

For Wednesday, March 17, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 120 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1089), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 121 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1167), "no" on rollcall vote No. 122 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1184), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 123 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1141), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 124 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to S. 1147), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 125 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3954), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 126 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 946), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 127 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 4825).

For Thursday, March 18, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 131 (on motion to refer H. Res. 1193, raising a question of the privileges of the House), "no" on rollcall vote No. 132 (on motion to table H. Res. 1193, raising a question of the privileges of the House), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 133 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3542), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 134 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3509), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 135 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1173).

TRIBUTE TO COLLINS-MAXWELL HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the students at Collins-Maxwell High School and Middle School in Central Iowa for their efforts in raising money to help those devastated by the earthquake in Haiti.

Lanie Crouse, president of the high school student council, and student council members Josh Benton and Jameson Hudson implemented a plan to raise money for the Story County Chapter of the American Red Cross for relief in Haiti by selling T-shirts. The more than 240 T-shirts sold have a Haitian-style design with their school Raider logo. In addition, the middle school students organized a coin drive which raised \$242. Local community members also chipped in with monetary contributions. This entire fundraising relief effort raised a grand total of over \$1,700.

This collective effort at Collins-Maxwell High School and Middle School is characteristic of what Iowa is all about—citizens motivated and dedicated to improving the daily life of people in need, and in this case those who have lost everything. I commend Lanie Crouse, Josh Benton, Jameson Hudson, and all the students and community members who participated in this fundraiser, as well as Jessica Allen, the school counselor, who facilitated this heartwarming effort. I consider it an honor to represent all of those at Collins-Maxwell Schools involved in this great act of kindness and charity on behalf of Haiti in the United

States Congress and again I congratulate them on their successful efforts.

HONORING THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Urban League and celebrate their 100 years of service. Since 1910, the National Urban League has grown to have more than 100 affiliates in 36 states and the District of Columbia. Their work impacts the lives of more than 2 million across the nation and I applaud their contributions in fighting for historically underserved urban communities.

In my district, which is 100 percent urban, there are active National Urban League affiliates who work hard to provide vital sources such as delivering social services and programs. New Jersey's 13th Congressional district is incredibly diverse and is made up of 47.6 percent Latinos, 12.8 percent African Americans, and 5.6 percent Asians. Among my constituents, 39.6 percent are foreign born, and this diversity enriches our communities. Through the hard work of the National Urban League, many of my constituents are becoming empowered to gain better access to education, employment, housing, and health care.

The 100th Anniversary of the National Urban League also coincides with the publication of their 34th edition of The State of Black America. This riveting report features contributions from our nation's brightest scholars, politicians, and professionals and demonstrates just how severely our urban and minority communities are being impacted in the areas of economics, education, health, civic engagement, and social justice. For the very first time, The State of Black America, included a Hispanic index. In the report, an Equality Index of 100 percent would signify that minorities are on par with Caucasians; however, this report found that African-Americans received an overall Equality Index of 71.8 percent and Hispanics received an overall score of 75.5 percent. Clearly, there is more progress to be made.

The area of economics represents the greatest disparity between minorities and whites, and the unemployment statistics were the most disconcerting. In 2009, African-American unemployment was 14.8 percent, Hispanic unemployment was 12.1 percent, and white unemployment was 8.5 percent. Further, for adult black men, the unemployment rate was 17.8 percent as compared to 8.8 percent for white men. For adult black women, the unemployment rate is 12.1 percent as compared to 7.3 percent for white women. The high rate of national unemployment is impacting all Americans, but is having a particularly devastating effect on African-Americans.

In an effort to combat these sobering numbers, the National Urban League introduced The National Urban League's Plan for Putting America Back to Work. This six point plan targets \$168 billion in spending over two years through: (1) direct create job creation, (2) ex-

pansion of the Youth Summer Jobs program, (3) creation of urban jobs academies, (4) creation of green empowerment zones, (5) expansion of the hiring of housing counselors nationwide, and (6) expansion of the Small Business Administration's Community Express Loan Program. Together, these recommendations will address the jobs crisis that our urban communities are facing. The National Urban League's Centennial initiative is, "I AM EMPOWERED," and sets a goal for every American to achieve access to a quality job which includes a living wage and good benefits by 2025. Let us all work together and make this goal a reality.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the National Urban League for their dedication in serving our communities and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their 100 years of achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD TB DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of World TB Day. Tuberculosis is the second leading global infectious disease killer behind HIV/AIDS, claiming approximately 1.8 million lives each year. It is estimated that 1/3 of the world's population is infected with TB. This disease kills people of all races and ages around the world.

The global TB pandemic and spread of drug resistant TB presents a persistent public health threat to the U.S. The WHO reports that 5 percent of all new TB cases are drug resistant, with estimates of up to 28 percent drug resistant reported in some parts of Russia. Of these numbers, it is estimated that only 7 percent are receiving treatment.

Although drugs, diagnostics and vaccines for TB exist, these technologies are antiquated and are increasingly inadequate for controlling the global epidemic. The most commonly used TB diagnostic in the world, sputum microscopy, is more than 100 years old and lacks sensitivity to detect TB in most HIV/AIDS patients and in children.

Drug susceptibility tests for drug resistant TB take 2–4 weeks to complete, during which time a drug resistant TB patient in a developing country may die. The TB vaccine, BCG, provides some protection to children, but has little or no efficacy in preventing pulmonary TB in adults. We will never be able to defeat TB without the introduction of new identification, treatment and prevention tools.

World TB Day provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the significant gains made in the fight against TB and reminds of us the challenges ahead. Since 1995, 36 million people around the world have successfully been treated for TB and 9 million lives have been saved.

Less than 2 years ago, this Congress passed two historic laws to combat TB. The Comprehensive TB Elimination Act authorizes the tools to put the U.S. on the path to TB