

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JOSE SAN NICOLAS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Jose Salucnam San Nicolas, former Commissioner of the village of Agat, Guam; he was fondly known as "Joe Pineda" by his family and closest friends. Born on December 15, 1945, Joe dedicated more than 40 years of his life as a public servant to the people of Guam, beginning as a youth and church leader in Agat, Guam's largest southern village. His desire to serve and his spirit of community paved the way for his election in 1970. He became one of Guam's youngest public officials at the age of 25. In 1974, after serving only one term as Assistant Commissioner, Joe was elected as the Commissioner of Agat. He passed away on December 27, 2012, at the age of 67.

As Commissioner of Agat, Joe paid particular attention to helping young people find constructive and productive activities, such as village clean-up and beautification projects. He also encouraged participation in the celebration of Guam's Liberation Day festivities, intramural sports, and involvement in church functions and religious education.

As a devout Catholic, Joe served as a "Techa", or traditional prayer leader, of rosaries and novenas. He volunteered his skills in leading prayers for families throughout Guam, as well as in California, Hawaii, Washington state and Germany. After his term as Commissioner of Agat, Joe continued to serve his community as a techa; he also held several different government posts, working for the Guam Legislature and Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez as a Special Assistant for community outreach.

Joe will be missed by all who knew and loved him. I extend my condolences to his family and loved ones, including his children, Dwayne and Charmaine.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF RICHARD H. GOBBLE, II

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery of City of Ripley Fire Chief Richard H. Gobble, II. Chief Gobble, a lifelong resident of the community he serves, heads an all volunteer fire department in Ripley, WV, a small town in my district.

On the morning of December 29, 2012, Ripley's Mayor received an anonymous letter de-

tailoring a heroic event that happened the week earlier, just before the Christmas holiday. The letter's anonymous author had been traveling down Route 33 when he witnessed a frightening car wreck, in which the vehicle left the road and landed in the frigid waters of a nearby creek.

The first emergency responder on the scene was a man from the fire department, who, according to the anonymous author, waded into the cold waters without hesitation to help the trapped motorist. The fireman successfully retrieved the elderly man from his almost completely submerged car and helped him to shore, reassuring him along the way that everything would be alright. By the time the fireman helped the elderly man to the creek bank, other members of the fire department, paramedics, and police had arrived on the scene to assist.

Once the elderly man was safe from the frigid waters and receiving medical treatment from paramedics, the letter's anonymous author asked a member of the fire department for the name of the fireman that risked hypothermia to save the motorist. The fireman responded, "That's our chief!" It was Ripley's volunteer fire chief, Richard Gobble, who had rescued the man from the frozen creek and saved his life.

Mr. Speaker, the level of devotion to community by Chief Gobble is one deserving of great respect and recognition.

I wish to thank Chief Gobble for his service to his community. The City of Ripley is fortunate to have such a heroic man leading their fire department.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD HENRY RAILEY FROM UPS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the House's attention today to recognize Richard Henry Railey who is retiring from the United Parcel Service in Opelika after 34 years of service.

Mr. Railey was born on October 18, 1957, in Ashland, Alabama, to Talma and Georgia Alberta Railey. He graduated from Wadley High School in 1976 as Class Salutatorian, lettering in both football and baseball and serving as Class President.

He attended Southern Union State Junior College receiving an A.S. Degree and serving as President of the Student Government Association. He then attended Auburn University and graduated in 1981 with a B.S. Degree in Vocational Agri-Business with a teaching certificate.

In November of 1978, Mr. Railey started working part-time at UPS while in school at

Auburn. In 1979, he was promoted to part-time management and in 1984, to full-time management. In April of 1981, Richard married Debbie Renee Gilbert in Pine Mountain, Georgia, and later they had two sons, Patrick Ryan Railey and David Richard Railey. While at UPS, Richard has also volunteered at United Way, taught Junior Achievement at Opelika High School and Auburn High School and achieved many job promotions during his time there.

Mr. Speaker, we join his family and friends in celebrating Mr. Railey's retirement and wish him the very best.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BETTY RAMACHER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Betty Ramacher, who passed away on November 20, 2012, at the age of 86. A respected elected official and community leader, Betty leaves behind a wonderful legacy and serves as an example for generations to come.

Betty was a woman of many trades. She served as a first grade teacher in Caruthers, California and operated a dress shop in the Fig Garden Shopping Center in Fresno, California. With her background as an educator and small business owner, Betty successfully ran for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors in 1983. Betty served the third supervisorial district for five years.

Betty's progressive ideas along with her ability to get things done made her a well-respected political mind in California's San Joaquin Valley. Aspiring political candidates would often reach out to Betty first when running for office. Betty and her husband, Richard, were a formidable team—especially when it came to organizing campaigns and winning elections.

Along with being a political trailblazer, Betty was also a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. Betty's family was everything to her. She was a caregiver for a majority of her life—providing for her disabled son, Eric, for over 50 years, and caring for Richard after his stroke. Betty truly understood the importance of love and family.

Betty leaves behind her daughter, Mary and son-in-law, Ted Mooradian; her grandchildren, Ali Mooradian-Pesce and her husband Andres, Lauren, Jacob, and Joseph Mooradian.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Betty Ramacher. Her unwavering commitment to bettering the lives of residents in Fresno County will never be forgotten. Betty will be remembered as a woman with a kind heart and loving soul.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING MR. GORDON PROUT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of Mr. Gordon Prout. Mr. Prout, a resident of Tinton Falls, New Jersey, passed away on December 17, 2012 after decades of public service as a civil engineer for the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Prior to his 34 years of public service, Mr. Prout served his country honorably in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was a navigator on a B-17 Flying Fortress for nine missions over Europe before being shot down and captured. Consequently, he spent 16 months as a prisoner in Stalag Luft I in Germany. Mr. Prout successfully returned home on the Queen Mary after being liberated by the Soviets in May, 1945.

