

able to have meaningful tax reform if we are just willy-nilly going to rush all these provisions through.

My colleague, Chairman CAMP, worked for years to produce a deficit-neutral tax reform, which had much to commend it, and I commend him for his hard work. All of these provisions of tax extenders were addressed in his tax reform, but they were dealt with differently. Not all were extended permanently. Some were modified and some were repealed, as part of a deliberative process to evaluate their impact and to not break the bank. This vote—like similar unpaid for permanent tax extender votes—abandons that effort.

This bill is not going to be enacted into law as the President's veto threat makes clear, and Congress will pick up where it left off—and frankly, where Mr. CAMP left off—as we work with our colleagues in the other body and our constituents to move forward on the things that we are all committed to in a way that is fiscally responsible, is bipartisan and thoughtful, to get the outcomes we all share.

RECOGNIZING 2015 ILLINOIS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR STEVE
ELZA

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Steve Elza, the 2015 Illinois Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Elza is an Applied Technology teacher at William Fremd High School in my district who teaches Automotive Technology classes and is the sponsor of the school Auto Club. He has worked in School District 211 and Fremd High School for over 7 years and strives to create an educational environment where students learn real-world skills they can take with them after graduation.

I think we can all agree that teachers are in a unique position to mold their students, and good teachers can guide and inspire students to achieve. Speaking to his students and peers, it is clear that Mr. Elza is a great teacher. Day in and day out he goes above and beyond to create a classroom environment where students can pursue projects they are passionate about, an approach that energizes his students, expands their skillsets, and reminds them that learning can be fun. Teaching students to explore their interests, and consider their career prospects, Mr. Elza has had an outsized impact on the success of his students as they go out into the workforce as young adults.

Evidence of his unique approach isn't hard to find. Through the Auto Club, students participate in various extracurricular activities like practicing maintenance repairs on cars of faculty members and competing in a national automotive competition held annually in Las Vegas. By engaging students to enjoy and apply what they are learning, Mr. Elza has broken through the bustle of busy young lives to really leave a mark on students. It's proven to be a winning formula.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues please join me in recognizing Mr. Steve Elza for his outstanding service and congratulate him on being named the 2015 Illinois Teacher of the Year.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KELLY
KNOTT

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Katherine "Kelly" Marjory Krauser Knott. Kelly fought a courageous battle against breast cancer, which sadly took her life on December 3.

As demonstrated at a memorial service earlier this week, Kelly touched many lives. The gathering held in her memory overflowed with love and grief shared by her many friends, colleagues, and family members.

Kelly was a graduate of New Canaan High School and St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. She earned a master's degree from George Washington University.

She began her career in the nation's capital as an aide to our former colleague, Rep. Mel Hancock of Missouri. She worked in and around policy with true grace and professionalism. She held various positions throughout her distinguished career and was universally respected and admired.

I met Kelly my first week as a new Member of Congress and was struck by her knowledge of both policy and politics. She had a great understanding of the Hill and worked tirelessly to advance the goals of her members. I not only considered her a colleague but a friend.

As important as her professional achievements were, they do not compare to the success she enjoyed in her personal life. Kelly was a devoted wife to her husband Stewart and beloved mother to Carson, Halle, and Kendall.

I ask the House to join me in offering condolences to the Knott family and keep them in your prayers as they mourn the loss of a remarkable woman.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. 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 \$17,997,912,502,715.74. We've added \$7,371,035,453,802.66 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING MARVIS HOOD, JR.

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Marvis Hood, Jr., who, after proudly serving his country, passed away on December 8, 2014, from complications related to pneumonia.

Marvis "Big Daddy" Hood, Jr. was born in Marlin, Texas to Marvis and Jewelene Hood with one sibling, Graham Hood. In 1960, Mr. Hood joined the United States Air Force and later re-enlisted in the United States Army 52nd Sig BN, performing 22 years of military service. He voluntarily served three tours in Vietnam and eventually retired on Oct 6, 1984 as a Staff Sergeant. During his service, he earned five Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal (5 campaigns), the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/Palm, and Expert on Rifle and Pistol awards. He earned the nickname "Big Daddy" playing football during a duty station assignment in Naples, Italy where he earned MVP as an Offensive tackle.

While in the military, he married Vera Mae Touchstone, a childhood friend. They had three sons, Roderick, Marcus, and Marvis III. Mr. Hood remarried on March 18th, 1977, to the love of his life Dora Jean Taylor. Having moved to Modesto for the remainder of his military career, he also served as a Reserve Officer with the Stanislaus County Sheriff Department.

Being a resident of Modesto for 37 years, Mr. Hood was involved in many charitable endeavors that benefited many in and outside the community of Modesto. Because of his appreciation for the opportunities his military career provided, which helped shape the man he became, Mr. Hood was deeply concerned about veteran issues; especially the health and welfare of homeless veterans. He established a yearly "Standown" for homeless veterans, that was modeled after the concept established during the Vietnam War, to help provide health services, winter clothing, food, and a warm safe place for the night.

Wanting to provide service for more than a few days a year, Mr. Hood was looking for a long term solution that led him to establish the Central Valley Homeless Veterans home. He provided a support system to aid many veterans in getting back on their feet. The Stanislaus County chapter of the American Red Cross awarded the Good Samaritan Senior Hero award to Marvis Hood, Jr. for his work helping veterans.

Mr. Marvis Hood Jr. is survived by his wife Dora; his three sons Roderick Hood, Marcus Hood and Marvis Hood III; his brother Graham Hood; and half-brothers Dwight Hood and Mike Wallace. He is loved and remembered by a host of family, friends, and the many he helped.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Marvis "Big Daddy" Hood, Jr. and all of his excellent contributions to veterans and the community. Anyone who knew Marvis saw a gregarious and sometimes larger than life personality which at times hid a teddy bear heart of gold which was always willing to lend a helping hand or timely words of wisdom.

HONORING TRINA GEORGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trina George, who is a Director, Leader and Public Servant.