

a distinguished Veterans Service Organization in El Paso, Texas.

The Benavidez-Patterson "All-Airborne" Chapter is comprised of current and former military paratroopers. The unit develops new relationships and cultivates existing bonds among those who have served in the Airborne; honors the memory of troopers who died in service; and informs its members of legislative changes and policy ideas relevant to veterans.

With 250 members, the Benavidez-Patterson Chapter is the largest "All-Airborne" chapter in Texas and has included representation from virtually every Airborne unit since World War II. It is comprised of national heroes. Members have included veteran paratroopers who had combat assignments in Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Korea, the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Iraq and Afghanistan, along with others currently deployed in the Middle East. Members have included one of the original Darby's Rangers and a Pathfinder on D-Day. Others were involved in "Operation: Overlord" into Normandy, France, on D-Day; "Operation: Market Garden" in Holland; and the "Battle of the Bulge."

Chartered in August 1985, the Benavidez-Patterson "All-Airborne" Chapter is named in honor of the late MSG Roy P. Benavidez and CSM Robert Patterson (Ret.), both recipients of the Medal of Honor. The Chapter was further honored through the membership of Medal of Honor recipients COL. Joseph Rodriguez (Deceased) of El Paso and LTC (Ret.) Alfred Rascon. Other distinguished members have included MG Howard Bromberg; BG Shuffer, a statesman, author and paratrooper; in addition to LTG Lionetti, MG Lennox, MG Cravens, MG Infante, MG Little, MG Oblinger and MG Michael G. Vane.

I thank the Benavidez-Patterson "All-Airborne" Chapter for their commitment to honoring our veterans and for helping to strengthen the bonds among service members and veterans in the El Paso community.

HONORING LAUREN HALLSTROM

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lauren Hallstrom from Douglas County, Colorado. Last November, sixteen-year-old Lauren participated in Douglas County Libraries' National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) and authored an entire novel in only 30 days.

Miss Hallstrom's novel, *Dreamweaver*, tells the tale of a girl named Audrey in a place called Fortune. The novel follows Audrey's efforts to rid her town of bad luck after an unlucky penny wreaks havoc on Fortune and its citizens. This intriguing story and Lauren's outstanding efforts were recognized when *Dreamweaver* was announced the winner of the Douglas County Libraries' novel-writing contest last February.

As part of Lauren's prize, Douglas County Libraries provided editing and cover design services for *Dreamweaver*, and it is now possible to find Lauren's book on both Bookcrafters.net and Amazon.com. Such lit-

erary success is truly remarkable for a sixteen-year-old.

I am extremely honored to represent this talented young woman. Please join me in congratulating Lauren on the publication of her first novel. I hope we continue to see many more from her in the future.

SUPPORT OF A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the recent determination by a federal judge that new Texas abortion restrictions directly violate the U.S. Constitution. When Governor Rick Perry signed into law Texas H.B. 2, a smattering of new limitations on access to abortion, he threatened to take away a woman's right to choose.

The Texas law would ban abortions 20 weeks after fertilization, mandate that abortion providers have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the facility, and requires doctors to administer the abortion-inducing medication in person rather than at home. These provisions would cause dozens of abortion clinics to shutter their doors, restricting access to women.

District Judge Lee Yeakel struck down the regulation that would require doctors to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals, a notion that creates an undue obstacle for women seeking an abortion. Yeakel also blocked the provision that would require physicians to follow U.S. Food and Drug Administration procedure for abortion medication because a physician can ultimately determine what route of medication is best for the preservation of the life or health of the mother.

Unfortunately, the law still bans abortions at 20 weeks of pregnancy and requires all physicians to perform abortions in surgical facilities. Restricting care for women is unconscionable. Currently, a woman's access to abortion depends mostly on her zip code. While the U.S. Constitution federally protects women, states with anti-abortion leaders impose restrictive laws. These state laws cannot stand up to the U.S. Constitution.

I urge my colleagues to support a woman's right to choose, a law that was established in 1973 with the decision made in *Roe v. Wade*. I am proud to stand as a pro-choice legislator and vow to protect fair access to abortions in my state.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

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 \$17,081,509,219,288.50. We've added \$6,454,632,170,375.42 to our debt in 4

years. This is \$6.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING SERGEANT PAUL CAVALLARO

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sergeant Paul Cavallaro of the Pennsylvania State Police.

Sergeant Cavallaro has been serving the citizens of Pennsylvania as a State Trooper since 1992. He has served in numerous patrol and crime units in stations throughout the Commonwealth. He has held numerous roles within the State Police such as: Alternate Identification Unit Officer, Alternate CIA officer, Patrol Unit Supervisor, Criminal Investigation Unit Supervisor, Patrol Section Supervisor, and his most recent title as Station Commander.

Sergeant Cavallaro has received letters of commendation in 2002 and 2008, and received a nomination for the International Association of Chiefs of Police Trooper of the Year Award in 2003. Additionally, he has also received letters of appreciation from the Pike County District Attorney's Office and the Monmouth & Ocean County Intelligence Bureau.

As a member of the Pennsylvania State Police, Sergeant Cavallaro has obtained training in wiretap, street gangs, domestic violence, hate crimes, advanced crime scene investigation, terrorism awareness, FBI post blast investigations, interview and interrogation, advanced hidden compartments and has received special deputation as a United States Marshall.

Along with his duties as Station Commander, Sergeant Cavallaro is a bugler for the Pennsylvania State Police Ceremonial Unit, negotiator with the Special Emergency Response Team and he sponsors the annual Troop R Cadet Golf Tournament. In his spare time he coaches youth baseball, hockey, football and soccer.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Cavallaro has devoted his life to serving his community and others; it is with great pride that I honor him today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Monday, October 28, 2013. I had family obligations that kept me in Wisconsin. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2189 (rollcall No. 561) and in favor of H.R. 2011 (rollcall No. 562).