

is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

COMMENDING THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Water Replenishment District of Southern California on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

The Water Replenishment District of Southern California was created by the voters of California on November 17, 1959.

The successful election and creation of the Water Replenishment District was the culmination of a 17-year effort by groundwater producers in the Central and West Coast Basins to devise a system to finance and manage the restoration of dangerously depleted basins, retard and reverse the intrusion of sea water, institute a program of annual replenishment, and adjudicate and protect the rights of groundwater producers.

For five decades, the Water Replenishment District of Southern California has pursued this mission, assuring the continued beneficial use of the basins for groundwater production.

The programs and projects of the Water Replenishment District have included the pioneering use of recycled water and the capture and use of storm water for replenishment, multiple groundwater contamination cleanup projects in the Central Basin, desalination of brackish water in the West Coast Basin, and the supply of water to the sea water barrier wells in both basins. These successful programs have resulted in the steady reduction of reliance on the expensive and uncertain supply of imported water and a steady increase in the use of locally-developed water.

The goal of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California is to eliminate the use of imported water for replenishment by 2015. On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, I want to commend the district for a job well done and to recognize the crucial role the Water Replenishment district plays in the daily lives of Southern California residents.

HONORING MAX AND MARION VOLTERRA

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Max and Marion Volterra of Attleboro, Massachusetts. Max and Marion Volterra are pillars of their community. Their dedication and service to the betterment of the city of Attleboro is inspiring. In acknowledgement of their many contributions to the good and welfare of their community, they have been selected to receive the United Regional Chamber of Commerce's "2009 Persons of the Year" award.

Max Volterra has devoted the better part of his life to ensure the success and prosperity of the city of Attleboro. He served as a City Councilor and as City Solicitor prior to launching a successful campaign for State Representative. He then represented the city of Attleboro in the State Legislature until he was tapped to serve as Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Michael Dukakis in 1978.

Leaving state politics to return to his law practice in Attleboro, Max focused his attention on bringing a formerly vital and prosperous downtown back to life. He personally invested in the downtown by purchasing a vacant train station and converting it to office space for his law firm and other offices. He was one of the founding members of an organization called Friends of Attleboro Interested in Revitalization and served as a member and past chairman of the Attleboro Redevelopment Authority that was responsible for several successful economic development projects. He volunteered countless hours for the purpose of ensuring that Attleboro would once again become a vibrant place to work and raise a family.

Marion Volterra's many accomplishments parallel those of her husband. She embodies the concept that a truly successful community must provide opportunities for people of all ages and ethnicities to experience art and culture in order to produce well-rounded citizens. Marion has volunteered with the Attleboro Arts Museum for so many years that no one has any idea how long it has actually been. With her support and guidance, the museum has become an oasis in the center of the city, welcoming all to participate in its educational and cultural opportunities. In her spare time, Marion volunteers as a mentor to students at Attleboro High School and serves on the Board of Directors of the YMCA.

Together Max and Marion Volterra accomplish far more than the sum of their individual efforts, and do so with enthusiasm and dedication. In tribute to their outstanding service to the city of Attleboro, I congratulate Max and Marion Volterra on receiving this award. I know all my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to them today.

HONORING JACOB OWENS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Owens, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Owens for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING WNY AMERICORPS, PUSH BUFFALO, AND BUFFALO REUSE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, most are familiar with ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition program which embarks on the monumental task of building a new home from the ground up in just one week for a deserving family. Last week WNY AmeriCorps, People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH) Buffalo and Buffalo ReUse, organizations in my hometown, took on that job.

On a visit to the site I was expecting to see the team's progress on the Powell family home on Massachusetts Avenue but what I witnessed far exceeded expectations.

The extreme team, which comprised of WNY AmeriCorps, PUSH Buffalo and Buffalo ReUse, in partnership with David Homes and many more from the community stepping up to help, went house to house patching roofs, fixing porches, planting shrubs, painting siding and more.

