

servicemembers and all who care for them at Landstuhl for Thanksgiving dinner. Given the spirit of that holiday, this statement—which I will frame to present to the personnel there—is a fitting tribute to the excellence they deliver every day.

Landstuhl averages over 1,000 total inpatients per month, with a daily average of 20 surgical cases, and 21 admissions and discharges per day. They also bring new life into the world, with an average of three live births per day. They provide specialized care in fields ranging from cardiology to infectious disease to neurology. If it is medically possible, the professionals at Landstuhl make it happen. Our servicemembers know that they and their families will be taken care of.

Perhaps most importantly, though, Landstuhl plays a critical role in caring for our warriors wounded in combat and bringing them back home. After initial treatment in theater, critical care air transport teams bring wounded servicemembers to Landstuhl for stabilization and treatment before being transported to Andrews Air Force Base. The folks at Landstuhl see the vast majority of our wounded and injured in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and they administer the best that modern medicine has to offer.

I also praise the nonmedical services offered at Landstuhl, including liaisons for finance and personnel issues, invitational travel orders for family members and transportation from the airport, issuance of basic civilian clothing and sundry items, and AAFES vouchers and personal shoppers, among other services. This comprehensive care provides the right environment to begin the healing process.

Here, I must also thank those who embody the giving spirit of our Nation. I speak, of course, of the selfless service of the American Red Cross volunteers, Fisher House volunteers and staff, and the members of the USO who make themselves available to our servicemembers and their families 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. No need is too big or too small and no problem too difficult for this group. Their perseverance, creativity, and unyielding commitment to helping others have humbled many a hardened warrior, and we are indeed fortunate to have their support.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to know that we have such an immensely capable group of people looking after the health and well-being of servicemembers and their families. As chairman of the Armed Services Committee and as a former patient, I pay great tribute to the excellence and sacrifice of all who serve at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. They all deserve our thanks and support.

HONORING BREAK THE BARRIERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Break the Barriers upon celebrating its 25th anniversary. The organization's anniversary will be celebrated on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, in Fresno, CA.

Ken and Carrie Mullen, Ice Capades performers, had two daughters, Deby and Kathy.

Deby was a phenomenal athlete, and at the age of ten began taking gymnastics at the Fresno Gymnastics Club. By the time Deby was sixteen, she had become a regional, state and national gymnastics champion. Kathy also excelled in gymnastics. Although she was born with Down Syndrome, she was able to emulate Deby and competed in the Special Olympics. Deby was beginning to look toward international competition when her gymnastics dreams were cut short by a devastating ankle injury. The injury did not stop her love for the sport. Inspired by her sister Kathy, Deby recognized her calling and began to coach adults who had different physical, neurological and mental abilities.

Deby married Steve Hergenrader, a former New York Yankees baseball player. The couple worked on Steve's grandfather's 20-acre grape vineyard and started a club called, The Tri-City Olympiads. Eventually, they created the Fresno District Special Olympics Gymnastics Program.

Deby and Steve moved away from the family vineyard and found a house that was large enough to house a dance studio inside and gymnastics equipment in the back yard, including old bed mattresses, a trampoline, balance beam, and a vaulting horse with a spring board. This new enterprise was Gymnastics by Deby.

After many years of working with people with various abilities, Deby began to recognize that the barriers that separate one person's ability from another is the lack of opportunity to do anything in common together. Through Deby and Steve's integrated sports and performing arts classes, the students found common ground. The students began learning from one another and all of the students were successful. Without any advertising, the combined classes grew to include 200 children from the age of 3 through adult. A survey conducted of local dance studios, gyms, self-defense classes and baton twirling studios determined that there were no successful programs that integrated students of various abilities. With this knowledge, student's parents helped to form a board of directors and Break the Barriers was created. The organization was officially incorporated as a nonprofit in October 1985, with the mission to "Break all barriers experienced by people with different abilities."

In 1987 the performing group, the Barrier Breakers, was established. The team is a combination of performers, each with amazing abilities, and range in age from 6 to adult. There are currently 58 performers on the team and they perform around the world. There are over 3,000 students that participate in the programs including aquatics, dance, gymnastics, martial arts and sign language. Break the Barriers also provides a buddy program, day camps and health and fitness classes. The programs are made up of students from eight different school districts.

Today at Break the Barriers Steve and Deby, along with their children Jared and Tyler, continue to be dedicated to their original purpose; to break down barriers through a common purpose.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Break the Barriers on 25 years of breaking all barriers and allowing people with different abilities to perform together. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Break the Barriers many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE KOREAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Korean American Community Services and its 32nd Annual Health Fair. The Korean American Community Services has partnered with many health organizations over the past 32 years in holding its Annual Health Fair. Through the fair, the Korean American Community Services reaffirms its strong commitment to individual and family health and has become a celebration of the collective well-being of the community.

The Korean American Community Services organizes and coordinates Federal, State and community-based health services. These services aim to ensure that immigrant families who are often uninsured are able to gain access to necessary health services. In order to do this the Korean American Community Service offers referral services, case management, interpretation, outreach and public benefit workshops. Annually, more than 8,000 people benefit from these services as they continue to promote and protect health in the community.

It is my honor to recognize the Korean American Community Services and its 32nd Annual Health Fair. The Annual Health Fair is significant as it continues to recognize and uphold the importance of health in the community. I thank the Korean American Community Services for its Annual Health Fair and its continued dedication to strengthening the community.

GENERAL ARTHUR J. LICHTER RETIRES AFTER 38 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize General Arthur J. Lichte on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force.

