

learning, impulse control, stress reactivity, and more. Repeated drug exposure “resets” these circuits toward compulsive behavior so that a person’s control over the desire to seek and use drugs is compromised, despite devastating consequences.

Over the course of the last three decades, the scientific and medical communities have made amazing strides in the understanding and treatment of drug abuse and addiction. Combined biological, epidemiological, and social science discoveries have given us a detailed understanding of the risks, mechanisms, and consequences of drug abuse and addiction. Today, the rate of cigarette smoking in youth is at its lowest recorded point since tracking of teen drug use and attitudes began in 1975.

Marijuana use has shown a consistent decline since the mid-1990s, although that trend has flattened in recent years; a study released last month by NIDA found that daily use of marijuana among America’s youth is making a bold comeback—surpassing tobacco use.

Mr. Speaker, recent scientific advances have revolutionized our understanding of addiction as a chronic, relapsing, disease and not a moral failure. According to the NIDA scientists have now identified the specific sites of action in the brain where every major drug of abuse has its initial effects, including opiates, methamphetamine, cocaine, tobacco, and marijuana. Brain imaging technology has demonstrated that addiction is a brain disease by delineating profound disruptions in the specific brain circuits affected by addiction. In-depth, NIH-supported studies of chronic drug exposure confirmed that by causing abnormal regulation of key brain receptor, addictive drugs modify the strength of connections between neurons. The scientific knowledge we have accumulated will be used to transform the way we treat addiction and how we prevent drug abuse and its escalation to addiction. Neuroscientists are working to identify the genetic and environmental factors that put people at risk. For instance, genes account for about 50 percent of a person’s risk of becoming addicted, and environmental factors influence the effect of these genes. Progress in genetics research will lead to more refined prevention and treatment interventions targeted to individual risk or to modifiable environmental influences.

Now, it’s time for our policies to catch up with the research findings. We have to understand that addiction is a treatable disease requiring continuing care and multifaceted approaches, like diabetes, or heart and respiratory disease. We have to continue to support the research advancements by investing in a strong, sustainable research funding platform for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) that will bring us further in understanding and treating drug abuse and addiction. Failure to properly address this growing problem will only lead to more lives ruined or extinguished by drugs, more families broken by abuse, and more taxpayer money squandered on ineffective programs.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brain Awareness Week, which exposes our constituents to the wonders and mysteries of the brain. I also ask that you join me in continuing to support basic research funded through the NIH and NSF that provides a foundation for new addiction treat-

ments and drug abuse prevention methods that have an enormous impact on the lives of millions of Americans.

ROTA CULTURAL AND NATURAL
RESOURCES STUDY ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act. The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating certain areas of prehistoric, historic, and natural significance on the island of Rota in the Northern Mariana Islands as a unit of the National Park System.

Rota is truly a “jewel,” as the gentlewoman from California, Ms. NAPOLITANO, called the island at last year’s hearing on this same bill. National Park Service representatives who conducted a reconnaissance survey there in 2004 reported that Rota has the best-preserved village sites of the ancient Chamorro people and that Rota’s native limestone forests provide habitat to locally and federally protected, rare bird species.

The House of Representatives approved the Rota Park study under suspension of the rules in July last year. There was no objection or controversy. But, unfortunately, the other body did not have time on its agenda to act before the 111th Congress ended.

Now, I ask that we quickly restart the process of having the Park Service study the suitability and feasibility of designating parts of Rota for a national park.

There are time pressures involved. Rota is at a crossroads. Major land use changes are possible resulting from development by the U.S. military on the neighboring island of Guam. We have to know which areas on Rota can be and need to be protected, so that the people of Rota can maintain the important cultural and natural features of their island while at the same time taking advantage of opportunities for economic development.

For these reasons the leaders of Rota support the study. The Honorable Teresita Santos, Rota’s representative in the Northern Mariana Islands House of Representatives, flew to Washington, DC to speak in support of the bill at the hearing by Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oceans, Wildlife and Insular Affairs last year.

The Mayor of Rota, the Honorable Melchor Mendiola, submitted his letter for the record during last year’s consideration of the bill in the House. He, too, supported passage.

Today, I am including another letter of support for the study bill. This letter is from the Honorable Paul S. Manglona, President of the Northern Mariana Islands Senate, who represents Rota in the Senate.