Hailed by producers as unlike any community effort they've seen in the show's history, the organizations worked in perfect synchronization, Buffalo ReUse deconstructing and recycling building materials, AmeriCorps donating and managing volunteers by the thousands and PUSH Buffalo working throughout the neighborhood, all operating around the clock for one week improving over 50 homes. But it didn't stop there. Their generosity inspired others, prompting food and blood drives and the construction of a community garden.

Madam Speaker, today I am honored to recognize WNY AmeriCorps, PUSH Buffalo and Buffalo ReUse for taking on the assignment to develop a home and turning it into an opportunity to develop hope—hope for a family, a neighborhood and an entire city. While the spotlight highlighted their efforts last week, these organizations work quietly each and every day building a better future for the Western New York Community and for that we are deeply grateful.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD today becomes the longest-serving Member of Congress in our nation's history. I join my fellow West Virginians and, indeed, citizens from across the country in congratulating Senator BYRD for this historic record.

We mark Senator BYRD's longevity today, but that longevity is not what captures his greatness. I have worked with Senator BYRD for more than a quarter of a century—barely half of his tenure in the Senate—and I have known him for most of my life. His greatness is built on three pillars.

First is his personal story and the way that it has always informed his career. ROBERT C.

BYRD grew up as the adopted son of a miner, graduated as class valedictorian in the depths of the Great Depression. Unable to afford college, he worked where he could find employment—pumping gas, selling produce, cutting meat, welding metal in shipyards. He courted, married, and relied for almost 70 years on his beloved wife, Erma. He earned a law degree even while serving as a Member of Congress. The qualities of discipline, industry, integrity, and commitment underlying that personal history would define greatness in any man no matter his station in life.

Second is his profound connection to the people of West Virginia. Senator BYRD is of the people and he is for the people. He has given West Virginians a lifetime of commitment and faithful service, and the people in turn have given him an unbreakable bond of trust, respect, and deep affection. I cannot imagine ROBERT C. BYRD representing any state other than West Virginia—and I cannot imagine West Virginia without the decades of service Senator BYRD has given it.

Finally, Senator BYRD's greatness derives from his devotion to the Senate and reverence for the Constitution that established it. As that other icon of the Senate, Ted Kennedy, put it, "Bob Byrd personifies what our founding fathers were thinking about when they were thinking about a United States Senate. He brings the kind of qualities that the founding fathers believed were so important for service to the nation."

Madam Speaker, even as we congratulate Senator BYRD for his years of service to his state and his country, we also recognize that it is not the number of those years we are celebrating but the content of those years. That content demands that for as long as there are people who care about the history of this nation, the name ROBERT C. BYRD will be mentioned in the same breath as Daniel Webster, Robert La Follette, Henry Clay, Edward Kennedy—the half dozen or so true giants of the Senate.

HONORING 90 WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to honor a group of 90 World War II veterans from South Carolina who will make their way on November 21st to Washington, DC, in order to visit the World War II Memorial among other national monuments. Their visit will include the Korean, Vietnam and Lincoln Memorials, along with the National Cemetery at Arlington.

The veterans who make the journey to Washington represent all four branches of service, and they fought in all of the major theaters of the war. They fought in Europe in places like France, Italy, and Germany, and in the Pacific in islands like Guadalcanal and Okinawa. Represented in this group are veterans who saw service in pivotal battles such as D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, and Tarawa.

WWII was a time when America was at her best. Our nation met the threats of tyranny and fascism and came to the aid of our allies.

The valor of our veterans never shone more brightly, and the sacrifice borne by these veterans should never be forgotten.

We can never forget that WWII was a time of triumph and tragedy. Sixty million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American servicemembers were slain during the war.

In South Carolina, the war was a time of special sacrifice. 166,119 servicemembers from our state participated in the war. 4,153 lost their lives. We prize our WWII veterans in South Carolina and their tales of victory over tyranny.

