

students to learn, to solve problems and to become leaders in their communities.

HONORING THE EURO-AMERICAN BRANDS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Euro-American Brands, in recognition of its designation as honoree at the Englewood Hospital's 2012 Gala.

What began as a childhood passion for sweets today stands as a model for success, ingenuity and perseverance. Founded in 1990 by siblings Dite Van Clief and Tami Targovnik, in partnership with Peter Leindecker, Paramus, New Jersey-based Euro-American Brands (EAB) is one of the nation's premier importers of confections and specialty food products. EAB's love of sweets soared to new heights in 2010.

Joining forces with its supplier of 20 years—Ritter Sport, a popular German confectionery brand—they introduced the Strawberry Crème Bar to support the fight against breast cancer: 100% of the profits earned by EAB from sales of the Ritter Sport Strawberry Crème Bar benefit The Leslie Simon Breast Care and Cytodiagnosis Center at Englewood Hospital. Their efforts yielded much-needed support for The Breast Center which provides lifesaving medical services to countless women in need.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor this remarkable company, and the great work they are doing in support of the Breast Care Center at Englewood Hospital. I join with the grateful guests of the Englewood Hospital Gala, and all of my constituents in North Jersey, in thanking the Euro-American Brands for its generous contribution to the good health of our community.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise with pride and exuberance to mark my return to Greenville, SC, home to my very first regional conference as the 11th South Atlantic Regional Director in 1987.

In March of 1987, more than 1,300 sorors from Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina convened in Greenville, South Carolina for the South Atlantic Regional Conference. We captured the attention of both State and local dignitaries, including Lt. Governor of South Carolina, the Mayor of Laurens, South Carolina, and were presented "Keys to the City" by the Mayor of Greenville William Workman. Former Supreme Basileus Janet Ballard and many members of the Directorate were in attendance. The conference theme was "Service with a Global Perspective" and it was planned and coordinated by Soror Charlotte Walker and Soror Xanthe Norris, Cluster VIII coordinator. When the conference concluded on

March 22, 1987, we returned to our respective homes renewed in our bonds of sisterhood.

Two decades later, the South Atlantic Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., continues to blaze trails and stands largest of the ten Alpha Kappa Alpha regions with more than 10,000 members strong. Our region is home to two former Basileis, Soror Mary Shy Scott, and Soror Norma Solomon White. Currently leading our esteemed sisterhood is our own, Soror Carolyn House Stewart, the 28th Supreme Basileus of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

It is my pleasure to pay tribute to each of my Sorors of the South Atlantic Region as we gather for our 59th annual conference, under the leadership of our Regional Director, Soror Marsha Lewis Brown. There is no other place I would rather call home. My pride is showing.

A TRIBUTE TO NEUMANN BROTHERS, INC.

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the renowned, family-owned Iowa building company, Neumann Brothers, for turning 100 years old this month.

Since its founding in 1912 by then 28-year-old Arthur Neumann, Neumann Brothers, Inc. has played an integral role shaping the landscape of the state we love. It's no exaggeration to say that you can look down any street in downtown Des Moines and recognize a building that has been touched by the expertise of Neumann Brothers. A full century in business is quite a feat, but it is no surprise Neumann Brothers' reputation for putting their customers first through keeping deadlines and being accountable have earned them a stellar rapport with Iowa communities.

Thankfully, Neumann Brothers is no longer limited to erecting buildings with mules and steam power. Instead, the company has continually remained on the cutting edge of building technologies and techniques. Neumann Brothers continues that tradition today through their innovation in constructing the most important buildings in our state, and recognition through dozens of awards and the continued patronage of its customers. From the reconstruction of William Penn University in 1916, to recently converting Des Moines' century-old public library into the headquarters of the World Food Prize, the contribution of the Neumann Brothers to Iowa's rich history is incalculable.

Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that Neumann Brothers has become synonymous with Iowa's most treasured buildings. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating this company on the milestone of their 100th birthday. I wish Neumann Brothers another hundred years of success and thank them for their contribution to Iowa's history and landscape. Thank you.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFE SAVING CORPS' IN DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Centennial anniversary of the American Red Cross Life Saving Corps' outstanding volunteer services to the beach communities in Duval County, my hometown. On April 29, 2012, the members of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps will rededicate the Station at Jacksonville Beach and its new training wing, which will enhance its life-saving mission. Created in 1912 by locals who saw the need, the U.S. Volunteer Life Saving Corps was established to protect lives along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline and became Florida's first chartered American Red Cross Volunteer Life Saving Corps on April 17, 1914. Today, we celebrate a century of uninterrupted beach guard services each Sunday and holiday throughout the summer season.

Beginning with the first class, volunteers have been required to undergo a vigorous training regimen and meet the high physical and mental standards established by the Corps before they are allowed to stand watch on our beaches. My father, McCarthy Crenshaw, was a proud member of this Corps. For the past 100 years the American Red Cross Life Saving Corps has protected our beaches and has built a long-lasting working relationship with our community, which benefits both our local residents and visitors as they enjoy the surf.

