

served in our country—on the occasion of its 4th Annual Street Soccer USA Cup that was held here in Washington, D.C. this summer.

Street Soccer USA is an effective and innovative organization which builds trust through sports to better leverage existing social services in communities across the U.S., enhancing their outcomes and tying the greater community to the issues of homelessness and poverty in a new way. Building on the basic sports platform, Street Soccer USA creates a positive community around people who are homeless, dramatically transforming their lives.

SSUSA uses team sports to deliver job and life skills training and other specialized services, ultimately connecting participants directly to jobs, education, and housing. It has a broad coalition of implementing parties in 18 cities across the United States, including the Foundation for Change in Montgomery County in my district. The program's systemic approach is designed to build trust, self-esteem, discipline, and basic financial literacy. Mentoring and goal setting practices are designed to transform lives and address barriers like drug addiction and mental instability head on.

In 2010, SSUSA launched a research initiative with four universities to examine the impact of sport based programming on marginalized populations and looking both at the impact of its 265 day a year programming and its single day events.

Since its creation in 2007, SSUSA has a history of success including 410 players placed in jobs and housing through 18 programs across the country. 92 percent of participants show a new motivation for life, and 75 percent pursue further education, address substance abuse issues, reconnect with family, or address mental health issues.

This June, members of the Montgomery County program joined over 200 athletes overcoming homelessness from 18 cities across the United States to compete alongside an estimated 500 youth, adult, and corporate team players as part of the nation's premier sport for social change event in D.C. The Cup attracted national media attention and participation from professional athletes, and involved grassroots outreach throughout the Spring and Summer. I am proud that the Montgomery County team took home a second place finish to the Street Soccer Minneapolis team during a hard-fought battle that ended in overtime penalty kicks.

Top achievers on and off the field were selected to represent the United States men's and women's teams at the 56 Nation Homeless World Cup in Paris, France in August.

Two members of the Montgomery County program, Salvador "Chamba" Matos and Alvaro Gonzales, were among the 16 chosen from 8 different cities to represent our country in Paris. Both have returned safely and are now employed, housed, and using their free time to help others who are in the situation where they once found themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of this year's participating Street Soccer USA Cup teams and the players chosen for the national teams. They are among a distinguished group of individuals dedicated to improving their lives.

I also want to recognize SSUSA's entire staff of employees and volunteers, who work so hard to strengthen their organization and help so many, and extend to them my best wishes for many successful years ahead.

They are demonstrating that ending homelessness is a team sport.

RECOGNIZING ORANGE COUNTY'S
1ST ANNUAL STAND DOWN

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly recognize the First Annual Orange County Stand Down to be held in Santa Ana, California on September 17–18, 2011. Nationally, it is estimated that one-third of the homeless population in the United States are veterans of the United States Armed Forces, many of whom face a constant battle with the effects of their time in service to our nation. There are approximately 5,000 veterans residing within the borders of Orange County that currently experience some form of homelessness during the year.

This event will create a "one-stop" environment for these homeless veterans and their families to receive basic social services such as veterans benefit assistance, mental health and substance abuse counseling, along with housing and employment placement assistance. The first Orange County Stand Down expects to serve approximately 400–500 of the county's homeless veterans and their families, many of whom have served their country valiantly in theaters of combat ranging from World War II to the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Attendees of the Stand Down will be able to receive hot showers, new clothing, hot meals and a chance to bond with their fellow veterans.

Veterans First, a community-based organization in my district that serves homeless veterans along with other community groups and government entities such as the United States Veterans Administration (VA), State of California Employment Development Department (EDD) and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the County of Orange, the American Legion, Elks Lodge, American GI Forum, the American Red Cross, and Furnishing Hope, have come together to serve a group of brave individuals who have fought for the freedoms we value and cherish.

I would like to recognize the First Annual Orange County Stand Down and commend its mission to restore honor to our homeless veterans and assist them in rebuilding their lives.

As ranking woman on the Armed Services Committee, I would like to extend best wishes of success to the First Annual Orange County Stand Down in the hopes that it will become a sustainable annual event to assist our homeless veterans until all of our heroes are no longer on the streets.

HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION
WEEK, SEPTEMBER 19–25, 2011

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important role that Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) play in educating

our nation's students. And I congratulate those institutions for their efforts as HSIs across the country celebrate National HSIs Week next week, September 19–25, 2011.

Hispanic Serving Institutions play an important role in educating many underprivileged students and helping them attain their full potential through higher education. National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week recognizes the contributions of these exemplary institutions at the forefront of service to our nation's youngest and largest ethnic population. It is significant that we pay tribute to them for their commitment to secure academic access, equity, excellence and success for every American.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions provide hope and opportunity to America's diverse communities of learners, reflecting the belief that every American should have access to a college education. While HSIs constitute less than 5 percent of America's institutions of higher education, they enroll 50 percent of all Hispanic Americans enrolled in colleges and universities.

This year also marks the 25th Anniversary or Silver Anniversary of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), an association working to improve the capacity of HSIs to help students succeed across our nation.

In honoring the many contributions of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), we recognize the critical role that HSIs play in providing quality educational opportunities to Hispanics and to all other students who attend these institutions.

Congratulations to HACU and to the nations' Hispanic Serving Institutions, and thank you for your service to our communities and your contributions to higher education.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM
DISABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF
2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2011. This bill will offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees will be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums. If federal employees elect to purchase the short-term insurance provided for in my bill and they become injured or ill because of a non-work related injury or illness, federal employees will be able to collect disability insurance benefits, for up to one year, to replace a portion of their lost income.

I decided to investigate how we could provide short-term disability insurance to federal employees after learning that many of them already buy short-term disability insurance in the private market at high individual rates. Although federal employees have good health insurance, federal health benefits do not replace lost income if employees are unable to work. And, while federal employees may have limited available sick or annual leave days, these are often insufficient to cover the costs of an employee's living expenses if he or she has to be out of work for an extended period

of time. Moreover, although there are long-term disability options for federal employees who become permanently disabled, federal employees do not qualify if they have not worked for at least 18 months. My bill does no more than put federal employees in the same position as their private sector counterparts, who have access to disability insurance at group rates. The bill will not allow participating employers to exclude persons based on pre-existing conditions. And, because of the federal government's purchasing power, the bill will provide all of these benefits at a more competitive rate than is available if the employees seek such insurance as an individual.

According to the Social Security Administration, studies indicate that a 20-year-old worker has a 30 percent chance of becoming disabled by retirement age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents, but by conditions or illnesses such as cancer or back injuries, according to the Council for Disability Awareness.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

LANDAU ENGENE MURPHY, JR.
AMERICA'S GOT TALENT WINNER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, America has voted. The Nation voted for a winning combination of humility, hard work, life-long dream, and finely tuned talent. Today, I join with my friends in Logan County and all throughout West Virginia in congratulating Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr., this year's winner of NBC Television's "America Got Talent."

Landau's journey is a true American success story. Coming from humble beginnings, he worked hard, never lost faith in his Lord, and always remained determined to pursue his dream.

I believe what Landau accomplished last night should stand as an example to every young person throughout this great Nation. He has shown them that they should always set their goals high and work until they get there, and indeed, if you should take some blows, just let the record show, you did it your way.

I send my very best to Landau, his lovely wife, Jennifer, and their family as they begin this new and exciting journey in their lives. I know that Landau remains as humble today as he was when he first took the stage at the Logan County Arts and Crafts Fair's annual talent show some years ago.

I would like to commend the Logan County Chamber of Commerce, the Hatfield and McCoy Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and Diana Barnette and all the fine folks at Fountainplace Cinema 8 in Logan for their support of our hometown hero. As we always have in West Virginia, we stand behind and support our own, and the work these organizations and individuals have done is phenomenal. Undoubtedly, their efforts were instrumental in Landau's victory.

Mr. Murphy accepted his victory with the hugs and "high fives" of his competitors, the hallmark of good sportsmanship. Throughout the weeks of competition he often spoke of his respect and compassion for, and friendship with, his opponents—a timely lesson for us all.