Mr. Prout is survived by his devoted wife of 67 years, Anne Bruno Prout; a daughter and son-in-law, Judith and Mickey McCabe of Monmouth Beach and Bayonne; a son and daughter-in-law, Donald and Deborah Prout of VA; four grandchildren, Allison McCabe Matto and her husband Joseph, Michael McCabe and his wife Tina, Derek Prout and his wife Jessica and Bryan Prout and his fiancée Taylor Lytle; and five great-grandchildren, Madelyn, Luke, Grace, Aiden and Abigail.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Prout for his lifetime of public service to the state of New Jersey, and his dedicated service to our country.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINT PAUL CURLING CLUB

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the unique history of the Saint Paul Curling Club on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the organization. Since 1912, the club has called Selby Avenue in Saint Paul, Minnesota its home. Today, it is the largest curling club in the United States with more than 1,200 members.

The sport of curling has a deep and rich history in Minnesota's capital city. In 1885 two clubs formed under the names of the Saint Paul Curling Club and the Nushka Curling Club. The first games were played on the frozen Mississippi River near Raspberry Island in downtown St. Paul. In 1904 the first Saint Paul Curling Club closed and the Capitol City Curling Club was formed the following year. In 1912 the Capitol City and Nushka Curling Clubs merged to form the current Saint Paul Curling Club and the new club took up residence in its current home on Selby Avenue.

During its century on Selby Avenue, the Saint Paul Curling Club has witnessed many changes—seasonal outdoor ice sheets have been upgraded to year round indoor refrigerated rinks; financial woes and declining membership in past decades have given way

to booming times and a surge in membership; and a neighborhood in decline has been reborn. Throughout all these changes and more, the Saint Paul Curling Club has remained at 470 Selby Avenue. It has not only survived, it has invested in painstaking restoration as well as expansion of its historic home. Throughout its history on Selby Avenue, the Saint Paul Curling Club has served as a foundation for this neighborhood, which is once again a thriving residential community and bustling destination for dining, shopping, and socializing.

Central to the Saint Paul Curling Club is the sport of curling. Not only is it the largest curling club in the U.S., it has frequently played host to both national and international competitions. The club has hosted numerous bonspiel's, which are curling tournaments, and in 1988 they hosted the USCA Men's Championship. The club is also home to former Olympians from the 2010 Vancouver games, John Benton and Allison Pottinger. The club has helped bring recognition and respect to the City of Saint Paul.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of all the past and present members of the Saint Paul Curling Club, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing the Centennial Anniversary of this Saint Paul landmark.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER JOE E. MILLER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and lifetime achievements of West Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Joe E. Miller. Commissioner Miller's record of public service is one of devotion and self sacrifice; both during his military career and in his time as a public servant.

Joe Miller began serving his fellow citizens in 1958, when he joined the United States Marine Corps, where he attended Officer Candidates School. Over the next twenty years Miller would serve two tours in Vietnam and receive numerous awards and promotions, before finally retiring in 1978 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1997, Miller was appointed to the position of Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles by Governor Cecil Underwood and reappointed in 2009 by Governor Joe Manchin. Throughout his time as Commissioner, Miller has successfully overseen many challenging projects for the Division of Motor Vehicles. Highlights of his tenure include West Virginia's compliance with the Real ID Act of 2005, integration of the Electronic Commercial Driver's License Testing System, and development of the division's Regional Office Plan, stating, "Every citizen in the state should have reasonable access to essential DMV services."

Commissioner Miller resides in Putnam County with his wife, Darleen S. Miller. He has five children, daughters; Jenny, Debbie, Susie, Heather (deceased), and one son, Mike.

Mr. Speaker, the State of West Virginia, and indeed, the United States of America owe Commissioner Joe E. Miller a debt of gratitude for his many years of honorable service.

34TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. I am honored to rise today to recognize several individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District, who will be recognized during the 34th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 19, 2013, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Service Club will pay tribute to local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. Notably, David D. Chube Sr., MD will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Award for 2013. Additionally, several individuals will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast including, Patricia Diana DeNeal, Elder Rozelle Hammonds, Pastor Dr. Marion J. Johnson Jr., Joseph Slay Jr., and Ann West-Walker. Finally, Ferba R. Hines was selected as the 2012 Yokefellow of the Year.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of each of these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these honorees, as well as the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers, President Oliver J. Gilliam, Vice President Sean Jones, 1st Vice President James Piggee, Recording Secretary Linnal Ford, Financial Secretary Sam Frazier, Corresponding Secretary Ferba R. Hines, and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, as well as Breakfast Chairman Clorius L. Lay, in addition to all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF
HIGHLAND VILLAGE**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Highland Village as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary as an incorporated city.

Highland Village was voted into existence by approximately 100 residents on February 14, 1963, with 53 supporting votes and seven opposed. Over the subsequent 50 years the 5.5 square-mile city has transitioned from a small population and weekenders from Dallas to the lakeside community that is now home for almost 16,000 permanent residents.

Highland Village has a long history that includes its role as a hideout in the 1870s for the notorious highwayman, Sam Bass, who was drawn to the privacy of the trees and hills that are unique to much of north Texas. The same natural beauty that attracted the infamous also beckoned wealthy Dallasites seeking respite from the city. The growth continued and development by groups such as Mobil Land Development Corporation transformed the small, rural town into a suburban city in the 1970s. It eventually became a Home Rule City in 1986 as its population surpassed 5,000.

