

will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

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 \$19,221,832,717,891.35. We've added \$8,594,955,668,978.27 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THOMAS "TOMMY"  
BAKER JR.

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to honor the life of Thomas "Tommy" Baker Jr., who passed away on April 15, 2016.

Tommy was born on October 3, 1956 in Radford, Virginia. He graduated from Radford College and the Washington and Lee School of Law. He served as the town attorney in Dublin, Virginia, and ran his own law practice there for many years. Additionally, Tommy served in the General Assembly from 1990 to 2000.

Dublin Mayor Benny Skeens, a friend of Tommy's since both were in high school, told the Roanoke Times, "[Tommy] had probably one of the brightest minds, as far as municipal law goes, of anyone I've known. . . . He taught me so much."

Mayor Skeens also said, "Anything that's happened in the town of Dublin in the past 20 years, Tommy had his hand in it."

I went to law school with Tommy, and also served in the Virginia House of Delegates with him. Tommy's son Jefferson told the Roanoke Times that his father's love of Pulaski County and of public service transcended party politics. I would agree.

Additionally, Tommy was a fun-loving practical joker, and he kept the entire House entertained. As Mayor Skeens said, Tommy ". . . was one of those people, when he walked in the room, the atmosphere changed. . . . He brightened people up."

I am saddened by Tommy's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with Tommy's parents, his son Jefferson, and the rest of his family.

TRIBUTE TO OLGA BRUNO DE  
MUNOZ

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Olga

Bruno de Munoz of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the celebration of her 100th birthday on March 21, 2016.

Ms. Munoz attended high school in Guayama, Puerto Rico and graduated with a secretarial degree, later moving on to work for the Puerto Rican government. Ms. Munoz and her late husband, Bartolome M. Munoz, were the parents of two daughters, Olga and Margie, and she has seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and two great-great granddaughters. Ms. Munoz enjoys reading and shopping and says her favorite foods are Puerto Rican and Chinese. While living in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Olga was an active volunteer with the Presbyterian Hospital and loved to design dresses for her daughters.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Ms. Munoz's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Ms. Munoz has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I am honored and pleased to congratulate Olga Bruno de Munoz on her 100th birthday. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Ms. Munoz on reaching this incredible milestone, and I wish her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

CELEBRATING AMBER ECKSTEIN

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise Amber Eckstein, who has been selected as the 2015–2016 ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign state exemplar in Minnesota.

In order to receive this prestigious honor, an individual must prove their strong effort towards college and career readiness, and Amber certainly embodies these requirements.

Education is the key that opens all of life's doors. In the United States today, a college degree has become more necessary than ever before, with the majority of jobs requiring some sort of post-secondary education. That is why it is imperative that students across the nation strive to achieve academic success and earn a higher education.

I would like to commend Amber for working so hard to earn a better future; her impressive efforts make her a leader among her generation and lead me to believe that she is a young woman who we will see great things from. I would also like to commend the ACT organization for working to promote higher education among our nation's students.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MARY ANN WASIL

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to take a moment to pay tribute to an incredible woman who I consider one of my personal heroes, Mary Ann Wasil who lost a brilliant battle with breast cancer late last week. Mary Ann possessed a tenacious spirit, an unyielding faith, a heart full of love, and an infectious smile—she was one-of-a-kind and will be deeply missed by all of those fortunate enough to have known and worked with her.

For one whose life was cut so short, Mary Ann had an extraordinary story. She was a police officer, an actor, a development officer for her church and its elementary school, the founder of a non-profit organization, a health activist, and, most importantly and above all others, a mother of three. She gave 110 percent to everything that she did, every project she undertook, and every battle she fought.

