

HONORING NATIONAL ADOPTION  
DAY

**HON. TOM MARINO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2011*

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, as a parent of two wonderful adopted children and a co-chairman of the newly established bi-partisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Care, I rise today in recognition of the 12th Annual National Adoption Day which is tomorrow November 19.

As we look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving, it is important to keep in mind there are over 400,000 children in foster care across the nation who will not be spending the holiday with a permanent family. Of these children, nearly 107,000 of them are eligible for adoption and waiting for a family.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, over 19,000 children are in Pennsylvania's foster care system. About 3,300 of these children await adoption.

Each year about 28,000 youth age out of foster care having never been adopted.

I want to issue a challenge those us here in Washington and around the country to make it easier for families to adopt children.

Our goal must be a loving, caring and safe permanent home for each of these children. For this to happen, courts, judges, attorneys, adoption professionals, child welfare agencies, religious and civic organizations needs to work together to finalize adoptions and find homes for children in foster care.

National adoption Day is an essential part of this effort.

For the past 12 years, National Adoption Day has been a nationwide attempt to raise awareness of the children in foster care waiting to find permanent homes and loving families. It is commemorated across the country with numerous events held each year to finalize the adoptions of children in foster care, and to celebrate all families who adopt.

The result is that since 2000, more than 35,000 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day. This year nearly 5,000 adoptions will be finalized in through these special events.

That is why I am gratified to be speaking in recognition National Adoption Day. I also want to thank foster and adoptive families across the country because of the important role that they play in the well-being of our children.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CANON  
CITY NOON LIONS IN HONOR OF  
THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2011*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 90th Anniversary of the Cañon City Noon Lions Club in my district in Colorado. For Ninety years, the Noon Lions have been dedicated to providing aid and assistance to the needy and less fortunate in their community. During the Lions Club International Campaign Sight First II, the Noon Lions were one of five Model Clubs within the

state of Colorado raising over \$32,000 for the program. This program helps under-privileged children from all over the world get much needed eye exams and medications. Last December, the Noon Lions raised over \$3,000 in a "Cash for Christmas" raffle in order to pay for appointments and surgery for a young girl with Amblyopic eye condition and a man with cataracts.

The Cañon City Noon Lions are dedicated to serving their community and the wider world. Ever since they started in the basement of a local YMCA building on November 22, 1921, the Noon Lions have tirelessly devoted their time, effort, and energy to fighting blindness, combating hunger, and aiding seniors and the disabled. With the introduction of the "Sight First" program the Noon Lions have screened the eyes of more than 5,000 children within their community and surrounding area. The Noon Lions look back at their legacy of community service with an eye on the future and on the service they will be a part of in strengthening their community. I am proud of the work they have done my district and I offer them my most sincere congratulations on their 90th anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FAMILY ALLIANCE FOR VETERANS OF AMERICA

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional work that the Family Alliance for Veterans of America has been doing on behalf of our veterans, and to congratulate them on the recent launch of their cutting-edge website.

FAVA's Chairman, Rhonda Jordal, has been a tireless advocate for veterans and military families for numerous years. Because of her commitment, FAVA has been at the forefront of providing information, advocacy and support to our veterans and their families in their most crucial time of need. FAVA's nationwide assistance is aimed at helping with any difficult situation veterans or their families find themselves in. This program has found a niche that allows them to assist veterans through their own practices, as well as assisting government agencies in being more attentive and responsive to the needs of America's heroes.

FAVA's goal is to become a comprehensive repository of information that can assist veterans all over the globe, and the launch of their new website is a crucial step in that direction. At [fava.westcare.com](http://fava.westcare.com), families of veterans, and veterans themselves, can read and share their own stories regarding unexpected difficulties and experiences that they have faced. The message that FAVA wishes to convey to every veteran and their family is simple—you are not alone.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to represent Iowa veterans in the U.S. House of Representatives. No one has done more to secure the freedom enjoyed by every single American than our veterans and those currently serving in the armed services. It goes without saying that we must collectively do everything we can to deliver on the benefits and support our veterans deserve, and I am proud

to honor the Family Alliance for Veterans of America for supporting our veterans in such a tangible and meaningful way. Thank you.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE LUKENS  
BAND

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2011*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Lukens Band of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

Founded in 1911 by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lukens Huston, the first meeting of the Lukens Mission Band brought together fifteen youngsters with little or no musical ability. Today, they number in excess of 40 musicians. The Band performs about 60 times per year and has four subgroups known as the Lukens Marching Band, Lukens Concert Band, Lukens German Band and Lukens Small Ensemble. In its many forms, the Band plays for a wide variety of venues such as community concerts, the Coatesville VA Hospital, senior centers, retirement communities, corporate events and community celebrations.

In 1994, the Band incorporated as The Lukens Band, to reflect a broader scope as a non-profit public organization, the end of support by the Lukens Steel Company, and the start of support from The Huston Foundation and The Stewart Huston Charitable Trust.

Mr. Speaker, in light of its years of service to the community and outstanding entertainment and musical accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing The Lukens Band in celebration of its 100 year anniversary.

HONORING ALEXANDER SCOTT  
MASON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Scott Mason. Alexander is 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 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alexander has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Scott Mason for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.