

years building and designing energy-efficient houses that run on solar power.

This year, the Stevens Institute of Technology team defeated more than a dozen other teams with their design the SURE HOUSE. Thirty students from multiple disciplines competed against teams from five different countries over the course of ten days in ten separate competitions to judge the houses' performance, livability, and affordability. This year the teams also had to prove that their house could power a hybrid, non-electric vehicle.

The SURE HOUSE is a solar powered home that is also able to withstand Hurricane-force winds and flooding. Inspired by the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy it is meant to act as a new housing prototype for shore communities. The SURE HOUSE was ranked highest in several categories and uses almost 90 percent less energy than conventional homes. It can also provide emergency power to surrounding neighborhoods after a storm. The building will be taken back to New Jersey to act as an emergency management and coastal resiliency center along the Jersey shore.

I am confident that Stevens Institute of Technology's outstanding performance will change the future of home building, particularly in vulnerable shore communities, and I congratulate their team on this impressive achievement.

RECOGNIZING ANDREA VOIGHT OF  
ST. CLOUD

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Andrea "Andy" Voight for her dedicated service as a nurse in the St. Cloud Community.

For Andrea, nursing was much more than a job; it was a family tradition and way of life. Along with her two sisters, Andrea followed in her mother Rita's footsteps to pursue the noble career of nursing.

After graduating from the Miller Hospital Vocational School of Practical Nursing in St. Paul, she returned to St. Cloud to officially begin her career at St. Cloud Hospital where she remained for an impressive 26 years. Andrea says what kept her working for so long was the connections that she is able to make with people.

Andrea embodied what it truly means to care for others, as she says that she "truly appreciated watching her surgical patients make it to discharge."

Forty-six years and five children later, Andrea made the decision to retire. When asked what she hopes to pursue next, Andrea says that she would like to travel and spend more time attending her grandchildren's events.

Andrea, our community is so thankful for all that you have done, and I wish you a happy and peaceful retirement with your family.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

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 \$18,670,014,021,513.75. We've added \$8,043,136,972,600.67 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING ANNA WRIGHT

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Anna M. Wright. Anna has been a longtime champion of our veterans in our community. She was instrumental in the foundation of the Delaware County Veterans Memorial in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania and her support was key to making this tribute to our veterans possible. Mr. Speaker, Anna is being honored this evening with the President's Award at the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association Annual Dinner. It's a fitting tribute to Anna and a well-deserved honor for all she's done to express our gratitude to our veterans.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF  
REMEMBRANCE

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, November 20th is Transgender Remembrance Day. However, every day we must recognize that transgender men and women are being unjustly discriminated against, bullied, ostracized and even killed because of their sexual identity.

On this day, we remember those who were senselessly murdered, those who are targets because they are different and those who end up homeless when family abandon them.

Transgender men and women wake up each morning being targets of bigotry and hate. So far in 2015, about 29 transgender men and women, primarily in their early 20s, have been murdered. Many more take their own lives because they simply cannot see life getting better or easier.

Organizations like "Project Trans at the Center" in San Diego offer a safe environment to be themselves; they offer resources to help with life situations. It's up to Congress to offer protection from discrimination as a basic human right.

Imagine a world where you wake up every day with the challenge of existing; where it seems the world is against you no matter what you do.

This is their world. Every day. Together we can make a difference and work toward ending discrimination.

Today, let's unify and work together to fix the inequality among transgender persons.

But tomorrow—let us not forget the struggles they face and the support they need to live freely in a world that is so full of intolerance.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECT  
OUR STUDENTS AND TAXPAYERS  
(POST) ACT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Protect Our Students and Taxpayers (POST) Act, a bipartisan bill I introduced earlier today with my colleague Congressman WALTER JONES.

If enacted, it would take steps towards eliminating an incentive for for-profit colleges to aggressively recruit and enroll veterans, service members and their families, who have sacrificed for this country and deserve the highest quality of education.

Current law prohibits for-profit colleges and universities from deriving more than 90 percent of their revenue from the U.S. Department of Education's federal student aid programs. The other 10 percent is required to come from sources other than the federal government. However, because of the way the law was written, veterans' and active duty service members' federal student aid does not count towards the 90 percent. Instead, it may be included among a for-profit institution's calculation of its 10 percent non-federal revenue.

As a result, for-profit colleges and universities are left with a powerful incentive to recruit veterans, service members and their families, offering them degrees that are often less valuable than those from not-for-profit institutions.

The POST Act would strengthen the definition of "federal aid" to include G.I. bill funds, Department of Defense Tuition Assistance benefits, and all other federal funding sources.

Furthermore, the POST Act would reinstate a 15 percent minimum on revenue that for-profit colleges must receive from sources other than the federal government. The requirement was lowered from 15 percent to 10 percent in 1998.

The bill also takes steps towards eliminating accounting tricks used by for-profit educational institutions that inflate their declared amount of non-federal funding.

Finally, the POST Act increases the penalty for rule-breakers by causing colleges to lose eligibility to participate in federal student aid programs after one year of noncompliance with the new 85-15 rule. Currently, they do not face penalties until they have been non-compliant for two years.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and help get it passed.

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM R.  
HILTON

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William R. Hilton, a U.S. Army veteran whose service during the Korean War earned him three Purple Hearts and one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Mr. Hilton was born and raised in Chester County, Pennsylvania. One of ten children, he began his military career at the very young age of 16 years old. Upon completion of basic training in 1950, Mr. Hilton was sent to the frontlines of the Korean War.