Breast cancer was what took Mary Ann from us, but it is also what one of her lasting legacies was born from. Battling to remission after her first diagnosis with Stage II breast cancer in 2004, Mary Ann took her experience and turned it into, not only a teachable moment, but a successful and much needed breast health initiative, the Get in Touch Foundation. Mary Ann discovered the initial lump in her breast while doing a self-breast examination and her cancer was only diagnosed correctly and quickly because she was so familiar with her body and her breasts. Even with some doctors telling her not to worry, to wait, Mary Ann pushed on because she knew it was more than a simple fluctuation.

As Mary Ann waged her war with breast cancer, she looked into the eyes of her two young daughters and knew she wanted to do something to make sure that they, as well as young girls everywhere, were armed with all of the information and tools they would need to be strong and smart in breast health. Thus, the Get in Touch Foundation was born. The Get In Touch Girls Program and Daisy Wheel teaches girls to "get in touch" with their bodies through self-examination. Developed by board members and members of the medical community, including focus-groups of girls ages 8 through 18, the interactive Daisy Wheel teaches the importance of and how to do a breast self-examination. The Daisy Wheel is given to girls in grades 9 through 12 when health educators discuss hygiene and the girls' changing bodies. The program has been implemented in more than twenty-six countries across the globe and the Daisy Wheel has been downloaded in more than eighty countries. The impact of this program is as extraordinary as its founder.

In 2010 Mary Ann won a contract from Balboa Press to publish her memoir, *A Diary of Healing: My Intense and Meaningful Life with Cancer*. Throughout its pages you can hear Mary Ann's laughter, feel her outrage, and you will often find yourself crying with her, experiencing the twists and turns of her journey. Mary Ann battled back to remission several times over the last decade, always grateful for the additional time she had with family and

friends. And though she lost this last battle, her story will continue to be an inspiration.

My heart goes out to her children, Betsy, Mary, and Eddy. Just thirteen, twelve, and ten at the time of their mother's diagnosis, they were forced to grow-up remarkably quickly but always in the warmth of Mary Ann's smile and secure in the knowledge of her love for them. I know that, in each their own way, they will carry-on Mary Ann's legacy of love, courage, education, and hope.

Over the years, I developed a deep friendship with Mary Ann and I consider myself so fortunate to have known her. She was, quite simply, an extraordinary human being. Activist, author, mentor, friend, and mother—Mary Ann Wasil was a woman whose time with us, though short, left an indelible mark on all our lives. Though we will all miss her tenacity, dedication, and, of course, her smile, family and friends will gather in their brightest, most vividly colored clothes, wearing their fanciest shows and celebrate the life of Mary Ann Wasil and the many gifts she brought to all of our lives. As Mary Ann would say—Hope Lives.

TRIBUTE TO LEONE DIERENFIELD  
PETTY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Leone Dierenfield Petty for celebrating her 100th birthday on April 12, 2016.

Mrs. Petty was born on a small farm south of Wall Lake, Iowa along with her twin sister, Leola. Life was off to a slow start, weighing in at 2½ pounds at birth. She tells the story that she was so tiny, a coffee cup would fit over her head. But she survived and prospered in the Iowa countryside. She was later joined by several brothers and sisters. She went on to raise a family of six, which now includes a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. All of them attest to her wonderful meals as a farm wife, noting that there is nothing much better than her homemade bread.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Mrs. Petty's life. We have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Mrs. Petty has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Mrs. Petty in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday with family and friends. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mrs. Petty on reaching this incredible milestone, wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEHE-  
MLIAH COMMUNITY REINVEST-  
MENT FUND

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Nehemiah Community Reinvestment Fund as it celebrates the milestone of renovating over 500 properties. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great organization for its contributions to the Sacramento region.

The Nehemiah Community Reinvestment Fund (NCRF) is a nonprofit and federally-certified community development financial institution (CDFI). NCRF provides capital and technical assistance to organizations working to revitalize low-income neighborhoods and provide housing, services, and jobs to underserved people throughout the United States. Through creative, flexible financing and investments, NCRF makes capital available to community- and faith-based nonprofits, as well as mission-based for-profit organizations, that otherwise might be unable to obtain needed capital. NCRF was founded by Nehemiah Corporation of America, which provided the start-up capital that enabled NCRF to begin making loans and investments. In addition to its community development loan fund, NCRF also developed the Nehemiah Sacramento Valley Fund, a triple bottom-line, real estate equity fund, to bring market-rate capital into low-income neighborhoods in the six county Sacramento region.

