

But the new constitution has dramatically altered the status of women in Kenya. Among the over 40 new reforms is a non-discrimination clause outlawing bias on the basis of sex, pregnancy or marital status. Additionally, women can own and inherit land, and matrimonial property is protected during and after the termination of marriage. Unconstitutional customary laws carried on by tradition are now void.

Women's right have been elevated in the new Kenyan Constitution. But as anyone who lives in a democracy knows, constitutional mechanisms must be matched by meaningful enforcement and constant vigilance to actually achieve their goals.

Kenya is facing many trials at the moment. The drought in the Horn of Africa is threatening the lives of over 13 million people. Food insecurity is affecting 3.75 million people in Kenya, and 4.3 million men, women, and children are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

These numbers do not include the influx of refugees from Somalia and neighboring lands. At its peak, Kenya and Ethiopia saw nearly 1,000 people a day arrive at refugee camps to escape the famine in Somalia. Sexual violence against women in these already overcrowded refugee camps is on the rise.

There are no easy solutions to this crisis, and we in the United States must step up and do our part to help our fellow people in need. Nonetheless, in face of these adversities, it is heartening to see Kenya's men and women move forward together, as equals and as partners. By empowering Kenyan women and rejecting gender-based discrimination, the new Kenyan constitution has paved the way for a brighter future for the Kenyan people.

ACKNOWLEDGING CAROLINE  
DEGNAN FOR HER COMMUNITY  
SERVICE

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 14, 2011*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Caroline Degnan for outstanding service to her community.

Throughout her years at the South Buffalo Food Pantry, Mrs. Degnan personified caring and compassion as she selflessly placed the needs of others before her own.

Mrs. Degnan spent more than twenty years as a volunteer for the South Buffalo Food Pantry as well as overseeing the Lovejoy Food Pantry for several years. In March of 2006, she was nominated by the local branch of Catholic Charities for the organization's national Volunteer of the Year Award.

Despite great personal loss and physical setbacks due to multiple illnesses, Caroline's continues to persevere with spirit and faith. In recognition of that perseverance and to give thanks for her countless hours of providing food and friendship to those in need, her family and friends gathered together to honor this special woman on October 15th at St. Agatha's McGuire Hall in South Buffalo, New York.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I acknowledge the example set by Caroline Degnan and join with a grateful com-

munity to extend our deepest appreciation for her exceptional service and generous heart that fuels the betterment of the lives she has touched.

HONORING DR. MARILYN HEINE  
FOR BEING NAMED THE 162D  
PRESIDENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA  
MEDICAL SOCIETY

### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 14, 2011*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Marilyn Heine, of Dresher, PA who has been named the 162d President of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. Dr. Heine has been a member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society for 22 years, and will now lead this organization as it aims to shape health care delivery to assure that the evolving system provides quality and value to patients and the community.

An active member of the medical community in Pennsylvania, Dr. Heine has served as a delegate to the PA Medical Society's House of Delegates and has played an important role in the Pennsylvania Medical Society's Foundation.

Dr. Heine has also served as president of the Medical Society in my home of Bucks County and was recognized YWCA of Bucks County as a Woman Who Makes a Difference. She has dedicated her professional career to the advancement of medicine in her community, and the Pennsylvania Medical Society is fortunate to have her as its incoming president.

Dr. Marilyn Heine has made it her life's work not only to serve her patients in her practice, but also to improve the healthcare industry here in Pennsylvania. Her dedication serves as an example for her fellow healthcare professionals and I congratulate her on her new position.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE  
MONTH

### HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 14, 2011*

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month.

The United States of America's history, culture and vast array of achievements have been shaped by peoples from across the world. Hispanic Heritage Month is an important opportunity to recognize the contributions of our nation's Latino community. California has been uniquely shaped by the contributions of its Hispanic heritage, from the founding of the Missions with their unique art and architecture to the rich cultural diversity of our cuisine, music and art.

One of many important achievements of Hispanic Americans is that of civil rights that affect us all. Civil rights activist, labor leader, and farm worker César Chávez fought for fair treatment, equality, and dignity without the use of violence. César's leadership, faith, and per-

sistence paved the way for many Latinos and non-Latinos who carry on his legacy.

Today, Latino men and women are an integral part of the fabric that keeps our communities and our families strong. Latinos are tireless teachers in schools and brave soldiers who fight to defend our freedom. In the face of adversity, Latinos have risen to the highest levels of success in business, the arts, public service, athletics, and the armed forces.

As we celebrate the contributions of Hispanic Americans, let us all work together to meet the challenges facing our communities so that we can build upon the American Dream for future generations. It is for these reasons I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLDWELL  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECEIVING  
THE 2011 NATIONAL BLUE  
RIBBON AWARD

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 14, 2011*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Coldwell Elementary School. Coldwell was recently honored with the 2011 National Blue Ribbon award from the United States Department of Education for excellence in education.

The National Blue Ribbon School award honors both public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students achieve at high levels and also schools where the achievement gap is narrowing. Since 1982, more than 6,500 of America's schools have received this coveted award.

I want to personally congratulate the teachers, administrators, and staff of Coldwell Elementary for their commitment and dedication to our young students in El Paso. This year only 304 schools nationwide received the award, and they will be honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The Blue Ribbon validates the efforts of these schools in creating a positive and effective learning environment. These schools and their communities have achieved a degree of excellence of which they can justifiably be proud.

Coldwell Elementary School is a fine example of what can be accomplished when parents, teachers and administrators collaborate to prepare our students for a prosperous future. By emphasizing the importance of subjects like math, science and language arts, Coldwell is enabling a new generation of community leaders.

In times of economic uncertainty, we cannot lose sight of the paramount importance of our children's education, and I am honored to represent Coldwell Elementary School.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENT  
OF PRESIDENT ELLEN SIRLEAF  
JOHNSON

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 14, 2011*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the President of