

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO THE
GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to congratulate the Girl Scouts of the USA on their 100th Anniversary.

With a mission to build, "girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place" the Girl Scouts have served over 50 million women in the United States.

From the first ever Girl Scout troop created in 1912, the Girl Scouts have sought to instill girls and young women with the ability to be both self-reliant and resourceful and I believe very few organizations have shown the capacity to foster leadership in our nation's girls like the Girl Scouts of the USA.

The Girl Scouts have proven themselves to be an organization of action. With a goal of fostering leadership, the statistics alone speak to the overwhelming success of the Girl Scouts. Over half of my female colleagues in both the House and the Senate were Girl Scouts and over half of all female business owners in the United States were former Girl Scouts. I have no doubt that many of the 2.3 million girls currently involved with this dynamic organization will continue to live out their call to "make the world a better place" through their leadership, and I look forward to seeing what the next generation of dedicated Girl Scouts will accomplish.

I am proud to join my colleagues in co-sponsoring H. Res. 460, Expressing support for designation of 2012 as the "Year of the Girl" and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RUFUS
THOMAS, JR.

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy and accomplishments of Rufus Thomas, Jr., one of the most charismatic and beloved performers of rhythm & blues, funk and soul music. Mr. Thomas was born in the tiny hamlet of Cayce, Mississippi on March 27, 1917 and moved to Memphis when he was two years old. He passed away in 2001 and would have turned 95 years of age this year. Before his passing, he had contributed significantly to the Memphis music scene and his legacy lives on through his daughter, singer Carla Thomas, and his son, keyboardist Marvell Thomas. In 1961, Carla Thomas' "Gee Whiz (Look at His Eyes)" charted within the Top 10 on the pop chart and within the Top 5 on the R&B chart. Marvell Thomas was keyboardist and arranger for such greats as The Staple Singers, Etta James and Albert King, and co-produced Isaac Hayes' album, "Hot Buttered Soul."

Entertaining people came naturally for Rufus. In his youth, Rufus earned pocket change by tap dancing on Beale Street. In his

teenage years, he performed with the Rabbit Foot Minstrels, a traveling vaudeville show, as a tap dancer. He comprised one-half of the comedy team known as Rufus and Bones with Robert "Bones" Couch. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s he hosted Amateur Night at the Palace Theatre, where he introduced young performers such as B.B. King, Bobby "Blue" Bland and countless others.

In the late 1940s, Memphis radio station WDIA AM emerged as the first radio station in the country to target black audiences with black DJs playing black-oriented programming. Rufus landed a job there in 1948 and soon became one of the station's most popular DJs. His 2-hour nighttime show, "Hoot and Holler" premiered and helped launch the careers of music icons such as Elvis Presley, Ike Turner, Isaac Hayes, Roscoe Gordon and Junior Parker. Rufus continued to be an on-air personality at WDIA, influencing musicians in the Memphis area for the next 40 years, while still creating and performing his own music.

Rufus played an indispensable role in the birth of Memphis' two great record companies, Sun Records and Stax Records. His 1953 single, "Bear Cat," an answer to Big Mama Thornton's then-popular record, "Hound Dog," became the first national hit for the upstart record label. In 1959, Rufus and his then-teenage daughter Carla became the first stars of the new Stax Records with their single, "Cause I Love You." Rufus would go on to release a string of popular songs for Stax, including favorites such as "Walking The Dog" (1964) and "Do The Funky Chicken" (1969). Throughout his career, Rufus appeared on the Billboard charts 29 times with the help of such singles as "Push and Pull" (1970) and "The Breakdown" (1971).

His life and seventy-year career were inextricably linked with the development of black entertainment in the 20th century and his work earned him an array of accolades. In January 1992, he was honored by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, named as an "Early Influence." That same year the Rhythm and Blues Foundation honored him with its prestigious Pioneer Award. In 1996, he was featured as a performer at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. For his 80th birthday in 1997, the city of Memphis renamed Hernando Street as Rufus Thomas Boulevard at the intersection of Beale Street where the Palace Theater once stood. In 1998, Rufus received an award from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in recognition of his five decades of promoting black music on radio.

Off stage, Thomas was entirely serious about his work as an ambassador for Memphis and its music. In his characteristically forthright fashion, he told the journalist Richard Knight: "Memphis has made more of a contribution to music than any other one city in the whole world, and that includes New York." Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in remembering the life and legacy of Rufus Thomas, Jr.

CONGRATULATING DR. JOHN HITT
FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AS
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Dr. John Hitt on his tremendous record of accomplishment as President of the University of Central Florida (UCF). This month marks Dr. Hitt's 20th year of service to UCF, and it gives me great pleasure to recognize Dr. Hitt's contributions to UCF and the Central Florida community.

Under Dr. Hitt's leadership, UCF has planned and won approval for a new college of medicine, doubled enrollment while enhancing the quality of academic offerings, exponentially increased the number of doctoral degrees awarded each year, and expanded research funding from \$6.2 million to more than \$121 million per year.

Before coming to UCF, Dr. Hitt held numerous posts as both faculty and executive leadership at academic institutions, including Assistant Professor of Psychology at Tulane University, Vice President of Texas Christian University Research Foundation, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Bradley University.

Dr. Hitt's passion for education led him to UCF, where he arrived in March 1992. Since that time, he has been honored with many awards and recognitions, including Junior Achievement's Spirit of Achievement Award in 2008, Orlando Business Journal's inaugural Legacy Award in 2006, Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission James B. Greene award in 2002, and the Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce's John Young Award in 2008.

It was a personal honor to work with Dr. Hitt while serving as a member of the Board of Trustees for UCF. Dr. Hitt's attitude of servant leadership and his dedication to quality education for UCF's students has been a testimony to his personal modesty and humility. Dr. Hitt is not only a great president for UCF, but he is a model for the University's students.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I congratulate and applaud Dr. Hitt on his 20th year of service as the president of the University of Central Florida. May his character, life, and efforts inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2013

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

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.