Residential expansion led to improvements in infrastructure and economic growth. Diversification of the community's revenue base through commercial development led to the city's current vibrant retail market. Roadway improvements to FM 407 and the extension of FM 2499 as a major north south route which will eventually connect DFW Airport with Denton residents has also fostered the community's prosperity. Managing its growth in a conservatively fiscal manner, Highland Village prioritized services that would enhance and preserve the quality of life for residents. As a result, current residents enjoy living in a municipality identified as the "Safest City in Texas", with full-time fire and emergency services, an extensive system of community trails and membership in the Denton County Transportation Authority with nearby rail connectivity to the international commerce hub of Dallas.

As Highland Village celebrates their 50th anniversary, I salute the unique community that I and my family have also known as home. It is my privilege today to represent the City of Highland Village and its residents in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE MCCOLLUM

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Suzanne C. McCollum for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Ms. McCollum will retire after 28 years of distinguished service to the Nation as an Army Civilian.

Ms. McCollum began her service as a Clerk Typist, GS-1, at the Soldier Support Center-

National Capital Region. In 1989, she went on to serve as a secretary and Congressional Liaison Clerk for the 6th Infantry Division (Light), Fort Wainwright, Alaska. When she returned to Washington, DC in 1992, she briefly worked for the Acquisition Management Branch, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, before accepting a position in the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison (OCLL), Congressional Inquiry Division. During this time, Ms. McCollum was assigned to ever higher levels of responsibility as her experience and reputation as a skilled action officer grew.

Ms. McCollum received a promotion in the Congressional Activities Division, where she was responsible for ensuring that Army Senior Leader written testimony was provided to the Defense Oversight committees in a timely manner. She published a key tool for the Army in responding to Congress: the Congressional Actions Responsibilities Standard Operating Procedures. Within a year, she was promoted again and asked to become the Legislative Assistant to Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston, becoming his sole advisor for all congressional affairs matters. In that role, Ms. McCollum was responsible for preparing the SMA for congressional testimony, providing analysis on Congressional interest items and legislation related to Soldier and Family issues, and keeping him informed on Members and Staff in preparation for numerous Congressional office calls, events, and trips. This was critical to ensure he was able to provide Members of Congress and their Staff with the most current information on Army Programs. Ms. McCollum most recently served as the Deputy Chief of Support Operations Division, Army Legislative Liaison.

Ms. McCollum has continued to remain passionate about Soldiers, their Families, and ensuring the quality of life for Service Members matches the quality of their service. Through her numerous contributions, she has made a real and lasting impact towards gaining Congressional trust, confidence, and advocacy for the Army.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me today in saying thank you to Ms. Suzanne C. McCollum for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to this country throughout her distinguished career as an Army Civilian and we wish her, her husband, Army-Retired Colonel Douglas McCollum and her daughter, Brennan Noelle Rozmeski; stepdaughters Brooke Ashley and Brittany Kay McCollum, all the best in her well deserved retirement.

OPPOSING THE AMERICAN
TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme disappointment and frustration with the agreement Congress reached to prevent automatic tax hikes and the automatic spending cuts known as sequestration. After tenuous negotiations which skirted the entire legislative process, the agreement, officially known as H.R. 8, the American Taxpayer Relief Act, is neither balanced, nor comprehensive. Instead, it adds

nearly \$3.97 trillion to the national debt while leaving some of the most pressing tax and spending issues facing our country unresolved. For these reasons, I opposed H.R. 8. I will continue to work hard in the hopes that my colleagues can be persuaded to avoid a repeat performance less than two months from now.

H.R. 8 fails to address our unfavorable fiscal situation, and merely delays important decisions that should have already been made. Thus, I have grave concerns that its enactment will result in other fevered negotiations by the few that will produce new "compromises" that are harmful to middle class families. With both the debt ceiling and sequestration still looming, I share Sen. HARKIN's concern that the passage of H.R. 8 may put pressure on achieving deficit reductions through spending programs that Americans have earned. As Sen. HARKIN stated, "Every dollar that wealthy taxpayers do not pay under this deal, we will eventually ask Americans of modest means to forgo in Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid benefits."

I am also absolutely appalled that the legislative process has been completely ignored throughout this process. We have known for 24 months that Bush-era tax cuts would expire at the end of 2012. We have known for 17 months that the indiscriminate, across-the-board spending cuts known as sequestration would take effect at the beginning of this year. Yet for all intents and purposes, serious negotiations did not start until after the 2012 election, leaving just under two months to craft a solution to a massive and complex set of problems. To make matters worse, essentially five elected officials—first President Obama and House Speaker BOEHNER, and later Vice President BIDEN, Senate Majority Leader REID, and Senate Minority Leader MCCONNELL—negotiated the so-called compromise, even though it affects every American across this nation. Our constituents deserve to have their interests represented by their Congressional Representatives and Senators—the officials who they have specifically chosen to represent their individual interests. This is a dreadful way to legislate, and I sincerely hope that the process is not repeated.

I am extremely frustrated that H.R. 8 is yet another unbalanced and ineffective attempt to bring our fiscal house in order. I have long maintained that the solutions to our nation's fiscal problems must be comprehensive and fair. It is the only way we can truly provide a sound economy and future for the next generation. H.R. 8 accomplishes neither of these goals. While the law will raise an estimated \$620 billion over ten years compared to what the tax code would have generated if we had simply extended all of the Bush-era tax cuts, it will ultimately add \$3.97 trillion to our debt over the next ten years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Achieving \$620 billion in new revenue while adding nearly \$4 trillion to our debt is not effective or proportional.

