

acceptance and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in the U.S. and all over the world. The Games honor the talents, perseverance and achievements of people who are all too often overlooked or excluded from mainstream society. Every year, millions of athletes participate in Special Olympics activities in nearly every country of the world, with the support of as many as one million coaches and volunteers.

The Special Olympians here in Los Angeles have travelled far and overcome many obstacles in their quest for excellence. They also know that their willingness to step into the spotlight and share their abilities and dreams with the world will offer inspiration to others with intellectual disabilities, and to their families, friends, villages, towns, cities and nations.

Thanks are also due to the families and friends back home who support their athletes and loved ones with intellectual disabilities, whether or not they will ever make it to the World Games.

I invite all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me and the entire bipartisan Los Angeles delegation in congratulating the organizers, coaches, volunteers, families, supporters and most of all the athletes on the success of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles.

INTRODUCING A JOINT RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM OBTAINING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will authorize the sitting President or his successors to use the armed forces of the United States to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

On July 14, 2015, a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) designed to ensure that Iran's nuclear program is used solely for peaceful purposes was finalized. With history as our guide, any agreement with the Iranian government must be met with skepticism, and therefore, backed up with muscularity—my legislation provides this muscularity.

Indeed, the importance of an international framework that actually prohibits Iran from ever becoming a nuclear weapons state cannot be overstated. As Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and the only American to have served as President of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE PA) Parliamentary Assembly, as well as a former member of both the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and Committee on Foreign Affairs, I am acutely aware of the challenges in dealing with Iran's nuclear program.

Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon at any time is a threat to the United States as well as our allies in the region, and its questionable sincerity in forgoing the procurement of such weapons has created legitimate cause for concern in the past and must, therefore, inform how we proceed today and in the future. It is my sincere hope that my legislation will pro-

vide the added hard power necessary to deter Iran from continued efforts to obtain nuclear weapons, including skirting compliance with the JCPOA, if implemented.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will send a clear message to the Iranian regime that the United States is willing to ensure that Iran never becomes a nuclear weapons state at any cost.

A TRIBUTE TO BOB FENNER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bob Fenner of the Bluffs Arts Council for receiving an Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award.

Each year Iowa Governor Terry Branstad honors individuals who have exemplified exceptional commitment to their communities through various service related activities. Bob was granted this prestigious award as he has demonstrated his dedication to serving the Bluffs Arts Council as both a board member and volunteer. Bob's hard work and dedication to serving others truly embodies our Iowa values.

I applaud Bob for his commitment to service and giving back to the community. It is an honor to represent civic minded Iowans like him in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him for receiving this award and wish him nothing but the best moving forward.

IN HONOR OF THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION'S ANNUAL SESSION FROM AUGUST 2 THROUGH 7, 2015

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the instrumental work of the Progressive National Baptist Convention to protect the right to vote as they host their annual session from August 2 through 7, 2015 in Dallas, Texas. At its annual session, the Progressive National Baptist Convention calls on its current members to protect the right that its founding members fought to earn: the right to vote. Today, on the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, the right to the ballot box is once again challenged and the foot soldiers fighting to protect against the disenfranchisement of vulnerable populations are more necessary than ever.

Since its Civil Rights era founding in 1961, the Progressive National Baptist Convention has fought to improve the conditions of the African American community at large. The Progressive National Baptist Convention was the denominational home and platform for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as its founding leaders worked to unite Baptist faith communities across the country to further the socio-economic liberation of African Americans in the United States. The founding principles of fel-

lowship, progress, service and peace continue to guide its membership as they now apply the cornerstones of their organization to advocate for full voter registration and participation.

