

collective action in Dale City. Today, the organization's purpose is to represent the interests of the residents of Dale City in a manner that benefits the entire community. Members do this with robust beautification efforts, land use advocacy and volunteer responses to community needs.

The Association hosts an annual awards banquet to honor individuals and organizations that show an exceptional devotion to their community and public service. It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2012 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards:

High School Teacher of the Year: Ingrid Hoffman Pery;

Middle School Teacher of the Year: Mary Lynn Thurman;

Elementary School Teacher of the Year: Margie Norman;

John D. Jenkins Youth Citizen of the Year: Donald E. Jones, Jr.;

Dale City Youth Environmental and Conservation Award: Ann Nguyen;

Kathie Feeney Nurse of the Year: Rosey Espiritu;

Prince William County Police Department, Police Officer of the Year: Officer David C. McKeown;

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Officer of the Year: Lieutenant Christopher Gardner, Jr.;

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year: Technician Danielle Miller;

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter of the Year: Technician Tinashe Banda;

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, "Second to None" Volunteer Community Servant Award: Irene Dell;

Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, Firefighter of the Year: Captain Steve Barr;

Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year: Lieutenant Leif Ericson;

Deputy Sheriff of the Year: Deputy Jack Richards;

Catherine Spellane Citizen of the Year: Ellen Carleton;

Kathleen K. Seefeldt Community Service Award: Jo-Ellen Benson;

Ernestine S. Jenkins Lifetime Volunteer Award: Janice Carr; and

Business of the Year: Amici's Restaurante.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the winners of the 2012 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards for their dedication to building and maintaining a healthy community. Each recipient has made a tangible imprint on Dale City, and, with these awards, we hope to show them that their contributions have not gone unnoticed.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 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 \$15,491,983,252,196.46. We've added \$4,865,106,203,283.33 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE 2012 OFFICERS OF THE OCCOQUAN WOODBRIDGE LORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2012 Officers of the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department.

The 2012 officers and members of the board of directors are taking leadership roles in one of Northern Virginia's longest standing volunteer fire departments. The O.W.L. Volunteer Fire Department was created to address the need for organized fire response capabilities in the growing suburbs of Northern Virginia. In 1938, the Department officially formed to become the only fire department between Fredericksburg and Alexandria. In the subsequent decades O.W.L. has expanded to staff three stations and provide emergency medical services.

The members of O.W.L. are dedicated community volunteers, and the 2012 officers and directors will be diligent stewards of this tradition of service. The 250 active O.W.L. members answer 14,000 calls and serve 60,000 people each year. Their job is demanding and the hours are long, but these brave men and women are driven by their dedication to public safety and the communities that they serve. We would all do well to follow their example.

I congratulate and commend the following 2012 incoming officers:

Department Chief: James F. McAllister;

Fire Assistant Chiefs: Karl F. Fippinger,

Wayne A. Haight, David S. Halman, John M.

McGovern III, and Richard C. Slusher;

EMS Assistant Chief: Edward A. Craig;

Fire Captains: Kurt E. Bolland, Steven R.

Godin, Michael Nazionale, and Brian J. Smith,

David P. Williams, and Justin W. Witt;

EMS Captain: Richard T. Ruggieri;

Fire Lieutenants: Jonathan W. Baldwin,

Robert L. Brown, Mark A. Chandler, Jon R.

Colpitts, Joshua Culp, Ernie M. Firkin Jr., Har-

old F. Griffith, Jamieson H. Jewett, Alexander

R. Moody, Richard P. Moore, Derick N. Ondra,

and John M. Roberts;

EMS Lieutenants: Tara S. Gallant, Tammy

L. Hill, James M. McCue, Scott A. Schneider,

Kelly Shaw, and Cynthia M. Young;

Executive Vice President: Ronald D. Miller;

Admin Vice Presidents: William L. Carter,

Michael W. Clark, Henry J. Neyhouse, and

George W. Smith;

Membership Secretary: Melissa L. Payne;

Treasurer: George J. Nazionale, Jr.;

Election Officer: Valoree A. Brown;

Sergeant at Arms: Timothy S. VanDeusen;

Board of Directors: Jonathan D. Karnbach,

Thomas S. Sullivan, and Lenny G. Peters Jr.;

New Life Members: James F. McAllister, Joseph

J. Zarkauskas Jr., Derek D. Dove, and Phillip

L. Hughes Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these remarkable volun-

teers on their new positions and in thanking all members of the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department for the vital service they provide to the Prince William community. Stay safe.

HONORING PATRICIA SMITH OF LEBANON ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartiest congratulations and thanks to Patricia Smith of Lebanon for her more than three decades of service to farmers in eastern Connecticut. This past December, Pat retired after 31 years of working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's Connecticut office.

After graduating from Norwich Free Academy, Pat began working at the Groton Sub Base. She later worked in Boston at the Naval Shipyards, a rural letter carrier in Lebanon, Connecticut and also at the Social Security office in Willimantic, Connecticut. Always a dedicated public servant, Pat worked hard to serve the people of eastern Connecticut in her various capacities. In 1980, Pat was hired by current Connecticut Farm Service Agency Executive Director Marsha Jette to serve as a Program Technician assisting farmers in eastern Connecticut.

Pat's experience as a herdsman on her brother Nathan R. Cushman's farm gave her the hands-on experience she needed to provide dedicated and timely service to her fellow farmers. At the time she began working for USDA in 1980, Pat also milked 16-20 Brown Swiss cows that she kept at her residence that belonged to her and her daughter Julie who was actively involved in the 4-H program.