I also object to this law because it does nothing to reduce spending. When our budget was balanced and we had surpluses for four years under President Clinton from Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 to FY 2001, spending represented around 18.5 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP), the overall size of the economy, and tax revenues represented around 20 percent. In 2012 however, spending represented an estimated 22.9 percent of

GDP and tax revenues represented 15.7 percent. Clearly, these two extremes cannot continue if we are to balance the budget and provide for a sound economy for future generations. While we do not currently have Congressional Budget Office estimates on how this law will effect spending and revenue as a percent of GDP for FY 2013, we do know that it will increase spending by over \$332 billion, pushing us even farther in the opposite direction of where we need to go. Additionally, while I do recognize the law will increase tax revenue by \$620 billion over ten years—not an insubstantial amount—the effort was done with little apparent regard to the limited impact this decision will have on the trillion dollar deficits we face. I urge my colleagues to have the intestinal fortitude to make tough decisions regarding federal spending and taxes, and to take our cue from the 1990s in order to truly put this country on the right path.

Beyond spending and tax issues, I am further frustrated that the agreement is incomplete, kicking the can down the road on a number of issues. For example, it only extends Farm Bill provisions for an additional nine months. Additionally, while I am pleased that the law prevents a 27 percent cut in the Medicare reimbursement rate for doctors, the provision expires in one year. I have been working to find a permanent solution to the current formula used to determine doctor reimbursements under the Medicare program for over a decade. I am abjectly disappointed that Congress has again missed an opportunity to permanently address this important issue.

Another failure is the law's inability to permanently address the indiscriminate automatic spending cuts known as sequestration by making discrete value judgments on the cuts that need to be made. The law only delays sequestration for an additional two months, and partially pays for this delay by requiring Congress to find an additional \$12 billion in unspecified discretionary cuts. Specifically, the law lowers the discretionary cap Congress previously agreed to by \$4 billion in FY 2013 and by \$8 billion in FY 2014. We are now three months into FY 2013 and this is the third change we have made to our spending allocations. As an appropriator, I am dismayed.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed in the Congress for agreeing to a woefully inadequate measure that fails to meaningfully address our structural deficit. As in the past, I am committed to working to ensure a balanced, thoughtful approach, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in being actively engaged to ensure such legislation is all-encompassing. It is paramount that we come together as a country to make the substantive and difficult decisions that are necessary to provide for a strong nation, a robust economy, and a bright future for the next generation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2009, the day I took office, the national debt was \$10,627,961,295,930.67.

Today, it is \$16,432,680,097,613.85. We've added \$5,804,718,801,683.18 to our debt in 4 years. This is a \$5.8 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. I have advocated for a Balanced Budget Amendment since I was sworn in for this very reason.

I will be once more forming the Balanced Budget Amendment Caucus to fight for a return to fiscal responsibility. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELAINE ROSCELLA LEHMAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Elaine Roscella Lehman. Her character exemplified the very best of what our Nation has to offer—she was thoughtful, generous, and possessed a strong work ethic.

Elaine's long-time commitment to service began early in her life when she joined the United States Navy and served in the WAVES (Women Accepted to Volunteer Emergency Service) division during World War II. Elaine began her service in Philadelphia as a medical operating room assistant, and she was later stationed at Pearl Harbor Navy Hospital. She served our country proudly during a time in history that forever changed our Nation and the world.

After the war ended, Elaine moved to Central California with her brothers. Shortly after arriving in the Golden State, she met her life-long partner, Henry Lehman, and married him in 1947. Elaine and Henry had four children: Rick, Janet, David, and Charles. Together, they maintained and operated a successful family farm.

Elaine's service was not exclusive to times of war. She was also deeply involved in her community and became a well-known figure in Sanger, California and surrounding cities. She was president of Wilson Elementary School PTA, served as a Cub Scout Den Mother, and also volunteered as a Room Mother. In 1979, Elaine's work and dedication was recognized when she was honored as Sanger's Mother of the Year.

After an unfortunate automobile accident that resulted in the tragic death of her child Charlie, Elaine decided that she would go back to school for her nursing degree. She worked as an LVN at Valley Medical Center and at the Sanger Convalescent Hospital. Elaine genuinely cared for the well-being of others, so being a nurse suited her well. Elaine consistently went above and beyond for her patients. For years, she drove cancer patients to their treatments as a member of Angels on Wheels, using her own vehicle and gas. Elaine's legacy will undoubtedly live on through her kind and generous acts.

Elaine supported her family members whole-heartedly in times of distress and in times when they were working to fulfill their goals. When Henry was diagnosed with cancer, Elaine retired to stay with him and provide full-time care. When Rick ran for election in 1976, she was with him every step of the way

until the end of his political career. Rick served with distinction in the California State Legislature and as a member of the House of Representatives from 1983 to 1994. Her daughter Janet served as a teacher, while her son David works as a structural engineer.

In addition to her family, Elaine's faith was also extremely important to her, and she taught Sunday school for over 20 years. She leaves behind her three children and two grandchildren: Carrie Beedle and Stephanie Lehman.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of an amazing woman, Elaine Roscella Lehman. Her positive attitude and overwhelming love for others will be greatly missed.

HONORING REVEREND R.T. MITCHELL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Reverend R.T. Mitchell on his 35th anniversary as Pastor of New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana. For his many years of selfless and compassionate public service, Reverend Mitchell will be honored at a celebratory banquet on Friday, January 18, 2013 at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana.

Reverend Mitchell has dedicated his life to God and to serving his congregation and the people of his community. He completed his higher education at Moody Bible Institute and the Indiana Christian Bible College, earning a degree in External Bible Study. Reverend Mitchell has also completed many other Evangelical courses, and holds a Bachelor of Theology degree.

On January 22, 1978, Reverend Mitchell became Pastor of New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church. Under his leadership, New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church has become a beacon for the community, especially for those most in need. Through their mission ministry, the church holds a monthly soup kitchen and provides support to many community organizations, including Crisis Center, Incorporated, Brother's Keeper homeless shelter, and Every Child Ministries.

