

amount, if any, by which the debt ceiling will need to be increased. It is utterly irresponsible, once Congress has authorized a deficit, to refuse to raise the debt ceiling.

The irony of our current circumstances is that the Republican majority in both Houses of Congress has already voted to raise the debt ceiling to \$5.5 trillion, to cover the deficits over the next 2 years. My legislation would give the force of law to Congress' budget policy decisions.

Nobody benefits when the Congress and the President are at loggerheads and the Nation's fiscal credibility hangs in the balance. The American people are sick and tired of the gridlock in Washington. Some in Washington, anticipating the shutdown of Government, have adopted the slogan, "Don't Blink." What they mean is they have their eyes closed right to the damage this train wreck will inflict. The American people are not interested in a Government in which elected officials close their eyes to their responsibilities.

This crisis is of our own making. We can take steps to prevent it from recurring in the future. The legislation I have introduced today will require the President and the Congress to work together much earlier in the budget process, and will help us keep the trains on track.

#### DEMETRIS KASTANAS HONORED FOR SERVICE TO GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 1995*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man whose work has touched the lives of millions.

On November 10, 1995, several leading Greek-American institutions will honor Demetris Kastanas for his extraordinary contributions to the Greek-American community over the past 20 years.

Demetris is a media entrepreneur whose television programs and magazine have brought Greek communities in both America and Europe closer together. He has also used this resource and expertise to raise money to help people in need.

Demetris is the president and chief executive officer of National Greek TV of U.S.A., Inc., and Athens Productions, Ltd. He is also the publisher of ESEIS magazine. Both organizations are based on Astoria, NY, with branch offices in Athens and Chicago.

Since 1975, Demetris has been the chief executive producer of the "National Greek TV Show," a weekly ethnic variety program on UHF channels in the Midwest and Northeastern United States produced by Athens Productions, Ltd. It is the longest running Greek program outside the United States.

Since 1987, Demetris has served as chief executive producer of the Greek Channel, a daily cable channel broadcasting Greek programming on the Time Warner cable system. It is produced by National Greek TV of U.S.A., Inc. The Greek Channel broadcasts 19 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In 1988, Demetris began publishing ESEIS, a Greek-American biweekly magazine that is distributed internationally.

For the past 20 years, through his television programs and his magazine, Demetris has

been providing the Greek-American community with news, sports, music, documentaries, cultural, informational, educational and entertainment programs. He has put the power of the media to good use in helping Greek compatriots who have come to the United States seeking medical treatment. He has publicized their cases on television and in his magazine, helping to raise money for their medical expenses.

Demetris has conducted four telethons to raise money for the needs of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York. He has also conducted one telethon for the Greek Children's Cancer Fund at Memorial Sloan Kettering, with the second telethon scheduled for December 17, 1995.

So I join with the Pan-Macedonian Association, the Pan-Peloponnesian Association, the Federation of Sterea Hellas, the Cyprus Federation, the Pan-Pontian Federation, and the Pan-Dodecanese Association in honoring this extraordinary man for his contributions to the Greek-American community over the past 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, bringing people together has been Demetris' life's work. And on November 10, the Greek-American community will come together to celebrate his extraordinary service.

And now, to make this year even better, he has taken on his business partner, Norma Papamihaliou, as his wife.

#### REFLECTIONS ON VETERANS DAY

HON. FRANK TEJEDA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 1995*

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Speaker, since 1954, our Nation has set aside November 11, formerly Armistic Day, as a special day of tribute and thanksgiving to those who served bravely in our Armed Forces to protect our freedoms. Veterans Day is a day of both sadness and joy: Sadness because we take a moment to honor those who sacrificed everything to keep us free, and joy as we gather to enjoy those sacred freedoms.

This Veterans Day is especially significant because we will continue to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the greatest struggle for freedom in the history of the world. During that struggle, 17 million American men and women answered the call to serve without hesitation. Of those courageous men and women, more than 290,000 made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives for this Nation. Another 670,000 were wounded, and more than 105,000 suffered as prisoners of war. In Washington, DC, a ceremony will be held on the Mall to break ground for the long-overdue memorial to the heroes of this war, who fought around the globe to preserve liberty for future generations.

