

was the founding of the Denton County African American Museum. Through her astute leadership and cooperative fundraising efforts, she enabled the restoration of the county's museums and saved taxpayers thousands of dollars. In addition to her work with the museums, she has also helped complete a series of historical photography books that commemorate Denton County, and she hopes these achievements will encourage others to remember the county's origins and history.

Mrs. Caraway has left a lasting legacy in Denton County through her work. I thank Mrs. Caraway for her service and am proud to represent her in Congress.

HONORING MS. JEANNE KUCEY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jeanne Kucey on her recent election to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, NAFCU.

Ms. Kucey has served as President and CEO of JetStream Federal Credit Union since 2009. Responsible for operations in both Miami Dade County and Puerto Rico, her extensive experience in the financial services arena, including her time with credit unions in Atlanta, Georgia and San Diego, California, will be a tremendous asset to the NAFCU board.

Not only does Ms. Kucey bring a wealth of financial management knowledge to the table, she exemplifies the community based nature of credit unions through her work with the "Marlene Ricca Empowering Workshops" which provides life skills and mentoring to local disadvantaged women. Ms. Kucey is also an active member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Kucey is a welcomed addition to the NAFCU board and will have the opportunity to make an immediate impact in her new role as recent regulatory reforms have created a particularly challenging time in the credit union community.

It is because of the hard work and dedication of Jeanne and others like her that the credit union community has been able to continue to serve its members during the tough economic times our country continues to experience.

I wish Ms. Kucey the best of luck in her new role as a member of the NAFCU Board of Directors. I look forward to working with her in this capacity and ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Jeanne on this achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 497 on July 6, 2011, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

BELARUS DEMOCRACY AND
HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 515, the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2011, which will support human rights in Belarus by encouraging the free expression of ideas among pro-democracy activists.

I would like to commend Mr. SMITH, the gentleman from New Jersey, for sponsoring this legislation and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. BERMAN, for their efforts in bringing this legislation to the floor.

Madam Speaker, Belarusians have the same right to self-government and free speech as their neighbors and through the reauthorization of assistance to their civil society, H.R. 515 will help them regain rights which have been repressed by the ruling regime.

Since he was elected as his country's first president in 1994, Aleksandr Lukashenko has steadily consolidated his power, reversing promising reforms put in place following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The CIA World Factbook describes Belarus as "a republic in name, although in fact a dictatorship." Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called it "the last true remaining dictatorship in the heart of Europe."

Belarus has been criticized for its dismal human rights record by the U.N. Security Council, the U.S. State Department, the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Council, the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

As a result of its human rights violations and a steady record of state-sponsored political repression, Belarus is subject to numerous sanctions from both the United States and the European Union. In 2004, Congress unanimously passed the Belarus Democracy Act, which authorizes assistance for political parties, non-governmental organizations, and independent media toward democratic and humanitarian reforms.

This legislation affirms that it remains in the interest of our country that Belarus returns to its rightful place among its fellow European democracies. Unfortunately, recent events validate its current designation as a rogue state. The White House released the following statement regarding its last Presidential election which saw widespread violence and voting irregularities:

The flawed December 2010 Presidential election in Belarus and its aftermath—the harsh violence against peaceful demonstrators; the continuing detention, prosecution, and imprisonment of opposition Presidential candidates and others; and the continuing repression of independent media and civil society activists—all show that the Government of Belams has taken steps backward in the development of democratic governance and respect for human rights.

Madam Speaker, the focus of H.R. 515 is on the Government of Belarus, not its people.

Many of my constituents and their families came to this country fleeing repression from totalitarian regimes. Hearing their stories, I am constantly reminded that a government which respects human rights, free speech, independent courts, and transparent elections is essential to personal liberty. As we pursue sanctions against the government of Belarus, we must provide support to the pro-democracy movement.

With H.R. 515, we will send a message that governing through fear, censorship, and the threat of violence has no place in a legitimate republic. As we mark the 235th birthday of the United States and the rights we enjoy, let us encourage those who wish to apply our principles to their own governments.

With this legislation, we support the political activists, the independent journalists, and the civil society leaders who risk so much for the good of Belarus.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 515.

CONGRATULATING CORPORAL
BURT RICHARDS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Corporal Burt Richards for being awarded the American Red Cross Community Courage Award for his work in educating the youth of today about the service of veterans.

Corporal Richards and the local chapter of the Jewish War Veterans spearheaded the campaign to close Palm Beach County schools in remembrance of Veteran's Day. While they were not successful in their efforts to close schools, they were successful in creating a new lecture series called "The Veteran Speaks," which has ensured that students in Palm Beach County are educated about our American war veterans.

I would like to congratulate Corporal Richards and the American Red Cross for the Palm Beach-Treasure Coast region for their great work on behalf of veterans and for the award. It is an honor having Corporal Richards as a constituent, and I look forward to a continued partnership in educating south Florida's youth about our veterans.

HONORING EULESS CITY SECRETARY SUSAN CRIM FOR MORE THAN 21 YEARS AS A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it my distinct pleasure to rise today to recognize Mrs. Susan Crim, a dedicated public servant who is retiring after serving more than 21 years as City Secretary for the City of Euless, TX.

Mrs. Crim was born in Woodward, OK, and is a graduate of Northwestern State University in Alva, OK, where she obtained an associates degree in applied science. She is also a graduate of the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification program, where she attained her Texas