

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF THE JANUARY 12, 2010 EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the quarter of a million Haitians who lost their lives during the devastating earthquake that occurred on January 12, 2010. As we reflect on the two years that have passed since this tragedy, it is important to express our gratitude to those who have helped rebuild Haiti and renew our commitment to further assist survivors.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, over 50 percent of American households donated to earthquake victims, and the United States dispatched 20,000 civilian and military personnel to Haiti. These Americans put into operation the largest urban food distribution in history to 3.5 million people, provided emergency shelter to 1.5 million people, and implemented a vaccination campaign for more than 1 million people. Within the past two years, aid has shifted from rescue efforts to innovative reconstruction and development strategies. Still, there remains much more work to be done. The generosity of millions of people around the globe gives us hope that Haiti will be rebuilt.

The South Florida community displayed its continued commitment to the reconstruction of Haiti at a special event recognizing the two year anniversary of the earthquake on January 8th, 2012. Arranged by the Democratic Haitian American Caucus of Florida, the event included a Catholic Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church, a memorial service at Parish Hall, and a donation drive in partnership with a church group to collect supplies for victims.

I am proud to represent so many men and women in South Florida who in these past two years have supported our vibrant Haitian community in a myriad of ways, from housing displaced victims to donating supplies for reconstruction. As we remember those lost in this devastating natural disaster two years ago, we must reaffirm our commitment to helping Haiti rebuild their nation and forge a better future for themselves and their families.

HONORING THE NATIONAL INTEL SCIENCE COMPETITION SEMIFINALISTS OF LONG ISLAND

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 58 Long Island high school seniors named as semifinalists in the National Intel Science competition. With 300 semifinalists nationwide, the Intel Science Talent Search gives high school seniors the opportunity to engage in ambitious science based research projects. I am especially proud of the constituents from my Congressional District on Long Island who were selected as semifinalists in this prestigious competition.

This next generation is continuing Long Island's strong legacy of pushing new innova-

tions and scientific breakthroughs. Using math and science as a foundation, the seniors approached their respective projects from a variety of angles. By gaining access to professional laboratories at local universities, participants were given the opportunity to bring their creative aspirations to fruition. In doing so, they have begun to tackle some of our nation's most difficult challenges.

From working on a possible cure for Alzheimer's disease to creating a flame resistant plastic, our Long Island contestants embody the true American spirit of innovation and problem solving. Their sacrifice, patience and determination are instrumental in keeping America's competitive edge in a global economy.

Coupled with the effort of exceptional students, our Long Island science teachers played a pivotal role in this accomplishment. By pushing the boundaries and setting high expectations, these excellent teachers have helped their students succeed. Long Island's strong placement in the Intel Science competition semifinals reflects their dedication and commitment to their students' success. Moving forward, it is critical that our schools have the resources they need to cultivate robust math and science programs.

At the end of this month, forty finalists will be selected and invited to Washington, D.C. to meet leading scientists and researchers in a variety of fields. I am optimistic that some of our Long Island seniors have the privilege to attend. For all of the Intel Science Talent semifinalists, I wish them continued success as they pursue their college educations and future careers. I would now like to formally submit their names to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Rebecca Alford, Austin Lee and Savina Kim of Commack High School; Juliana Coraor of Huntington High School; Malini Desai of Half Hollow Hills High School West; Jill Dolowich, Neil Mehta, Anuja Shah, Anirudh Chandrashekar, April Pun, Sagar Rambhia and Christine Kim of Jericho High School; Parsa Erfani, Samantha Fradkin, Sherylly Gould and Mariam Makram of Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School; Samantha Garvey of Brentwood High School; Hannah Kenagy of Half Hollow Hills High School East; Amelia Morales, Shannon Wetzler and Eric Parigoris of Kings Park High School; Garima Yadav of Sachem North High School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 2, Adoption of H.J. Res. 98, relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

THE MEMORY OF ROSCOE R. NIX

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I advise my colleagues of the death on January 4, 2012 of my constituent, civil rights leader and education activist, Roscoe R. Nix. Roscoe Nix was an inspirational giant in the Montgomery County, Maryland community where he was known for his wisdom, his kind and caring manner, and his fierce dedication to social and educational equality for all Americans. Mr. Nix worked passionately for decades as a leading civil rights activist, drawing attention to racial inequalities throughout our country.

Roscoe Russa Nix was born June 22, 1921, in Greenville, Alabama, the second of nine children and the son of the only black postman in town. Mr. Nix attended Alabama A&M University but left to serve in the Army in Europe during World War II. After his military service, he settled in the Washington area and graduated from Howard University. He moved to Montgomery County in 1968 where he resided until 2010 when, for health reasons, he moved near his daughter in Riverdale, Georgia.

Growing up in segregated Alabama, Roscoe Nix had firsthand experience with Jim Crow laws and the injustice of institutionalized racism. After moving to the Washington, DC area, Mr. Nix observed that northern states were more likely to have simply overlooked their own records of discrimination. He recalled being refused service at a Silver Spring, Maryland restaurant in 1962 and the demonstration he staged in response. Moments like this defined his career and inspired him to work for change.

During our Nation's post-segregation era, Mr. Nix worked for the U.S. Justice Department's Community Relations Service, traveling around the country as a "peacemaker" to work with local leaders on conflict resolution in cities experiencing civil unrest.

For decades, Mr. Nix was a leader in public education in Montgomery County. In 1974, he was the second African American elected to the Montgomery County Board of Education where he fought against de facto school segregation. As a member of the Board until 1978 and then afterwards, he pushed for greater resources for schools in poorer neighborhoods and spoke out about racial disparities in the schools. Mr. Nix was a champion for early childhood initiatives and fought for increased funding of Head Start and Title 1 and for lower class size in the elementary grades. In 2006, the Montgomery County Board of Education dedicated the Roscoe R. Nix Elementary School in Silver Spring in recognition of his contributions to the public education of the children in the county.

In 1989, Mr. Nix co-founded the Montgomery County African American Festival of Academic Excellence. This annual event recognizes, encourages and celebrates African American students for their academic achievements and reinforces the idea that it is "cool" to be smart.

Serving as President of the Montgomery County chapter of the NAACP from 1980-90, Roscoe Nix spoke out against police mistreatment of minorities and worked to increase the