Nowhere are veterans more important than in Military Town U.S.A. Following the numerous events surrounding this Veterans Day, San Antonio, TX will pay tribute to one of its heroes in that great war to preserve world peace. On November 20, 1943, San Antonio native S. Sgt. William J. Bordelon gave his life for his country and earned its highest military decoration during the U.S. invasion of the South Pacific island of Tarawa. This forgotten local hero is the first San Antonio native to win

the Medal of Honor. On November 20, declared by the mayor of San Antonio as William J. Bordelon Day, S. Sgt. Bordelon will be reinterred at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery following lying in state at the Alamo.

Veterans Day is also a day of education. If we are to preserve the memory of those who fought so valiantly to preserve this Nation and all that it stands for, we must ensure that our children know the history of our veterans' sacrifices and understand the importance of their contributions. Today, more than one-half of the people living in America were born after World War II. If the people of this Nation want to continue to fully experience the joys of life, liberty, and peace, we must ensure that future generations understand just how much we owe to the men and women who made it possible: the American veterans, who were willing to sacrifice everything they had to keep this Nation free.

#### HONORING THE DICKSTEINS AND THE BILMES

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 1995*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise our colleagues that my home synagogue, Temple Sinai in Middletown, NY, will be honoring two outstanding couples as Distinguished Members of the Year at a banquet to be held on Saturday night, November 18.

Sharon and Allen Dickstein met when both were counselors at a Jewish federation summer camp. After marriage and settling in Middletown nearly a quarter a century ago, they became active members of our Temple. Allen has served on the board of trustees of the Temple continuously since 1973. He was president for the year 1977-78, served on the executive board, and held the positions of USY Director and chairman of the ritual committee. Allen serves our Temple as Gabbai, the lay leader of services. Allen was a founding member of Jewish Family Service and still serves on that group's board of directors.

Sharon is currently on the executive board and board of trustees as second vice-president. She sits on the board of education as executive board liaison, and is a member of the Sisterhood of Temple Sinai. Sharon is a member of Hadassah, and is a founding member of the Hebrew Day School of Orange County.

Together, Allen and Sharon have embodied the spirit of service to community as well as of family values. Allan works as a social worker and has been especially active in establishing shelters for the homeless and teaching classes for expectant parents. Sharon has been an educator for a quarter century, and has served as principal of Bicentennial Elementary School in Port Jervis for the past 6 years. They are the parents of Debra, Joshua, Aaron and Michael.

Frances Eve and Murray Bilmes met on a blind date in March 1954 and married 6 months later. Soon after their marriage, they formed a law partnership which still thrives today. Residents of our region since 1957, they have been members of Temple Sinai since 1960.

Frances served on the board of trustees for over 25 years and was president of Sisterhood. Frances was president of Hadassah for 6 years, and served on the board of Jewish Family Services. Professionally, she was the founder of the Tri-County Women's Bar Association. She was also president of the Pine Bush PTA.

Murray, Bilmes, a Navy veteran of World War II, also served on the board of trustees, but is especially known for over 30 years of service on the board of education, part of which time he served as chairman. Murray was a part of the three member committee which drafted the original constitution of the Middletown Hebrew Association, now known as Temple Sinai.

Frances and Murray are the parents of five children: David, Jonathan, Orah, Joshua, and Noah. Regrettably, the Bilmes are leaving us, for a well earned retirement in Florida. They will long be missed.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to salute these four outstanding people. They have been an inspiration to their community, and I am honored to join in paying tribute to them.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MILTON F. FITCH

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 1995*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 8, 1995, at 1 p.m., the family and many friends of Milton F. Fitch celebrated his life. After 75 years on this Earth, God's finger gently touched him, and he now sleeps.

The business of the House of Representatives kept me from joining the Fitch family and Milton's friends on that day, but I shall forever be influenced by the power of his life and the rich legacy that he leaves.

Milton F. Fitch spent his lifetime on a journey for justice. Born on June 25, 1920, in New Haven, CT, he passed quietly at his home in Wilson, NC, on November 2, 1995. While his passing was quiet, his deeds will resonate and reverberate for years and years to come.

A veteran of World War II, he served, with honor and distinction, in the U.S. Army, earning several medals and three battle stars under the leadership of Gen. George Patton in the 3rd Army. It saddened him greatly that upon his return to the United States, nothing had changed. He and other African-Americans still labored under the burden of second-class citizenship.

When he felt the sting of discrimination from the U.S. Postal Service, he sued the Government and earned the position of the first African-American letter carrier in Wilson since reconstruction. After 24 years with the Postal Service, he joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference under Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as the North Carolina State coordinator. As such, he worked in demonstrations throughout the South, including the North Carolina school boycott of 1968-69. Many of the demonstrations in which he was involved and lawsuits in which he participated resulted in advances and gains for African-Americans throughout North Carolina and the United States.

