

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WRIGHT-HENNEPIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the Wright-Hennepin Electric Cooperative in Rockford, Minnesota. Today, March 29, 2012, the annual membership meeting will take place in celebration of their fruitful beginning on March 29, 1937.

Wright-Hennepin Electric was formed at the height of the Great Depression to meet the electrical needs of rural central Minnesota. Today, they provide service for more than 46,000 homes and businesses and continue to provide groundbreaking services to their customers in Wright and the western Hennepin counties.

Wright-Hennepin Electric is an industry leader in helping home and business owners save money, reduce energy consumption, and determine when alternative energy resources might be a good fit for their needs. Additionally, Wright-Hennepin Electric has expanded into security monitoring for 50,000 homes in 32 states and three Canadian provinces. Innovative business expansions like this help keep this magnificent company a step ahead of the rest.

Also importantly, Wright-Hennepin Electric is an active member of the community. Annually, high school students may apply to receive college scholarships from them. Each year one lucky student also receives a trip to our Nation's capital. It is possible that many of our congressional Members have met with some of these students participating in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program which makes this opportunity possible.

Many local charities and non-profits are also supported by Wright-Hennepin Electric as recipients of thousands of dollars of donations. Lastly, Wright-Hennepin Electric has been recognized by chambers, local governments, and businesses as a responsible corporate citizen and valued member of the communities they serve.

Congratulations on this 75th milestone, members and staff of Wright-Hennepin Electric Cooperative.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN V. SULLIVAN, HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2012*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to John Sullivan on his retirement from the post of Parliamentarian of the House.

John has served the House for 28 years, beginning as Counsel for the House Committee on Armed Services. In 1987, he joined the office of Parliamentarian where he rose from an Assistant Parliamentarian to Deputy Parliamentarian in 1994. He was named Par-

liamentarian by Speaker Dennis Hastert in 2004. He has served this body with dignity and professionalism.

I feel privileged to have worked with John, whom I consider a friend and a mentor. During the years when Democrats were in the majority, I enjoyed serving as Chair of the Committee of the Whole or as Speaker pro tem. When in the Chair I looked to John for wise guidance. He was a great teacher and I was eager to learn. He has a great command of and respect for the institutional history of the House, and its rules and precedents. John Sullivan was very supportive of Members who sought to learn more.

John is a kind man with a great intellect. We are all grateful for his service to the House and to the nation. I will miss him and wish him all of the very best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ILIANA CURRA

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Ms. Iliana Curra, a Cuban patriot who is the epitome of a freedom fighter. Her life's story has been one of hardship but has also been one of valor.

Ms. Curra was born in 1959 in Regla, Havana during a year of great turmoil in Cuba. As a result, she was unable to complete High School and began working at the young age of seventeen as a secretary. At this time, her political problems also began. She was transferred from one job to the next and cast as "disloyal," commonly done to those who opposed the regime.

On July 16, 1992, she was arrested and detained for 84 days at the Headquarters of State Security, known as Villa Marista, for spreading "propaganda." Upon her release, Ms. Curra courageously joined the opposition, the National Agenda Movement. After several arbitrary arrests, she was sentenced to three years in the Women's Correctional Facility for her political beliefs and associations. During this time, Ms. Curra witnessed horrendous and inhumane treatment. After completing her sentence, Ms. Curra was exiled from Cuba and began a new life in Miami, Florida.

In 1998, a year after her release, Ms. Curra started working for the freedom of Cuba. She began sharing her firsthand experiences of human rights abuses in Cuba, and continued fighting against the tyrannical Castro regime. Her life's mission will not cease until the Cuban people are truly free.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Iliana Curra for her continued service to the South Florida community, and solidarity with the Cuban people. A true advocate for democracy and human rights, she dedicates every second of her life to freedom and justice. She is an inspiration not only to women, but to all of us. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual, and wish Ms. Curra continued success and happiness in the future.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DONALD HILL

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I celebrate the life of Donald E. Hill. A lifelong Christian who leaves behind a wife he married 42 years ago, Donald was an upstanding member of both his professional and personal communities, and worked as an attorney for 36 years. In his career he specialized in employment law, business law and estate planning.

Donald's personal life made a great impact on the lives of those around him. He and his wife Carol—along with their two sons—attended First Evangelical Free Church for over 30 years, and he served as a deacon, elder, chairman and regular Sunday school teacher. He was also involved with the Wichita Prayer Breakfast, Rotary, the Christian Legal Society and the Wichita Art Museum, and prided himself on being politically involved.