General Lichte grew up in Bronx, N.Y., where he graduated from Cardinal Spellman High School. In 1971, he entered the Air Force as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Manhattan College. General Lichte's Air Force career includes command positions at squadron, group, and wing levels and as a command pilot; he has logged more than 5,000 flying hours in various aircraft. In addition to his command experience, General Lichte has held headquarters-level assignments at Strategic Air Command, Air Mobility Command, United States Air Forces Europe, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Transportation Command. His latest assignment as Commander of the Air Mobility Command began in September 2007.

General Lichte's journey to Air Mobility Command includes many notable achievements. As the 9th Air Refueling Commander at March Air Force Base, he led Strategic Air Command's first mission to the People's Republic of China, and as the acting Second

Wing Commander at Barksdale Air Force Base, he launched and recovered a historic B-52 and KC-10 flight to Russia. It was also at Barksdale that General Lichte, then a Colonel serving as the 458th Operations Group Commander, deployed and commanded a large KC-10 contingent at an austere Middle East location to support Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and RESTORE HOPE.

By August 1995, then Colonel Arthur J. Lichte became Commander of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing (ARW) at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, WA, which was at the time the largest air refueling wing in the Air Force. That year, aircraft from Fairchild flew in support of its first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) mission, transporting Russian inspectors to sites in the Western U.S. The wing has flown START missions in the U.S. every year since. Successful leadership of the 92nd ARW at Fairchild also led to his promotion to brigadier general.

Brigadier General Lichte soon after was sent to command the 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, which represents the Air Force to the American people in meetings with presidents and other world dignitaries. In between his successful stint at the 89th Airlift Wing and taking command of the Air Mobility Command, General Lichte served as AMC's Director of Plans and Programs, USAF's Vice Commander, and an Assistant Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

Notwithstanding an illustrious career with the United States Air Force, General Lichte counts his family and 40-year marriage to his wife Chris, as well as being a grandfather, as his proudest achievements.

Madam Speaker, General Arthur J. Lichte's selfless dedication to the service of his country is honorable and worthy of recognition. I believe I can speak for the Airmen of Air Mobility Command and the United States Air Force in saying that his dedication has positively impacted those with whom he has served during his years with the Air Force and I join them in congratulating him on his retirement and a job well done.

KATHLEEN ALLEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Kathleen Allen for her outstanding service to our community.

Kathleen Allen is an incredible tri-athlete who has overcome a severe injury to again compete in her sport and win. Kathleen's work with Girls on the Run furthers women's issues by "educating and preparing girls for a lifetime of self respect and healthy living."

The dedication demonstrated by Kathleen Allen directly benefits her community, and is exemplary of high personal and professional standards. Kathleen has spent countless hours volunteering with JeffCo Parents Focus on School Nutrition, a group which lobbies for improved school nutrition. In addition, Kathleen has volunteered abroad, spending time in Tanzania bringing technology to hospitals and schools in that country.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kathleen Allen for her recognition by

the West Chamber of Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING EDWARD C. BLOMMEL OF DADE CITY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward C. Blommel of Dade City, Florida. After 40 years of dedicated service to Tampa Electric Company and Pasco County, Edward has gracefully retired.

Born in Dade City on February 25, 1949, Mr. Blommel attended Pasco Hernando Community College. Today he is married to his wife of 35 years, Libby, and they have two grown children, Nancy and Nicholas.

Beginning his career with Tampa Electric at the age of 20 as a meter reader, Mr. Blommel eventually worked his way into management positions in customer service, energy services, and marketing. Later his responsibilities grew to include community relations, governmental affairs, and economic development for Pasco County in the areas of Dade City, San Antonio, and the town of St. Leo.

Mr. Blommel has been very active in Pasco County, having served on the boards of United Way of Pasco, Pasco Regional Medical Center, Jobs, Education and Partnership Boards in Pasco and Hernando Counties, Downtown Dade City Main Street, East Pasco Habitat for Humanity, and Pasco Education Foundation.

He has served on the Pasco Hernando Community College Foundation Board of Directors since 1998, which he chaired from 2006 to 2008. He also serves on the Dade City Redevelopment Advisory Committee and Pasco County MPO Citizens Advisory Council. In addition, he is the past president and an active member of the Dade City Rotary Club.

Mr. Blommel has championed county-wide economic development, always encouraging being locally united, as exhibited through his service to Pasco Economic Development Council, serving on its board since 1995, including its presidency in 1998.

Madam Speaker, it is public servants like Edward C. Blommel that keep our communities and towns running strong. His dedication and willingness to serve are admired and stand as a model to others. We thank Mr. Blommel for his service and wish him the best in his retirement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was \$11,991,506,876,413.07. We have added \$2,628,074,721.89 to the national debt since Friday, the 6th.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,353,081,130,119.27 so far this year.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we have borrowed and spent an average \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Wednesday, November 4, 2009.

Had I been present on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 841 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 884), "no" on rollcall vote No. 842 (on agreeing to H. Res. 884, which provides for consideration of H.R. 3639), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 843 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 858), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 844 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 839).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, on November 4, 2009, I was not able to be present for votes on amendments to H.R. 3639, the Expedited CARD Reform for Consumers Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on: rollcall 845, rollcall 846, rollcall 847, rollcall 848, and rollcall 849.

On November 6, 2009, I was not able to be present for votes on amendments to H.R. 2868, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 869, and I would have voted "no" on: rollcall 870, rollcall 871, rollcall 872, and rollcall 873.

KRISTEN ANDERSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Kristen Anderson for her outstanding service to our community.

Kirsten Anderson is Senior Vice President and Business Banking Manager for Wells Fargo in the metropolitan area of Denver. She has worked with Wells Fargo for 22 years and has filled many positions in the company.

Kirsten Anderson's dedication to her community is demonstrated by her sense of social responsibility and the many organizations she is affiliated with, including the Executive Committees of Red Rocks Community College