

Hemisphere, the Latino population expands to over 700 million people. Latinos are the fastest growing and largest minority group in the U.S., with 40 million people, and will play a significant role in shaping our Nation's future.

The goals of The National Latino Day Foundation are to promote unity and closer bonds between Latinos and other Americans. The Foundation strives to expand the Latino population's political participation, uphold international peace and goodwill, and most important, celebrate the Latino heritage, culture and the arts.

The National Latino Day Foundation has made it their mission to ensure that a National Latino Day is established to recognize and celebrate the contributions of the Latino population in the U.S. The National Latino Day Foundation aspires to transform National Latino Day into a positive movement for national unity, social, political, and economic growth. I support this effort, ask my colleagues to do the same, and look forward to celebrating National Latino Day on July 24th.

COMMENDING THE WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION PROGRAM AND INCLINE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, from May 1 to 3, 2004 more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, DC to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by Congress.

I am proud to announce that the class from Incline High School in Incline Village will represent the State of Nevada in this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's capitol and compete at the national level.

The 3-day We the People National Finals Competition is modeled after hearings in the U.S. Congress. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge before a panel of adult judges while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by questions designed to probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge. Columnist David Broder once described this annual competition as "the place to come to have your faith in the younger generation restored."

Most recently, the We the People program was highlighted at two national conferences held in 2003: the White House Forum on American History, Civics, and Service, and the first annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education. Evaluations and independent studies have validated the effectiveness of the We the People program on students' civic

knowledge and attitudes. This innovative civic education program continues to be one of the best antidotes to apathy and cynicism in our Nation.

In addition, I would like to recognize the commitment and support received from all of Incline Village, community organizations and parents. Individually, coach Robert Heilig, peer tutors Ashley Hanna, Daniel St. John, and Jonathan B. Shoops, and teacher Milton Hyams have dedicated their time to work with the students in the program. Judy Simpson, the State Coordinator of the program, and Daniel Wong, the district Coordinator of the Program have also contributed countless hours into making these students better citizens.

I would also like to recognize the participants of this program individually: Bradley Charles Allured, Jason Daniel Beavers, Nicholas J. Bohn, Jessica L. Corpuel, Joseph Driver, Alexander T. Heilig, McKenna Louise Hollingsworth, Joshua Michael Hub, Ansley Karen Kendzioriski, Elisabeth Komito, Ashley Christine Nikke, Laura Rochelle Pillsbury, Robert William Rappaport, Catherine Lauren Serrano, Tira Wickland, and Beate Marie Wolter. These students should be commended for their hard work and tireless dedication.

The class from Incline High School diligently conducted research and prepared for their participation in the national competition. I again commend these young "constitutional experts" on their work for and commitment to the We the People national finals. They represent the future leaders of our Nation.

I wish these students the best of luck at the We the People national finals and applaud their achievement. We should all be proud that they are learning and advocating the fundamental ideals that identify us as a people and bind us together as a Nation.

IN SUPPORT OF THE GUTIERREZ-PAUL BILL

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to co-sponsor the legislation offered by Mr. GUTIERREZ using the Congressional Review Act to disapprove the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's (OCC) preemption regulation because I strongly oppose any attempt to expand the OCC's regulatory functions beyond the power Congress originally granted the OCC. The OCC was never meant to serve as a national consumer protection agency. Its limited, intended role has been underscored by Federal court rulings that State law remains applicable to national banks in the absence of explicit Federal preemption.

Expanding the jurisdiction of OCC necessarily infringes on the ability of State lawmakers to determine their own consumer protection standards. One-size-fits-all policies crafted in Washington cannot serve the 50 diverse States well. Different States and markets have different needs that are better understood by State and local legislators. Congressional conservatives, in particular, should not endorse an expansion of the Federal regulatory power at the expense of States' rights. The Tenth Amendment is clear: regulatory

powers not specifically granted to Congress remain with the States. Congress should stop usurping State authority and leave consumer protection laws to those with far more experience and expertise.

