

its NATO obligations, or follow its legal obligations as demanded by Congress, Turkey retaliated by closing all American military installations on Turkish soil, and by severely restricting American access at two NATO bases. At that time, military installations in Turkey were deemed essential surveillance posts in the Cold War fight against the Soviet Union. Turkey refused to reopen these facilities until the U.S. lifted the arms embargo, signaling that its relationship with the United States was never more than a transactional one, rather than one rooted in a shared commitment to the rule of law, individual liberties, democracy, and collective Western security.

July 20th marks 36 years that the Turkish military has occupied Cyprus. In that time, neither the Republic of Cyprus nor its people have directed any aggression towards Turkey. In stark contrast, Turkey maintains an active colonization program where it is illegally resettling some 180,000 Anatolian Turks into the homes and possessions of the 200,000 Greek Cypriots it evicted from the occupied territories. The Turkish military is also systematically eradicating the Hellenic and Christian heritage from the occupied territories. All but 5 of the 500 Greek Orthodox Churches in the occupied territories have been looted, desecrated, or destroyed. To no avail, the international community including the United States, the European Union, the United Nations, the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice have all called on Turkey to honor its international obligations and cease and desist from these hostilities against the people of Cyprus.

The Republic of Cyprus is a full-fledged member of the European Union. Turkey seeks that status as well, but as a NATO member illegally occupying European Union soil, Turkey put NATO and the EU at loggerheads. The result is that the EU and NATO are unable to cooperate in the consolidation of their economic and strategic interests in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Turkey's ongoing occupation of Cyprus is compelling evidence that it has little interest in meeting the standards of individual liberties, human rights and religious tolerance shared by America and other democratic nations. Lacking the ties that bind, Turkey is apparently quite willing to jeopardize relations with its long-time allies. Witness its 2003 denial of the deployment of U.S. forces along the Northern Iraq border and its recent vote in the U.N. against Iran sanctions.

The United States and its allies must call upon Turkey to abide by international law and meet its responsibilities as a dependable NATO partner. And on this, the 36th anniversary of the invasion and occupation of Cyprus, the United States should demand an immediate withdrawal of the 45,000 Turkish soldiers now occupying northern Cyprus. Until that occurs, policymakers in the White House and in the Congress must press the issue in every interaction with their Turkish counterparts. In this way, the United States can work towards establishing a strong, enduring, and values based alliance with Turkey that will serve to bring justice to the people of Cyprus, strengthen NATO, and reinforce collective Western security.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON THE WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT (H.R. 4173)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 4173). This legislation will finally bring accountability to big banks and ensure Minnesota families are protected from high-stakes Wall Street speculation. I want to thank my colleagues on the House-Senate conference committee for their hard-fought negotiations to finalize this landmark bill.

In the fall of 2008, our country's financial system stood on the brink of collapse. The failure of large financial institutions quickly led to sinking home prices, a collapse in retirement savings, and job losses on a scale not seen since the Great Depression. Despite overwhelming opposition from Republicans and relentless lobbying from special interests, Congress has responded with legislation that imposes the toughest regulation of Wall Street in a generation.

House Republican Leader JOHN BOEHNER told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review on June 29th, 2010 that these tough new rules are like "killing an ant with a nuclear weapon." I could not disagree more. Wall Street's recklessness cost Americans 8 million jobs and \$17 trillion in retirement savings. When Republicans controlled Congress and the White House, they weakened the regulations American families relied upon for protection and left the economy vulnerable to financial crisis. H.R. 4173 restores common sense rules for banks and creates new protections for consumers after a decade of recklessness. The passage of this legislation protects taxpayers and their retirement funds, college accounts, and homes from risky decisions by CEOs, lenders, and speculators. The era of Wall Street gambling with the economic security of the American people is over, and a new age of financial accountability and transparency is about to begin.

Rebuilding the American economy and putting people back to work requires a stable financial sector that is regulated responsibly. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this historic legislation.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT CHRISTIAN G. RATA CZAK

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Sergeant Christian G. Rataczak, who passed away on July 9, 2010.

Born in Minneapolis, Christian moved to Phoenix with his family when he was five months old. After high school and college, he joined the National Guard and was deployed

to Afghanistan for a year where he served as an Apache helicopter mechanic in Bravo Company, 1/285th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion. Wearing the uniform of the United States Army and serving his country was something he never took for granted. He was an outstanding soldier who will be remembered fondly by his Officers, NCOs and fellow Soldiers for his outstanding personality and attitude.

Christian worked for Dillon Aero of Scottsdale, and loved his job. His coworkers remember him as someone who was a joy to work with and was always willing to help no matter the circumstance.

We remember Christian and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Christian made a difference in the lives of many others and serves as an example of a competent and caring leader and friend that will live on in the hearts and minds of all those he touched.

Christian is survived by his mother Cheryl, his father Dave, his sister Jennifer, brother-in-law Todd, nephew Tanner, niece Hailey and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. His father, Dave, the former Adjutant General of the Arizona Guard, and his wife Cheryl are both close members of the Arizona military family and we mourn this tragic loss with them.

This body and this country owe Christian and his family our deepest gratitude, and we will today and forevermore honor and remember him and his service to our country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,242,893,842,328.75.

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 \$2,604,468,096,034.95 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING THE UNL PANHANDLE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, July 24, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Panhandle Research and Extension Center will celebrate 100 years of service to Western Nebraska.

It goes without saying agriculture is the lifeblood of Nebraska's Third District, and the entire state as well. The Third District of Nebraska encompasses 65,000 square miles. It

is not unheard of for one area of the state to be dealing with drought conditions while another area is having flooding.

