

the children everything they deserved, so she took a break from the foster care system.

After becoming a single parent and raising her daughter, Ms. Berry decided it was time once again to become a foster parent. Over the past five years she has selflessly brought 20 children through her home, and showed them a type of love and nurture their own families were not able to provide.

At 50 years old she is showing no signs of slowing down, and is currently in the process of adopting her three most recent children who are all under the age of five. In California there are over 80,000 children in the foster care system, the majority of whom are placed there as a result of parental abuse or neglect.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus of Foster Youth I am amazed by the way Ms. Berry works with the families of her children to help them become better parents. This way they will hopefully have the opportunity to return to a safe and happier home.

Most of the children that pass through her home are able to go back to their own families after being cleared by the state, but when they are unable to they continue in the system until they are 18. From there they are pretty much on their own with limited financial support from the state. Their only real hope is people like Ms. Berry, who get them out of the system.

In 2008, there was an average of 123,000 children waiting to be adopted. Over the course of the year only 55,000 of these children managed to be adopted.

It is vital that these foster homes are warm and nurturing places a child feels safe in. These children have already experienced so much pain in their lives, and this might be their first experience of having a caring parent watching out for them. Ms. Berry provides them with that love and security.

For all her work and dedication Ms. Berry is being honored at an open house reception put on by Aspiranet, the agency that she works with. She will share her story and experiences with all the children she has helped over the years. Since May is National Foster Care Month it seems fitting that a woman of her caliber should represent the Long Beach foster care system.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Berry is the type of woman we should all look to for inspiration. She is hardworking, selfless and above all, a caring mother to all her children, biological or not. When we are feeling overwhelmed, overworked or just unhappy about our own lives, we should look to Ms. Berry, who does it all with a smile, and asks for nothing in return except the future success of the kids she loves so much.

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#### HONORING BILL HOUSLEY

### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor one of the kindest men I have ever known.

Bill Housley passed away recently at the age of 78. He was longtime friend of mine who touched the lives of everyone he knew in many positive ways.

Bill spent many years in service to my District, serving as Director of Sales for the Knox-

ville Convention and Visitors Bureau, a member of the Knox County School Board for 12 years, and a volunteer to many community causes.

He also had a deep faith in God, and was an active member of Smithwood Baptist Church.

My District is home to the University of Tennessee, and I have always said the colors orange and white are just as patriotic in East Tennessee as the colors red, white, and blue.

Bill was a graduate of the University of Tennessee and one of the biggest Tennessee fans I knew. Bobby Denton, known by almost every Tennessee fan as the Voice of Neyland Stadium, was also very close to Bill. Bobby said on the news of Bill's passing, "He loved East Tennessee, loved his family, and loved a good joke. Any time he came in the room he would light it up with laughter."

Bill showed great courage during his illness and would try to cheer up people who came to see him even in his final days.

I too will always remember Bill fondly for his sense of humor and devotion to family and friends. He was a very patriotic American who loved his country and always showed great compassion to others.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my condolences to his wife, Carolyn; children, Dan and Cindy; and four grandchildren.

I urge my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in celebrating the life Bill Housley. Our Nation is a better place because of his service.

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#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Foster Care Month, which is observed each May to raise awareness about the challenges that are faced by children in the foster care system.

Every year, nearly 30,000 young adults leave the foster care system at the age of 18 without the support of a permanent family. As these young people transition out of the system, they are at a higher risk for unemployment, poor educational opportunities, health issues, increased rates of incarceration, and homelessness.

I am honored to be involved in recognizing the tireless efforts of individuals working to improve the foster care system and in shedding light on the needs of foster youth.

Approximately 400,000 American children are in need of safe and permanent homes because their own families are facing a crisis and are unable to care for them. The issues faced by young people in the foster care system and those coming out of it deeply concern me. This is why I have been continually involved in raising awareness of issues facing the child welfare system for a number of years.

Last month, I was proud to host a stop of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youths nationwide listening tour where we learned first-hand about the challenges and successes of Florida's child welfare system from government officials, child welfare advocates, as well

as current and former foster youth. My membership in the caucus, along with my work with programs such as Angels in Adoption, have made me better aware of not only the problems facing the foster care system, but also the many people who have dedicated their lives to making it better.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly proud of the work that is being done in my congressional district, and applaud the efforts of the countless individuals across the Nation working to give foster youth a voice.

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#### COLLEGE GRADUATES NEED JOBS

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in Wednesday's Politico, Karen Agness, the director of academic programs at the American Enterprise Institute, wrote a column regarding recent college graduates and their search to find a job. Agness writes, "Government data last year found that 53.6 percent of people under age twenty-five with a bachelor's degree—about 1.5 million people—were unemployed or underemployed. It is the highest percentage in more than a decade, reflecting just how far the economy is from recovery."

Although last month's jobs report claims our unemployment rate has declined, people still do not have jobs. College graduates across the Nation are disappointed by the lack of job availability and frustrated with the Administration's failed policies. House Republicans have passed dozens of job creating bills and have a plan for America's Job Creators. I encourage the Senate to pass take up these pieces of legislation and help every college graduate find what they are looking for: a job.

In conclusion, God Bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

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#### IN CELEBRATION OF MERRILL JOHNSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Merrill Johnson's upcoming 100th birthday on May 24, 2012. Mr. Johnson lives in my hometown of Columbus, Ind., with his beloved wife of 73 years, Irene. Together they have three children: Edward, Merrilyn, and Douglas, all of whom still reside in the Hoosier state.

Mr. Johnson was born near Clayton, Ind., in Hendricks County. He attended grade school in the area, and in 1935 he met his wife at the local Christian Church where her brother was serving as minister.

Mr. Johnson worked for Noblitt-Sparks (later Arvin Industries) for 33 years, retiring in 1977 as the Director of Labor Relations. Prior to working at Arvin, he worked for both Bridgeport Brass in Indianapolis and Link-Belt Company. After he started working, Mr. Johnson studied accounting, labor law and psychology through an extension program of the collection