Daughters of Penelope will accomplish and how they will help our country and our culture in the next eighty-five years.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 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 $17,936,639,705,375.46. We've added $7,309,762,656,462.38 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.

RECOGNIZING BIPARTISAN INITIATIVE 21ST CENTURY CURES AND JAMES O. WOOLLISCROFT, MD

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I joined my Energy and Commerce Committee colleague DIANA DEGETTE of Colorado in launching a bipartisan initiative called 21st Century Cures, which is taking the first-ever comprehensive look at the cures process here in the United States—from discovery to development to delivery. Our goal is to help bring lifesaving treatments, devices, and therapies to patients faster and ensure our nation's laboratories and manufacturers remain global leaders in medical innovation.

Our initiative has fostered a nationwide dialogue, bringing together the brightest minds in the field of public health. One of Michigan's health leaders has been a part of that conversation from the very beginning, taking part in our first Cures roundtable on May 6: Dr. James O. Woolliscroft, MD, dean of the University of Michigan Medical School.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with some of the nation's top health researchers about the cutting-edge work being done in their laboratories at the University of Michigan. The scientific discoveries being made there are truly incredible and will ultimately help save untold American lives. The work being done within the University of Michigan Health System and at the U-M Medical School in particular is in no small part thanks to the visionary leadership of Dr. Woolliscroft.

Dr. Woolliscroft was recently recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) with its highest honor: the Abraham Flexner Award for Distinguished Service to Medical Education.

Dr. Woolliscroft has been a national leader in medical education for more than three decades, since joining the U-M medical faculty in 1980. He has served the school in several capacities until becoming dean in 2007, with a focus on transforming the curriculum to train our next generation of medical leaders.

In the words of one of his AAMC nominators, Dr. Woolliscroft "has been consistently ahead of his time and often prophetic about the trends in medical education." He was among the first to advocate moving the paradigm of medical education from the acquisition of knowledge to performance-based metrics. Likewise, Dr. Woolliscroft was among the first to champion medical student training in community settings. Through his tireless efforts, these have become the new standards in medical education. And like all great teachers, Dr. Woolliscroft not only imparts knowledge, but inspires others through his passion for educating.

The discoveries being made in the life sciences astound and amaze, opening up opportunities for therapies, treatments, and care never before possible. Thanks to the leadership of individuals like Dr. Woolliscroft, the United States will continue to lead the world in providing the highest level of patient care and medical training.

REMEMBERING BRAD DEMUZIO FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and join the rest of the state of Illinois in mourning the loss of a great public servant, Brad Demuzio, who passed away this week at the young age of 50.

Brad was born in Carlinville in 1964, to the late state Senator Vince Demuzio and former state Senator and current Mayor of Carlinville Deanna Demuzio.

Brad followed in his family's footsteps of public service as the Mayor of Carlinville from 1993–2005, working in the Cook County State's Attorney Office from 1984–1986, as a criminal investigator for the Illinois Attorney General's office from 1986–1999 and most recently as the director of the Illinois Secretary of State Police.

Perhaps one of Brad's greatest legacies will be his support, generosity and compassion for the law enforcement community, those he considered colleagues and friends.

In passing, Brad leaves behind his daughter, Brooke, his son, Blake, his mother, and countless other family members.

We send our thoughts and prayers to his family during this difficult time and thank them for Brad's service to the state of Illinois.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT OF POLAND, ALEXSANDER KWAŚNIEWSKI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, on the occasion of his 60th birthday, a true leader of our time and a transformative figure in the post-Soviet world, Alexsander Kwaśniewski. Not only did President Kwaśniewski lead Poland through a dramatic transition to freedom, he has remained an active participant on the global scale, contributing his experience and energy to helping others and fostering stability and cooperation in his region.

On his birthday, it is important to recognize his contributions to Poland's rise on the international stage, its leadership in Eastern Europe and its relations with the United States. With today's geopolitical events in Eastern Europe concerning Russia and Ukraine, it is important to recognize and honor those who support the ideal of democracy and freedom for everyone who so desires it.

