

## TRIBUTE TO VERNE WELCH

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Verne Welch of Council Bluffs, Iowa for his many years of dedicated service to the City of Council Bluffs and Pottawattamie County. Verne Welch is a Council Bluffs native who never forgot where he came from.

Verne Welch graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1955. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1955 to 1968. Upon discharge, he joined a California recruitment firm for overseas contractors. In 1972 he joined Harrah's, Inc. and remained with the company until 1987. He felt a need to help his hometown during some tough economic times so in 1988, Verne Welch returned to Council Bluffs, establishing gaming in Iowa, working tirelessly to develop the industry in Council Bluffs.

Former Council Bluffs Mayor Tom Hanafan described Verne as "the guy who came home and changed the face of his hometown community." Tom Schmitt, the publisher of the Daily Nonpareil, said, "Verne Welch's actions to revitalize his hometown have brought a lot of changes to this community. If there was ever a person who could say, 'This is what I have done,' it would be Verne Welch—and he never says that." Because of Verne's active community service, he has created a legacy second to none. Verne Welch's endless dedication, commitment, generosity, and leadership for Council Bluffs has enhanced and improved the quality of life for his community and its citizens.

I commend and congratulate Verne Welch for making a difference in his hometown and influencing the economic future of Council Bluffs and the State of Iowa. I salute his many accomplishments and dedication for serving his community. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Verne Welch and wishing him the very best in the future.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GEORGE HOLDING**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll call 271, H.R. 4904—MEGABYTE Act of 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted Ye.

## OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 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 \$19,220,484,557,364.60. We've added \$8,593,607,508,451.52 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## RECOGNIZING ADAM KRATT

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Adam Kratt, a Military Appointee from Colorado's Fourth Congressional district. I believe our greatest assets are America's brave men and women in uniform. Adam is making an incredible sacrifice for our country and deserves our utmost support for his service. It is with great pleasure that I give him my endorsement to attend this prestigious institution.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than to those who fight to protect our freedom and liberty. I commend Adam and his family for their commitment. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Adam.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Adam as a Military Appointee for his commitment to protect and serve our nation.

## RECOGNIZING DR. VIRGINIA CARSON

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Virginia Carson and her retirement as President of South Georgia State College on June 30.

A graduate of the University of Georgia with Master's and Doctorate degrees from Georgia State University, Dr. Carson is no stranger to success.

During her 8 year tenure as President of South Georgia State College, she showed an unbelievable commitment to fostering her students' ambition and educational growth.

This dedication to her students has been instrumental to the success of the college and has ensured her students' success for years to come.

Dr. Carson prided herself on keeping a tightknit community with small class sizes and encouraging students to engage in extra-curricular activities, which also enhanced campus life.

Although the true importance of Dr. Carson's service cannot be measured, I am honored to congratulate her for her hard work and dedication to higher education.

## TRIBUTE TO TS BANK OF IOWA

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate TS Bank of Atlantic,

Iowa, for being selected by the Young Professionals of Atlantic for the Young Professional Choice Workplace Service Award. TS Bank's branch is located in Atlantic with its headquarters in Treynor, Iowa.

TS bank has a reputation for attracting, hiring, retaining, developing, and training young professionals. The bank has a mission to ignite prosperity by working together every day to create a positive impact on their clients and communities that they serve. TS Bank takes great pride in reinvesting in local communities, impacting local initiatives, supporting and sponsoring local community events, providing needed funds and resources for local nonprofits. TS Bank has a history of 80 percent employees volunteering in their communities.

I applaud and congratulate TS Bank for earning this award. TS Bank is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can affect the future of a community and its businesses. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating TS Bank for its many accomplishments and for the services it provides to Atlantic and southwest Iowa. I wish TS Bank and its employees continued success in all their future endeavors.

## RECOGNIZING JAIRAM HATHWAR

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jairam Hathwar on winning the 2016 Scripps National Spelling Bee. Jairam was crowned co-champion after correctly spelling Feldenkrais in the final round of the competition.

Jairam is a seventh-grade student at the Alternative School for Math and Science in my hometown of Corning, New York. He participated in the National Spelling Bee for the second year in a row; after barely missing the finals last year, Jairam outlasted 285 other contestants en route to his first place finish this year.

Jairam's achievement is a testament to his work ethic, dedication to learning, and commitment to reaching his highest potential. After spending countless hours studying complex definitions, parts of speech, and languages of origin, he correctly spelled several of the most challenging words in the English language. Despite the high level of difficulty, Jairam demonstrated confidence and composure throughout the competition. Most importantly, he treated his fellow competitors with respect and showed humility and sportsmanship from the first word to the last.

Jairam Hathwar is a remarkable young man with an incredibly bright future ahead of him. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jairam on this remarkable accomplishment and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.