

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

Foundation Board and the Jefferson Economic Council. In addition, she is the 2009 Board of Directors Chair for the Jefferson Economic Council, and is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Denver West.

Kirsten Anderson's passion lies in her two daughters and is always very supportive of her daughters' success, spending countless hours cheering them on and helping to coach their teams.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kristen Anderson 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 CORNING, NEW YORK,
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
POST #524

HON. ERIC J. J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Corning, New York, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #524, who this Wednesday will be celebrating Veteran's Day with a ceremony in my district. This year, however, will be a special year, as they will be rededicating the POW-MIA monument in that town which I call home. Though obligations throughout my district will keep me from being able to attend this ceremony with my home post, my thoughts will be with them and with the millions of veterans across our Nation who served our country in times of war, and who even today work to protect our freedoms.

In 1998, Doug Herbert, a marine and Vietnam veteran had a plan. He wanted to build a POW-MIA monument to memorialize and honor the POW's and MIA personnel of all of our Nation's wars. Doug and his wife Jackie designed and drew plans for the monument, and they worked for over a year to raise the funds necessary to see Doug's dream become a reality. Indeed, this original monument was even built in their backyard, and on November 11, 1999, the Herbert's and their comrades at Post #524 dedicated this unique memorial to our Nation's heroes.

This year, on November 11, 2009, a new monument will be dedicated in the place where the original once stood. Doug Herbert's dream is now complete and a new monument of granite and will stand in place forever. For Doug, this was a labor of love as well as a personal journey, but for his comrades and his community, it is an incredible gift. The commitment and hard work of Doug and Jackie Herbert, as well as that of their fellow volunteers, make the rededication of this monument a poignant moment in the proud history of Post #524. And it is through this selfless commitment that the memory of those who served our Nation—the POW's, those missing in action, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice—will be enshrined forever in the hearts of all Americans.

RECOGNIZING THE HARLEM COUNCIL OF ELDERS, INC., SALUTE TO FLORENCE M. RICE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great pride to join New York Democratic County Leader Keith L.T. Wright and the Harlem Council of Elders to pay tribute to the Harlem Consumer Education Council's founder and president Florence M. Rice.

Florence M. Rice was born on March 22, 1919, in Buffalo, New York. During her childhood, Rice spent several years in the Colored Orphan Asylum and in several foster homes in New York. Upon completion of the eighth grade, Rice left school for work as a domestic seamstress where she became a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. Rice spoke out against the discriminatory practices against African American and Latino workers. She participated in a congressional hearing held by my predecessor Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., in 1962, which probed dressmaker union's policies. After testifying, Ms. Rice was blacklisted in that industry.

In the 1960s, Rice founded the Harlem Consumer Education Council, waging a war against corporations who discriminated against African Americans and other minorities. The council organized many successful New York City boycotts and picket lines against grocery stores, furniture stores, and individuals found to be overcharging minorities. Rice's biggest victory was against the New York State Public Service Commission, forcing New York Telephone to stop charging low income residents pre-installation fees. The Harlem Consumer Education Council investigated over 100,000 complaints.

During the 1970's, Florence was appointed Special Consultant to the Consumer Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Board. She also taught consumer education at Malcolm-King College and has lectured to thousands at her workshops and seminars. In the 1990s, Rice was responsible for the Bell Atlantic Technology Center in Harlem. Today, the center, Verizon, is dedicated to educating business people, students, senior citizens and other customers about the latest advances in telecommunication technologies. She has lectured in several different countries, including South Africa, where she was named a delegate in the first World Consumer Congress. She has held a number of state, national and international positions. In 1975, Florence served as the Official Member of the United States Delegation to the World Congress of the International Women's Year in Berlin, and in 1976 she served as a representative to the United Nations Congress of Non-governmental Organizations.

Florence Rice is the recipient of the Lane Bryant Award for Volunteer Service, the Sojourner Truth Award, and the Ophelia DeVore Award for Community Service, the National Urban League Frederick Douglass Award, the Consolidated Edison Better Business Award, the Josephine Shaw Lowell Award, the New York Consumer Assembly Prestigious Special Award and the Harold C. Burton Republican Club's 1977 Woman of the Year Award. On June 29, 2006, Florence Rice was interviewed by The HistoryMakers.

Florence M. Rice is a very dear friend and indeed a National Treasure.

SALUTING THE STUDENTS OF THE PLANO WEST SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, SHEPTON HIGH SCHOOL AND JASPER HIGH SCHOOL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA PROGRAM

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the students of the Plano West Senior High School, Shepton High School and Jasper High School joint FFA chapter on the achievement of Two-Star recognition in the 2009 Future Farmers of America National Chapter Award program.

According to the National FFA Organization, "The National Chapter Award program is designed to award FFA chapters who actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. Based on a chapter's Program of Activities (POA) local FFA chapters are recognized for working in established areas called "quality standards." The standards are organized into three divisions: Student development; Chapter development and Community development."

The PWSH-SHS-JHS Chapter has had a tremendous year of competition and community service leading up to this award.

The group received its Two-Star award at the 82nd National FFA Convention, October 21-24, 2009 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Six students and the program advisor, Cristen Fowler, were able to attend.

Congratulations one and all. I salute you. The names of the 2009 PWSH-SHS-JHS Future Farmers of America follow:

Syed Akhtar; Ethan Alexander; Sydney Alto; Will Baker; Kristen Barg; Lauren Beyer; Seneca Bottom; Nick Brandon; Mackenzie Brotzman; Chandler Buning; John Bunker; Alicia Cardena; Catherine Carroll; Fernando Carvallo; Claire Caudall; Heather Cook; Riley David; Jessica Davis; Sebra Debrecht; Caroline Deville; and Brittany Diamond.

Ashton Doeringsfeld; Paige Doherty; Thomas Dubis; Blair Edwards; Natalie Fears; Beth Fortner; Dimitri French; Allee Gargiullo; Amanda Goldstein; Marie Gowan; Bronte Hampton; Erik Hansen; Riley Harmon; McKenzie Hearn; Haley Henning; Sarah Herigon; Kyra Hochberg; Alyssa Horan; Jordan Hunt; Brandon Jacques; and Tanvi Jaiswal.

Jordan Johnson; Brook Johnson; Nick Kirkwood; Addison Lancaster; Max Leader; Tiffany Lee; Brian Lee; Brady Martin; Robyn McCaffrey; Molly McClellen; Robby McDermott; Molly McLaine; Sheddan Medhnie; Madeline Minchillo; Francine Moise; Trevor Mouton; Dardan Neziraz; Melissa Ng; Morgan Nussbaum; Haley Olberg; and Carolyn Pereira.

Haley Price; Brooke Ramsier; Molly Raymond; Morgan Reosenfeld; Ana Reyes; Luke Rivera; Jacob Rizos; Moses Rodriguez; Mark Rule; Dodge Salisbury; Stacy Samuels; Garrett Shepherd; Nia Stewart; Emma Strand; Allison Sutherland; Ore Vangruber; JT Wade; Austin Webster; Kelsey Webster; Claire Wheatly; Ryan Wincester; and Sam Young.