Mr. Kwaśniewski served two presidential terms from 1995 to 2005. During this time, he worked hard for European integration, leading the bid from Poland to join NATO and the EU and joining both in 1999 and 2004, respectively. Prior to his presidency, as part of the Social Democratic Party of the Republic of Poland, Mr. Kwaśniewski participated in the Polish transformation in government from a communist nation to a democratic one in the famous Round Table negotiations in 1989. He has been decorated and recognized globally as a political thought leader, receiving the Jan Karski award in 2006 for opposing anti-Semitism and serving as an inspiration for international mediation efforts during Ukraine's 2004 "Orange Revolution," which eventually led to Ukrainian democracy.

The Congressional Caucus on Poland, which I have the honor to co-chair, focuses on promoting bilateral relations between Poland and the United States and raising the profile of issues that are important to both countries. That relationship is why today we honor Mr. Kwaśniewski as someone who has been and still is a valuable contributor to peace, prosperity and civil liberties in Poland and the world.

HONORING AMBASSADOR HEM HENG AND THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA . Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and brother, His Excellency Hem Heng, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United States. Ambassador Heng has been the Cambodian Ambassador to the United States since 2008. He has more than 30 years experience working in foreign affairs.

It has been my honor to serve with him for the past six years. Together, we worked to hold historic hearings on U.S.-Cambodia relations during my service as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and brought attention to the need for the United States to forgive Cambodia's debt. Ambassador Hem Heng has worked tirelessly to make debt forgiveness a top priority.

Between 1972 and 1975, Cambodia incurred a $276 million debt to the United States through the provision of agricultural commodities. General Lon Nol incurred this debt to support his chaotic and dictatorial regime, which seized power through a coup, making his an illegitimate government. Lon Nol did nothing to address the debt and, in 1975, the Khmer Rouge came to power. This regime

also failed to service the loan. Additionally, the Khmer Rouge killed or starved at least 20% of Cambodians, neglected infrastructure and factories, and reverted to ancient agricultural techniques, all of which decimated the Cambodian economy and any ability to repay debt. Cambodia now owes the U.S. $450 million including interest as of December 31, 2009.

Cambodia has asked the U.S. to forgive its debt or use a portion of the payments towards U.S. assistance programs which include health care, economic competitiveness, civil society, and land mine removal, among others. However, the U.S. Departments of Treasury and State, across administrations, have shown remarkable inflexibility and lack of cooperation.

Nonetheless, I commend Ambassador Hem Heng for his continued efforts to encourage the United States to forgive the debt. In November 2004, the U.S. forgave $4.1 billion of Iraqi debt accumulated under Saddam Hussein's leadership so as not to cripple the new government. Bosnia-Herzegovina's debt of $24 million and Yugoslavia's $538.4 million debt, both likely incurred under the dictator Josip Tito, were forgiven in 1999 and 2002 respectively.

I remain hopeful that one day the United States will come to understand the strategic importance of Cambodia and offer a hand up. Greater engagement with Cambodia would also help the United States achieve its foreign policy goals in the region.

It has been my pleasure to know Ambassador Hem Heng. With his support, I had the privilege of visiting Cambodia twice and, at the time, met with Prime Minister Hun Sen, Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong, Secretary of State Ouch Borith, and Minister of Commerce Cham Prasidh. All are committed to the goal of strengthening U.S.-Cambodia relations, and I commend Ambassador Hem Heng for the remarkable work he has done in representing Cambodia's interests in the United States.

Ambassador Hem Heng was born in Kampong Cham province and graduated from the Agricultural School of Prek Leap in Phnom Penh. His diplomatic service began in 1979, following the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge. He has worked as Bureau Chief in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Protocol Department, as Deputy Director of the Economic Cooperation Department, as Deputy Director General of the ASEAN Directorate, as Minister Counselor in the Cambodian Embassy in India, as Director of the Asia 2 Department, as Director of Information and Documentation, and as Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister.

He is married to the talented and lovely Madam Savine Ek, and they have three sons. I will long remember Ambassador Hem Heng and I will miss him very much. I extend to him and his family my highest and kindest regards.

IN RECOGNITION OF LILY RING BALIAN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lily Ring Balian, an extraordinary American who has been active in business and civic affairs for more than 35 years. Today Lily Ring Balian will be honored by the Los Angeles Affiliate of the Armenian International Women's Association upon the occasion of her receipt of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Recipients of this prestigious award exemplify outstanding professional and personal accomplishments while also preserving the richness of their heritage. Ms. Balian justly deserves this award.

