

Georgia GOP. It was during this time that Paul met and formed a friendship with then-Governor George H. W. Bush—who would later appoint Coverdell to serve as the Peace Corps Director when he became President.

In 1992, Coverdell was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he was influential on many different committees. Under the slogan "Coverdell Works," Paul became the first Republican from Georgia ever to be re-elected to the U.S. Senate. In his second term as Senator, he created the Coverdell Education Savings Accounts, also known as the "Coverdell Plans." These accounts have allowed millions of students to save money and then withdraw it later—tax free—in order to fund their college educations.

Senator Coverdell left a lasting impression on both the State of Georgia and the Nation—and I am honored to have known and worked with him. He understood the importance of compromise, and was very well respected and liked by people of all political persuasions. We miss him to this day, and my thoughts and prayers are with Senator Coverdell's wife Nancy this week.

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. KRUSE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, the United States is blessed in many ways, but the ingenuity, patriotism, and character of the people who make up the fabric of our country are the greatest of our strengths. The characteristics of our people—the values we learn from our fathers, mothers, grandparents, and siblings—help to define American leadership. Outstanding American leaders walk among us each day.

One such American leader is the current president of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, Missouri National Guard Brigadier General (Retired) Charlie Kruse, who with his wife Pam have become dear friends of mine through the years. I learned this week that Charlie plans to retire from the Farm Bureau after serving as its president since 1992. While his retirement will be a loss to the Farm Bureau family and to those of us in Congress who work with him, I know that Charlie and Pam will continue serving the people of Missouri and the farmers and military personnel who call the Show-Me State home.

Charlie is a native of Dexter, Missouri, located in the southeastern portion of the state. He is an Eagle Scout who earned that rank in 1959 and then went on to graduate in 1963 from Dexter High School. Charlie and Pam continue to farm in Dexter.

Charlie graduated in 1967 from Arkansas State University with a degree in agronomy and graduated in 1973 with a Masters of Science in Agronomy from Missouri University. As a distinguished graduate from Mizzou, I know Charlie must have been thrilled when in 1983, Missouri Governor Kit Bond appointed him to the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

In 1985, Missouri Governor John Ashcroft honored Charlie by appointing him to his cabinet as Missouri Director of Agriculture. In 1990, he became the only Missourian to serve

on President George H. W. Bush's Council on Rural America and was appointed to the Inter-governmental Advisory Committee of U.S. Trade Representative Carla A. Hills.

In 1991, Charlie became executive vice president of the North American Equipment Dealers Association but resigned that post in August 1992 to seek the presidency of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation. Charlie was elected president of the Missouri Farm Bureau that year.

During his tenure as Missouri Farm Bureau president, Charlie has been a state and national leader in agricultural policy making and has well represented the interests of Show-Me State farmers during Congressional farm bill debates. He has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the U.S. Meat Export Federation; the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture; the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, and Oilseeds; the Missouri State Government Review Commission; the Missouri Plant Biotechnology Advisory Committee; and President George W. Bush's Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations. Charlie has also served as chairman of the American Farm Bureau's Task Force on the U.S. Livestock Industry; chairman of the American Farm Bureau's Trade Advisory Committee; and a member of the board of directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (FARMER MAC).

Charlie's agricultural career has been paralleled by a career in military uniform. In 1967, Charlie enlisted in the Missouri Army National Guard as an infantryman. He worked his way through the ranks from Private to Brigadier General. As a general officer in the Missouri Army National Guard, Charlie served as Assistant Adjutant General of Missouri. Charlie retired from the Army in 1993 after 26 years of distinguished service. We owe him and his family a debt of gratitude for his military service.

Because of his outstanding leadership, Charlie holds many awards and honors. But, despite these accolades, I expect Charlie's top honor is being a husband and a father.

Madam Speaker, I wish Charlie, Pam, and their family all the best as they transition into a new chapter of life. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in expressing a debt of gratitude to them.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,237,494,446,894.52.

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 \$2,554,068,701.72 so far this Congress.

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

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ENSURE RISK ASSESSMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster is a terrible reminder of the inherent safety, environmental, and economic risks associated with offshore drilling. This tragedy claimed the lives of 11 people and released millions of gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico, forcing people out of work, devastating beaches and fisheries for years to come, and impacting our food supply.

