

opportunity to capture an accurate, vibrant history of a tumultuous, formative era with someone who not only lived through it but actually helped to make that history.

Roberto Maestas was born in New Mexico, but he has called Seattle, Washington, his home since the early 1950s. As a young man, Mr. Maestas taught at Franklin High School before pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Washington in 1968, where he became one of the University's first Chicano graduates.

In the early 1970s, as part of the United States War on Poverty, Mr. Maestas helped form an Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language (ESL) program at South Seattle Community College to serve the city's growing Latino community. But, in 1972, funding was abruptly cut, and the program needed a new home. Mr. Maestas, along with fellow teachers, students, and a number of community activists, peaceably occupied the abandoned Beacon Hill School, and negotiated its conversion into a new community center, El Centro de la Raza.

Under his leadership, El Centro has become a voice and hub for Latinos seeking services, advocacy, and social justice. It has grown from a provider of ESL classes to a multi-million dollar Community Action Agency offering a wide array of services to thousands of low-income people of diverse ethnic backgrounds. Its programs include a bilingual child care center, a Basic Healthcare enrollment program, a food bank, senior services, and a home ownership program.

In addition, Mr. Maestas and El Centro de la Raza have been at the forefront of multicultural and international initiatives. El Centro played a prominent role in local solidarity campaigns with Central American social justice activists, and it continues to host art exhibitions, cross-cultural exchanges, and international speakers. Mr. Maestas, along with Bernie Whitebear, Larry Gossett, and Bob Santos co-founded the Minority Executive Directors' Coalition; his extraordinary work over three decades to build the strongest municipal multi-racial coalition in the United States is widely acknowledged and justly acclaimed. Although the founding of El Centro de la Raza was sparked by Latinos and distinguished with a Spanish name, that name translates in English to: "The Center for the People of All Races." Through the years, Mr. Maestas has worked with diligence and determination to ensure that El Centro is "home" for all people interested in advancing the struggle for a better world by serving, educating, defending, and organizing each other to build the "beloved community" envisioned by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Appropriately, El Centro de la Raza and Mr. Maestas have received countless international, national, state, and local awards, including the "Thousand Points of Light" award in 1991 from the President George Bush, Sr.

Madam Speaker, Roberto Maestas is an invaluable asset to the Seattle community. His contributions and his commitment to better the lives of all people deserve our gratitude, our deep respect, and our keen approbation. The people of Seattle, including the thousands who have been served at El Centro de la Raza and the countless students, volunteers, and staff whom he has touched, are grateful for his kind guidance and his visionary leadership. I join them in thanking Mr. Maestas for his service, and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on October 13, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 773. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 773: "yea"—to reauthorize the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission.

## IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act, which helps State and local governments do their part to divest from Iran.

The Iranian regime represents a threat to us, to Israel, and to our allies throughout the Middle East and beyond. Their president has threatened to destroy Israel and has repeatedly denied the Holocaust. Iran's leaders have sought to destabilize the entire Middle East and are sparking an arms race in that region. In the last few weeks, we have seen just how far the Iranians are willing to go to conceal their weapons programs, and only time will tell how many more hidden nuclear sites we will find there.

With this bill today, we help our States and local governments to play a role in the international effort to halt Iran's march toward nuclear weapons. As is so often the case, they have not waited for us to act. I am proud that, in June of this year, my home State of Nevada passed a law to help make sure our State Public Employee Retirement System does not invest in Iran, or in companies that do a large amount of business with Iran. Steps like this will help to show just how determined we are—on every level—to stopping Iran's nuclear threat.

We must do everything we can to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. The UN Security Council must act now, and place further sanctions on Iran. UN member states must do their part to enforce the already-existing sanctions. We in Congress will soon pass our own further sanctions, and I hope we will continue to give our government the tools it needs to further tighten the screws on Iran's financial sector. We must use every tool available to us before it is too late.

