

Originally founded in the former Capitol Hill townhouse of Frederick Douglass, the museum was first opened by my friend Warren Robbins on June 3, 1964.

Over the ensuing decades, the museum has come to take a greater role in furthering cultural development in our Nation's capital. In 1979, it joined the Smithsonian Institution, and it relocated to its current location on the National Mall in 1987.

As the only national museum in the United States dedicated to the arts of Africa, it plays an important role in elevating the knowledge and understanding of visitors and academics alike. As a repository of stirring and thought-provoking artifacts, and a place for evocative performances and dialogues, it serves as a source of inspiration so many of our artists—luminaries like the late Maya Angelou who was a tireless advocate for the museum.

This museum has come a long way over the past 50 years, to play an important role in the Smithsonian Institution, in the Washington, D.C. community, and in the cultural life of our Nation and the world.

I congratulate them on a wonderful 50 years, and I wish them another flourishing 50 more.

HONORING MS. BLANCHE BURTON-
LYLES

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of the great pianist Ms. Blanche Burton-Lyles, a native of South Philadelphia, whose dedication to music and service has left a lasting mark on Philadelphia.

Ms. Burton-Lyles attended the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music, on the recommendation of her mentor Marian Anderson. There she studied under Madam Isabella Vengerova, one of the founders of the Curtis Institute, and Leo Ornstein, Sr., world renowned composer and pianist. Ms. Burton-Lyles also received a music degree from Temple University. She worked as a music educator in the Philadelphia Public School System for many years. A recipient of many performance awards and humanitarian honors, Ms. Burton-Lyles is the first African-American woman to perform in Carnegie Hall with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and played a number of times in the personal home of Marian Anderson. In January of 1998, she received Anderson's historical residences, which are now international attractions for visitors worldwide. Ms. Burton-Lyles is the Founder and President of the Marian Anderson Historical Society, Inc. and maintains the Marian Anderson residence and museum. Ms. Burton-Lyles will be honored by the Marian Anderson Historical Society on May 31, 2014.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and commitment have inspired and supported so many in our region. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Blanche Burton-Lyles for her lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF LUPUS
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lupus Awareness Month. As co-chair of the Congressional Lupus Caucus, I am honored to help raise awareness of lupus throughout the month of May.

Despite affecting an estimated 1.5 million Americans—approximately 90 percent of whom are women—lupus is not very well known. And for those who have heard of the disease, it is much more widespread than most realize.

Lupus is a chronic illness that can affect any organ in the body. It occurs when the immune system is out of balance, damaging the body's organs and tissues. Most puzzling, no two lupus patients experience the same symptoms. Thus, a variety of medications are used to treat the disease since its manifestations vary dramatically between cases. Many symptoms of Lupus mimic those of other illnesses, and can change over time, making diagnosis difficult. Consequently, diagnoses of Lupus can take up to four years and require visits to more than three physicians.

My goal in founding the Congressional Lupus Caucus was to raise awareness and help further research efforts in regard to this little understood, life-threatening disease. Researchers are working to better understand the disease's complexity and are making great strides in finding effective treatments. Today, there are more than two dozen potential drugs for lupus in the development pipeline. Because of research, initiatives such as Lupus Awareness Month, and other grassroots efforts, more and more people with lupus are leading healthier lives and living longer than at any time in history.

I am proud to report that in my home state of Massachusetts, excellent resources are available to those affected by lupus. These resources include a support group at the Bourne Council on Aging and a state-of-the-art Lupus Program at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Despite local successes, Federal funding for advocacy and research remains critical. Increased funding will lead to improved knowledge of the disease and earlier and more accurate diagnoses, helping to improve disease management, diminish adverse effects, and increase quality of life for individuals living with lupus. I pledge to continue to raise awareness and do what I can to secure the resources needed to build upon the steady strides already achieved in lupus research and development. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to continue to support lupus research and treatment and to help spread the word about this disease.

