

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that this week marks the 50-year anniversary of the Head Start program, a momentous achievement in our Nation's fight to break the cycle of poverty and open the windows of opportunity for low-income families and children.

Now, I don't want to date myself, actually, but I was in the first class of Head Start, and today I bring with me my original certificate of completion from that program. I am proud to say that, if it were not for Head Start, I wouldn't be here today. You see, as the daughter of poor immigrants from Mexico, not many people would think I would graduate from high school, let alone college, or get my MBA and eventually make my way to the House of Representatives.

Head Start has served over 32 million children, and, more importantly, it has helped families know how to navigate the school system. My hat is off to the teachers, to the community volunteers, to the healthcare coordinators, and to so many who helped to implement Head Start programs in their communities. Your work is transforming our Nation. It is giving that head start to our children because they are the future of this Nation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I say today, "Happy birthday, Head Start."

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN DUSTIN
LUKASIEWICZ OF ALMA, NEBRASKA

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Third District constituent Captain Dustin Lukasiewicz of Alma, Nebraska. He and five fellow marines were killed in a helicopter crash last week while providing humanitarian aid to earthquake victims in Nepal.

Captain Lukasiewicz made the ultimate sacrifice while trying to assist victims no one else could reach. His service reflects the goodness of America, accepting the call to help those who need it most.

When I spoke with the captain's mother yesterday, she told me how her son called to wish her a happy Mother's Day just days before the crash. His attention to loved ones is a reflection of his life of service and devoting himself to the care of others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praying for the captain's mother, father, wife, daughter, unborn child, and all others who lost loved ones in this terrible tragedy. As Memorial Day approaches, we must make it our priority to honor and remember our military heroes, and Captain Lukasiewicz is certainly one of our heroes.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

(Mr. NOLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, as Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY and Congresswoman SANCHEZ just pointed out their involvement in Head Start, I want you to know I directed a 19-unit Head Start program up in north central Minnesota in my youth, and so I am proud to join them in celebrating this 50th anniversary that served over 32 million children, because I was able to see firsthand how this impacted children's lives. And what a testimonial it is to see one of the first participants go on to become a Member of the United States Congress and running for the United States Senate.

Clearly, Head Start is so critical to our national commitment to every child, regardless of their circumstances at birth, to have an opportunity to succeed in life, developing that wonderful spark for learning that sets kids up for success.

So once again, hats off to the educators, to the directors, to the faculty, and to the parents, all those who have made this program such a wonderful, great success for children all across America.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May as National Foster Care Month.

Today I would like to applaud the thousands of families who open their homes to foster children. It takes a special kind of caregiver to foster a child, someone who can drop everything on a moment's notice and, without hesitation, bring a child into their home.

In Pennsylvania alone, there are 15,000 children in foster care. That means we have thousands of amazing families with hearts big enough to provide love and care for children who need a place to call home.

Mr. Speaker, foster children become an irreplaceable part of the family. Indeed, the most telling statistic is that in Pennsylvania 65 percent of families end up adopting their foster children. We need families willing to open their hearts and homes unconditionally to

children who have been abused and removed from their homes. This is what so many dedicated foster families are able to provide.

Mr. Speaker, during National Foster Care Month, I would like to celebrate the resiliency of foster children who overcome great obstacles at such a young age and recognize the dedicated foster families who support them.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, today I stand here to recognize May as National Foster Care Month. More than 40,000 of our Nation's youth are currently living in the child welfare system. More than 23,000 youth age out of the foster care system when they turn 18, putting them at risk for homelessness, criminal exposure, and mental illness. These statistics paint a grim picture.

Today I stand here to recognize a young woman who aged out of the foster care system, Kamille Tynes, a success story. Kamille spent 5 years in the Michigan foster care system. Her experience fostered a tireless advocacy for foster care and resources that our children need. She has been given awards and recognized for her amazing leadership, such as the foster care Outstanding Young Leaders Award. She is now creating her own consulting firm to address those needs. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask my colleagues to please continue to understand the importance of recognizing and funding our foster care program.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate May as National Foster Care Month and welcome many of the foster care youth who are visiting the House of Representatives today.

This year's theme is "Get to Know the Many Faces of Foster Care." The goal of this special month is to celebrate the experiences of the more than 400,000 youth in the child welfare system and raise awareness about their needs.

Mr. Speaker, the foster care system has and always will hold a special place in my heart. When I was 11 years old, my family welcomed a foster care child, Bob, into our home. Bob, throughout the years, has taught me so much and will be my brother for life.

Today I have the honor of being shadowed for the day by Nyeelah Innis of Newnan, Georgia. Nyeelah has been in foster care for 8 years, with her first foster care setting starting when she was 10 years old. Mr. Speaker, in just