

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,623,285,528,454.41. We've added \$4,996,408,479,541.33 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF THE EEOC RULING
THAT GENDER-IDENTITY DIS-
CRIMINATION BE COVERED BY
TITLE VII

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's decision that an employer who discriminates against an employee or applicant on the basis of gender-identity violates the Civil Rights Act. This decision is a massive step forward for transgender employment protection, a right that the transgender community has fought hard to ensure over the past decade.

As a result of this ruling, investigators at all 53 of the EEOC's district offices will now accept discrimination claims brought by transgender individuals. The EEOC's legal staff can also bring lawsuits against employers the agency determines have discriminated against transgender employees or job applicants. The decision will be binding on all federal agencies. This definitive ruling gives transgender Americans the certainty, security and reliable legal protection they deserve.

On June 25, 2008, I headed the first Congressional hearing on transgender discrimination. As I stated then, I feel strongly that a person's gender identity is an irrelevant criterion and should not play a role in his or her ability to get a job. The person best qualified to fill the role should get the job. This ruling from the EEOC ensures that transgender people across the country will be protected by federal law if they are denied a job or fired because of who they are or how they appear.

Given the incredibly high rate of employment discrimination facing transgender people, it is important to recognize all of the people who have struggled through discrimination and adversity to get this ruling passed.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the EEOC's decision and encourage Congress to seek further protections for transgender Americans and work to end all forms of discrimination.

CHESLE PARSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chesle Parson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Chesle Parson is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chesle Parson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chesle Parson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

RIVERDALE WOMEN'S CLUB 60TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Riverdale Women's Club, located in the Borough of Riverdale, Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary.

The Riverdale Women's Club was founded in 1952 as a community service and social organization to provide community improvements, cultural enrichment and educational opportunities to the residents of Riverdale and surrounding municipalities.

The Riverdale Women's Club has made many significant contributions to their community throughout their long history.

Utilizing the many talents of group members, the Club crafts lap robes and afghans for local nursing homes and hospitals, as well as newborn baby hats for area maternity departments. In addition, the members of the Club sew sheets for local school nurses and make teddy bears to be used by local Police, Fire and Rescue for trauma victims.

During holiday seasons the Club collects food and provides food baskets to Morris County's neediest as well as making candy and cookies for local nursing homes. Throughout the year the members of the Club collect clothing and sanitary items to give to New Jersey's veterans' homes.

Every year the Women's Club fulfills their longstanding tradition of encouraging educational opportunities through the Marie S. Hagberg Scholarship, Adele Wasek Art Award and Helen Spengler Continuing Education Scholarships given to deserving students. They also sponsor Annual Academic Essay and Art Award Competitions.

In addition, the Club has participated in the establishment of the Riverdale Senior Citizen's Club, the Friends of Riverdale Library and the

Local 4-H Club. They were also instrumental in the foundation of the Children's Wellness Clinic and a number of additional health clinics in Riverdale.

Through their steadfast dedication to addressing the educational and social needs of the community while providing a gathering place for women, the Riverdale Women's Club has proved itself to be a pillar of the Borough of Riverdale. We are proud to have such a dedicated group here in Morris County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Riverdale Women's Club as they celebrate their Sixtieth Anniversary.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF
HADASSAH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, and to recognize its 100 years of service in our communities. As a lifetime Hadassah member, it is a great privilege to recognize the important work the organization continues to do, both in the United States and around the world.

Founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold, Hadassah has the extraordinary distinction of being the largest volunteer organization, as well as the largest women's organization, in the United States. A century later, Hadassah has maintained its commitment to Judaism, Zionism, and American ideals, promoting health care, education, youth institutions, volunteerism, and land reclamation in Israel, as well as Jewish and Zionist education programs, Zionist Youth programs, and health awareness programs in the United States. Hadassah remains a critical voice of the Jewish community, advocating for issues of importance to women and to American Jews.

The Hadassah Medical Organization operates state-of-the-art medical facilities in Israel, including the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center at Ein Kerem and the Hadassah University Hospital at Mount Scopus. Hadassah also maintains an extensive healthcare network including community healthcare programs, specialized outpatient clinics and services, and consultation clinics in the center of Jerusalem and in Tel Aviv. Hadassah's medical services continue to set the standard for health care in Israel, providing over 1 million people with hospital care each year.

Hadassah's critical services extend far beyond health care. The organization offers continuing education in fields such as nursing, medicine, business, and law, offering women in those professions the opportunity to join profession councils and to affiliate on a national level with other members who share the same vocation. Further, Hadassah College Jerusalem has, for over 35 years, been providing Academic and Associate degrees in a variety of subjects.

Within our own communities, Hadassah strengthens Jewish identity and support for Israel through community programs for both youth and adult members to foster community bonds, create volunteer opportunities, and develop Jewish leaders. Hadassah members organize and advocate on issues including hate