RECOGNIZING MR. AMR NASSAR

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize one of my constitu-

ents, Mr. Amr Nassar, for his acceptance to the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC. Mr. Nassar was selected for his academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship.

The People to People mission is to bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange. To this end, People to People offers domestic and international educational programs that promote cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and leadership. It is my hope that Mr. Nassar benefitted greatly from his participation in the World Leadership Forum, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

ANN MILLER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ann Miller. Ms. Miller is the Executive Director of Unlimited Learning, Incorporated, in southwest Colorado.

Ms. Miller has been working with refugees and minority groups on educational and occupational issues such as providing English language instruction, life skills training and cross-cultural classes since the mid-1970s.

Since 1990, she has been Director of the Adult Education Program for Montezuma and Dolores Counties in southwest Colorado, and in 2001 founded Unlimited Learning and is currently serving as the institution's Executive Director. Unlimited Learning is a nonprofit educational organization, primarily focused on distance education programming. They ensure that Native Americans, rural area residents, and adults seeking a GED have access to adult education, college level education courses, and degrees. Unlimited Learning serves in partnership with the College of Eastern Utah, which is part of the Utah State University system, to provide educational services to over 5,000 square miles spanning Colorado, Arizona, Utah, and Alaska.

Ms. Miller is driven by the desire to provide innovative ways to reach and educate rural, low-income, and minority citizens, so that they have an opportunity for a better life—socially, economically, and physically. She truly has made a great difference in the lives of many people.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Director Ann Miller. I rise today to thank her for her work on behalf of the citizens of Montezuma and Dolores Counties.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE
TRANSITIONAL CARE ACT OF 2014

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing The Medicare Transitional Care Act, which will address continuity of care problems. This legislation will provide high-risk Medicare beneficiaries access to evidence based transitional care services that are provided by an eligible transitional care entity,

such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and community based-organizations. The bill will also provide incentives for the use of technology and other tools to improve care transitions.

Transitions from hospital to home can be complicated and risky, especially for individuals with multiple chronic illnesses. Patients frequently report difficulty remembering clinical instructions, confusion over correct use of medications, and uncertainty over their prognosis. In cases where multiple providers are involved, patients often get conflicting instructions from different providers.

Researchers with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation have estimated that inadequate care coordination, including inadequate management of care transitions, was responsible for \$25 to \$45 billion in wasteful spending in 2011 through avoidable complications and unnecessary hospital readmissions.

In its June 2012 Report, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) highlighted the need for an explicit payment for transitional care services, given the documented evidence that effective and coordinated care transitions improve health outcomes, reduce readmission rates, and generate significant savings to the U.S. health care system. The Congressional Budget Office has echoed these findings. In a report documenting lessons from Medicare's demonstration projects, the CBO emphasized that "programs that smoothed transitions (for example, by providing additional education and support to patients moving from a hospital to a nursing facility or between a primary care provider and a specialist) tended to have fewer hospital admissions."

It is our hope that stakeholders involved in the care delivery system will carefully evaluate this legislation and provide comments or suggested improvements to me and the other sponsors. We are interested in ensuring that the legislation's terms are adequately tailored to the different circumstances and settings in which these transitions occur.

Providing a transitional care benefit within Medicare will help coordinate care, develop a care plan for patients and their caregivers, identify potential health risks, and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations. I thank my cosponsors and look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 28, I missed two recorded votes. Had I been present, on rollcall No. 241, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall No. 242, I would have voted "aye."

THANKING MARA SACCENTE FOR HER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many friends, family and colleagues who have gathered to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Mara Saccente who served as a member of my District staff for 15 years. As a Caseworker and Scheduler, Mara dedicated an enormous amount of her personal time and energies to addressing the needs and concerns of the residents of Connecticut's 3rd Congressional District and I cannot thank her enough for all the outstanding work she has done.

