

CAP 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th Anniversary of Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties. Introduced during the stewardship of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty in 1964, Community Action Partnership (CAP) agencies have served as one of the foremost tools in uplifting individuals and families out of poverty. In Minnesota, Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties has echoed the ideals of President Johnson's vision to eliminate poverty, and served as a statewide leader in supporting families, seniors and children in need.

In 1964, America was divided by growing socioeconomic inequalities that threatened the nation's foundations of life and liberty. In response to these challenges, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, legislation that inspired a nation to act in partnership with the Federal Government to eliminate poverty. Among the results of this monumental piece of legislation was Community Action Partnership, a neighborhood-driven organization focused on and providing direct support to those dedicated to helping themselves and each other.

Today, 50 years after the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act, millions of Americans have been lifted out of poverty. In Ramsey and Washington Counties, CAP has proven to be a resilient force in delivering direct services such as Head Start, energy assistance, job training, financial literacy training, food support and car ownership programs. Governed by a board of directors representing our communities and families being served, Ramsey and Washington County CAP has been a key partner in bringing relevant, culturally appropriate, innovative solutions to reducing poverty in our community.

Despite progress that has been made, we must confirm the grim reality that poverty persists in our communities, and in some cases, deepening. To conquer poverty, Congress must end the politics of division where the stigmatization of the poor has become all too commonplace, and recommit itself to eliminating poverty in the world's richest country. In Congress, I have joined colleagues across the aisle to sponsor the Community Economic Opportunity Act of 2014. This legislation reauthorizes the Community Service Block Grant and gives CAP agencies across the Nation the tools to reinvigorate the War on Poverty. I call on Congress to unite behind vital goal and give our Nation's CAP agencies the support they need to eliminate poverty once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 50th Anniversary and pivotal role Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties has played in my District, I proudly submit this statement.

AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC DAY

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan and congratulate them on the 96th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

A country of historic proportions—Azerbaijan became the first democratic and secular republic in the Muslim world on May 28, 1918. Despite a time and region that posed many barriers to elements of democracy, on this Republic Day, all Azerbaijanis were given the right to vote regardless of religion, ethnicity, gender, or race, revolutionizing the country and region.

On May 28, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson met with the Azerbaijan delegation to recognize their dedication and commitment to principles of liberty, justice, and equality. And at the Paris Peace Talks, as a sign of respect and admiration between our two countries, President Wilson was given a copy of the memorandum containing the boundaries, economic and financial conditions, and ethnic composition of the newly constructed Republic.

Even today, the U.S. and Azerbaijan continue to maintain strong international and economic relations with one another. Azerbaijan has been actively involved in operations in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Iraq and a committed partner to energy development in the Caspian region. One such example, The Istanbul Protocol, led to the construction of the 1,040-mile long Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline that is owned and operated by American firms. In 2006 the BTC pipeline began its first oil deliveries and has become a vital part of delivering Caspian Sea resources to global markets.

While Azerbaijan's independence was tragically interrupted during the Russian Red Army invasion in 1920, the people of Azerbaijan persisted. Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991, Azerbaijan restored their democracy and has enjoyed a fruitful 23 years of stability and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and recognize the important bilateral relationship and valued connections between our two countries. It is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the people of Azerbaijan during their celebration of the 96th anniversary of Republic Day.

YOM YERUSHALAYIM-JERUSALEM DAY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, across South Florida, and indeed around the world, Jews are celebrating Yom Yerushalayim—Jerusalem Day. It was 47 years ago today that Israel liberated its capital city of Jerusalem during the Six-Day War, allowing Jews for the first time in decades to visit Judaism's holiest site, the Western Wall.

Israel immediately abolished the discriminatory laws that had previously prevented Jews

from entering the Old City and implemented safeguards to ensure Jerusalem serve as a protected place for reflection and prayer for members of all religions. According to the State Department's annual report on International Religious Freedoms, "[Israel's] 1967 Protection of Holy Sites Law safeguards the holy sites of all religious groups within the country and in Jerusalem."

Today, Jerusalem has become more than a religious haven. It is a large and expansive city where ancient holy sites are accented by modern innovations. Over four million tourists came to Jerusalem last year alone to witness the city's beauty, enjoy the cuisine, and connect to the land.

Jerusalem has been the heart of the Jewish people for thousands of years. Even through centuries of exile, Jerusalem remained the focal point of Jewish aspiration, with Jews praying towards the direction of the Western Wall regardless of where they stand geographically in the world.

That is why Israel's founding Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion said in 1947, "No city in the world, not even Athens or Rome, ever played as great a role in the life of a nation for so long a time, as Jerusalem has done in the life of the Jewish people."

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students participated in the 2014 Congressional Arts Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works of art are exceptional!

Sixty-three young men and women participated. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the winners of our art competition. First place was awarded to Lauren Sciscione from Nutley High School for her digital photography entitled, "Oil and Water." Second place was awarded to Danielle Araneo from Whippany Park High School for her graphite sketch entitled, "Wide Awake."

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Matt Einloth from Hanover Park High School for his graphite sketch entitled, "Drawing Match" and Amanda Greene from Pequannock Township High School for her colored pencil sketch entitled, "In the Hands of Time."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name and the title of their contest entries for the official RECORD.

Boonton High School: Giancarlo Venturini, "My Imagination"; Franchesca Lebrun, "Danielle"; Amanda Nardone, "Vintage"; Mykhaylo Oreletskiy, "Homage to Art".

Chatham High School: Laurel Jude Monks, "Twisting Through Time"; Kristen Wu,