launch Leong Foods Incorporated, which specializes in David's original sauces and foods for retail sale in grocery stores. Today at age 92, he still comes in at 8 a.m. and leaves when it gets dark seven days a week.

Throughout David's life, he has served his country and city proudly. His story is an American story, and I am honored to recognize his service.

HONORING ALEX DALY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex Daly. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 601, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alex has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alex Daly for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ANGELINA TABBITAS LARSEN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished life and service of Mrs. Angelina Tabbitas Larsen. Mrs. Larsen, known by those in the community as ''Angel'', was born July 28, 1941 to Nunzio and Frances Tabbitas in Brooklyn, New York, and for the past few decades, Mrs. Larsen has called Northwest Florida home. She will be missed by many, but her memory will live on through the timeless legacy she leaves behind.

Mrs. Larsen spent her life in service to God and country. For twenty years, she dedicated her time to serving the brave men and women of our Armed Forces at the Pensacola USO Centers. Through her support and gratitude, she had the ability to lift spirits and bring warmth and merriment to our troops and their families.

To some, Mrs. Larsen will be remembered for her commitment to our nation's heroes; to others, she will be remembered for her strong faith in God and as a fellow member of Kingsway Church. To her family and friends, she will be remembered for Nana's Sunday dinner gatherings and as a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life and service of Mrs. Angelina Tabbitas Larsen. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our thoughts and prayers to her husband, Bob; daughter, Jeannie; sons, Salvatore, Mario, and Edward, and the entire Larsen family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL BLACK NURSES DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, recognize, and celebrate the New York 25th Annual Celebration of National Black Nurses Day. On Friday February 22nd, the National Black Nurses Association recognized, honored and awarded the New York Black Nurses Association, Queens County Black Nurses, Caribbean American Nurses Association, Kappa Eta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority and Theta Chi Chapter of the Chi Eta Phi Nurses Sorority for their excellence of service and outstanding contributions in the field of nursing to citizens in the State of New York.

The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) was organized in 1971 under the leadership of Dr. Lauranne Sams, former Dean and Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama. NBNA is a non-profit organization incorporated on September 2, 1972 in the state of Ohio. NBNA represents 150,000 African American registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, nursing students and retired nurses from the USA, Eastern Caribbean and Africa, with 83 chartered chapters in 34 states.

The mission of the National Black Nurses Association ''is to provide a forum for collective action by African American nurses to investigate, define and determine what the health care needs of African Americans are and to implement change to make available to African Americans and other minorities health care commensurate with that of the larger society.''

In 2003, the National Black Nurses Association became one of the five founding organizations of the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations (NCEMNA), along with Asian American/Pacific Islander Nurses Association, Inc., National Alaska Native American Indian Nurses Association, Inc.; National Association of Hispanic Nurses, Inc.; and, the Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc. This collaboration gives voice to 350,000 minority nurses. Dr. Betty Smith Williams is the NCEMNA President and a past NBNA President.

Its goals include support for the development of a cadre of ethnic nurses reflecting the nation's diversity; advocacy for culturally competent, accessible and affordable health care; promotion of the professional and educational advancement of ethnic nurses; education of consumers, health care professionals and policy makers on health issues of ethnic minority populations; development of ethnic minority nurse leaders in areas of health policy, practice, education and research; endorsement of best practice models of nursing practice, education, and research for minority populations.

I was pleased to cosponsor legislation, a proposal brought forth by Dr. Catherine Alicia Georges, past President of the National Black Nurses Association and Chair of the Nursing Department at Herbert H. Lehman College—The City of University of New York, that resulted in the U. S. Congress establishing the first Friday in the month of February as the day to recognize the contributions to healthcare made by Black nurses. I have a special place in my heart for the work of nurses, as my own dear sister was a retired nurse and I am keenly aware of the role that nurses, especially Black nurses have played in addressing the physical, mental, social and spiritual needs of all patients—a cornerstone of this organization. I am so very appreciative for the many contributions of the Black nurses to the City of New York and our Nation.

Let me congratulate and salute all of this year's award trailblazers in the field of nursing who have contributed locally, nationally and internationally. Your dedication and devotion to the health needs of everyday Americans is most commendable and deserving of Congressional Recognition. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington, let us also celebrate the 25th Anniversary of National Black Nurses Day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN LATINO MUSEUM ACT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Smithsonian American Latino Museum Act, a bill that supports the creation of the Smithsonian American Latino Museum and whose genesis began 20 years ago. I first introduced this bill, with my colleague Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, in the 112th Congress.

While the wonderful museums and monuments on the National Mall provide a sense of America's history and treasures, many have felt that more must be done to ensure that the contributions of all Americans, including those of Latino descent, are better represented.

The 2010 Census revealed that there are over 50 million Latinos in the U.S. plus an additional 3.7 million citizens of Puerto Rico. Even with the large and growing Latino population in the our country there is still no real significant, permanent representation of Latinos in our nation's capital.

The Latino community first moved to address this issue in 1993. But, it was not until 2008 that the Commission to Establish the National Museum of the American Latino Act was passed by the House and Senate and signed into law. A panel of 23 bipartisan commissioners was appointed by President George W. Bush, President Barack Obama, House leaders NANCY PELOSI and JOHN BOEHNER, and Senate leaders HARRY REID and MITCH MCCONNELL.

That Commission dedicated itself to creating a comprehensive report and a singular vision—one that would reflect the hopes, opinions, cultural values, recommendations and insights of Americans of diverse origins and geographic regions of the U.S. In 2011, that Commission presented its report, Illuminating

the American Story for All, early and under budget, to the President of the United States.