And, of course, the National Park Service reconnaissance survey also recommended that the cultural and natural resources are truly of national significance and that the appropriate next step is a suitability and feasibility study.

The people of Rota have done a tremendous job over the millennia in protecting the treasures of their remarkable island. Let us

support their efforts. Let us determine whether this “jewel” should be considered by Congress for inclusion in the National Park System.

I ask that my colleagues support the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act.

THE SENATE,
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE,

Saipan, MP, March 15, 2011.

Hon. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN,
Delegate, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN, I am writing to support the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act (Act). The Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability of designating prehistoric, historic and limestone forest sites on Rota as a unit of the National Park System.

As testified to by Commonwealth Legislator Representative Teresita Santos for the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs, the Island of Rota is unique in the Marianas as the only primarily inhabited island spared fighting during World War II. Consequently, plant and animal life was spared the near total destruction similar on Saipan and Tinian.

Archaeologists describe Rota as having the most intact and numerous historic sites of any island in the Mariana Archipelago. Rota has the best examples in the Marianas of Latte houses, the ancient stone houses of the Chamorro culture. Four prehistoric sites on Rota are included in the Register of Historic Places, Monchon Archeological District, Taga Latte Stone Quarry, the Dugi Archeological Site, and the Chugai Pictograph Cave containing examples of ancient Chamorro rock art.

In addition to prehistoric sites, historic relics from the Japanese period—on the Historic Register of Historic Places—include Kohatsu Kabushiki Kaisha Sugar Mill, Japanese Coastal Defense Gun and the Japanese Hospital.

Natural resources are prevalent on Rota primarily due to its native limestone forests that provide habitat for federally endangered listed species including the Mariana crow and the Rota bridled white-eye birds, in addition to two (2) plant species endemic to Rota.

The National Park Service completed a preliminary resource assessment regarding Rota in 2005, concluding designating Rota as part of the national park system appeared to be the best way to ensure the long term protection of Rota’s pre-historic and historic natural and man-made habitat and structures. I strongly encourage you, along with the Rota Legislative Delegation, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability of designating prehistoric, historic and limestone forest sites on Rota as a unit of the National Park System.

Sincerely,

PAUL A. MANGLONA,
Senate President.

CONGRATULATING MR. RICHARD
ORNELLAS FOR HIS COMMIT-
MENT TO THE CLOSE UP WASH-
INGTON CIVIC EDUCATION PRO-
GRAM

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Ornellas, an outstanding

history and special education teacher at Molokai High School in my district. Mr. Ornellas's students are in Washington this week for the Close Up Washington Civic Education Program. The Close Up Foundation is presenting Mr. Ornellas with an award for his dedication to the program over many years.

I visited Molokai High School in 2008 for a discussion on teacher effectiveness. The group's participants shared their views that an effective teacher is one who is experienced, "helps you understand," and "makes it fun." Mr. Ornellas helped organize his Close Up students to raise funds for the trip by writing fundraising letters and selling plate lunches and food at the Molokai Hoe race. His students have even been blogging about their trip on the school website! For getting his students so excited to learn about our nation's history first-hand, I would definitely call Mr. Ornellas an effective teacher.

Mr. Ornellas is a strong supporter of this program, which gives students a first-hand experience with democracy in our nation's capital. Using the Close Up curriculum—tied to state history standards—Mr. Ornellas helps his students understand how our democracy works and inspires them to become more active in their school and community.

Over 95 percent of the program's 500,000 participants have reported that the program helped them better understand their roles as citizens.

I salute Mr. Ornellas for his dedication to providing a well-rounded civic education for his students. I am presenting him with a flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol in his honor.

Congratulations to Mr. Ornellas and the many students he has helped influence over the years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today—the 150th anniversary of the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Delta, Alabama.

The first mention of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church was on October 21, 1859. Mt. Moriah along with eight other churches met and organized what was then called the Boiling Springs Association.

According to Baptist Archives, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church was established by 1860. The First pastor was Hiram J. Hickey, First Deacon ordained was John Garrett and First Clerk was Eli Frost.

On May 3, 1890, church minutes state the previous conference minutes were destroyed by fire and could not be read. On September 1, 1890, membership consisted of 37 men and 65 women. Total funds were \$2.85, but Amazing Grace could still be heard through the church doors despite the hardships endured.

The church has been in three associations of the Southern Baptist Conference for a total of 150 years. When the Boiling Springs Association dissolved in October of 1898, after convening for 39 years, each church was granted a letter to join the Calhoun, Cleburne or Coosa River Association.