This new OCC authority will have far-reaching and unintended consequences. State law governing mortgage brokers, sub-prime lenders, check cashing centers, leasing companies, and even car dealers could be preempted under the new proposal. This proposal may also give national banks and their subsidiaries a competitive advantage over small mortgage companies. OCC undoubtedly will need to hire new staff. Yet the OCC still may be unable to handle the flood of new responsibilities. Unless Congress resists any expansion of OCC, it risks creating another huge, unaccountable, bureaucratic agency. Therefore, I respectfully urge all my colleagues to support Mr. Gutierrez's legislation disapproving the OCC's preemption regulation.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO GARFIELD TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary service and commitment of Bay County's Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department. On May 1st, the Department will celebrate 25 years of serving their Northern Michigan community. The efforts of the men and women of the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department stand as an example to all of us, and I join the township residents in thanking them for all they do.

Before their volunteer fire department was formed, the residents of Garfield Township had to rely on firefighters from nearby Kawkawlin. This meant that under the best of circumstances, it took at least 20 minutes for help to arrive on the scene of a fire. Not content with this dangerous situation, Township Treasurer Ray Monison and Township resident Gary Fritz began organizing what would become the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Before long the Township approved a millage for training, equipment, and a pole barn. Volunteers rebuilt a pumper truck donated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the community came together to donate paint for the truck. By May 1979, the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department was up and running.

Over the years, Garfield Township residents have supported their Department by approving additional millages, holding fundraisers, and donating their time. The Department has not only made Garfield Township safer, but brought the community closer together.

Since 1979, over 100 Township residents have joined the Department, maintaining a steady roster of about 20. Today, the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department has 22 proud members, nine of which have been with the Department from the very beginning.

Mr. Speaker, each of these people deserves individual recognition. The nine founding members of the Department still serving are: Wayne DeHate, Jerald DeLano, Terald DeLano, Ben Luptowski, Ronald Monison, Rodney

Richmond, Gerald Rivard, Paul Smith, and Robert Umphrey. More recent additions to the Department are: James Gotfryd (21 years), James Dubay (20 years), Donald Cielinski and Terrel Wackerle (13 years), James Warren (12 years), Clarence Pelton (8 years), Steve Eddy (7 years), Nicholas Smith and Stephen Smith (6 years), Dan Beyersdorf and Kelly Dearing (5 years), Scott Drake (4 years), and Ami Stender (2 years).

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, the efforts of the men and women of the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department should stand as an example to all of us, and I ask the House to join me in honoring them.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF KENTUCKY NURSES AND THE AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION IN HONOR OF NATIONAL NURSE'S WEEK

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tireless group of Kentuckians who exhibit incredible dedication to serving others in my home state and throughout the country. Nurses are at the forefront of the healthcare system, working day in and day out to provide quality care to every patient in settings from the hospital emergency room, to the battlefield, and to the bed of a nursing home. The American Nurses Association and the Kentucky Nurses Association have declared May 6 through May 12, 2004 Kentucky Nurses' Week, and I encourage all Kentuckians to join with me in honoring the nursing profession.

America boasts many men and women in the nursing profession who proudly represent all races, religions and creeds in a variety of settings. They are the personal hand and comforting voice of the healthcare system, and I'm sure we can all remember a time when a nurse's kind words or gentle smile provided reassurance. Every year, the Kentucky Nurses Association recognizes over three hundred nurses for their excellence in service. I wholeheartedly support these efforts to recognize the unsung heroes of the medical community.

This year's theme, "Nurses: Your Voice, Your Health, Your Life," personifies the commitment to service so evident in the nursing profession. With a wide variety of responsibilities, nurses are always prepared to offer the best possible health care to their patients. They are there to help the sick to get better and to make sure the healthy stay that way. I am proud to call attention to all of the nurses in our Kentucky community and hope you will join with me in celebrating the tireless efforts of these angels of mercy.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on April 28, 1989, the world observed the first

Workers Memorial Day in honor of the 2 million people who die each year as a result of workplace injury or illness. Fifteen years later, we remember the almost 6,000 Americans who died on the job this past year and recall the hard work that still needs to be done in the United States to keep our working men and women safe.

The date of April 28th was chosen in recognition of the anniversary of The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1971. Since its creation, OSHA has helped reduce the rate of workplace death and injury through the work of The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. But over 6 million workers in the United States still become sick or injured each year as a result of their work. This is not the time to roll back new safety and health standards, to cut OSHA's budget or to gut funding for job safety research. To have a strong and healthy economy, America needs a safe and healthy workforce.

Last year, 70 Oregonians gave the ultimate sacrifice to their professions: their lives. I would like to honor their memory now by recognizing them by name:

Larry H. Zygar, Jacquelyn S. Wyatt, Azucena Terrazas, Michael W. Norris, Donald M. Lea II, Randall Harmon, Dan O. Taylor, Robert G. Cramer, Nicholas Voris, Timothy M. Smith, Mark A. Hauser, Ronald S. Weekly, Steven J. Maine, Nathan D. Sigfrid, Janet P. Knoke, Russell H. Simpson, Russell L. Barker, James G. Clements, Leland S. Halsell, Luther H. Stinson Jr., Daniel R. Becker, Richard W. Black, David C. Mackey, Jessie D. Rucker, Kenneth F. Tison, Bobby D. Adams, Henry C. Gauthier, Camilo U. Becerra-Corona, Daniel A. Knigge, Robert L. Chasteen.

Juan Rivas, David A. Burgess Jr., Elizabeth Roxanne Smith-McLeod, Harold E. Hanscom, Jerome P. Sedlak, Michael S. Lowe, David L. Martinson, Milan Smith Jr., Daryl R. Steenhard, Charles A. Shull, David K. Hammer, Mark R. Ransdell, Ricardo B. Moore, Jesse D. James, Leland D. Price Jr., Ricardo M. Ruiz, Paul E. Gibson, Jeffrey D. Hengel, Christopher R. Kroker, Sarah G. Huang, Timothy A. Bowers, Timothy P. Smith, Adam H. Cox, Jeremy C. Gage, Matthew S. Fitzgerald, Douglas R. Davis, John M. Allison, Noe Lira-Sanchez, Wiley D. Rasmussen, Matthew L. Barrows Sr.

Alfredo Zamarano-Sierra, Gregory V. Rogozhnikov, Samuel L. Lazott, Thomas H. Kistler, Timothy J. Lannon, Gregory A. Hoffert, Luis J. Gonzales, Griffin E. Fisk, Joseph A. Davis, and Daniel L. Coulter.

We remember them and their parents, spouses, children and friends who are grieving. But grief cannot overshadow hope. Mourn for the dead but fight for the living—this is the message of Workers Memorial Day. But it must be in our thoughts every day of the year, as workers and their advocates strive to make workplaces safer for those whose lives depend on it.

**WE NEED COMMON SENSE
IMMIGRATION POLICY REFORM**

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, the most important duty that we

have is to protect the safety and well-being of the American people. However, the grim reality is that our broken immigration system is preventing us from fulfilling this most important obligation. The increasing numbers of immigrants, both legal and illegal, threaten our national security and weigh down our already over-burdened economy. Every day, illegal immigrants cross our borders and take advantage of taxpayer funded benefits available to them in the U.S. We must act now and reform our immigration policy so that we may protect the safety and financial prosperity of our citizens.

We know what the problem is, but how do we solve it? Amnesty is not the answer. Rewarding illegal immigrants with jobs and benefits at the expense of the American people is not the answer. Allowing more immigrants into America is not the answer. H.R. 775, which would end this harmful "Visa Lottery" program, is a solid first step in the right direction to limit the number of immigrants allowed to enter our country. Only through narrowing the stream of immigration can we begin to be able to take back control of our borders.

One of the many lessons of September 11th is that we cannot be too careful when it comes to our national immigration policy. It was only after these horrific attacks that we learned that most of the terrorists should not have been admitted into our country in the first place. The first step in solving this crisis is simple: we must limit, not expand, the number of people allowed into this country and the SAFE Act does just this.

**CONGRATULATING WINNERS OF
THE 2003 PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARD**

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Miguel Blanco, Olabisi Davies, and Taja Gonsalves on winning the 2003 President's Environmental Youth Award. These three students are all residents of Providence, Rhode Island, and participate in the Groundwork Providence Education Team.

Groundwork Providence, which is part of the national nonprofit Groundwork USA network, develops community based partnerships that work to regenerate, improve and manage the physical environment. The Education Team is aimed at getting students involved in taking care of their community and teaching others to do the same. The President's Environmental Youth Awards program is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Education. The program helps promote environmental awareness and community involvement among young people. Only ten exceptional projects are picked per year.

Mr. Blanco, a junior at Mt. Pleasant High School; Ms. Davies, a senior at North Providence High School; and Ms. Gonsalves, a freshman at the Health & Science Technology High School, plan and run after school programs for younger students. They also help run summer environmental education camps, attend training sessions and workshops, and take part in projects to clean up the community.