

live in Minnesota, has yet to be repealed. In August of this year, members of the Dakota community took part in a walk through South Dakota to the Minnesota border, symbolizing the unjust forcible removal of all Dakota people from Minnesota in 1863.

The healing from the War is ongoing; honoring those we lost and remembering our complicated past should not be limited to anniversaries of the conflict. We should use this year of reflection to inform a more inclusive view of history, an appreciation of how far we've come, and recognition of all we must do to continue to support our Native communities today.

CONGRATULATING MR. GREGG POLLACK, RECIPIENT OF THE GOVERNOR'S INNOVATORS UNDER 40 AWARD

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Gregg Pollack, winner of the Governor's Innovators Under 40 Award. Mr. Pollack is the founder and CEO of Envy Labs, a technology consulting company based in Orlando, Florida.

Envy Labs, which Mr. Pollack founded in 2009, specializes in website and mobile application design and development, and works on a broad variety of projects from web development to branding to user interface design. Through an open and creative work environment, Envy Labs focuses on producing excellent products and services while investing in their employees' personal and professional lives.

The Governor's Innovators Under 40 Award is one of Governor Rick Scott's 2012 Innovators in Business Awards, which are designed to recognize outstanding contributions toward growing and diversifying Florida's economy. The Innovators Under 40 Award is presented to Florida residents under the age of 40 who own or lead a Florida company with annual revenue of \$1 million or more and who have created at least 10 jobs since January 2011.

Through Mr. Pollack's direction, Envy Labs has grown and expanded to include a school with courses in coding and web design called Code School. Envy Labs is also active in the Orlando tech community, hosting tech events and camps downtown. Mr. Pollack is to be congratulated for the hard work and innovation he has demonstrated, and for the contributions to Florida's economy that this award honors. He is well deserving of this recognition. May his work inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

HONORING THE HOUSTON TEXANS ON WINNING THEIR 2ND STRAIGHT AFC SOUTH DIVISION TITLE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Houston Texans

on clinching their 2nd straight AFC South Division Title. The Texans are a relatively new franchise, established in 2002. They currently lead the AFC race for home field advantage throughout the playoffs. As an avid Texans fan, I am proud to honor the Houston Texans on this great achievement.

I would like to submit the following article: "Texans Cement Supremacy in Division and Look Beyond" by Tom Spousta, printed in The New York Times, December 17, 2012:

HOUSTON—Arian Foster and Dwight Freeney embraced at midfield and, after a few heartfelt words, began pulling their shoulder pads over their heads. They exchanged jerseys, Foster giving up his Houston Texans No. 23 and Freeney handing over his Indianapolis Colts No. 93—one that will hang in Foster's collection to commemorate Houston's second consecutive AFC South division title.

The Colts officially acquiesced Sunday to the supremacy of the Texans, who own the AFC's best record at 12-2 but whose dominance somehow still remains questioned as the playoffs approach.

They beat Indianapolis, 29-17, in spectacularly efficient fashion before a raucous crowd at Reliant Stadium. A modest locker room celebration followed, but the Texans know a greater validation of their season will come with a top seed and home-field advantage for the postseason.

"You always have to bask in the moment of winning a division championship, but I think the expectations we put on ourselves and everybody puts on us are much bigger than that," said Foster, who had 27 carries for 165 yards, 131 of those coming in the second half. "We're proud of what we've done here, but we've got more to go."

Indianapolis (9-5) lost a chance to earn a wild-card berth with two games to play, including the season finale at home against the Texans, who gave the Colts plenty to fix before then.

Matt Schaub was 23 of 31 passing for 261 yards and guided an offense that did not commit a turnover. Eleven of those completions went for 151 yards to Andre Johnson, who caught a touchdown pass and surpassed 11,000 yards for his career.

Shayne Graham kicked five field goals, and Bryan Braman blocked a punt for a touchdown. Houston's defense atoned for its poor performance in last week's 42-14 loss at New England, allowing only one third-down conversion and sacking Andrew Luck five times, three of those coming from J. J. Watt.

Luck finished 13 of 27 for 186 yards behind an offensive line missing two starters. He threw a 61-yard touchdown pass to T. Y. Hilton and an 8-yarder to Dwayne Allen. But a key Colts drive in the second quarter resulted in their costliest error, when Mewelde Moore fumbled at the Texans' goal line after being hit by Watt and the ball was recovered by Tim Dobbins.

"We got back to what we are as a football team," Texans Coach Gary Kubiak said. "Protecting the ball, running the ball, playing solid defense. That's how we win."