Reverend Mitchell has also served as president of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Gary and Vicinity, president of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist State Convention of Indiana, and president of the Interfaith Federation Clergy Caucus. In addition, Reverend Mitchell has served on various boards and committees for community organizations throughout Gary and Northwest Indiana, including the Northwest Indiana Food Bank, the Thelma Marshall Children's Home, the Second Chance Foundation of Gary, and the Calumet Project. Reverend R.T. Mitchell also ministers to the incarcerated within the community. For his complete devotion to helping others in need of spiritual guidance, he is worthy of the highest commendation.

Reverend Mitchell's exceptional dedication to the church and to his community is exceeded only by his devotion to his wonderful family. He and his beloved wife, Irene, recently

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have two adoring daughters and six grandchildren. I am proud to represent Reverend Mitchell and extremely happy to consider him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend R.T. Mitchell on his 35th anniversary as Pastor of New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church. For his lifetime of leadership and selfless service to others, he is worthy of the highest praise.

TRIBUTE TO MARY BLAS PABLO

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Mary Blas Pablo for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Mrs. Pablo will retire after 27 years of distinguished service to the Nation as an Army Civilian.

Ms. Pablo began her service in the Pentagon in 1985 with the Department of the Army's Military Operations, Training Directorate. She relocated to Guam in 1986 as part of her husband's military reassignment where she worked for the Naval Supply Depot from 1986–1988. Mrs. Pablo returned to the Washington, DC area in 1988 where she began her 24-year tenure with the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison in the Congressional Travel Office as a Travel Staff Assistant. During this time, Ms. Pablo coordinated and arranged travel for Members and employees of Congress averaging 450 Congressional trips annually. She played a key role and contributed to several successful and flawless missions.

In 2002, Ms. Pablo became the Chief of the Army Congressional Travel Office where she served as the Army's subject matter expert on Congressional travel and was responsible for the administration and management of the Army's Congressional Travel Program. Her expertise and selfless dedication to Congress and the Army ensured support and assistance for delegations traveling domestic and abroad, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Ms. Pablo was always willing to do whatever it took to accomplish the missions vital to Congress and the Army.

Ms. Pablo has continued to remain passionate about Soldiers, their Families, and ensuring the quality of life for Service Members matches the quality of their service. Through her numerous contributions, she has made a real and lasting impact towards gaining Congressional trust, confidence, and advocacy for the Army.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me today in saying thank you to Ms. Mary Blas Pablo for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to this country throughout her distinguished career as an Army Civilian and we wish her, her husband, Army-retired Ben Pablo, their children and grandchildren, Lisa, Todd, Brian, Talan, Landon and Addisen all the best in her well deserved retirement.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KARLY WILLIAMS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Karly Williams a happy birthday. Karly was born on January 14, 1999 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She is the daughter of Robert and Tracie Williams.

Karly attends Hunter Middle School—Home of the Hawks—in Ooltewah, Tennessee. At Hunter, Karly is a member of the WHMS News crew and won an award for her service.

During the 2012 football season, Karly was a manager for the football team and now serves as a manager for the wrestling team.

Karly is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Beehive class president of the Harrison Bay ward. One day, Karly hopes to attend Brigham Young University.

For now, Karly likes fashion, fishing, dance and drawing. She also likes Chik-fil-A, Red Lobster, sunny weather, country music and beaches.

Karly is a girl who loves pearls—and her daddy's big, red truck. Wherever daddy is, Karly wants to be.

Karly's dog, Izzie, pals around with Aggie. Aggie, also known as Little Boy, is Mimi's brown chihuahua. Aggie and Izzie, an Australian cattle dog, live with Karly on Birchwood Pike in Harrison, Tennessee.

HONORING HUELL HOWSER

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, last week, California lost one of its most beloved individuals, Huell Howser. Huell was known to so many Californians as the friendly host of California's Gold, the long running public television program from which he retired late last year.

Huell's southern accent made it clear that he wasn't a native Californian. He was born in Tennessee but moved to Los Angeles in 1981 to become a reporter for KCBS. He fell in love with his new home and created his own television show dedicated to life in California. The premise was simple. He, a cameraman, and a hand-held microphone traveled across the state, visiting everything from national parks to little known mom-and-pop shops, in search of California stories. He found them.

His folksy charm was disarming and his impromptu interviews were lighthearted and friendly. He talked to nearly everyone he met and found the most incredible stories ranging from tragic and touching to obscure and wonderful. But regardless of where he was visiting, his genuine enthusiasm stole the show. He was known for his "gee-wiz" demeanor and being completely fascinated with everything he stumbled upon, often exclaiming "That's amazing!" The LA Times once called him "magnificently unslick." Many Californians

have mastered their own impression of him, with love of course.

California's Gold ran on public television for 19 years. It became many Californians' "comfort television." Huell Howser was always a pleasure to watch. Each episode would show you everything you ever wanted to know about a place, and perhaps a little more.

He was a personal friend and I will always have fond memories of our Thanksgivings together at my brother Jim's home in San Pedro. I will never forget listening to Huell and my mother Ramona share stories of Nashville where she attended high school.

Since his passing, there has been an outpouring of tributes from his fans across the state who remember him for his optimism and sincerity. He is truly irreplaceable.

HONORING BRAD BELK'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brad Belk on his 25 years of service to the Joplin Museum Complex.

Brad has made it his mission to promote the local history of Joplin through numerous positions including author, educator, archivist, historian, exhibit designer, conservator, tour guide, historian film script writer, director, and film producer.

Brad has collaborated with the design and planning of several off-site permanent exhibits for the Joplin Museum Complex. He has also renovated many of the exhibit areas including the museum's mineral wing and assisted with the historical restoration of the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. Throughout the years Brad has given thousands of historical tours, lectures and presentations. He has also overseen the addition of ten major collections to the museum containing over 100,000 artifacts.