BP's so-called response plan to deal with such a disaster was a farce: it listed a wildlife expert that had been deceased since 2005 and said that sensitive biological resources in the Gulf included walrus, sea otters, sea lions and seals, none of which actually live there. BP also stated that it could handle a worst case oil discharge scenario 10 times the size of the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

These glaring flaws in its response plan make it abundantly clear that BP did not take the permitting process seriously. There was virtually no thought or time put into developing these plans and certainly no accountability.

Today I am introducing legislation to ensure that risk assessment and emergency response preparedness for offshore drilling are more than an exercise in pushing paper. My legislation would require the chief executive officer of each offshore drilling and production operation under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to annually certify (1) the demonstrated capability of the operation's exploration and production plans to respond immediately and effectively to the worst-case oil spill in real-world conditions; and (2) that each plan, to their knowledge, is an accurate and effective response to a worst-case oil spill in real-world conditions, under risk of personal civil penalties.

Ever since the BP Deepwater Horizon well began spewing oil into the Gulf of Mexico, executives from BP have repeatedly excused their inability to seal the well by describing the difficult circumstances in which they are operating. I am willing to acknowledge that, because the well is 5,000 feet below the surface, effectively stopping the flow of oil is a technological challenge. But I believe these are all things that should have been considered before BP began drilling the well. And I believe that if company executives are accountable for the content of their proposals to address these safety concerns, one of two things will happen. Either they will ensure that they do have an effective and realistic response capability to an oil spill. Or they will not drill the well.

This tragedy is a game-changing event. We must reevaluate our policy on offshore drilling emergency response preparedness and bring accountability to risk assessment and the planning process. This legislation would go a long way toward ensuring our offshore drilling operations have thoughtful, accurate, and useful response plans.

Offshore drilling operations, no matter how technologically advanced, can never completely eliminate the risk of a major disaster

but it is incumbent upon us to make sure these companies have a plan to respond when disaster does strike.

I hope my colleagues will support this simple but overdue legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES KING
PICKETT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a longtime Mobile resident, and a very special friend, Charles King Pickett, who passed away at the age of 74 on March 4, 2010.

King, as he was affectionately known to his family and many friends, was loved by everyone who knew him. He never met a stranger and always had a kind word for others.

He served America with uncommon dedication as a paratrooper with the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division and in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

The founder of Pickett and Adams Insurance Agency in Mobile, King shepherded his very successful business for more than four decades before retiring in 2003.

An active member of the community, King Pickett helped launch the Port City Pacers and led by example, jogging over 30,000 miles during his lifetime.

Harkening back to his Army paratrooper days, he also enjoyed recreational skydiving, racking up 115 jumps, including one on his 70th birthday.

He was a strong supporter of Mobile's Mardi Gras and was an active member of both the Knights of Revelry and the Comic Cowboys. Additionally, King was very involved in the Cellular South 1st and 10 Club, Mobile's Senior Bowl football game and numerous other community events such as the American Cancer Society's Chili Cook-Off.

Madam Speaker, Joseph Kennedy once said "The measure of a man's success in life is not the money he's made . . . it's the kind of family he has raised."

King was deeply loved by his son, Dr. Taylor King Pickett, his daughter, Eliska Pickett Morgan, my deputy chief of staff and district director, as well as his wonderful grandsons, William Roe, Smith Pickett and Michael Morgan, as well as his lovely granddaughters, Riley Pickett, Taylor Roe, Hannah Pickett and Adalee Pickett. He also leaves behind hundreds of friends throughout South Alabama. In a very real way, we were all King's family.

As his longtime friend, C. Dennis McCann, recently observed in a letter published in the Mobile Press-Register, "King always brought a contagious happiness to everyone he met."

Without question, Mobile lost a great citizen and a dear friend this past March.

On behalf of all those who knew and loved King, I offer my deepest condolences to his family. King Pickett lived a truly remarkable life and his death leaves a void which is not possible to be filled.

IN MEMORY OF DR. ROBERT N.
BUTLER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Robert N. Butler, the father of modern gerontology. Dr. Butler, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, researcher, and psychiatrist, died at the age of 83 on July 4th at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. Dr. Butler was known for coining the phrase "ageism" to describe the discrimination against the elderly. He made it his life work to help create a health care system in which Americans would grow old with dignity and respect. I was honored to be a co-founder and to serve on the Alliance for Aging Board with Dr. Butler. It is truly a privilege to recognize the leading advocate for the treatment and care of the elderly.