This is exactly why this facility is so important to the panhandle of Nebraska. Western Nebraska grows a completely different set of crops from the eastern areas of our state. The land is different, the growing season is shorter, even the kinds of bugs and weeds are different. Timely and appropriate information and research can mean the difference between a successful growing season and a disappointing one.

The original experimental substation was constructed on 160 acres provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. By July 1910 an office and laboratory had been built, in addition to a barn, grain bin, machine shed and other structures. USDA managed the plots until 1948, when the land and management were turned over to the State of Nebraska, and subsequently the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Today, the Panhandle Research and Extension Center has over a dozen faculty members—most of which hold joint appointments in research and extension. Disciplines such as entomology, weed science, irrigation management, machinery systems, plant pathology, alternative crops, dry bean breeding, cow-calf production and range management, and entrepreneur and business development—among others—are represented.

The Center has made a tremendous difference over the last 100 years, and I fully expect the impact to continue on long into the future.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF RICHARD D. GASKALLA, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant, who has made an invaluable contribution toward safeguarding the future of agricultural production in our State and Nation. Richard D. Gaskalla, serving as Director, Division of Plant Industry, has distinguished himself through a marked career at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. His exemplary service over the last 25 years is to be commended. I rise to honor Richard Gaskalla on the occasion of his retirement from the Florida Department of Agriculture, and congratulate him on his future endeavors as he moves on to serve and protect our Nation through the Department of Homeland Security.

Raised in Jacksonville, Florida, Mr. Gaskalla graduated from Florida State University in 1975 with a degree in Biological Sciences. He began his career as a District Agricultural Products Specialist in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, Bureau of Plant Inspection.

He quickly progressed, promoted to Agricultural Products Specialist Supervisor responsible for interpretation and dissemination of plant import and export regulations, post entry

quarantine programs, and the Bureau of Plant Inspection's interactions with the Division of Inspection, Bureau of Road Guard Agricultural Inspection Stations. In 1988, he was appointed Director of the Division of Plant Industry overseeing all division programs, including emergency pest and disease eradication activities and other functions.

Under his direction, the Division of Plant Industry has strengthened the state of preparedness against threats of serious agricultural pests and diseases. His steadfast and committed efforts, in collaboration with many agencies and organizations at the State, regional, and national level have directly enhanced policies affecting Florida and U.S. agriculture.

As a dedicated and knowledgeable leader in the field of plant pest regulatory programs, Richard Gaskalla has made valuable contributions through his service on many national panels and oversight bodies. His work on the Safeguarding American Plant Resources Review set forth a comprehensive policy designed to improve United States agriculture protection programs. Mr. Gaskalla also served on the National Plant Board Advisory Council, which provides a direct line for input and communication on policies, issues, quarantines that affect U.S. and international agricultural production.

He has facilitated safe trade among nations, based on sound phytosanitary scientific standards, formulating several successful export certifications for U.S. agricultural products to foreign markets. In his tenure with the Division of Plant Industry, Mr. Gaskalla was involved in several efforts to combat dangerous pests and disease threatening the State and region's agricultural production including the Mediterranean fruit fly, imported Fire Ants, shipment and preservation of nursery and foliage stock, biological control activities against exotic predators, and noxious weed detection. In addition, his leadership responsibilities strengthened and bolstered other regulatory programs involving honey bee inspections, boll weevil eradication, Caribbean fruit fly protocol, and commodity treatments.

Most recently, Mr. Gaskalla has been involved in the development and implementation of the Citrus Health Response Program, a critical national program designed to help mitigate the impact of dangerous pests and diseases facing North American citrus.

Richard Gaskalla has been awarded numerous awards and citations, including among other prestigious honors, the United States Department of Agriculture Honor Award.

It is my privilege to honor Richard Gaskalla's outstanding public service upon his retirement from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and thank him for his countless contributions and tireless efforts to safeguard and sustain American agriculture. I commend and recognize his efforts, and am pleased that our nation will continue to benefit from his future endeavors to protect America's valuable resources and secure our food supply.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL
ROGER A. WILSON, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Colonel Roger A. Wilson, Jr. is retiring as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District Commander. He has diligently served in this role for three years.

After earning degrees from The Citadel, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the U.S. Army War College, Colonel Wilson went on to lead engineering battalions across the United States and around the world. In addition to these assignments, he served in combat operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Afghanistan.

As Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District, Colonel Wilson oversaw many military and civil works projects throughout the District. From overseeing construction projects at the region's many military installations to ensuring our levees and dams are structurally sound, Colonel Wilson ably led an office with diverse mandates and responsibilities. Although his résumé boasts many accomplishments, Colonel Wilson's work to maintain the superiority of the Emergency Operations Center, which plays a vital role in responding to natural disasters whenever and wherever they may occur, is most impressive.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Wilson is a true professional and has exhibited remarkable leadership during his time as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District Commander. I trust my fellow members of the House will join me in wishing him well in the days to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF KENTUCKY'S METCALFE COUNTY AND CITY OF EDMONTON

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of Kentucky's Metcalfe County and city of Edmonton. Metcalfe County became the 106th county in the Commonwealth of Kentucky on May 1st 1860 and was named in honor of Kentucky's 10th governor, Thomas Metcalfe. Its sesquicentennial is a significant milestone for Metcalfe County and one I am pleased to honor.

Through the course of the history of Edmonton and Metcalfe County, its citizens have endured hard times and sacrifices. Its sons and daughters have answered the call to serve in every war beginning with the Civil War and continuing through this day. The town of Edmonton was settled as a result of the sacrifice, work and vision of Edmund Rogers, a Revolutionary War veteran and cousin to General George Rogers Clark and William Clark. In March of 1826, the first United States Post Office was established in Edmonton, which changed its image from that of a trading post