In addition, Brad has made large contributions to the historical literature of the region writing five books and co-authoring two others. He also has penned numerous articles on the region and directed or appeared in thirteen historical videos—several of which have received awards. He recently wrote and directed a 30-minute video covering the history of Missouri Southern State University, MSSU.

Alongside his work at the museum, Brad currently serves on the MSSU Alumni board of directors and is currently completing the 75th anniversary book for Missouri Southern.

Over the years, Brad has served on the Missouri History Speakers' Bureau, as Co-Chairman of the City of Joplin's 125th Celebration, and as a board member of the Route 66 Association of Missouri. He was also a member of the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation, and the Joplin Elk's Elkland Advisory Committee.

In 2006, Brad was honored with the Missouri Governor's Missouri Humanities Award.

Mr. Speaker, Brad's contributions to the city of Joplin and the state of Missouri are far-reaching, and it is an honor to recognize him.

IN HONOR OF JAMES J. SWEENEY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor James J. Sweeney of Havertown, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sweeney entered the United States Navy after graduating from high school in 1943, and served aboard the USS Hancock. The Hancock took part in some of World War II's most pivotal battles, including the invasions of the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Mr. Sweeney was honored for his heroic service and awarded the Philippines Liberation Medal, two Battles Stars and a Presidential Unit Commendation.

It was during his time in the Navy, that Mr. Sweeney befriended his shipmate, John Finn. Lieutenant Finn received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions at Pearl Harbor. During the Japanese surprise attack, Lieutenant Finn manned his machine gun and fought off the Japanese Zeroes for two and half hours even as he took an onslaught of bullets and shrapnel. And for the past nine years, James Sweeney has tirelessly worked to honor Lieutenant John Finn, who passed away in 2009. On February 15th, 2011, those efforts proved successful as the Navy announced that a new guided missile destroyer will be named the USS John Finn. For these efforts Mr. Sweeney is being honored by American Legion Post 667 in Havertown. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I congratulate Mr. Sweeney on his efforts to ensure that Lieutenant Finn's name and legacy lives on, and for his service during World War II, reflecting great credit upon himself and the United States Navy.

IN MEMORY OF HELEN HANSFORD

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my dearest friends and a jewel of southern Kentucky, the late Helen Hansford.

Helen was a staunch Republican since the day she was old enough to officially register, at the age of 21. From then on, she stood firm on conservative principles with her sweet southern charm. Helen became a member of the Republican Women's Club in 1966, served as an executive committee member of Kentucky's Republican Party for more than 20 years, and attended every Republican National Convention since 1984, until news of a malignant brain tumor interrupted her plans in 2011.

Helen's husband, the late Sherman Hansford, served as Pulaski County Sheriff for many years. During his service, Helen was right by Sherman's side, serving as a deputy sheriff and office clerk. She had a passion for public service and believed in being a part of transforming her hometown and helping others succeed. In fact, Helen's heartbeat raced for the children in Pulaski County Schools. As the Executive Assistant to the Pulaski County Schools Superintendent and a member of the Pulaski County Board of Education, Helen

never hesitated to take on the reins of responsibility when action was needed. Yet, she was always a true lady, winning over hearts with her generous spirit and words of encouragement.

When Helen believed in a cause, she invested herself into its success with every ounce of energy she had to offer. She devoted more than 50 years to numerous boards and agencies, including the Order of the Eastern Star, Kentucky Public Retirees, along with local, state and national Republican politics. In honor of her tireless dedication, Helen was recently inducted into the Pulaski County Lincoln Club Hall of Fame and the Republican 5th District Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an irreplaceable friend to southern Kentucky, the late Helen Hansford.

IN HONOR OF CHARLOTTE
ELLSWORTH**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of a remarkable mother, wife, friend, and public servant. Charlotte Ellsworth passed away just before Christmas. I had the great fortune of meeting her through her work at the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, where I often encountered her during meetings or events related to the reuse of Fort Ord. At FORA, Charlotte was the ever present cheerful voice on the phone or steady presence at sometimes heated public meetings. I know that all of us who have worked with FORA, either as community leaders, members of the public, or her colleagues, will miss her very much.

Charlotte was born in Carmel, California, on January 5, 1953. Her family lived in Seaside, California, at the time, but moved to nearby Prunedale in 1954. Her father was a painter and foreman of a glass shop on Fort Ord and was eventually promoted as Engineer of the Presidio of Monterey. She attended Echo Valley Elementary School in Prunedale and graduated from Watsonville High School in the class of 1970.

Charlotte was a lifelong member of the Las Lomas Full Gospel Church in Watsonville, where she married Kenneth Ellsworth, a soldier at Fort Ord, in 1974. In 1975, Charlotte and Ken moved to Castroville, where she lived until her passing. Charlotte and Ken welcomed a son, Kenneth Jr., in 1976. Kenneth Jr. and his wife, Edith, both serve as police officers in Salinas, California. They recently welcomed a baby girl, Alyssa, who was the light of Charlotte's life and who Ken Sr. laughingly says "will not be a police officer."

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in extending our condolences to Charlotte Ellsworth's family, friends, and colleagues. The loss of such a remarkable person is particularly painful. I hope that all of those affected by her early passing can take comfort in the remarkable difference that she made in the lives of all those that she touched.

CONGRATULATING THE 2012 BCS
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, THE UNI-
VERSITY OF ALABAMA CRIMSON
TIDE**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an exceptional group of young men who, for the second year in a row, have distinguished themselves as the undisputed national champions of college football. On January 7, 2013, the University of Alabama Crimson Tide captured the BCS National Championship with a decisive 42 to 14 victory over the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame.

By clinching their third BCS national championship in four years, the Crimson Tide has cemented their place in college football history and prompted some to ask if this remarkable team might be unequalled in the storied annals of the game.