In 2010, NCRF launched the Neighborhood Restoration Program in response to the foreclosure crisis. The mission of this program is to advance community revitalization by providing homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families. Building on Nehemiah's long history of encouraging and facilitating responsible homeownership, Nehemiah acquires properties located in communities that are affordable to low- and moderate-income homebuyers. Once acquired, each house is renovated to exceed Federal Housing Administration lending standards, and marketed for sale exclusively to first time homebuyers and low- to moderate-income households.

In 2012, Nehemiah created Roofs for Troops to benefit the men and women who serve and have served our country. Through Roofs for Troops, financial institutions donate foreclosed properties to NCRF. Properties are renovated to exceed Veterans Administration lending standards and are marketed for sale exclusively to veterans and active duty military. A percentage of properties NCRF receives and renovates are donated 100 percent mortgage free to deserving veteran and active duty military families. In total, the Nehemiah Community Reinvestment Fund has created 500 affordable homeownership opportunities through its Neighborhood Restoration and Roofs for Troops Programs.

Mr. Speaker, as community members gather to celebrate this significant milestone for the Nehemiah Community Reinvestment Fund, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Fund for its contributions and commitment to the Sacramento region.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN  
ULMSCHNEIDER

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen Maryland firefighter and recognize his colleague who is recovering from severe injuries. As the funeral and interment of this esteemed firefighter occurred yesterday, I want to remember the legacy he leaves behind.

Prince George's County firefighter and paramedic (FF/Medic) John Ernest Ulmschneider was responding to a "check on welfare" call that took a turn for the worse. Known as "Skillet," this brave firefighter died tragically in the line of duty on Friday, April 15, as a result of a shooting in Temple Hills, Maryland.

Line-of-duty deaths are always difficult to bear. A firefighter or another first responder leaves their home, their station, or their vehicle to do their job of public service, and their loved one, coworker, or partner expects to see them return. My heart breaks for John's loved ones and for the tight-knit community that is the Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department.

The details of FF/Medic Ulmschneider's death are heartbreaking. He, fellow firefighter Kevin Swain of the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department, and other first responders arrived at a residence after a relative had contacted them worried about the health of a family member. They knocked on the door a few times and announced themselves without receiving a response. With the concern of a potential health emergency in mind, they tried to enter the home by breaking down the door.

It was a fateful decision. As the firefighters entered the home, the person inside fired a weapon, hitting FF/Medic Ulmschneider and FF Swain. Both firefighters were severely injured, FF/Medic Ulmschneider fatally, despite the rapid and capable care they received. On behalf of the citizens of Maryland's Fourth Congressional District, I would like to recognize the paramedics and the doctors and nurses for their compassionate care and treatment of these firefighters.

I would like to remember the legacy FF/Medic Ulmschneider leaves behind. He was born in Baltimore and graduated from Surrattsville High School in Clinton, Maryland in 1997. Friends called him "Skillet" because his head was as tough as a cast iron skillet.

FF/Medic Ulmschneider had been a member of the Prince George's County Fire Department for 13 years. He was married to Dawn and a proud and doting father to Abigail. One colleague of his remembers him as a particularly caring person who went the extra mile and on calls would make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for those patients who had low-blood sugar or were simply panicked. Another coworker recalled that FF/Medic Ulmschneider had two speeds, "fast and faster."

Mr. Speaker, I want to send my appreciation to these individual firefighters and all their colleagues for their relentless dedication to public service. Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department and firefighters across this country are committed every day to keep our communities safe by putting their own lives at risk