I hope my colleagues will congratulate all those whose talent carried them to the final weeks of a long competition. And, I thank America for recognizing a true talent in this fine son of West Virginia. Thankfully, we will be hearing a lot more from Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr., for many more years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARY YATES

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gary L. Yates for providing two decades of leadership in health philanthropy through his work at the California Wellness Foundation.

After three years at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Mr. Yates joined the Foundation as a senior program officer in 1992, was named the Interim President in 1994 and President and CEO in 1995.

Mr. Yates received his B.A. in Government from American University and his Masters in Counseling Psychology from the University of Northern Colorado. He also served in the United States Army from 1968–1970. He is a licensed marriage, family, child therapist and a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Southern California Medical School where he trains doctors, psychologists, and social workers on how to work with adolescents. In brief, he is dedicated to improving health outcomes for those most in need.

Since joining the TCWF, Mr. Yates has worked tirelessly to create, lead and support initiatives to improve health and decrease violence throughout the state of California. In 1992, he led TCWF's first proactive grantmaking program, a 10-year, \$60 million Violence Prevention Initiative. His approach to grantmaking has ensured that funds reach the right people, places, and causes, such as environmental health, violence protection, teen pregnancy prevention and women's health.

Mr. Yates' commitment to philanthropy can only be described as inexhaustible and inspirational. He also serves as a member of the board of Independent Sector and is co-chair of Voices for Philanthropy, a project of the Philanthropy Roundtable. He has previously served as the treasurer of Hispanics in Philanthropy, vice-chair of the boards of the Council on Foundations and Independent Sector, and chair of the boards of Grantmakers in Health, the Foundation Consortium, and Southern California Grantmakers.

During his time at TCWF, Mr. Yates has received many prestigious awards and honors, and this fall he will be recognized by the Center for Community Health and Well-Being, the California Primary Care Association and the National Hispanic Health Foundation.

It has been a personal privilege to work with him on a myriad of issues over the years, especially women's health.

Mr. Yates and his wife Ann are the proud parents of five sons.

Mr. Speaker, it is right to honor Gary L. Yates for his tireless dedication to the people of California upon the occasion of his retirement on September 14, 2011, after 19 years as a leading health philanthropist.

TRIBUTE TO DR. EDWARD A.
SHELDON

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Dr. Edward A. Sheldon, founder of Oswego State University in New York, as we celebrate the college's 150th anniversary.

A native of Perry Center, New York, Dr. Sheldon spent decades devoting his life to the New York education system by organizing and spearheading an educational system accessible to all children. Throughout the years, he served as a teacher, superintendent, and secretary of the board of education in Oswego, NY. In 1861 he founded the Oswego Primary Teachers' Training School, known today as Oswego State University. Serving as President until 1897, he worked to transform the subject matter and methods of formal education and to extend educational opportunities to all children.

Through his lifetime, Dr. Sheldon garnered national attention creating the Oswego method of object training. His time spent working to enhance the quality of education in Upstate New York provided a strong foundation for countless students and teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Dr. Edward A. Sheldon and congratulate Oswego State University on their 150th year.

DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RELATING TO DEBT LIMIT INCREASE

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.J. Res. 77. This resolution is another pointless political gesture put forward by Republicans in their efforts to fight our President tooth and nail, regardless of the impact on American families and our economy.

This resolution has already failed in the Senate; it is going nowhere. It is beyond irresponsible to spend time catering to far-right Tea Party Members with doomed procedural technicalities while American families face a jobs crisis.

Early this year, we were seeing hundreds of thousands of jobs created each month and real economic recovery was taking root. Since then, Republicans have manufactured one crisis after another. Whether it is threatening to shut down the government, default on our debt, or cripple the FAA with furloughs, Republicans have shown an unbelievable willingness to harm our economy so they can score points with their Tea Party base.

Washington gave our country a pointless, dangerous debt limit showdown in July, and our nation's employers responded by creating zero new jobs in August. We need to move past this divisive, debt limit gamesmanship and take action to get our economy moving by passing the American Jobs Act now.