Watt, who paid tribute to the shooting victims in Newtown, Conn., by writing the town's name on one of his gloves, finished with 10 tackles and now has an AFC-leading 19.5 sacks.

The Colts owned an odds-defying 8-1 record this season in games decided on the final possession, so there was no cause for panic after the Texans grabbed a 20-10 halftime lead. But Indianapolis generated little momentum in the second half and finished with 272 total yards, compared with 417 yards for the Texans.

"It was a tough loss for us," Bruce Arians, the Colts' interim coach, said. "We came

here with one idea and that was to win the division and we're not going to win the division. They did it, and my hat is off to the Texans, and we'll see them in a couple weeks."

RECOGNITION OF CYPRUS' PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Cyprus as their first rotating European Union (EU) Presidency comes to a close. The past six months have been lauded as a very productive presidency and I would like to honor the importance of this accomplishment for a small—yet still occupied and divided—country like Cyprus. Some of the most notable accomplishments show a continued commitment to human rights and democratic governments.

During Cyprus's presidency they oversaw the implementation of Iran sanctions—the toughest EU measure to date. The EU was also awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its longtime commitment to promoting peace, as well as reconciliation, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Furthermore, the EU focused on steps needed to eradicate human trafficking during the sixth EU Anti-Trafficking Day conference entitled, "Working Together Towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings: The Way Forward."

Mr. Speaker, as a friend and ally of the United States, I would like to congratulate Cyprus on a productive EU presidency. This is an important moment in the history of Cyprus and as a stable democracy dedicated to human rights and religious freedom; I wish to honor this significant event.

RECOGNIZING FUN SPOT ACTION PARK OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA, RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 BRASS RING AWARD FOR THE BEST FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER IN THE COUNTRY FROM IAAPA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. John Arie and his family on Fun Spot Action Park of Orlando, Florida having received the 2012 Brass Ring Award for the Best Family Entertainment Center in the country from the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions. This is a prestigious award and deserves special recognition for the hard work and dedication that went into this outstanding accomplishment.

The Arie family is well deserving of this recognition for their unfailing dedication and leadership in the family entertainment center industry. In receiving this award, they have demonstrated many character qualities, including enthusiasm, diligence and remarkable

service. The forty-plus years of service the Arie family has provided in owning, operating, and developing Fun Spot Attractions is a true testament to the significant importance of small businesses.

This is not the first time that Fun Spot Action Park of Orlando has been recognized for their commitment to excellence in the tourism industry across Central Florida. Fun Spot has been chosen and honored two prior times by the IAAPA for their standards of excellence in promoting and advertising the family entertainment center industry.

The efforts of Mr. Arie and his family to serve the Central Florida community are to be commended. It is not often that such a strong commitment to service is found within one family. I wish them great success as they have the opportunity to undergo a 10-acre expansion that will triple the size of the Orlando Fun Spot Action Park.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Mr. Arie and his family for their hard work, dedication, and leadership on this well-deserved award. May their investment to community and small business inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

**DON'T LET FOREIGN AID FALL
OFF THE FISCAL CLIFF**

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as negotiations to avoid the "fiscal cliff" enter the final stages, it is important that we keep in mind the potentially devastating consequences of across-the-board cuts. This is true not only for domestic programs, but also for foreign assistance, which represents less than one percent of the federal budget and is one of the most cost-effective ways of protecting our interests across the globe. Today, more than ever, our health, security, and prosperity depend on a world in which basic human needs are met, fundamental rights and freedoms are respected, conflicts are resolved peacefully, and the world's resources are used wisely.

In this regard, I commend to my colleagues an excellent op-ed by Sharon Waxman, vice-president of the International Rescue Committee. Her article in *The Hill*, "Don't Let Foreign Aid Fall off the Fiscal Cliff," outlines the importance of foreign aid in saving lives and easing suffering for millions around the world.

**RECOGNIZING THE CHAMPIONSHIP
SEASON OF THE WYOMISSING
SPARTANS HIGH SCHOOL FOOT-
BALL TEAM**

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the players, coaches and staff of the Wyomissing Spartans High School football team of Berks County, Pennsylvania on their undefeated season and on capturing the PIAA District III AA State Championship.

The Wyomissing Spartans set a Berks County record for points scored and wins in a season, finishing with a perfect 16–0 record. The Spartans are the first team in Berks County history to win a state title in football at any level.