Donald, who was laid to rest on March 3, 2012, was a truly rare individual who put God, family and friends before himself time and time again. Whether it was at work, home or church, Donald saw to it that those around him received the full benefit of the blessings he himself had been given. We are all grateful to have known this wonderful man.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to have been part of Donald Hill's family for many years, and I am greatly saddened by his passing. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating his life.

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Women's History Month and to recognize the many contributions women have made to our community.

Specifically, I want to recognize these remarkable women from South Florida for their dedication and commitment: Annie Baker, Bishop Catherine P. Baskin, School Board Member Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Mayor Daisy Black, Patricia Jennings Braynon, Baltena Brown, Rhea Brown, Queen Brown, Senator Larcenia Bullard, Vanessa Woodard Byers, Representative Daphne Campbell, Lillian Cooper, Emma Curry, Nancy Dawkins, Martha C. Day, Lucia Davis-Raiford, Patricia Daniels, Melodie Delancey, Barbara Dent, Earlene P. Dotson, Gail Ash Dotson, Dr. Barbara Edwards, Gussie J. Ervin, Commissioner Betty Ferguson, Dr. Dorothy Jenkins Fields, Susie W. Francis, Regina Jollivette Frazier, Kimberly Gaines, Patricia Garrett, Mayor Shirley Gibson, Emily Gunther, Elsie Hamler, Thomasina Hargrove, Alexis Harris, Debi Harris, Karen Hawkins, Bea Hines, Bertha Henry, Nicole Henry, Anne T. Herriott, Cheryl Holder, Janice Powell Hopton, Vikki Hoshing, Andrea Ivory, Sandra Jackson, Jeanne F. Jacobs, Juanita B. Johnson, Commissioner Barbara

Jordan, Yolanda Cash-Jackson, Pamela Jones, Renee S. Jones, Juliet King, Linda Kelly Kearson, Juanita A. Lane, Pamela Luckie Latimore, Betty Major, Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, Sigilenda Miles, Yvette Miley, Tracey Mourning, Georgia McClean, Shirlyon McWhorter, Bobbie Mumford (Posthumously), Maud P. Newbold, Beverly E. Nixon, Adora Obi Nweze, Dr. Rozlyn Paschal, Enid C. Pinkney, Bernadette Poitier, Michele Paramore, Tammy Reed, Rachel Reeves, Zarifa Reynolds, Collette Hart Richardson, Donna Riley, Treska Rodgers, Akua Scott, Sherrilyn Scott, Claudia Slater, Rhoda Shirley, Commissioner Michelle Spence Jones, Representative Cynthia Stafford, Jessie A. Stinson, Kay M. Sullivan, Mayor Myra Taylor, Penelope Townsley, Dr. Andrea Trowers, Priscilla Thompson, Rosetta Vickers, Sandy Walker, Thelma Walker, Representative Barbara Watson, Dolores Washington, Eloise Washington, Patrenia Washington, Gwendolyn Welters, Rhonda Wimberley, Heather Woolery-Lloyd, Geneva Woodard, Jacquelyn White, Bobbie Jones Wilfork, Mattie Williams, Katrina Wilson-Davis, Ellen Wright, Commissioner Audrey Edmonson, Rhonda Vangates, Georgia Ayers, Kim McCray, Deborah Owens, Misty Brown, Vice-Mayor Felicia Brunson, Commissioner Barbara Sharief, Marlene Bastien, Renita Holmes, Debra Toomer, Lavern Ellie-Scott, Carline Paul, Lucy Tundra, Josie Portier, Dr. Mae Christian, Tangela Sears, Barbara Hardemon, Stephanie Bromfield, Retha Boone, Lottie Hines, Karen Cartwright, Jackie Bell, Elaine Black, Annie Neasman, Dr. Evalina Bestman, Roslyn Frazier, Chief Therese Homer, Thelma Gibson, Frankie Rolle, Corkie Dozier, Shemele Jenkins, Geraldine Washington, Thema Campbell, Kiani Nesbitt, Marjorie Spicer, Sonya Flowers, Rita Pierre, Velma Lawrence, Terri Rutherford, Julia Brown, Beatrice Louissaint, Woodie Lesesne, Dr. Brenda Snipes, Carmen Morris, Sandra St. Amand, Faye Davis, Cheryl Mizell, Penelopy Townsend, Bloneva Jones, Inez Johnson, Joanna Chestnut, Ann Foster, Sharon Anderson, Belinda Tucker, Mary Francisco, Sharette Hepburn, Virginia Hepburn, Lenora Miller, Catherine McFarland, Mamie Jenkins, Mary Robinson, Virla Barry, Mary McRae, Esther Roundtree-Johnson, Dr. Mary A. Tumpkin, Dr. Gloria Williams, Farrah Wilson, LaKasha Wilson-Rochelle, Prophetess Charlene Holts, Karen Andre, Farah Juste, Romanita Ford, Opal Jones, Willowstine Lawson, Bernadette Morris, Aletha Player, Sharon Pritchett, Diana Ragbeer, Councilwoman Lisa Davis, Councilwoman Felicia Robinson, Commissioner Rose Tydus, Commissioner Dorothy Johnson and Jennifer Adger Grant.

