

of Plans, 2nd Infantry Division in Korea; Aide-de-Camp to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe; Army Congressional Liaison Officer; Task Force Senior Observer-Controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, LA; Chief of Joint Operations for Multi-National Corps—Iraq (MNC-I) in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM; Chief of Staff, XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, NC; and Director of the Pakistan Afghanistan Coordination Cell on the Joint Staff.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to recognize Major General Hodges' long and decorated career today and also the great benefit to the Nation he has provided as the Chief, Office Congressional Legislative Liaison (OCLL) for the United States Army. We work closely with Major General Hodges to accomplish the toughest tasks for our Service Men and Women and Ben has always achieved excellence daily during his tenure. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Major General Hodges for a lifetime of service to his country. For all he and his family have given and continue to give to our country, we are in their debt. We wish him, his wife Holly, his son Ben, and his daughter Madeline, all the best as they continue their journey to his next assignment at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes:

H.R. 4155—Veteran Skills to Jobs Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill.

H.R. 4367—To amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to limit the fee disclosure requirement for an automatic teller machine to the screen of that machine. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill.

H.R. 5892—Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 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 \$15,879,266,313,073.20. We've added \$5,252,389,264,160.12 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.

On this day in 1951, armistice talks began for ending the Korean War at Kaesong. We

must balance our budget so that we have the resources to engage in peace talks.

IN MEMORY OF LEONARD RONIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Leonard Ronis who passed away on July 4. Mr. Ronis will long be remembered in the Greater Cleveland area for his more than 6 decade career in public transportation. Leonard Ronis was born September 5, 1921, grew up in the Glenville neighborhood of Cleveland during the Great Depression, and graduated from Glenville High School. He studied industrial psychology at Western Reserve University where he received his bachelors and masters degrees. He volunteered with the U.S. Army during World War II where he served in the Infantry, Foreign Language Training (Russian) and the Signal Corps. He finished his service as Officer in Charge of the Civilian Personnel Department of the Philadelphia Signal Depot.

Leonard Ronis began his career in transit in 1946 upon leaving military service in World War II. He started in the Personnel Department at the Cleveland Transit System (CTS) and worked his way up to Personnel Director, Operations Manager and Assistant General Manager before becoming the last General Manager for CTS on November 1, 1974. At that time, he was a founder and past president of the Ohio Public Transit Association, an organization that played a significant role in developing the state legislation which allowed regional transit authorities to be created.

As a Cleveland City Councilman and Council's representative in the negotiations which enabled the creation of a regional transit authority in 1974–75, I had the privilege of working with Leonard Ronis on the transition from a city-owned transit system. Leonard was a dedicated public servant who was a strong negotiator with only the best interest of the people who use and pay for public transit in mind. When the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) was created, he took the helm as General Manager and led the RTA through its first 7 years. Under his leadership, he won more than \$320 million in federal funding for operations and capital expenses. He also saw ridership increase 70 percent under his administration. Upon retirement in 1982, Leonard Ronis continued to apply his expertise in transit as a consultant for Parsons Brinckerhoff, a nationally known transit engineering firm based in New York City.

In 1990, Leonard was named to the American Public Transit Association (APTA) Hall of Fame. In 2005, he received an award from the APTA for his sixty years of achievement and dedicated service in public transportation. In addition to being a founder and president of the Ohio Public Transit Association, he was a Member, Institute of Transportation Engineers; Board Member, Case Western Reserve University Alumni; Member, Visiting Committee of Cleveland State University College of Urban Affairs; and Board Member, Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Mr. Speaker, and respected colleagues, please join me in remembering Leonard Ronis, an esteemed public servant who dedicated his life and career to making public transportation better for the people who use it and depend on it to get around.

COMMENDING BELL LABS OF MURRAY HILL, NEW JERSEY ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TELSTAR

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, today marks the anniversary of a defining moment in the history of modern communications. It was 50 years ago that Bell Labs, based in Murray Hill, New Jersey, in partnership with NASA, launched the world's first active communications satellite. The Telstar I was launched on July 10, 1962, ushering in the era of real-time global telephony, data communications and TV broadcasting.

With Telstar and its successors the world was made a smaller place. Billions of people around the world had instant access to news, sports and entertainment.

Telstar I, a sphere roughly a yard in diameter and weighing about 170 pounds, incorporated dozens of innovations from Bell Labs. The satellite could carry 600 voice calls and one black-and-white TV channel.

Telstar achieved many firsts. It was the first active, direct-relay communications satellite, it successfully transmitting through space the first television pictures, telephone calls, high-speed data communications and fax images, and the first live transatlantic television feed. Telstar truly changed the world in which we live.

Telstar came out of Bell Labs 50 years ago and paved the way for innovations in communication that are still taking place at a campus located in my district in Murray Hill, New Jersey—where Alcatel-Lucent headquarters their global R&D arm.

Over 3,000 employees are hard at work there, creating technological innovations for future generations.

Researchers at Bell Labs have won seven Nobel Prizes in Physics—shared by 13 people. The most recent prize was awarded in 2009 to George E. Smith and Willard S. Boyle for their invention and development of the charge-coupled device (CCD)—a technology used for digital imaging in cameras and high-powered telescopes. Other innovations to come out of Bell Labs throughout the years include the transistor, the cell phone, solar cells and the laser.

As the innovation engine behind Alcatel-Lucent, Bell Labs helps to weave the technological fabric of modern society. The Labs' scientists and engineers make seminal scientific discoveries, launch technological revolutions that reshape the way people live, work and play, and continue to build the most advanced and reliable communication networks in the world.

I congratulate Bell Labs on its historic accomplishments.