During his service, Mr. Hilton endured some of the most difficult and horrific conditions of the war. Through three injuries on the frontlines, he continued to fight and act as a leader in battle.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Hilton for his service and I thank him for the extraordinary sacrifices he has made for his country.

HONORING MR. TOM DEBLASS

**HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tom DeBlass of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, and to express my sincerest commendation as to all of his accomplishments.

Mr. DeBlass has been named to the New Jersey Martial Arts Hall of Fame as a Grappler. He has won titles such as the Pan American and World Championships. Beyond his personal feats on the mat, Mr. DeBlass has devoted his time to giving back to his community by opening his own Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy.

Mr. DeBlass has used his expertise to produce his own world champion students. He has created a legacy of martial arts success in his community and has given young athletes the opportunity to develop and excel.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously proud to have Mr. Tom DeBlass as an involved member of their community. It is my honor to recognize both his personal athletic accomplishments and his lasting contributions to our community before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING MONSIEUR LOUIS  
SICOIT

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Monsieur Louis Sicoit, a man who has dedicated his life to honoring the American soldiers who liberated his village during World War II.

Monsieur Sicoit, a resident of Roynac, France, was just a young boy when his village was at the nexus of the Battle of Montelimar. As a result of witnessing the grueling battle and seeing those American soldiers who risked their lives to protect his village, Monsieur Sicoit built a remarkable museum filled with hundreds of photographs, pieces of memorabilia, weapons, equipment, and testimonials from survivors like him. Sicoit's museum attracts a variety of visitors and also opens its doors to local school children in order to educate them and to help honor the memory of those who helped rid France of the German occupation. Additionally, members of the U.S. Army's 173rd Brigade Support Battalion visited Sicoit's museum and bestowed upon him a Certificate of Appreciation.

Please join me in honoring Monsieur Louis Sicoit for his life-long dedication to paying homage to the brave American soldiers who risked and lost their lives in saving and liberating his village, and for helping to strengthen the bond between our two countries.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHARLES  
"BUD" BURNS

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles "Bud" Burns, a U.S. Navy veteran who served during the Second World War.

A South Philadelphia native, Mr. Burns enlisted in the Navy in 1946. After completing basic training, he was sent to Italy for his first tour of duty on the USS *Compton*. During his time overseas, Mr. Burns patrolled the Mediterranean Sea before returning to the United States and being honorably discharged in 1948.

Mr. Burns received the Good Conduct Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal for his admirable service.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Burns, and I thank him for his service and allegiance to his country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLONEL  
GEORGE DEFILIPPI UPON HIS RE-  
TIREMENT

**HON. BRADLEY BYRNE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel George DeFilippi, USAF (Ret) as he prepares to fully retire after 46 years of faithful government service and extraordinary dedication to duty and to the United States of America.

George DeFilippi has had a fine career, including in his most recent role as Head, Congressional Support Branch in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller). I would like to share with you some highlights.

George DeFilippi graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1969. Following graduation, he honorably served his nation on

active duty for the next 30 years spanning many key leadership positions. From 1986 to 1991, George was the Commanding Officer of the 23rd Tactical Air Support Unit out of Davis Monthan AFB, where he was responsible for consolidating the forward air control training for all Air Force and Marine Corps operational units.

His next assignment was to serve as the Commander/Air Liaison Officer with the U.S. Army (XVII Airborne Corps) and Republic of Korea's Third Army, leading a 250-person unit integrating aviation assets into army operations. From 1993 to 1999 George reported to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition & Technology) and was responsible for the oversight of a \$4 billion tactical fighter and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle programs. He later went on to serve as the Chief of Staff within OUSD (AT&L) continuing to provide oversight for major defense acquisition programs.

Upon completing 30 years of active duty service within the United States Air Force, George retired from active duty but continued to serve his country through the civilian sector. From 1999–2010, he worked within the Cobham Life Support Division as well as Government Relations promoting life support products to the U.S. Armed Forces.

In 2010, George DeFilippi reported to his current assignment as Head, Congressional Support Branch, Navy Appropriations Matters Office where he helped the Department of the Navy achieve their financial and legislative goals. For five years, George DeFilippi has demonstrated exceptional leadership and foresight, engaging Members of the Appropriations Committee and its staff to provide information essential to resourcing the Navy for its role as the world's dominant sea power. In an increasingly difficult budget environment, George DeFilippi provided essential support in shepherding Navy budgets through the appropriations process. George served our nation with integrity, insight and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to George DeFilippi for his extraordinary dedication to duty and steadfast service to this country throughout his distinguished career in the United States Air Force as well as his public service and we wish him and his wife Patricia the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE GARY CHAM-  
BER OF COMMERCE AND THE  
8TH ANNUAL LAKESHORE CLAS-  
SIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2015*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with heartfelt respect that I recognize the Gary Chamber of Commerce as the organization celebrates the 8th annual Lakeshore Classic basketball tournament. In honor of this outstanding event, the Gary Chamber of Commerce will host a celebratory luncheon in Gary, Indiana, at the Majestic Star Casino on Tuesday November 24, followed by a basketball tournament at West Side Leadership Academy on Friday, November 27 and Saturday, November 28, 2015.