In the last two years the Supreme Court weakened key components of the original Voting Rights Act of 1965, allowing state legislatures nationwide to actively create and implement voter ID laws meant to keep African Americans, Latinos and other traditionally disenfranchised communities away from the ballot box. On the heels of the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, the Progressive National Baptist Convention continues to be a vital Baptist denomination with an estimated membership of 2.5 million actively working to give full voice, leadership and active support to the black community, America, and ultimately the universal fight for human freedom. Today, the Progressive National Baptist Convention calls on its nationwide membership to fight in the name of voter empowerment and restoration of voting protections for all Americans.

In my home state of Texas, one of the battlegrounds for the modern struggle to protect the right to vote, the Progressive National Baptist Convention will galvanize member churches across the country to work to end voter intimidation, voting suppression, and suspicious practices. Additionally, the Progressive National Baptist Convention will embark upon a nationwide voter registration campaign with a special focus on the communities targeted by voting discrimination.

In honor of the great civil rights tradition that the Progressive National Baptist Convention continues, and in recognition of its status as an active advocate organization for the African American community and disenfranchised communities everywhere, this statement will be entered on Tuesday, September 8, 2015.

HONORING SHILOH CHURCH

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shiloh Church located in Oakland, California upon its 50th Anniversary as a strong religious pillar in the East Bay community.

Shiloh Church was founded in 1965 by Dr. Violet Kiteley and her son, Dr. David Kiteley, in the living room of an African-American family. They sought to bring glory to God by engaging and empowering believers through fellowship, discipleship, worship and service.

Since its founding, Shiloh Church has become a multi-ethnic congregation with members from over 40 nations. To accommodate its growing membership, the church underwent extensive remodeling of the facility to include a technology center and youth center. Shiloh Church also has affiliate ministries impacting hundreds of thousands of people in Canada, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Philippines, and Ethiopia throughout the world through its biblically-based training centers and church plants.

Dr. Violet Kiteley, now in her 90's, has served in fulltime ministry for over 70 years. She has served as the President of Shiloh Bible College for over 35 years and was personally instrumental in training hundreds of

leaders who are now pastors, elders, missionaries, and licensed ministers in churches across the world. Dr. David Kiteley followed in his mother's footsteps alongside his wife, Pastor Marilyn, and they have faithfully served the church full-time since 1970 as co-pastors.

Dr. David has traveled extensively and held leadership conferences in over 45 countries. Dr. David's son, Pastor Patrick and his wife served as Senior Pastors from 2008 until 2015. Now, Dr. David's daughter, Pastor Melinda, and her husband, Pastor Javier Ramos, will serve as 4th senior leadership transition in the church's history that will carry on the spiritual heritage laid by the past generations.

Shiloh Church has been able to better the lives of East Bay residents through its various outreach programs such as the Robert Allen Mercy House, which provides groceries and other resources to the unemployed, underemployed, and homeless. Since 1982, this program has disbursed over \$1,000,000 of food each year to more than 15,000 families.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I extend my sincerest congratulations to Shiloh Church on the special occasion of its 50th anniversary. I wish Shiloh Church many more years of faithful and compassionate service.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JOHN RASMUSSEN

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate John Rasmussen of the Bluffs Arts Council for receiving an Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award.

Each year Iowa Governor Terry Branstad honors individuals who have exemplified exceptional commitment to their communities through various service related activities. John was granted this prestigious award as he has demonstrated his dedication to serving the Bluffs Arts Council as both a board member and volunteer. John's hard work and dedication to serving others truly embodies our Iowa values.

I applaud John for his commitment to service and giving back to the community. It is an honor to represent civic minded Iowans like him in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him for receiving this award and wish him nothing but the best moving forward.

#### GRAND OPENING OF VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE'S DR. PREM REDDY HEALTH AND SCIENCES BUILDING

### HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, over my time representing the citizens of California's Eighth Congressional District, I have been able to spend time with and learn from some of the best community leaders America has to offer.

These are folks who regularly put the interest of others before their own. They show us their character and generosity by going above what is required or expected of them, in order to improve the livelihood of the community as a whole. I come before you today to speak on Dr. Reddy's latest philanthropic endeavor—Victor Valley College's Dr. Prem Reddy Health and Sciences Building.

