

of Medicare beneficiaries to get the care they need to stay healthy. I am pleased that this new formula would compensate physicians fairly for their services to seniors.

As a U.S. Representative and the spouse of a physician, I have heard from many physicians, nurses, and other health care providers frustrated with the annual ritual of preventing major Medicare physician payment cuts. I am pleased that this legislation, a crucial part of health care reform, would stop this cycle and reset the Medicare physician payment baseline to ensure seniors continue to have access to their doctors. In addition, this bill recognizes the importance of primary care, a key component of health reform, and would provide seniors with greater access to primary care practitioners. This would help seniors with greater coordination of their medical care and promote medical care that keeps seniors healthy.

Additionally, the legislation we are considering today would require all new spending to be paid for and not increase the debt by instituting pay-as-you-go budgeting as law. I support pay-as-you-go rules because fiscal discipline must always be a hallmark of our government. In the 1990s with pay-as-you-go as the law, we turned the massive deficits of the 1980s into a record surplus under President Clinton. Pay-as-you-go is only one tool, but it is a strong one to return our Nation back to fiscal stability.

I voted in favor of this bill to help physicians and health care providers continue to provide excellent service to our Nation's seniors.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALTHEA
THOMPSON THOMAS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to Althea Thompson Thomas of Montgomery, Alabama.

Mrs. Thomas currently serves at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church as the church's organist. In June of 1955, she was hired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and from her unique vantage point seated in the organ pit, she was able to witness his sermons each Sunday with an up close and personal view of the pulpit.

Mrs. Thomas is an accomplished composer, musician, artist, writer and educator. She has written and arranged musical pieces throughout her life and published musical compositions including four musical dramas, eleven books of piano works, three books of organ works and 25 choral works.

She has served as organist for several churches and her artwork has been exhibited across Alabama and the Southeast.

Over the years, she taught band, choral music and art in the Montgomery Public Schools and taught art, organ, piano, music theory and appreciation at Alabama State University and Alabama State Laboratory High School. She most recently worked at Alabama State University as an Adjunct Professor. Since 1982, she has taught piano, organ, wind instruments, percussions and guitar at the Thompson Legacy Studios (House of the Arts).

She is the daughter of the late H.O. Thompson and the late Faustine Hilliard Thompson. She is married to Wiley Thomas, Jr. and the mother of 6 children.

Mrs. Thomas has touched the lives of children and adults alike through her teaching, and I commend her for her dedication. I congratulate her on being honored at Dexter Avenue Memorial King Baptist Church for her contributions to the arts.

CONGRATULATING FIRM OF
COONEY, FAULKNER, AND STEVENS
ON THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the accounting firm of Cooney, Faulkner, and Stevens on their 10th Anniversary. In 1999, the firm was founded by partners Thomas Cooney, Crystal Faulkner, and Charles Stevens. Just five years later, in 2004, it was named Small Business of the Year by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce—the first accounting firm to receive such an honor.

Many Cincinnati institutions have come to rely on the firm's accounting experience and expertise over the past ten years. The firm is also routinely recognized for its many philanthropic and volunteer endeavors. Just recently, the firm participated in the 10th Accounting for Kids Day. Cooney, Faulkner and Stevens founded this event to promote financial literacy.

Many Cincinnatians are familiar with Thomas Cooney and Crystal Faulkner's weekday radio show titled BusinessWise on 89.7 WNKU. And Crystal Faulkner is the weekly host of Business Report on WCPO Channel 9.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Cooney, Faulkner, and Stevens on their 10th Anniversary and in wishing them continued success in the future.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was \$12,113,047,538,115.42. We have added \$102,485,795,900.21 to the national debt since the last day we were in session, November 19th.

On January 6th, 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 \$1,474,621,791,821.62 so far this year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we 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.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
FRANCIS P. COSGROVE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Francis P. Cosgrove. For 35 years, Judge Cosgrove has served on the Philadelphia Municipal Court, and in December he will celebrate his retirement after decades of service to his community.

Judge Cosgrove served on active duty in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953. He graduated from LaSalle College in 1956 and received his Juris Doctorate from Temple University School of Law in 1963. After his graduation, Judge Cosgrove became a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association and went into private practice from 1964 to 1973. In November of 1973, he was elected judge to the Municipal Court of Philadelphia. Judge Cosgrove served in this capacity from 1974 through 1998. On February 18, 1998, he was appointed to Senior Judge status for the Philadelphia Municipal Court. On December 31, 2009, Judge Cosgrove will retire from the bench after 35 years.

In addition to his service on the Municipal Court, Judge Cosgrove is a member of several committees and organizations dedicated to bettering the Philadelphia community and beyond. He is a part of the Catholic War Veterans, St. Thomas Moore Society, Knights of Columbus, Polish American Citizens League, Polish-America Congress, and is a gold card carrying member of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craft workers.

Judge Cosgrove's long and impressive career showcases his commitment and service to his community. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Judge Cosgrove for his work and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE 90
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the ninety years of service by the West Virginia State Police.

Audiences throughout the world have always been transfixed by the American lawman, from the earliest days of radio with the Lone Ranger and Dragnet, to today's televised prolific forensic adventures. In West Virginia this week, we shall go a long way in setting the record right, celebrating the real human spirit, and illuminating the costly sacrifices of the steadfast mission galvanized by the shields worn proudly across our state, "To Serve and Protect."

The West Virginia State Police have given the people of West Virginia nine decades of dedication and commitment by an unbroken long line of forest green. This remarkable group of professionals, our nation's fourth oldest state police agency, has a storied history and rich tradition of service.