I am proud to stand and pay tribute to all of these dynamic women, and say thank you on behalf of all the constituents of Florida's 17th Congressional District.

HONORING MR. BILLY CLAY FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of great valor

and integrity, Mr. Billy Clay. In October 2004, Mr. Clay founded The Greenwood Mentoring Group at the Jessie B. Henderson-Inez Beck Learning Center in the city of Greenwood, Mississippi. The Mentoring Group opens its doors five days a week to provide after school tutoring to neighborhood youth. The program has helped to increase the academic success and self-esteem of many youth in Greenwood, Mississippi and surrounding areas.

For more than 30 years, Mr. Clay has rendered countless hours of service to the young people throughout the Greenwood community. Not only is Mr. Clay a pillar within his community but is a little league baseball coach. As a role model, he plays a pivotal role in raising awareness on the various issues facing their community. He continues to be a strong voice for the community as he facilitates outreach in the community among sororities, fraternities, and other community organizations to make a positive and lasting impression in the lives of Greenwood community youth. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join in congratulating Mr. Billy Clay for his service to the Greenwood community.

HONORING STATE ATTORNEY  
KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I rise to honor State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, an outstanding individual serving the South Florida community.

Mrs. Fernandez Rundle was appointed to her position in 1993, and has subsequently been re-elected five times. Throughout her career, she has served South Florida admirably and has been a stalwart supporter of the community. Over the past two decades, she has served Miami-Dade County with distinction and has worked diligently to maintain the safety of our community. Her leadership has been critical in the creation of numerous programs dealing with issues that affect our area such as teen truancy, domestic violence, child support, and victim's rights.

Mrs. Fernandez Rundle served as the first and only Hispanic female on the State Constitutional Revision Council. Her passion and interest in public service is in large part due to the inspiration of her father, Dr. Carlos Benito Fernandez, one of Miami's first Hispanic Judges and a founding member of the Cuban American Bar Association, the largest Hispanic legal organization of which Mrs. Fernandez Rundle was elected its first female President in 1991.

Additionally, the State Attorney's office is the fourth largest district attorney's office in the nation with over 1,200 employees, 300 of them prosecutors also known as Assistant State Attorneys. Her office is the only prosecutor's office in the state that protects the rights of children with the creation and enforcement of a strict child support program. Other programs that have been established under her direction are the Juvenile Gun Offenders Program, the S.T.A.R.T. Program, and the Second chance Sealing and Expungement Program. Amongst her duties as State Attorney,

she is also a founding member and Vice-President of Women of Tomorrow, a mentoring program that looks to inspire and motivate young at-risk high school women. In addition, Mrs. Fernandez Rundle is also very active in other organizations including City Year Miami, Amigos for Kids, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle for her continued service to the South Florida community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

HONORING J'DEN COX

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating J'den Cox of the Hickman High School Wrestling team for winning the Class 4 Missouri State Wrestling Championship in the 220-pound weight class.

Mr. Cox and his coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and for bringing home the state title in the 220-pound weight class to his school and community. This is his third state championship. He is the Tribune Wrestler of the Year with his unofficially compiled 526 takedowns.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. Cox for a job well done.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 112) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022:

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Chair, the Republican budget reads like "The Hunger Games"—forcing American families to compete for survival against a plutonium plutocracy. The Republican budget cuts Medicare. It cuts Medicaid. It cuts Pell Grants.

Yet, at the same time, their budget calls for more spending on the weapons of last century's Cold War. More nuclear bomb-making plants. More nuclear missiles. More nuclear subs.

Their budget fails to address the needs of the elderly, the children, the sick, and the most vulnerable. It makes no sense. It is insane.

The CPC budget includes my legislation, the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures Act—the SANE Act. SANE will save \$100 billion over the next 10 years by reducing nuclear weapons spending. The CPC and the SANE Act puts people ahead of plutonium.