As Kevin Scarbinsky of the Birmingham News observed in a January 8 op-ed,

All the while Notre Dame was reliving history, Alabama was making it. All over the golden domes of the Fighting Irish. Only one team played like a champion Monday in the BCS National Championship Game. Only one team shook down the thunder with old-school football and woke up the echoes of the greatest dynasties in the sport. Yea Alabama. The Crimson Tide became the third program in the poll era of college football history to win a third national championship in four years by taking apart the first program to do it. The Notre Dame champions of 1946, 1947 and 1949 would appreciate the Alabama champions of 2009, 2011 and 2012 because Alabama's third title came at Notre Dame's expense, right in Notre Dame's face.

Given that Alabama plays in a Southeastern Conference that's won seven straight BCS titles, in a state with a rival in Auburn that interrupted this parade with its own championship, we're witnessing the greatest run in college football history. Greater than Notre Dame in the 1940s, Alabama in the 1970s or Nebraska in the 1990s.

To win it again Monday was special. To do it against Notre Dame, Alabama's historical nemesis, was memorable. To leave no doubt on the scoreboard leaves no doubt in the debate. This was history. This is a dynasty. The best we've ever seen. The best there's ever been.

Congratulations to head coach Nick Saban, and coaches Burton Burns, Mike Groh, Doug Nussmeier, Jeff Stoutland, Jeremy Pruitt, Kirby Smart, Lance Thompson, Bobby Williams, Chris Rumph, Scott Cochran, and Joe Pannunzio. And, above all, congratulations to the 2012 BCS Champion Crimson Tide football team: Edward Aldag, Ryan Anderson, Jonathan Atchison, Dakota Ball, Parker Barrineau, Kenny Bell, Deion Belue, Jerrod Bierbower, Chris Black, Chris Bonds, Hunter Bush, Brent Calloway, Caleb Castille, Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, Landon Collins, Levi Cook, Amari Cooper, Trey DePriest, Denzel Devall, Quinton Dial, Josh Dickerson, Xzavier Dickson, Dillon Drake, Kenyan Drake, Dustin Ellison, Phillip Ely, Malcolm Faciane, LaMichael Fanning, D.J. Fluker, Cade Foster, Jalston Fowler, Kurt Freitag, John Fulton, Brandon Greene, Adam Griffith, Caleb Gullette, Rowdy Harrell, Dee Hart, Tyler Hayes, Ben Howell, Adrian Hubbard, Brandon Ivory, Kelly Johnson, Nico

Johnson, Aaron Joiner, Barrett Jones, Christion Jones, Cyrus Jones, Harrison Jones, Ryan Kelly, Korren Kirven, Arie Kouandjio, Cyrus Kouandjio, Eddie Lacy, Darren Lake, Dillon Lee, Robert Lester, Chad Lindsay, Wilson Love, Isaac Luatua, Josh Magee, Cody Mandell, Nathan McAlister, AJ McCarron, Corey McCarron, Dee Milliner, William Ming, Alec Morris, Taylor Morton, C.J. Mosley, Michael Newsome, Harold Nicholson, Kevin Norwood, Michael Nysewander, Anthony Orr, Tyler Owens, Jeffrey Pagan, Tana Patrick, Nick Perry, D. J. Pettway, Parker Philpot, Marcus Polk, Reggie Ragland, Russell Raines, Ty Reed, Trey Roberts, Jeremy Shelley, Austin Shepherd, Alex Shine, Marvin Shinn, Blake Sims, Geno Smith, Damion Square, Anthony Steen, Ed Stinson, Vinnie Sunseri, Bradley Sylve, Alphonse Taylor, MK Taylor, Carson Tinker, Dalvin Tomlinson, Brian Vogler, Paul Waldrop, Chance Warmack, Jabriel Washington, Ranzell Watkins, DeAndrew White, Wilson Whorton, Eddie Williams, Jarrick Williams, Jesse Williams, Kellen Williams, Michael Williams, Nick Williams, Danny Woodson Jr, and T.J. Yeldon.

And on behalf of Bama fans around the world, Roll Tide!

A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and join the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus to address the pervasive culture of violence that exists in America today.

The community in Newtown, Connecticut—along with the rest of the country—is still reeling from the inconceivable tragedy that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary on December 14, 2012; our hearts still ache with sadness and disbelief for the families and loved ones of the children and women who lost their lives in this senseless act of violence.

As the Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and a senior Member of the Judiciary Committee, I have listened to the tragic testimony of individuals who have survived or lost loved ones as a result of gun violence.

In the words of President Obama after the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting, "We're going to have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this, regardless of the politics."

While it is certainly true that violent crime and homicide rates in this country have been declining in recent years, they are still far above those in other industrialized nations.

Moreover, in America, there exists a pernicious culture of violence; a subculture that with today's technologically advanced weaponry is far more dangerous to public safety than ever before. At no point in our nation's history has a single human been more capable of inflicting massive death and misery, and our society is producing more individuals who wish to employ such means to carry out their ill intentions.

Far too often, the tool of choice for would-be killers is a firearm. Moreover, military-style assault weapons with high-capacity magazines

are not just in the hands of our men and women in the armed services; they on our streets. Many of them are in the wrong hands, and end up being the highly efficient tools of criminals and mass murderers.

Today marks a month since the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting. In that time, at least 836 more people in America have died from gun violence and accidental shootings.

This isn't a fluke; every day, on average, 33 Americans are murdered with guns, amounting to more than 12,000 people a year. In addressing this issue, I recognize and respect other cultures that exist in America; law-abiding citizens who are responsible in their ownership of firearms. Many of these citizens are reasonable with respect to the lethal capacity of their firearms, opting not to obtain assault weapons or to equip assault weapons with 30, 50, 75, or 100-round magazines.