In acknowledgment and with gratitude, the West Virginia Department of Culture and History is opening a splendid exhibit entitled, "Celebrating Ninety Years of the West Virginia State Police," which will stand as a permanent display in the West Virginia State Museum, in tribute to this fine organization.

Stretching over 90 years of history, born in the trademark forest green uniforms worn today, the West Virginia State Police force armed with 21st century tools, technologies, and expertise is the foundation for law enforcement in our democratic society. Theirs is a story of an admirable path of honor and bravery. It is one of men and women who are known, respected and recognized nationally for their efforts in law enforcement.

Throughout their proud legacy and often in the face of great change, West Virginia State Police officers have been at the ready, answering trouble, turmoil, and even tornadoes of one form or another, with speed, accuracy and more often than not, a deep understanding of those they serve. For all this we are, and will forever be, grateful.

Today, as we celebrate roads well travelled and those yet to be blazed, I share great pride with the people of West Virginia.

And, to all the men and women of the West Virginia State Police—past and present, uniformed and non-uniformed—I express my deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks for their service and commitment to the safety and security of the people of West Virginia.

I hope my colleagues here in the Congress will join me in congratulating everyone with the West Virginia State Police and their families on their 90th anniversary and offer our sincerest best wishes for their continued success.

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3961, the Medicare Physician "Payment Reform Act. We recently made history when we passed H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act and now we must pass H.R. 3961 to guarantee access to physician-provided benefits in Medicare.

As we work to overhaul our flawed system to improve health security for all Americans, we must fix policies that consistently threaten to reduce access to care for seniors and people with disabilities. H.R. 3962 makes substantive improvements to the Medicare program. We lower Medicare drug costs, eliminate cost sharing for preventive services, and strengthen federal oversight on deceptive marketing practices in the Medicare Advantage program. Unfortunately, unless we act, Medicare physicians will face a 21 percent rate cut in less than 2 months. So, too, will physicians serving military members, retiree and families in TRICARE, where rates are linked to Medicare payments.

We need to fix that problem and create a new payment system that will fairly and adequately reimburse doctors. Time and again we have shied away from permanently fixing the

Medicare payment system. This is a time for big ideas and bold health care changes. The time to act is now. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3961.

RECOGNIZING THE SMART CAR WASH IN WOODBRIDGE, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a bold and innovative new business breaking ground in my district. The Smart Car Wash is raising the bar for environmental stewardship in the car wash industry with its new LEED certified conveyer car wash in Woodbridge, Virginia.

The new car wash facility will be the first such facility to achieve LEED certification from the United States Green Building Council. The building uses advanced water recycling beyond the industry standard, to include rain-water capture and advanced water cleansing with technology borrowed from the marine industry. This includes reclaiming and reusing over 90% of the water from car wash operations and using car wash chemicals that are bio-friendly. To reduce overall energy consumption by 50% most of the facility's equipment will use Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) technology.

This new venture is just one of the high quality investments businesses are making around the country. The Smart Car Wash received a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan to finance a project that will bring fifteen new jobs to the Woodbridge area. The SBA's 504 lending program recently received funding from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act to provide opportunity's to entrepreneurs hoping to show confidence in the American economy with new investments. The Smart Car Wash stands as a shining example of our nation's commitment to creating jobs and tackling the world's most pressing energy issues.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in showing our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of The Smart Car Wash team. It is through courageous investments and initiatives like this one that our country will continue to realize a robust and cutting edge economy.

KENTUCKY SPACE JOINS NASA PROJECT FOR EDUCATIONAL AND BUSINESS RESEARCH ON SPACE STATION

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kentucky Space's role in exciting new developments in space. Recently, this Kentucky enterprise partnered with NanoRacks LLC, a Houston-based aerospace company chosen by NASA to design, coordinate, and conduct research on the International Space Station to further the needs of both educational and commercial clients. Kentucky Space has been called upon by

NanoRacks to assist in the design and integration of U.S. research payloads which will fly aboard the international space station starting in mid-2010.

The possibilities of what we can do outside the Earth's atmosphere are endless and include great promise for all nations and all people. This broadening of our current use of the space station opens doors to the endless opportunities for research in technologies ranging from new medical treatments and equipment to alternative clean energy. These technologies will create jobs and can improve quality of life as well as save lives. The need for this expansion is clear, and I am proud that Kentucky Space is a pioneer in this new realm.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in applauding Kentucky Space along with NASA, the Augustine Commission and the White House for their work and support in furtherance of cost-efficient space research. The movement toward new uses of our space station will assure the continued leadership of the U.S. in our exciting exploration of the universe.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS DUGAN

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize a heroic resident of the 4th District of California, Thomas Dugan of Roseville. This 11-year-old boy scout displayed courage and selflessness when he dove into a pool to save his young neighbor.

On September 20, 2008, while attending a neighbor's birthday party, Tom heard his 2-year-old neighbor, Cine, fall into his neighbor's pool. Without hesitation, Tom dove into the pool to save the drowning girl. Barely able to keep his head above water to breathe, Tom treaded water until he was able to push young Cine out of the pool and onto the deck.

For his bravery, Tom has been awarded the Boys Scouts of America Heroism Award. I am privileged and humbled to represent great constituents like Tom, and I wanted to take this brief opportunity today, Madam Speaker, to let my colleagues know of his great act of courage.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Interior Appropriations Act, 2010, H.R. 2996.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2996

STAG

City of Monroe, Louisiana

Monroe Wastewater Treatment System—\$500,000. Portions of the wastewater collection system were constructed in the 1920s and