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