicization of the Department of Justice by improving the Inspector General's tools to effectively carry out his mission. Such vigorous oversight is a matter of good government, regardless of the political party in power.

HONORING PETE GEREN, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AND ARMY SECRETARY

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an extraordinary public servant, Pete Geren, who recently stepped down as Secretary of the Army. I am incredibly privileged to call Mr. Geren a close friend, and I am so happy to celebrate this man's distinguished career and service.

Mr. Geren hails from Fort Worth, Texas, and after receiving a Bachelor's Degree and a Law Degree from the University of Texas, he worked as an aide to Senator Lloyd Bentsen. In 1989, he was elected to represent the 12th District of Texas in the United States House of Representatives and would serve in that capacity for four terms. In 2001, Mr. Geren took a position with the Department of Defense as Special Assistant to the Defense Secretary, and later served brief periods as acting Air Force Secretary and Undersecretary of the Army before being appointed to Secretary of the Army in 2007.

Throughout his career, Mr. Geren has worked diligently to represent the best interests of the people he serves, including the citizens of the 12th District of Texas and the soldiers in our armed forces. When he took over

the position as Secretary of the Army, he was faced with numerous challenges that had left the reputation of that organization in low esteem. However, through hard work and determination, he has helped to repair the Army's standing and has placed it on a positive track for the future.

Madam Speaker, Pete Geren is a dutiful public servant, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring his achievements in Congress and at the Department of Defense.

TRIBUTE TO WALID J. BADDOURA,  
MD

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Dr. Walid J. Baddoura, who was recognized with the 2009 Kendrick P. Lance, MD Distinguished Physician Award, on October 17, 2009 for his distinguished service in the field of medicine.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for his story truly embodies the American Dream.

Dr. Baddoura serves as the President of the Medical Staff of St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson, New Jersey. He is also the Program Director of the Gastroenterology Fellowship Program. His dedication to the medical profession is also evidenced in his leadership at the Seton Hall University School of Health and Medical Services, where he serves as Chief of the Gastroenterology Division, and the Program Director for its Gastroenterology Fellowship as well.

Dr. Baddoura embarked on his journey into the field of medicine at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. Upon his graduation in 1976, he left Lebanon for New Jersey, and first joined the St. Joseph's family as a resident in Internal Medicine. He later left New Jersey for Connecticut, where he pursued a fellowship at the Yale-affiliated Gastroenterology Program in Waterbury and New Haven. He is board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology.

He returned to St. Joseph's and since then has taken an active role in the education of students, residents and fellows. In 1986 he was appointed the Chief of the Gastroenterology Division, and since 1992, has held this position along with the aforementioned directorship at Seton Hall University School of Health and Medical Services. He also maintains a private practice in Clifton.

At St. Joseph's, Dr. Baddoura serves on many committees and has been on the Medical Board for several years, as a member and also as an officer. He has represented St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center on the Board of Trustees of the Passaic County Medical Society. This past June, the Northern New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America honored him with the Distinguished Health Care Service Award. Dr. Baddoura resides in Pompton Plains and is the proud uncle of six nieces and nephews.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing

compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of exceptional individuals like Dr. Baddoura.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Dr. Baddoura's family and friends, all those who have been helped by him, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Dr. Walid J. Baddoura to his community.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 2009

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. In observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, I express my appreciation to the nearly 55 million Americans with disabilities who have made significant contributions to the American workforce.

As a proud sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act, I salute this milestone legislation and other comprehensive efforts to create equal access to employment opportunities.

I am proud of efforts like AbilityOne, a laudable, federally-managed program that is the largest source of employment for the blind and those with severe disabilities. I was also a proud co-sponsor of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that is providing vital stimulus dollars to programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to help educate disabled children and youth.

This October, as we rededicate ourselves to increasing employment opportunities for disabled Americans, let us also honor the value, skills and contributions individuals with disabilities have made to the American workforce.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. LAMAR DENKINS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House to pay recognition to an important day in the lives of two constituents and dear friends of mine, Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Denkins.

On October 25, 2009, Lamar and Joyce Denkins will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Lamar was born on March 12, 1935, and his wife, Joyce, was born on October 4, 1938.

Lamar and Joyce met while working at Anniston National Bank in Anniston, Alabama. They married on October 25, 1959, at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church.

Over the years, Lamar and Joyce have been blessed with two children, Susan and Jeffrey, as well as two grandchildren. Lamar has spent his life as a public servant as a minister and working for two different Members of Congress. He also served proudly in the Armed Forces.

On Sunday, October 25th, the couple along with their family and friends will celebrate their anniversary at West Weaver Baptist Church.

I would like to congratulate my friends, Lamar and Joyce, for reaching this important milestone in their lives. They are shining examples of love and dedication for us all, and I wish them and their family all the best at this important occasion.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF JUDGE WILLIAM WAYNE JUSTICE

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Judge William Wayne Justice who passed away on October 13, 2009 at the age of 89.

Judge Justice was one of the most remarkable judges in Texas history. Born in Athens, Texas on February 25, 1920, Justice's father actively encouraged him to pursue a career in law from a young age. The younger Justice went on to receive both an undergraduate and a law degree from the University of Texas before spending roughly four years in the army during World War II. Upon his return to the United States, he took up work at his father's law practice in Athens, and in 1961, he was selected by President Kennedy to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas. In 1968, Justice was appointed by President Johnson to be a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Judge Justice served in that capacity for more than 40 years and gave countless rulings that dramatically affected the way the State of Texas educated children, treated prisoners, and housed its poorest citizens. With an unwavering regard for the human condition, Justice ordered the integration of public housing, forbade inhumane treatment in prisons and the juvenile justice system, and upheld rulings that caused Texas to desegregate its schools. At a time when many of these decisions were unpopular, Justice made the hard choices and helped carry Texas into the modern era because of them.

Madam Speaker, I am incredibly grateful for the decisions and sacrifices Judge Justice made for the people of Texas and the entire country. I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring and remembering this courageous sentinel who helped so many of our nation's most distressed citizens.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance who celebrated, their 75th Anniversary on October 17th. Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance was originally founded in 1934 to cater to the unique insurance needs of our agriculture community. It has since expanded to provide