

and secured critical votes on multiple Indian issues. Dr. Parikh has worked closely with members of both houses of Congress and the Administration to develop a close, strategic relationship between the United States and India. Under his guidance, the Friends of India Caucus was created in the Senate. Dr. Parikh was also actively involved in the U.S.-India Civilian Nuclear Agreement. He currently serves as founding board member and Vice Chairman of the Indian American Republican Council, President of the Indian American Forum for Political Education and the board of the Federation of Indian Associations.

As a community activist, