

would become the University of Phoenix, one of the largest institutions of higher education.

Sperling created an institution that has empowered thousands of working adults with the tools needed to provide a better quality of life for themselves and their families. His enduring legacy of innovation and entrepreneurship in education has inspired new thinking and a renewed focus on non-traditional students across all of academia.

John Sperling inspired so many Americans to see—and seize—the opportunities in their lives. We hope that it is a comfort to son, Peter, his family, Joan Hawthorne, his companion, and all of John's loved ones that so many share their sadness.

CONGRATULATING ALVIN ISD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Alvin Independent School District for receiving the 2014 Clean Air Champion award.

This award honors organizations operating in the Houston-Galveston area that are taking extraordinary, voluntary measures to improve the region's air quality. The Alvin ISD earned this recognition by revamping district-wide transportation; they have boosted fuel efficiency through a no-idle policy, pulled older, less efficient vehicles off the road, and replaced most diesel-fueled buses with propane-fueled buses.

I applaud the Alvin Independent School District in its forward thinking and contributions to our local air quality and health. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Alvin ISD for receiving the 2014 Clean Air Champion award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on November 12, I was absent due to airline delays between California and Washington, DC and was unable to cast my vote for rollcall 516.

Rollcall No. 516: Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 4194—Government Reports Elimination Act. Had I been present I would have voted, "aye."

STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION FOR THE NAZI SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS TERMINATION ACT OF 2014

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the bipartisan Nazi Social Security Benefits Termination Act of 2014 along with my colleagues Representatives JASON CHAFFETZ, LEONARD LANCE, STEVE COHEN, JAMES MCGOVERN, KATHY CASTOR, PETER KING, HANK JOHNSON,

DAVID CICILLINE, KEITH ELLISON, PATRICK MURPHY, STEVE ISRAEL, DEREK KILMER, and JACKIE SPEIER. I commend Sens. BOB CASEY and CHARLES SCHUMER for introducing the Senate companion.

After the conclusion of World War II, thousands of people who participated in Nazi persecution fled to the United States and lied about their pasts to gain U.S. citizenship. The Department of Justice has successfully identified and deported hundreds of these individuals over more than three decades. There were, however, individuals who left the country of their own accord before being issued an order of removal, which would have terminated all federal benefits, including Social Security. Without this order, eligibility for these benefits remained intact and these individuals collected millions of dollars in federal benefit checks.

The Nazi Social Security Benefits Termination Act of 2014 would require the U.S. Attorney General to notify the Social Security Commissioner to terminate benefits for any individual who has renounced citizenship or been denaturalized on the grounds of participation in Nazi persecution. In the event that the Department of Justice identifies Nazi war criminals still residing in the U.S., it may initiate its denaturalization process as normal, and this rule change would allow benefits termination at the end of that process. The measure also requires an annual report to Congress from the Department of Justice on the number of individuals it has determined are disqualified for Social Security benefits under this new legislation as well as the number of active investigations against Nazi war criminals it continues to pursue.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation that would finally put an end to this grave misuse of federal dollars. After decades of paying out benefits to Nazi criminals who slipped through our justice system, it is past time to correct this injustice.

HONORING THE UNITY COUNCIL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Unity Council's 50th Anniversary. For five decades, the Unity Council has continued to enrich our community's quality of life by helping families build wealth and assets through sustainable economic, social and neighborhood development programs.

In 1964, what started as a political action group soon evolved into a social services assistance program to aid Latinos in Oakland, California's Fruitvale district. In their new capacity, the Unity Council created Oakland's first Spanish-speaking employment office and worked with Oakland city officials to create the first Latino library, now known as the Cesar E. Chavez Branch Public Library. By 1967, the organization had become incorporated as a nonprofit organization and service agency. In the years that followed, the Unity Council became a powerful catalyst for pervasive social change.

During the 1970s, the Unity Council created a business advisory committee composed of Clorox, Pacific Bell, PG&E, Kaiser Permanente and Safeway; formed the Fruitvale Community Development District; initiated a small Latino business loan and assistance center; and built Las Casitas, the first

ever Latino-built housing development in Oakland.

The 1980s brought challenging times for the Unity Council, which nearly resulted in the organization's demise. Fortunately, broad-based community support, strategic business partnerships, and a drastic reorganization allowed the Unity Council to rebuild its reputation and once again establish itself as the voice of the Fruitvale district and of Latinos in Oakland.

Starting in the early 1990s, the Unity Council expanded its Head Start Program from 18 children to 117, and offered early childhood development services, health and nutrition education, advocacy, and social services. Currently, the Head Start Program and the more recent addition, Early Head Start Program, serve a total of 608 low-income families.

In 1995, the Unity Council began its Façade Improvement Program, designed to provide business and property owners matching grants of up to \$10,000 to fund rehabilitation projects. By 2005, the Façade Improvement Program had completed 120 projects and leveraged \$220,000 of grant dollars into millions of dollars in contributions from stakeholders. That same year, the Unity Council received funding to launch the Fruitvale Public Market, a 7,000 square foot business incubator space designed to promote the local economy and create high quality and sustainable jobs for neighborhood residents. As a result, the Fruitvale commercial district went from 30–40 percent vacancy to less than 1 percent vacancy, and became the second largest revenue producing commercial area in the city of Oakland.

One of the Unity Council's biggest milestones is the Fruitvale Transit Village. The nationally recognized Fruitvale Transit Village opened in 2003 with 47 housing units as well as offices for several major community organizations. Earlier this year, the Unity Council received state funding that will allow the addition of 275 affordable and market-rate rental units to the Fruitvale area. After 50 years, the Unity Council remains the most relevant voice for the Latino community in the East Bay.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I thank the Unity Council for the countless contributions and never-ending commitment to our communities. I wish the Unity Council another fifty years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW BEDFORD

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford as this organization celebrates its 75th anniversary this month.

For three quarters of a century, the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford has united religious organizations throughout our community in service to the surrounding area. Comprised of 47 member congregations stretching from Westport to Wareham, and supported by a volunteer force of more than 150 leaders, the Council has since its founding served as a strong faith collaborative committed to social justice and spiritual renewal for all its members.

The Council serves our community in many important ways. Its housing programs serve