A native of Orange, Connecticut, during her senior year at the University of Connecticut, Mara spent the fall semester as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office. She was energetic and full of enthusiasm, assisting our press secretary and writing constituent correspondence. It was fortunate timing that upon her graduation, I had an opening for a caseworker in my District Office. Mara officially came on board on July 1, 1998. During the first three years of her tenure, she was responsible for a variety of casework areas including issues with Social Security, immigration, and the environment. Her compassion and understanding lent itself to the position and she thrived—the myriad of thank you notes she received is a testament to the difference she was able to make in the lives of others.

As anyone in this Chamber can understand, the position of scheduling in a Congressional office requires a unique combination of patience and organization as well as the ability to manage the many personalities of constituents vying for your time. With a seemingly never ending list of events, invitations, and meetings coming in, in the twelve years that Mara served as my district scheduler, she managed to balance it all with both poise and integrity—earning a distinguished reputation among her colleagues and the many community members she interacted with every day.

Though I can hardly figure out where she was able to find the time, Mara is also very involved with her community. A member of Or Shalom Synagogue, she served as Secretary of the Board of Directors, she has been a leader for her daughter's Girl Scouts troop, as well as an active member of the PTA and the local Democratic Town Committee. Mara's strong desire to give back to her community has made a real difference and serves as an example to us all of how one person's actions can enrich the lives of others.

Mara has embarked on a new professional endeavor, however, she will always be more than just a staffer or a colleague—she is family. I, like all of those who have had the opportunity to work with her, will miss her. Today, I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation to Mara Saccente for all of her good work both on my behalf and that of the residents of the 3rd Congressional District. I wish her, her husband, Ken, and their children, Anna and Nathan, as well as her parents, Paul and

Debbie Davis, the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 8TH ANNUAL DC LATINO PRIDE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 8th annual DC Latino Pride, the national capital region's celebration of our Latino lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

The Washington, DC metropolitan area has had an identifiable Latino LGBT community since the early 1960s. However, the community remained largely invisible until the first LGBT March in Washington in 1987. DC Latino Pride's parent organization, the Latino Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender History Project, began in 2000. The organization grew out of a private archive kept since 1993 by its founder, José Gutierrez, who, in turn, organized the first DC Latino Pride, in 2007.

It has been both a pleasure and an inspiration to watch DC Latino Pride grow from a panel discussion held the day before the annual Capital Pride parade to this year's series of events between May 25 and June 5. The Latino Pride events include La Coronación on May 25th; La Plática, a panel discussion at the Human Rights Campaign on May 29th; La Fe, a bilingual worship service with the Metropolitan Community Church Ministerio Español and Grupo Latino Dignidad de Washington on May 31st, and La Fiesta Latino Dance Party at Towne Danceboutique on June 5th.

The Latino and Latino gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender GLBT History Project and Empoderate Youth Center of La Clínica del Pueblo jointly host DC Latino Pride and coordinate this celebration with their partners: El Zol Radio 107.9, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the DC Office of Human Rights, the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, the Mayor's Office of GLBT Affairs, D&P Creative Strategies, Brother Help Thyself, The DC Center, GLOV, the Raben Goup, Lambda Legal, Whitman Walker, Reasons, Verizon, Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, Latinos Ready for Hilary, Identity, and Food & Friends.

This year's organizers include: David M. Pérez, President; Esther Hidalgo, Vice President of Historical Archives; José Gutierrez, Founder & Historical Archives Co-Chair; Jorge A. Soto, Secretary; Wilmer Gutiérrez, Treasurer; May Sifuentes, Finance Committee Co-Chair; Board Members Jose Plaza and Alexa Rodríguez; José Ramírez, Outreach Chair; Jennifer Sánchez, Outreach Committee; and Jesús "Chuche" Chavez, Program Coordinator.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 8th annual DC Latino Pride, welcoming all those who will attend, and congratulating the Latino GLBT History Project's officers, board, and volunteers for work well done, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that the United States citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.