Dr. Robert Butler was born in 1927 in New York, and raised by his grandparents on a chicken farm in southern New Jersey. His close bond with his grandparents sparked his passion and interest in the strength and determination of the elderly.

After serving in the U.S. Maritime Service, Dr. Butler attended Columbia University, where he received his undergraduate degree in 1949 and medical degree in 1953. He studied psychiatry and neurology as a resident at the University of California; later joining National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland as a research psychiatrist. He studied the central nervous system in elderly people, and helped investigate problems in nursing homes. Dr. Butler was a U.S. Public Health Service surgeon from 1955 to 1962. During the 1960's he maintained a private practice, while he was a researcher and gerontologist at the Washington School of Psychiatry. He also taught at several medical schools, including Georgetown, Howard, and George Washington Universities.

In 1976, Dr. Butler became the founding director of the National Institute on Aging at the National Institute of Health. During his time there, he successfully pressed Congress to increase research funding, particularly for Alzheimer's disease. Later, he established and led one of the first comprehensive geriatrics departments at an American medical school at Mount Sinai Hospital. His efforts lead to an overhaul in the treatment of the elderly by improving the education of doctors.

Throughout his career, Dr. Butler authored hundreds of articles and various books about the biology and sociology of aging. He wrote his most famous book in 1975 titled, "Why Survive? Being Old in America", which won him the Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction. Since its founding in 1986 until his death, Dr. Butler was the Vice Chair and served on the Board of the Alliance for Aging Research. This non-profit based in Washington, DC is the nation's leading citizen advocacy organization for promoting a broad agenda of medical and scientific research to improve the health and independence of older Americans.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Butler's accomplishments are very personal to me. I help found the Alliance for Aging Research and served as an officer for 22 years. I worked closely with Dr. Butler, as he provided guidance and inspi-

ration for the organization's mission. I am deeply saddened by the loss of a true medical pioneer, and a true friend. Dr. Butler always believed that if you love what you do and can contribute to society, then there is work to be done. He worked until three days before his death. He will be remembered for his groundbreaking work in the field of gerontology, which has changed the medical landscape and will greatly impact the lives of every American.

HONORING THE 50TH ANIVERSARY
OF THE 1960 OLYMPIC TEAM IN
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE AU-
GUST 27, 2010

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Madam Speaker, fifty years ago, arguably the greatest Olympic team in history—the United States Summer Olympic Team—traveled to Rome, Italy and proceeded to take over the athletic world. This Olympics, and this Olympic team, not only surpassed athletic marvels, but also broke racial, gender and ethnic barriers in doing so. On August 27, 2010, Nashville, Tennessee will be the home of the gathering of these champions, whose exploits are chronicled in David Maraniss' fantastic book, "Rome 1960: The Olympics That Changed the World." This event is more than a gathering of greats. It is also a fundraiser for the Ed Temple Foundation, and proceeds from this event will help low income families in Franklin, Tennessee and surrounding communities. I am proud to rise in support of this most worthwhile endeavor.

The names from these Olympics are part of athletic history and lore. During the 1960 Olympics, women's track and field, heretofore an afterthought, was catapulted to the world's stage through the incredible achievements of the Tigerbelles of Tennessee State University. Led by legendary humanitarian, educator and coach Ed Temple of Tennessee State University, Mae Faggs, Wilma Rudolph, Wyomia Tyus, Edith McGuire, Chandra Cheeseborough and others illustrated that women could perform with grace, class and honor. I was blessed and remain blessed to have had the personal friendship of Wilma Rudolph for more than two decades. Her spirit, strength and service are an example to all Americans, especially during these racially trying times. These women—strong, proud African American women—shattered traditional and outdated stereotypes, furthering the cause of equality and justice for all Americans. Coach Temple would end his career as the greatest track and field coach in Olympic history, as the women on his team won more than 23 Olympic medals, set dozens of Olympic world records, and more incredibly, more than 80 percent of the women coached under his program graduated from college.

Rafer Johnson, an African American, carried our Nation's flag, also was the first African American to win the grueling decathlon. Ralph Boston, another graduate of Tennessee State University, won the Olympic gold in the long jump. The 1960 Olympic basketball team, led by Oscar Robertson, Jerry Lucas and Jerry