

shoved under the rug by society. This inspired him to take time every Monday to check attendance records at the local high schools. In the evenings, he would visit with families of students exhibiting high rates of absenteeism in an effort to get their support in encouraging the students to stay in school and make the most of that experience. This concern for improving society continued throughout his career. Sometimes limited to simply seeing Hispanic children given equal access to the YMCA, to concentrating on improving human rights abroad while serving as an ambassador, he never lost sight of using his opportunities to make a difference.

Throughout our history it has been proven that immigrants are far more than just an inexpensive work force. They are in fact a valuable asset to this country and Raul H. Castro is an outstanding example of one such person. Therefore, in light of today's divisive view of immigration, his story should be noted as a symbol of how the United States has benefited from those who value this country so much, and that after moving here to build a better life for their families, they remain dedicated to making sure that they improve our nation for future generations.

CONGRATULATING THE BENJAMIN
FAMILY ON EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS
OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 85th anniversary of Carroll Cut-Rate Furniture, a local family-owned-and-operated business that has graced the Greater New Haven community for generations.

Begun as Carroll Cut-Rate Cosmetics by Samuel Benjamin in 1925, this small business has passed down through the Benjamin family and thrived through boom times and depression, peacetime and war, and even, in 1951, through a notable shift from discount cosmetics to the furniture trade.

Over the course of these 85 years, Samuel, his sons Jerry and Don, and his grandsons Cary and Bruce have always kept an eye to innovation, quality, and above all customer service. With ten full-time employees, the Benjamins have also worked to promote jobs in our state and across the country by stocking their store with Connecticut mattresses and American-made furniture.

The story of Carroll Cut-Rate Furniture is not only a triumph of small enterprise and business savvy. It shows that through hard work, perseverance, and ingenuity, the American dream still comes true. I salute the Benjamin family on this 85-year milestone, and I look forward to seeing them continue as a staple of our Connecticut community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GAL-
VESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on June 26, 2010, the Galveston Historical Foundation will celebrate its acquisition of the historic 1861 U.S. Custom House. I was pleased to help make this possible by sponsoring legislation, H.R. 2121, which directed the General Services Administration (GSA) to sell the Custom House to the Galveston Historical Foundation. H.R. 2121 passed the House by voice vote on September 9, 2009. It is therefore a great pleasure to extend my congratulations to the Galveston Historical Foundation for acquiring the U.S. Custom House.

The U.S. Custom House is the oldest non-military federal building in Galveston. The two-story structure was built in 1861 and has served many important historical functions, including housing the ceremony that officially ended the Civil War in Galveston. In 1917, construction began on a federal courtroom located on the second floor of the U.S. Custom House. In 1970, the house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1974 it was commemorated as a Historic Custom House by the U.S. Customs Service.

In 1998, the Galveston Historical Foundation entered into a public-private partnership with the Federal Government that allowed the Galveston Historical Foundation to lease the building from the GSA. Under this agreement, the Galveston Historical Foundation took responsibility for performing renovations on the U.S. Custom House. In 2008, the house was inundated with six feet of flood waters from Hurricane Ike. Fortunately, the Galveston Historical Foundation has been able to complete restoration of the first floor of the Custom House earlier this year.

Madam Speaker, by owning as opposed to leasing, the Galveston Historical Foundation will be able to improve this historical structure for future generations of Texans. It is difficult to think of a more appropriate owner for the U.S. Custom House than the Galveston Historical Foundation. Founded in 1954, the Galveston Historical Foundation is one of the Nation's largest local preservation organizations. Over the last 56 years, this foundation has expanded its mission to encompass community redevelopment, public education, historic preservation advocacy, maritime preservation and stewardship of historic properties. Today, the Galveston Historical Foundation has over 2,000 members representing individuals, families, and businesses across Texas, the U.S., and around the world.

The Galveston Historical Foundation's accomplishments include the redevelopment of The Strand; the rescue and restoration of the 1877 iron barque the ELISSA; the revitalization of historic residential neighborhoods and creation of historic districts; and the conception of signature events including Dickens on The Strand and the Galveston Historic Homes Tour.

The Galveston Historical Foundation has received numerous awards and honors. For ex-

ample, they have twice received the National Trust for Historic Preservation's prestigious Honor Award. In 1991, the Galveston Historical Foundation was the first recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation, and in 1995, received the National Trust's first ever award for organizational excellence. The American Institute of Architects has presented the foundation a Citation of Honor for its ongoing contribution to urban design and the quality of life in Galveston. In addition, the Association for Preservation Technology International honored the Galveston Historical Foundation with a Presidential Citation in 2004.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I once again congratulate the Galveston Historical Foundation for acquiring the U.S. Custom House, and I extend my thanks to the Galveston Historical Foundation for all they do to preserve Galveston's rich heritage.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR JOSEPH BLAIR

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph Blair, who is celebrating 10 years of unselfish service and dedication to hundreds of youth through his Arizona Basketball Academy.

For young people in my community, these camps are unique because they are provided at no cost to participants and are conducted by a former University of Arizona Wildcat basketball player who went on to play the game professionally.

Joseph Blair started his program by traveling to various Boys & Girls Club locations, sharing basketball and life skills. The sessions evolved and have been consolidated so they now also benefit teens from Tucson Parks & Recreation and the Tucson Urban League, among others.

The growth of Mr. Blair's altruistic donations of time, influence and funding are paralleled by his athletic endeavors. His global career as an international ambassador of basketball and good will was launched at the University of Arizona, where he was the 6-foot-10-inch "big man." As a Wildcat, he led the team to appearances at Madison Square Garden, the Great Alaskan Shoot-Out and the Maui Classic as well as games in Australia and in the 1994 NCAA Final Four.

Mr. Blair was picked in the second round of the 1996 NBA draft, but opted to pursue a career in Europe, playing in France, Greece, Turkey, Russia and as a member of the famed Harlem Globetrotters. Most of his international career was in Italy where Mr. Blair played in the mountains of Biella, the seashores of Pesaro and in the city of Milan. Mr. Blair is fluently bilingual and loved the rich culture of his adopted home.

While abroad, Mr. Blair earned numerous accolades and was named the Most Valuable Player of the Euroleague in 2003.

His understanding of how basketball can have a positive influence on young people has