Since that time, the notion of a Smithsonian American Latino Museum has continued to gain support from a diversity of people and places. Despite that long-standing support and almost 20 years later, we are still not there yet, but we are getting closer.

To move forward in our effort, the House and Senate must pass the Smithsonian American Latino Act. Our bill would do 3 things:

Designate the now-vacant Arts and Industries Building (AIB) within the Smithsonian Institution as the location of the museum, including an annex that would be constructed underground and adjacent to the AIB. The bill requires that the planning, design and construction of the museum be harmonious with open space and visual sightlines of the National Mall.

Provide the Board of Regents 18 months to conduct a study to determine the best way to plan, design, fund and construct the Museum of the American Latino, taking into account the Commission's report.

Authorize private fundraising to begin for the planning, designing and construction of the museum.

Upon the bill being passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President, the Smithsonian American Latino Museum would be on its way to becoming the 20th museum within the Smithsonian Institution, forming part of the world's largest museum and research complex.

Many may ask: at this moment in time how can we afford to create a new museum? The better question is how can we not?

These are challenging times. And in these times, the arts, culture and humanities have a distinct role to play in helping unite us during episodes of adversity and prepare us to share in the prosperity to come. Cultural and historical institutions play a critical role in investigating, educating, sharing, celebrating, preserving, and convening the American people—as we are doing today—to show that we are in this together.

Mr. Speaker, the Smithsonian Institution was created for the purpose of helping increase and diffuse knowledge. It is in that same spirit that we seek to advance the Smithsonian American Latino Museum effort. Just like the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of the American Indian, The National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National Air and Space Museum, and others, the future Smithsonian American Latino Museum will help display America in its full bloom.

IN HONOR OF THE PARADISO FAMILY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on September 2, 1912, Arthur Rose Eldred of New York earned this Nation's first Eagle Scout Award. Arthur would be the first of three generations of Eldred's to rise to the rank of Eagle; his son and grandson hold the honor as well. The title of Eagle is an exceptional and extraordinary achievement earned by just 2% of Boy Scouts. This uncommon accomplishment is precisely why, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael and Cheryl Paradiso. On Saturday, March 16, 2013, Daniel Paradiso will be the fourth child of Michael and Cheryl to attain scouting's highest honor. Their daughter, Stephanie, has achieved the Gold Award in Girl Scouting and their three sons, Tony, M.J., and now Daniel have all earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

A century has passed since Arthur Eldred earned our Nation's first Eagle Award. One hundred years later, dedicated parents Mike and Cheryl Paradiso provide the guidance, support and commitment for their children just as Arthur Eldred did for his son and grandson. Congratulations, Mike and Cheryl for your extraordinary achievement.

CONGRATULATING DAVID J. JOHNS ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR OF NEW WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Secretary Duncan's appointment of David Johns to head the new White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. David's expertise will be critical in helping to address the academic challenges that many Black students face. America's educational system has undergone a remarkable transformation in the years since segregation, and we must continue to move forward to ensure equality of access and opportunity for education for all.

Here in Congress, I have advocated for advancing the educational opportunities for minorities through increased funding to public schools, federal fellowships, and tuition reimbursement programs. However, substantial obstacles to equal educational opportunity still remain in America's educational system. Black students lack equal access to effective teachers and principals, safe schools, and challenging college-preparatory classes. It is no coincidence that over a third of them do not graduate from high school on time, and those that do are not nearly as prepared as their peers. I look forward to working with David to bridge this gap and to provide all Americans regardless of race or gender the skills they need to compete in the workforce.

Education is the key to success in today's world, and everyone in America is entitled to equal opportunity to obtain a degree, get a good paying job, and live fulfilling lives. America needs to come together to solve the problems of today in order to create a brighter future tomorrow. I am confident that David Johns will help us get there sooner.''

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF DELTA ENTERPRISES IN ASSISTING THE MOST VULNERABLE VICTIMS OF SUPERSTORM SANDY

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contribution made by Delta Children's Products and it's President, Mr. Joseph Shamie, in assisting the most vulnerable victims of Superstorm Sandy.

Staten Island and Brooklyn were ravaged by the unprecedented force of this natural disaster, leaving thousands of residents without homes or even the bare necessities of life.

While the damage of Superstorm Sandy uprooted the lives of so many it also left the most vulnerable victims of this tragic event, infants and young children, without the essentials they needed to provide for their well being.

As a resident of Brooklyn, Mr. Shamie saw firsthand the devestation left in Sandy's wake, and understood that there would be a desperate need for child care products. Moving swiftly he ensured that Delta Children's Products filled this much needed gap in supplies by donating cribs, changing tables and infant supplies to those affected.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Shamie and Delta Children's Products for their overwhelming support in helping to protect and care for the most vulnerable victims of Superstorm Sandy, and I ask you to join me in recognizing their commitment to the ongoing recovery effort.

RECOGNIZING MARIA FOOTE AS THE 2013 OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Maria Foote as the 2013 Okaloosa County Educational Support Professional of the Year. I am honored to recognize her achievements and dedication to the students and teachers of the Northwest Florida community.

Since 2008, Mrs. Foote has worked as an English Language Learner (ELL) interpreter at Destin Elementary School. While serving the Okaloosa County School District, Mrs. Foote has never wavered in her commitment to the ELL program and her students. She works tirelessly to facilitate learning amongst students, teachers, and the community. In a school district that comprises a high ELL population, Mrs. Foote's role as an interpreter is extremely critical, as she translates conferences, documents, and provides academic support. Mrs. Foote also continuously accepts new challenges, and when the Okaloosa County School District began English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) class for families, she was tasked as the liaison between ELL families and the district facilitator.