I urge support for this bill.

## HONORING CHARLES JOSEPH WATSON BRYAN HUCKE

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Joseph Watson

Bryan Huckle, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

CJ has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years CJ has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Joseph Watson Bryan Huckle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2009

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month 2009.

Since the birth of this country, Hispanics have played a tremendous role in the nation's social, economic, and political movements. Today, more than 47 million people of Hispanic origin live in the United States and represent the nation's fastest growing ethnic population. At this time, more than half a million Hispanic men and women reside in my home state of New York.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the rich history and culture of Hispanic Americans. Hispanic Americans from all 50 states and territories are honored for their contributions to our society, which make up a critical part of America's identity and background. Hispanic Americans continue to share in the sacrifice and civic duties of their fellow U.S. citizens, and in fact, the Puerto Rican military participation rate is the second highest in the country.

Last month, I was joined by Representatives PIERLUISI, WASSERMAN SHULTZ and MICA in co-sponsoring legislation, H.R. 3718, to make residents of Puerto Rico fully eligible for the refundable portion of the child tax credit. The bill broadens the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that currently excludes from the child tax credit Puerto Rican families with less than three children. At this time, the child tax credit is available to U.S. citizens in the 50 states, including residents of Puerto Rico who move to a state.

Expanding the child tax credit to Puerto Rican families with one child or more will inject critical funds into Puerto Rico's economy by directly boosting the incomes of the island's working families. Puerto Rico has been in an official recession for over three years, and its unemployment rate is 15.1 percent, which is significantly higher than the national average of 9.8 percent. Denying Puerto Rican families' access to proven United States economic recovery measures is unproductive and unjust, and it is time to afford U.S. citizens who are living in Puerto Rico the benefits of the child tax credit.

In conclusion, National Hispanic Heritage Month 2009 is marked by President Obama's

successful appointment of the first Hispanic Associate Justice to the United States Supreme Court, the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor. The nomination and appointment of our fellow New Yorker to the Supreme Court earlier this year is one in which our nation should take pride—for it broke down ethnic and gender barriers that will forever open the doors to future generations of Americans. I congratulate Justice Sotomayor on her appointment.

As this year's National Hispanic Heritage Month comes to an end, please join me in proudly honoring Hispanic Americans for their countless contributions to our nation.

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IN HONOR OF PATROL OFFICER  
JAMES SIMONE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Patrol Officer James Simone, a Cleveland Division of Police officer, who is one of just 12 officers to have been honored at the 2009 Police Service Awards.

Officer Simone was born on Cleveland's Eastside and attended St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary School. His family later moved to Lakewood, Ohio in 1966 where Officer Simone graduated from Lakewood High School. In 1968 Officer Simone joined the U.S. Military's 101st Airborne Paratrooper unit during the Vietnam War and received two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars for his service. After returning to Cleveland, Officer Simone became an officer for the Cleveland Police Department at the age of 25.

Officer Simone has now served the residents of Cleveland, Ohio as a police officer for 36 years in the capacity of a homicide detective, member of the SWAT team, undercover agent and currently serves as a patrolman for Cleveland's second district. Throughout his career, Officer Simone has been shot, stabbed and run over numerous times, and despite it all, he continues to serve as a dedicated officer.

While it is not the first award for the decorated Officer Simone, it is his heroic actions on January 10th, 2009 that has earned Officer Simone the honor of being named one of America's Top Police Officers this month. On that night, a woman fell through the ice-covered Cuyahoga River and was unable to get out of the freezing water. Officer Simone arrived at the scene and when a life-preserver failed as a rescuing device, he risked his life and jumped into the water to save the victim. Both the woman and Officer Simone suffered from hypothermia but survived because of his selfless and heroic decision.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Patrol Officer James Simone who has been the awarded an honorable mention in the 2009 Police Service Awards. While his heroic actions on January 10th, 2009 have earned him this honor, the residents of Cleveland have been awarded with Officer Simone's 35 years of dedicated service.