Pat's dedication to her work never wavered despite the challenging times dairy farmers and others in Connecticut faced during her three decades at USDA. While Pat's retirement has left a void that will not easily be filled at the Farm Service Agency office, she continues her service through volunteer efforts at the New London County Farm Service Agency office. Always the dedicated public servant, Pat Smith's experience and care for her fellow farmers will be sorely missed as she moves from full time work to volunteering for farmers in Connecticut. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Pat on her retirement and wish her well in her continued efforts.

RECOGNIZING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACHERS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 21 Prince William County

Public Schools teachers who recently received certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The National Board is an independent nonprofit organization governed by classroom teachers, school administrators, school board leaders, governors and state legislators, higher education officials, teacher union leaders, and business and community leaders.

These teachers have met the standards established by the National Board and have undergone a rigorous application process that required they demonstrate the knowledge, skills and accomplishments that comprise teaching excellence. A Board Certified teacher supports a vision of teaching based on the following five core principles:

1. Teachers are committed to students and their learning;
2. Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students;
3. Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning;
4. Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience; and
5. Teachers are members of learning communities.

I extend my personal congratulations to the recent class of National Board Certified Teachers:

Ms. Laura Deering—Battlefield High School;
 Ms. Susan Dommer—Stonewall Middle School;
 Ms. Michelle Esmacher—Lake Ridge Middle School;
 Ms. Amanda Esteban—Battlefield High School;
 Ms. Crystal Figueroa—Triangle Elementary School;
 Mr. Jason Fox—Hylton High School;
 Mr. Mark Groom—Swans Creek Elementary School;
 Ms. Erica Ippoliti—Rosa Parks Elementary School;
 Ms. Michelle Marrero—Freedom High School;
 Ms. Megan Martin—Henderson Elementary School;
 Ms. Kristin McKittrick-Rojas—Benton Middle School;
 Ms. Catherine Naujoks—Coles Elementary School;
 Ms. Diana Pool—Battlefield High School;
 Ms. Kelly Pratte—Rosa Parks Elementary School;
 Ms. Ann Reighard—Rosa Parks Elementary School;
 Mr. Mark Rendell—T. Clay Wood Elementary School;
 Ms. Ramona Richardson—Coles Elementary School;
 Ms. Karen Roth—Antietam Elementary School;
 Ms. Amanda Shaw—Signal Hill Elementary School;
 Ms. Amanda Taylor—Gainesville Middle School; and
 Ms. Jacquelynn Zanghi—Ellis Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending these teachers for their commitment to education and professional development. Prince William County Public Schools delivers a world class education due to the tireless efforts of teachers who make excellence the standard.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH McCANTS
 RAVENELL

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an everyday hero, whose abiding faith led her to a remarkable life of Christian service. Deaconess Elizabeth McCants Ravenell passed from this life on February 12, 2012, but her legacy lives on in everyone she touched.

Elizabeth McCants Ravenell was born on November 25, 1922 in Moncks Corner, South Carolina. She attended the public schools of Charleston County, but her calling was a Christian education. She earned certificates from the House of God Academy and Bible College and a degree from the Moody Bible Institute.

Mrs. Ravenell was a devout Christian, and devoted her life to her family and her faith. She first joined the Mt. Olive Baptist Church in North Charleston in 1943. Two years later, she and her husband joined the House of God—Keith Dominion, when their oldest child, Mary Elizabeth was just one year old.

As a member of the House of God, Mrs. Ravenell served in many capacities. She was a part of the National Complex committee, Deacons Union, Chief Overseer's Anniversary Committee, and the International Missionary Outreach Society.

She sailed the Mediterranean Sea, ministering in Madrid, Spain as a guest of a community church her daughter, Margaret Catherine, organized. She represented the Piedmont Diocese of South Carolina in Mississippi. Mrs. Ravenell also took many visitors to the church's General Assembly in Nashville, Tennessee, and provided food, clothes and shelter for many of them.

She met her husband, James L. Ravenell in Charleston, South Carolina. The couple had six children, and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Mrs. Ravenell was also "mother" to all of the children of the church. Children gave her the greatest joy in life, and she doted on all of them. I met Ms. Ravenell soon after marrying into the McCants family over 50 years ago. We became fast friends and remained so until her death.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating an abundant life well lived. Elizabeth Ravenell was a dear

friend of the family and light to all who knew her. She radiated her Christian faith and spent her life doing good works. While her presence will be missed, she has left the world a better place because of her devotion and service to others.

RECOGNIZING THE 22ND ANNUAL
 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
 YOUTH ORATORICAL COMPETITION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 22nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Oratorical Competition hosted by the Prince William Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and its Education Foundation.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. left an indelible mark on our nation in his pursuit of civil rights through civil dialogue. Despite the violence perpetrated against Dr. King and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. King responded with reverent oratory and nonviolent resistance to condemn the injustice of social inequality. His legacy is one of tolerance and steadfast commitment to principled and peaceful communication.

Contestants in the MLK Youth Oratorical Contest pay tribute to Dr. King's legacy with their ability to exercise the strength of the spoken word. This skill will serve them well as they seize future leadership opportunities and forge the personal relationships necessary for effective community engagement and organizing.

I congratulate and applaud the following contestants of the 22nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Competition:

Middle School Contestants

Jonathan Adrien—Porter School;
 Jacob Gonzalez—Parkside Middle School;

Nicolas Smith—Benton Middle School.

High School Contestants

Sadiyah Faruk—Gar-Field High School;
 Ebonee Johnson—Manassas Park High School;

Seth Opoku-Yeboah—Osborn Park High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for recognizing the benefit that Dr. King's teachings bring to the development of our youth. We lay the foundations of a more tolerant society when we nurture the ability to engage and communicate with one another in a way that respects our common humanity.