One month later 10 churches met at Ramah (now known as Delta Baptist Church) for the purpose of forming the Clay Association which Mt. Moriah became a part of. Association records show the Clay Association was founded on November 25, 1898. Mt. Moriah was recognized as one of two churches that were chartered founders of the Clay Association and were honored at the association meeting for the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of the Clay County Baptist Association in 1998. When the Clay and Carey Association voted to break joint partnership Mt. Moriah became part of the Carey Association.

The present church was erected in 1957. Mr. Earnest R. Clarke, Sr. and Mrs. Irene Sprayberry Daughterty have been members of Mt. Moriah for over 75 years. Since 1957 the church has gone through several remodeling projects and has added a fellowship hall.

I congratulate Mt. Moriah Baptist Church on their 150th anniversary and wish their congregation the best.

NATIONAL AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS (AHEC) WEEK

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our nation's Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) as we commemorate National AHEC week.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have strongly supported the expansion of the AHEC program, which was created by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train and retain a health professions workforce. Today, there are 56 AHEC programs with more than 235 centers that operate in almost every state and the District of Columbia.

The first Florida AHEC program was started in 1985 at NOVA Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Florida now has 5 program offices with 10 area health centers working in all 67 of the state's counties. These centers house 600 full-time healthcare professionals and provide more than 1.2 million hours of care to the people of Florida. They also work with over 2,000 medical, dental, nursing, and other health professions students.

The AHEC program addresses the imbalances in our healthcare system and inequities in access to and quality of healthcare. Nearly 8,000 AHEC community based training sites are located in underserved areas, including 3,500 in designated health professions shortage areas, training a workforce committed to serving underserved populations. This is accomplished by forming academic and community partnerships that link the resources of academic health centers with the needs of the communities.

AHEC has continually exceeded the Health Resources Services Administration's performance measure targets in terms of the percentage of program participants who are underrepresented minorities and from disadvantaged backgrounds; the proportion of participants that train in medically underserved communities; and the percentage of health professionals entering practice in underserved areas.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that our colleagues will join us in celebrating the goals

and ideals of the AHEC program as well as its immeasurable contributions to the advancement of healthcare in our most underserved communities. Thank you to all the AHEC professionals for a job well done.

HONORING MAJOR ROBERT CAMINA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Major Robert Camina for his dedication and contributions to the United States Army and the Army Texas National Guard.

Major Camina started his military career on November 10, 1939 in San Antonio, Texas. He joined with the Mechanized Group Troop of the 124th Cavalry of the 56th Cavalry Brigade. Major Camina originally joined to ride horses, but when WWII broke he was given overseas orders and his unit became the last Cavalry Regiment to be dismounted. During his tour in the China-Burma-India Theatre, Major Camina served as a M.G. Squad Leader and fought alongside 1st Lieutenant Jack L. Knight, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor. For his service in the tour, Major Camina received the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge.

After the war, Major Camina was discharged from military service, but rejoined in the Army Texas National Guard for 1 year. After Major Camina's military term, the U.S. Department of Agriculture hired him for the next 5 years to aid in their campaign to eradicate Hoof and Mouth Disease from Mexico. Later, Major Camina returned to Brownsville, Texas and joined the A/112th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He served in the 112th until the 49th Armored Division was activated into Federal Service by President Kennedy due to the Berlin Crisis. In 1966, Major Camina served as a Mess Steward for the next 15 years. In 1981, Major Camina retired from the Army Texas National Guard and was commissioned as a Captain in the Texas State Guard. He served as Company Commander, S-3 and S-4 in the 304th Military Police Battalion in Brownsville, Texas. He retired on October 29, 1989—almost 50 years to the date of his enlistment of the Texas National Guard.

During his time in military service, Major Camina was a highly decorated soldier. The Major received the Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Texas Outstanding Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Texas Faithful Service Medal and the Texas State Guard Service Medal. He also received many awards as a Mess Steward and helped his company win the Eisenhower Trophy twice.

Military service runs in his family, as four of his brothers also served in military branches. Armando Camina served in the United States Army, was considered for up to six Congressional Medals of Honor, and received a silver medal. Tino Camina served in the United States Navy and Ernest Camino served in the Air Force. Major Camina and his brothers fought for the United States and served to protect this great nation.