Opened on August 28, 2015, this 24,000 square foot facility will provide much needed new labs for the science programs, as well as nursing specific training labs, all integrated with indoor and outdoor student gathering and study spaces to create a collaborative and technology driven learning environment. The building will also feature expanded anatomy and chemistry labs, as well as a digital science lab capable of up to 40 workstations. The new nursing lab will feature 8 simulated medical beds and instruction space for up to 40 students. All of these lab and training facilities are supplied with high tech audio and visual equipment and a wireless network for student access. The building also operates under the most technologically advanced systems for energy efficiency and energy savings.

The students trained and educated in this state-of-the-art facility will enter the healthcare industry in a period of great turmoil. As the payment methods and organization of the industry rapidly evolve, no one can predict what the future may hold. However, the one thing we know for certain is that we will always need the most highly trained and educated students to provide the actual care, person to person. That process begins by having a learning environment to facilitate their education. I graciously thank Dr. Prem Reddy for his generosity on making this building a reality, and I congratulate Victor Valley College for its development and wish its future students years of success.

#### RECOGNIZING CHRISTINA COONEY FOR HER EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE AT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES IN LOS ANGELES

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Christina Cooney for winning a Silver and Bronze medal in equestrian events at the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles, California this past July.

In order to qualify for the World Games, Christina had to win a gold medal in local, regional and state competitions, and be approved by Special Olympics Florida. Christina achieved all of these feats to become one of 7,000 competitors from over 170 countries around the world, and the only equestrian rider from Florida, out of ten riders from around the nation, to represent the United States at the World Games.

Christina is visually impaired, deaf, mentally challenged, and cannot speak; yet, she is able to communicate with the horses she rides and cares for in a way few individuals are able. Christina started riding at Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center in Loxahatchee, Florida, at age 12 and has ridden for over 20 years.

At Vinceremos, Christina trains and volunteers on a daily basis, doing whatever tasks are required to care for the animals and the facilities.

Christina developed a remarkable relationship with her coach, Kim Elie, who took it upon herself to learn sign language and created a buzzer system for communication purposes. When Christina learned she qualified for the World Games, she and her coaches and family faced one last challenge: funding the trip to compete in California. The Special Olympics only funds transportation for the competing athlete not for their family members and coaches. Thus, Coach Kim Elie's husband, Mark Elie, set up an online fundraising account that raised over \$8,000 to fund the travel costs of her family members and coaches. In a similar way, a local restaurant held an event in support of Christina that raised over \$7,000 in one night. This money has created a fund in Christina's name that pays for sign language instruction for her coaches.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of Christina for continuing to push the bounds for what is possible within her sport. Christina has overcome many obstacles to become the decorated Olympic medalist she is today. She may live with disabilities, but she competes with the heart of an Olympian. That is why I am so truly honored to recognize Christina Cooney as a Hastings' Hero. It is inspiring individuals such as Christina, who give me great pride to represent in Congress.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on July 28 and July 29 on account of official business at the Trans-Pacific Partnership talks. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On Roll Call 473, I would have voted No (Young amendment to the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act).

On Roll Call 474, I would have voted No (Smith amendment to the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act).

On Roll Call 475, I would have voted Aye (Johnson amendment to the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act).

On Roll Call 476, I would have voted Aye (Capps amendment to the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act).

On Roll Call 477, I would have voted Aye (Cicilline amendment to the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act).

On Roll Call 478, I would have voted Aye (Cicilline/Jackson-Lee amendment to the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act).

On Roll Call 479, I would have voted Aye (Nadler amendment to the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act).

On Roll Call 480, I would have voted Aye (Pocan/Moore amendment to the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act).

On Roll Call 481, I would have voted Aye (Motion to Recommit the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act).

On Roll Call 482, I would have voted No (Final passage of the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act).