Our reaction to, God forbid, the next time a madman enters a crowded movie theatre with the intent to kill, cannot simply be to wish that there was an armed good Samaritan in the audience who had the courage, opportunity and ability to stop a psychopathic shooter wielding a semi-automatic weapon equipped with a high-capacity magazine.

I commend the President for convening a Gun Violence Task Force, and Vice President Biden for his outstanding leadership.

As the President develops policy recommendations, as Members of Congress, we need to act as well.

H.R. 65: "THE CHILD GUN SAFETY AND GUN ACCESS PREVENTION ACT OF 2013"

We have all been shaken by tragic events in which children are the victims of gun violence or accidents. Whether these events occurred in Newtown, CT, Aurora, CO, or on the streets of Chicago, IL, we need to effectively address the safety of our children immediately. Urban, suburban, or rural, guns have impacted children across the demographic spectrum.

While the nation's attention has often been drawn toward some of the more high-profile events, the broader statistics are disturbing, demonstrating a real need to address how we protect our nation's children from gun violence.

Every 30 minutes, a child or teenager in America dies or is injured by a gun. Every 3 hours and 15 minutes, a child or teenager loses their life to a firearm. In 2010, 82 children under 5 years of age lost their lives due to guns. To put that in perspective, 58 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty that year.

As the 113th Congress debates various proposals for gun legislation in light of recent tragedies, we can act now to pass H.R. 65, a bill with common sense standards that is focused on protecting our nation's children from gun violence and accidents.

H.R. 65 will raise the handgun eligibility age from 18 to 21, and will prohibit persons under the age of 21 from possessing semiautomatic assault weapons or large capacity magazines.

Moreover, H.R. 65 increases penalties on individuals who knowingly transfer a handgun, ammunition, semiautomatic assault weapon, or large capacity ammunition feeding device to a person under age 21.

In addition, H.R. 65 will also prohibit importers, manufacturers, and dealers from transferring firearms without providing the purchaser with a gun storage or safety device.

Finally, H.R. 65 authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to provide grants to enable local law

enforcement agencies to develop and sponsor gun safety classes for parents and children.

These provisions, and others, can go a long way toward making our homes, schools, and streets safer for children across this country. We may not be able to prevent every gun-related tragedy from occurring in the future, but we have a responsibility to implement reasonable standards that will prevent the loss of innocent lives.

As we call for legislation to address gun related violence, it is also important to address another growing epidemic . . . the epidemic of bullying. We live in a society where children are exposed to so many different influences. Unfortunately, there are hundreds of children who have to face bullies in the classroom and in cyberspace. As we discuss the culture of violence, we must always remember the impact that this culture has on our nation's children.

BULLYING PREVENTION

Today Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Those who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems. It used to be that Bullying just happened primarily among over youth but as we are seeing today even the elderly and adults are being bullied. This must stop.

I introduced in the 112th Congress H.R. 83 "Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act," which calls for the reauthorization of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants at \$40 million for each FY 2013–2017, which amounts to \$200 million in funding.

In addition, my bill would add purpose area to provide for grant funding to States for programs that address bullying, cyberbullying prevention, and gang prevention and intervention in addition to expressing a Sense of Congress on the importance of best practices.

The JABG program authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to states and units of local government to strengthen their juvenile justice systems and foster accountability within their juvenile populations. The program focuses resources on holding juveniles accountable for their actions and building up the juvenile justice system in the states.

It also essentially signifies the high-water mark of the federal government's movement away from an emphasis on rehabilitating juveniles and toward the idea that juveniles need to be punished for their crimes; indeed, the only core mandate of the JABG program is that states must begin to implement a system of graduated sanctions in order to be eligible for funding.

Many of the deadly cases of bullying arise when children are teased and tormented simply for being different. There has been a recent upswing of suicides amongst lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) teens as a result of bullying.

Almost 85 percent of LGBT teenagers are harassed in high school because of their sexual orientation, with 61 percent of gay youth reporting that they felt unsafe in school and 30% staying home to avoid bullying.

By law, we require our children to go to school. Therefore, we have a duty to maintain a safe and healthy environment for children, one in which they should not be afraid. It is important that our children know that bullying will not be taken lightly, and that there will be consequences for such actions.

Thirty percent (30%) of U.S. students in grades six through ten are involved in moderate or frequent bullying—as bullies, as victims, or as both—according to the results of the first national survey on this subject. I held a Local-Federal Hearing on Bullying in Houston, Texas and hearings on Bullying in Washington, DC. I heard testimony from law enforcement officials about some of the difficulties they faced when combating bullying. Over 40 advocates and victims from across the country also testified.

Last year, I invited the Director of the movie *Bully*, Lee Hirsch and other experts to screen the movie *Bully* and for a Briefing on the issue of Bullying. When the MPAA threaten to rate the movie with an R rating, I requested that they reconsider, the movie literally follows to

lives of several children who are bullied in schools and needed to be seen by children. I was pleased with the MPAA relented and gave the movie a PG-13 rating.

I have read the accounts of bullying victims and indeed the language from those accounts is often graphic and deeply moving. This is the type of language that our children hear and the behavior that they have witness in their classrooms and on their playgrounds.

Bullying has become a crucial issue of epidemic proportions affecting millions of children and countless schools across our country. Studies show that 1 out of 4 children have been physically bullied, and the percentages grow exponentially when one considers the number of children affected emotionally and psychologically, and those who have bullied

other children. Lately, instances of bullying have taken a deadly turn all over the country. We must utilize all the resources we have available to us to address this dangerous trend. My bill is intended to address this epidemic.

This Congress we must focus on finding ways to address this culture of violence. I implore each of you to address gun safety, to limit access to certain types of guns, to support legislation that addresses bullying amongst our nation's children.

This Congress we have the opportunity to take steps to address mental health, reasonable limitations on certain fire arms, and the growing epidemic of bullying. We must act and we must act now.