Florida's northeast coastline has 20 miles of gorgeous beach and the Life Saving Corps has a long, rich history of protecting those who come to swim or surf. The first station built for the Corps was established on April 6, 1913, at Pablo Beach. The Corps was comprised of 19 volunteers equipped with a surf boat and life lines. Over the years, the Corps has recorded over 1500 ocean rescues, logged 1,300,000 volunteer hours, made 1700 life-saving assists, and administered first aid to 26,000. The faces of the Corps change each year, but the mission remains the same as the summer of 1912 when the first Life Saving Corps posted the beach watch.

It is my honor to bring this historic commemoration of a century of service by volunteers in the American Red Cross Volunteer Life Saving Corps to the attention of the United States Congress and to invite Members to join me in extending our appreciation.

FIGHTING TO PREVENT A STUDENT LOAN RATE HIKE

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, "Don't double my rate."

I've heard this message loud and clear from college students in Hawaii and across the country. If Congress does not act, almost 17,000 student loan borrowers in Hawaii will

see their interest rates double on July 1. Hawaii college students will owe nearly \$1,000 more next year.

I have heard countless stories of people in Hawaii burdened by student loan debt. One woman in Kailua told me she took out student loans to afford graduate school, and now teaches part time at Hawaii Pacific University. Her husband is a Marine who's currently deployed. She says, "My education was important to me, but now I wonder if it was truly worth it. I have the education that has provided me the job of my dreams but we are drowning in so much student loan debt that I may have single-handedly ruined both of our futures."

Hawaii students shouldn't have to drown in debt to achieve their dreams. Education is too important: it's the key to greater opportunity.

I know firsthand how education opens the door to a better life. I came to this country from Japan when I was nearly 8 years old. My mother courageously plotted and planned in secret in order to flee an abusive marriage and bring us to this country so we could have a better life. We came to Hawaii in steerage with little more than the clothes on our backs. I did not speak a word of English but my mother enrolled me in the public schools and that's where I learned to read, write and speak English. I used financial aid and student loans to put myself through college and law school.

A recent study found that by 2018, nearly two-thirds of jobs in Hawaii will require some type of post-secondary education or career training. Meanwhile, tuition is rising and student loan debt is a serious problem. The average Hawaii college graduate has over \$15,000 in student loan debt. Nationwide, Americans now owe more in student loan debt than credit card debt.

In my first year in Congress, I cosponsored the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007. This bill passed on a strong bipartisan basis and was signed into law by President George W. Bush. This law cut low- and middle-income student loan interest rates in half, from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent. This provision will expire on July 1. We need a solution right away.

Yet, rather than seek a real, bipartisan solution like we did in 2007, the House Majority continues to play politics with the issues that matter most to our families.

Their latest ploy is H.R. 4628. This bill is a sheep in wolf's clothing. It supports college

students, but on the backs of women and children. The bill would pay for keeping the lower interest rate for one year by repealing the Public Health and Prevention Fund. It's yet another partisan attack on the Affordable Care Act.

The Public Health and Prevention Fund has already had a major impact in Hawaii. Our state has received grants to provide vaccinations, HIV testing, obesity and smoking prevention, and warning systems for disease outbreaks. The Public Health and Prevention Fund is supported by American Academy of Pediatrics—Hawaii Chapter, American Lung Association in Hawaii, CHOW Project, Faith Action for Community Equity, Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation, Hawai'i Primary Care Association, Hawaii Public Health Association, Malama Pono Health Services, and Papa Ola Lokahi. National organizations supporting this fund include the AARP, Alzheimer's Foundation, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, American Nurses Association, March of Dimes, and hundreds more.

Today's vote is a false choice. Let's stop playing games with our students' future, and let's not balance the budget on the backs of women's and children's health. Today's vote is just a skirmish. The game is not over. We need a real solution right away.

That's why I'm a cosponsor of the Stop the Rate Hike Act, H.R. 4816. This bill would keep student loan interest rates low for another year, long enough to find a longer-term solution. We'd pay for this by ending tax loopholes for big oil companies. These companies are already raking in record profits, and don't need another year of handouts from you and me.

I voted today to take up H.R. 4816, a real solution for our students. I urge my colleagues to come together and get this done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 179, 180, and 181. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote Nos. 179 and 181; I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 180.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the 1.5 million Armenians, men, women, and children, who were massacred under the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century.

Each year, Armenians throughout the world mark April 24 as Genocide Remembrance Day by honoring those who perished from 1915 to 1923, and I join my friends and colleagues in remembering the victims today.

It's important to raise awareness about the Armenian genocide not only because it is an undeniable chapter in world history, but also because learning more about this horrific tragedy underscores the importance of eliminating intolerance and bigotry wherever it occurs.

I have enormous respect and admiration for the strength, resilience, and perseverance of the Armenian-American community. Over the decades since this massacre in their homeland occurred they built lives, homes, and businesses, and raised families in Rhode Island and across the country.

As the Congressman from Rhode Island's First Congressional District, I have the honor of representing many Armenian-Americans who grew up hearing family stories about the atrocities firsthand, as many are children and grandchildren of genocide survivors. Armenian-Americans living in my home state of Rhode Island have made significant contributions through their leadership in business, law, academia, government, and the arts.

As a cosponsor of the Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution, House Resolution 304, I strongly believe that the time has come for the United States government to recognize this atrocity for what it was—genocide.

I join my colleagues today in remembering and honoring the victims of the Armenian genocide.