The Spartans' championship roster includes: Gerald Burns, Thomas Paolini, Corey Unger, Spenser Lloyd, Sean Smith, Joseph Cacchione, Scott Kuczala, Brian Walters, Rahul Kalani, Adam Chaffe, Caleb Naylor, Juche Jackson, Bern Donahue, Chase Hartman, Alex Anzalone, Brandon Faust, Eric Waxler, Brandon Gonzalez, Mason Smith, Scott McAvoy, Justin Causa, Jonah Bowman, Sam Debell-Mitton, Peter Geyer, Josh Hart, Jack Baker, Sam Weaver, Peter Bonino, Josh Pappas, Shane Hasenauer, Connor Reedy, Chris Eaton, Jeremy Bell, Will Kroppe, Anthony Colon, Jeriko Reyes, Cody Cox, Ben Wertz, Sean Reusing, Logan Jones, Dan Sweitzer, Wyatt Metzger, Finnegan Daly, Brian Bamberger, Jon Olmeda, Sean Clark, Nate Hain, Jack Wertz, Liam Reedy, and Daniel Faust.

The champion Spartans were coached by Head Coach Bob Wolfrum and Assistant Coaches Tom Baldwin, Andrew Siggins, Al Silveri, Todd Zechman, Steve O'Neil, Richard Hoffmaster, Nick Wojciechowski, Frank Ferrandino, Bill Hartman, Steve Brunner, Chris Bickley, Corbett Babb, Ty Smith, and Jim Delp. In addition, the School District's Athletic Director is Corbin Stoltzfus.

Mr. Speaker, in light of their outstanding accomplishments, undefeated season, and state championship victory, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the players, coaches, and staff of the Wyomissing Spartans High School Football Team of Berks County, Pennsylvania for their incredible and unforgettable season.

HONORING BARRY RUTENBERG

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of my constituents, Barry Rutenberg, from Gainesville, Fla. Barry is the 2012 chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and has been deeply involved in helping housing—and his fellow builders—get back on course.

After suffering the worst housing downturn since the Great Depression, Barry's steady leadership at NAHB during the past year has paid great dividends as he has presided over a solid recovery for the industry. Housing starts and single-family sales are projected to jump 20 percent for the year, and the number of improving housing markets has soared from just 12 in September of 2011 to more than 200 in December of 2012. Meanwhile, home prices have stabilized across much of the Nation, helping to put more workers on the job and making housing a net contributor to economic growth.

As chairman of NAHB, Barry has provided a laser-like focus to help get housing back on track by working with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to get pro-housing bills introduced and passed. NAHB played a pivotal role in

authorizing and preserving the National Flood Insurance Program for an additional five years. This put to an end the many short-term lapses the program has endured in recent years—along with the delays and canceled home sales those lapses have caused home buyers and home builders.

Under Barry's direction, NAHB instituted a nationwide Protect Homeownership campaign that featured several rallies in key political swing states during this past election season. This effort to elevate housing on the national agenda sent a powerful message to the electorate that Americans value homeownership and Congress must support pro-housing policies that will create jobs and help local communities to flourish.

In normal times housing accounts for more than 17 percent of the Nation's total economic output. Building 100 single-family homes creates more than 300 full-time jobs and generates millions of dollars of tax revenues which increase the property tax base that supports local schools, police and firefighters across the land.

To help housing return to its position as an engine of economic growth, Barry instituted an aggressive agenda at NAHB. He made it a priority to help protect housing tax incentives that are vital to renters and home buyers; prevent expensive, pointless regulations from impeding home building and dampening the recovery; and to push for a balanced solution to overhaul the Nation's housing finance system that retains a federal backstop in the event of a catastrophic situation while providing a stable, affordable supply of credit for home buyers and limiting taxpayer exposure.

He also maintained a regular presence on Capitol Hill, meeting with lawmakers and testifying on behalf of the Nation's home builders on how small businesses and consumers would benefit from smarter and more sensible regulation.

I commend the efforts of Barry Rutenberg and NAHB to ensure that housing remains accessible and affordable to America's families and an important national priority.

**HARRIS COUNTY VETERAN'S
COURT PROGRAM**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, since the United States of America entered the War on Terror, many things have changed with what our troops encounter overseas. Our soldiers are not only fighting a war where guerrilla tactics, suicide bombings, and targeted killings are used, but they are fighting over values and morals versus territory. This war has not been in one specific country, but takes place wherever our enemies are attacking or hiding.

A lot has changed in this modern day war, but thankfully a lot has changed with how we help our troops when they return home. 2.4 million Americans have fought in Iraq or Afghanistan and the Department of Veterans Affairs have diagnosed roughly 200,000 of those Americans with post-traumatic stress disorder with many more that have gone undiagnosed. Many of these men have come home and are still fighting internal demons from these perilous places that they have returned from.