HONORING JOSEPH C. WEEKS,  
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph C. Weeks, Sr. This Friday Joe will receive the "2009 Great Brooksvillian of the Year Award". Created in 2002, this award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a sincere commitment to the history, culture, and economy of the Brooksville community.

Born and raised in Brooksville, Joe temporarily left his hometown to serve his country in World War II and to attend college at the University of Florida. In 1951, upon his graduation, he returned to Brooksville to help his brother run the family business, Weeks Hardware; which has been a Brooksville staple since 1916. To this date, Weeks Hardware is considered the oldest existing business in Hernando County.

Aside from running a successful business, Mr. Weeks is a founding member of two prominent Brooksville organizations; the Brooksville Rotary Club and the Brooksville Downtown Development Organization, the latter of which he served as Vice-President and Treasurer. He also served as Vice-President and Treasurer for the Jaycees and was an active member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of his business successes, he was awarded the Independent Businessman of the year by the Republican Club. Additionally, he holds the unofficial distinction of being the oldest living member of the local American Legion Chapter.

Madam Speaker, Joseph C. Weeks, Sr. has demonstrated steadfast dedication to the Brooksville community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this momentous occasion.

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TRIBUTE TO AMELIA BOYNTON

**HON. PARKER GRIFFITH**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Amelia Platts Boynton. Mrs. Boynton is member of the civil rights group that formulated strategies for nonviolent social resistance in Alabama and is most widely known as an activist and organizer for the march over the Edmond Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL.

Mrs. Boynton was a proud supporter of Dr. Martin Luther King and used her home in Selma as a center for Selma's civil rights battles, which was used by King and his lieutenants, Congressmen and attorneys from around the nation, to plan the demonstrations known as the "Selma to Montgomery Marches".

On March 7, 1965, during a march which later became known as Bloody Sunday, Boynton was viciously attacked. Following that event, her character and courage helped lead to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Mrs. Boynton is Vice Chairwoman of the International Schiller Institute. She is a 98-

year-old author, playwright, speaker and organizer, speaking out publicly for justice, and inspiring people of all ages, nations, and backgrounds.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate Amelia Boynton on a remarkable career and a heroic life and wish her the best as she continues to be an influential civil rights pioneer.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, I was not present for 3 recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: roll No. 772—"yea"; roll No. 773—"yea"; roll No. 774—"yea."

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A TRIBUTE TO THE VISION OF  
CHILDREN FOUNDATION

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the Vision of Children Foundation. The Vision of Children Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the funding of innovative clinical and translational research into vision disorders and creating effective therapies. The Foundation supports scientists at top universities and academic medical centers worldwide who are involved in the most advanced and promising research.

According to the World Health Organization, globally more than 161 million people are visually impaired, including 1.4 million blind children below age 15. In the United States alone, over 1 million children suffer from vision impairment, a loss of vision that makes it hard or impossible to perform daily tasks without specialized adaptation, and which cannot be corrected to a "normal" level. These children face technological and socially-imposed obstacles that make it difficult to succeed in life.

The challenges of living with visual impairment are all too real for Sam and Vivian Hardage, founders of the Vision of Children Foundation. Their son, Chase, now 20 years old, was diagnosed with ocular albinism (OA) as an infant. OA is an inherited disorder in which the eyes suffer from deficient amount of melanin and pigment, resulting in reduced visual acuity, or Nystagmus, and sensitivity to sunlight. The Hardages were told that there was no cure, and that their son would never be able to play sports or live a normal life. Although Chase's original diagnosis was dire, the reality is that all children with visual impairments have different visual acuities and developmental potential. Many of these individuals, such as Chase, have learned to compensate for their disability and have functional and productive lives.

The Hardages were also stunned to find that no one was doing research into understanding OA, much less treating it. Hereditary vision disorders such as OA, retinitis