He devoted much of his energy to fighting for the franchise for African-Americans. His ef-

forts in a lawsuit against Wilson County over voting patterns, which went to the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Haskins versus County of Wilson, resulted in success, and the proud election of his wife, Cora, as a county commissioner. His daughter, Christine, was later elected to the Wilson County Board of Education from the same district.

Of course, I shall be forever grateful for his service as my campaign manager in 1968, during which I launched my first, yet unsuccessful, effort to become a member of the Congress of the United States. That effort spawned other efforts, and those efforts, history now records, resulted in my election as the first African-American woman ever to represent North Carolina in Congress.

Milton's membership in the Masonic family was one of his most favored associations. After joining in 1951, he rose through the ranks and, on October 7, 1995, he was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master at the 125th Annual Grand Communication. This was the fulfillment of a 50-year dream.

Always at his side, Milton's wife of 47 years, the former Cora Jordan Whitted, had pre-deceased him. This husband, father, grandfather, community leader and activist, pathfinder and agent of change, always found time to give of himself to his family, to his State and to his Nation. He shall surely be missed. I feel certain, however, that he would want all of us to rejoice in his life and the time we had with him.

May God comfort and help his family and friends and help them to hold on to treasured yesterdays; and reach out with courage and hope to tomorrow, knowing that their beloved is with God. Death is not the end of life. It is the beginning of an eternal sleep. Rest, Brother Milton, you have labored long. God's finger has touched you, and you now sleep.

#### HONORING THE ARLINGTON-FAIRFAX ELKS LODGE NO. 2188 AND HERMAN C. ANDERSON

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 1995*

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge No. 2188, as well as Herman C. Anderson.

The Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge is celebrating its 35th anniversary this week. Throughout the years, the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge has flourished in its role to promote Americanism, a belief in God, and respect for the American flag. For 35 years, this lodge has served its community and Nation with reverence and devotion. Some examples of the many charitable works done by the lodge include helping our veterans in VA hospitals, fighting the war on drugs by helping to keep drugs out of the schools, and making it possible for thousands of children to attend the summer camp run by the Elks. As a direct result of the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge's many contributions, northern Virginia is a better place to live.

Herman C. Anderson has served the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks for over 50 years. As third exalted ruler, charter member, and past president of the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge No. 2188, Mr. Anderson has been a model citizen and proven himself to be an

inspiration. "Andy" Anderson first joined Lodge No. 38, in Norfolk, VA, in 1944, where he served with distinction and honor in a variety of posts. In 1970, he became president of the Virginia Elks Association. In 1984, he became special deputy grand exalted ruler, a post he still holds today. In 1993, he became grand esteemed leading knight serving the remainder of Doral E. Irvin's appointed year. His commitment to community service and the promotion of American values is truly commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge on its 35th anniversary and Herman C. Anderson for his 50 years of service to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

#### RECOGNIZING THE PULP AND PAPERWORKERS RESOURCE COUNCIL

HON. LINDA SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 1995*

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of the Pulp and Paperworkers Resource Council [PPRC] to educate my colleagues in Congress about the importance of their industry.

PPRC is a grassroots organization representing more than 300,000 of the Nation's pulp, paper, solid wood products, and other natural resource-based industries. The pulp and paper industry is an integral part of the economy of my district. Thousands of my constituents work in mills for companies like Longview Fibre, James River, Boise Cascade, and Weyerhaeuser. The workers in these mills are worried about their economic future. They have seen many of their friends lose their jobs in the wood products industry because of the shortage of timber. In fact, five pulp mills in the region have closed since 1989, displacing 1,367 workers.

I share PPRC's view that we must amend the Endangered Species Act to ensure people are included in the environmental equation. PPRC is also interested in balanced regulations dealing with the cluster rule and enhancing forest health through salvage operations. I look forward to working with PPRC and my colleagues in Congress and the administration to implement commonsense policies that preserve the environment, but that also take into account the economic stability of the work force and surrounding community.

#### TRIBUTE TO FATHER JOSEPH NIEZGODA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 1995*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to congratulate Father Joseph Niezgoda, pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in East Chicago, IN. On Sunday, November 12, 1995, the parish of St. Stanislaus held a testimonial dinner to honor Father Joe for 25 years of faithful dedication to their mission.