From 1981 to 1997, Lily was the Corporate Director of Civic Affairs and Public Affairs for Northrop Grumman Corporation. Northrop Grumman is a major employer in California, and Lily was an outstanding advocate on behalf of this important company and its thousands of employees.

In public life, she served as the Executive Assistant for District Attorney, later California Attorney General, Evelle J. Younger, from 1964 through 1979. In 1980, she was offered positions in the administration of President-elect Ronald Reagan, but Lily turned down these opportunities to return to her family in California. Recognizing a talented individual and realizing that she could make a contribution to our nation, President Reagan appointed Lily to the National Advisory Council on Adult Education, a position that allowed her to advise the administration and Congress from the vantage point of an employer that regularly needed outstanding employees to maintain its national operations.

Lily's superb talents were also recognized by others. For example, California Governor Pete Wilson appointed her to the California Commission on the Status of Women, where she served for six years, and was Chair from 1994 to 1996. The commission advises the Governor and Legislature on issues such as economic equity, education equity, health access, and violence against women. In 1995, she represented the commission in Beijing at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.

Lily is legendary for her energy and community involvement. She not only managed a challenging career in private industry, but she has led a decades-long effort supporting the Armenian community. She served as Chair of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America from 1985 to 2005, and she was elected to the Diocesan Council in 2006 and re-elected in 2008, serving as its Secretary. She was a member of the Cathedral Fund Raising Committee, a member of the Zorayan Museum Committee and of the Annual Christmas Ball Committee. As a longtime member of St. James Armenian Church of Los Angeles, she is a member of the St. James Ladies Society and currently serves as Chair of her Parish Council.

I am proud of my Armenian heritage, and proud that we have women like Lily to promote an understanding of America's cultural diversity, in part by supporting community-wide efforts encompassing Americans of all backgrounds. Lily has volunteered for the KCET Women's Council and is currently on the Board of Directors of this station. She has been a member of the Braille Institute Auxiliary Board from 2011 to the present. At the University of Southern California, she is currently President of the Friends of Armenian Music.

In recognition of her support of the church, Lily was awarded the Gontag and St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal from His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, and received the Archbishop's Award from Archbishop Derderian in May 2006.

I am proud to call Lily a friend and have long appreciated her devotion to others, her selfless and daily endeavors to build America through mutual understanding and tolerance, and her sense of warmth, humor and generosity. The experience of America is that of an immigrant nation blending the cultures of hundreds of geographic origins into the land that we know as the United States of America. Lily, through her goodwill, her wisdom, and her always-present smile, is a superb example of why America thrives. We know that the future of this nation is bright when we have engaged the energies of millions of Americans in the common endeavor of bringing peace and prosperity to every new dawn across this land. Lily is one of those persons who rivals the sun in its energy, and she is therefore appropriately being recognized today for her extraordinary accomplishments that benefit every American.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Lily on her lifetime contributions to our great land.

HONORING THE HONG KONG PROTESTORS STAND FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the brave protestors in Hong Kong who, starting in September of this year, engaged in, and continue to engage in, peaceful protests against Mainland China's recent moves to undermine the implementation of universal suffrage for Hong Kong's upcoming 2017 elections.

As Aristotle made plain in the Politics, ''liberty and equality. . . . will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost.'' It is the hope of realizing this foundational principle that has brought tens of thousands of protesters to the streets of Hong Kong.

As Americans, we champion Aristotle's view that liberty and equality are more fully achieved when the many, instead of the few, have a voice in how they are governed. We support this view with foundational principles such as freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and transparency in government. These are ideals that we must not turn away from even when, as is the case with China, we know we will have meaningful economic and foreign policy contact with countries that make it more difficult for people to fully realize these ideals. People around the world yearn for freedom, and where they do so peacefully and with bravery, like our friends in Hong Kong, we ought to stand with them in solidarity as they seek those democratic ideals that we champion at home and abroad.

I, along with many of my colleagues, have a long history of supporting human rights, democracy and the rule of law around the world. The protesters occupying the streets of Hong Kong have sustained repeated acts of violence in the face of their peaceful protests as they act to join us in the march toward a more