Accompanying these veterans and representing the future leaders of our military and our next generation of veterans are students from Andrew Jackson High School's Reserve Officers Training Corps. These young leaders will benefit from the mentoring and guidance provided by the WWII veterans during this trip.

I would like to thank the volunteers from the Honor Flight of South Carolina. This group, ably led by Bill Dukes, Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer and Medal of Honor winner Charles Murray are to be commended for ensuring that these veterans have the opportunity to see the memorial dedicated to them.

I ask the House of Representatives to join with me in honoring these 90 veterans who make this memorable visit to Washington, and pay tribute to their service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PUD AND PUBLIC POWER UTILITIES

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rich history of Oregon's People's Utility Districts, PUD, and the efforts of Northern Wasco County PUD, the lone PUD in Oregon's Second Congressional District. Last month, Northern Wasco County PUD joined Oregon's numerous Municipal Electrical Utilities and Rural Electrical Cooperatives to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of Public Power Week and to recognize over seven decades of public power generated by the clean and renewable federal hydropower system in the Pacific Northwest. I commend Northern Wasco County PUD for their continued commitment to the utilization of clean renewable power in Wasco County, as well as their exemplary efforts in energy efficiency and conservation.

On September 28, 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt stood on Oregon soil as he dedicated the newly constructed Bonneville Dam, which became one of the first in a series of dams to be installed along the Columbia River as part of the President's vision to improve economic opportunities, flood control and, more importantly, provide electricity to communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. Since that day, public power utilities across Oregon, including Northern Wasco County PUD, have harnessed the renewable power of the region's hydroelectric dams to provide clean renewable electricity to Oregon's communities and deliver steady supplies of power to small and large businesses. By providing some of the lowest-cost power to businesses in the Nation, public power utilities play a major role

in maintaining thousands of jobs throughout rural and urban Oregon.

Besides delivering reliable hydropower, public power utilities and their ratepayers' across the West have invested a tremendous amount of financial resources in energy conservation and renewable energy projects. Since Congress passed the 1980 Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana have conserved a combined 3,700 average-megawatts of energy. This savings is equal to the annual combined energy needs of Idaho and western Montana, or the output of seven 500-megawatt coal-fired power plants. These conservation efforts have also resulted in a reduction of 13.5 million tons of CO₂ emissions and nearly \$2 billion in consumer savings per year.

Over the years, Northern Wasco County PUD customers have invested \$27 million in two hydroelectric projects, both of which allow for enhanced fish passage and an increased supply of renewable power. These projects include a five-megawatt generator located at The Dalles Dam and a 10-megawatt generator at the McNary Dam. Both projects generate clean power with no emissions and enhance the survival of listed fish along the main stem of the Columbia River.

In addition, Northern Wasco County PUD is developing a methane gas capture energy project in partnership with the The Dalles, Oregon at the city's wastewater treatment plant as well as a micro-hydroelectric generation installation on the city's water mainline. Furthermore, Northern Wasco County PUD is exploring a U.S. Department of Energy grant for potential geothermal generation in cooperation with a group of other northwest utilities. From my conversations with Northern Wasco County PUD officials, I know they are most proud of their commitment to providing their residential and industrial customers with adequate and predictable supplies of energy at affordable prices, especially in light of the difficult economic circumstances facing rural Oregon.

I also know that the commitment of public power utilities to providing clean renewable energy options for customers is strong. In fact, many now offer their residential, commercial and industrial customers the option of purchasing up to 100 percent renewable electricity produced from resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, biomass and low-impact hydro.

Madam Speaker, as the debate continues about how to best address climate change, energy independence, and our smarter energy future, it is imperative that entities providing public power in the Pacific Northwest, like Northern Wasco County PUD, receive credit for the work and investments they have already made in protecting our environment through the responsible use of the renewable energy hydropower system and through energy conservation. I commend them for these efforts.

IN MEMORY OF KEITH ROMAINE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Brookhaven Town Councilman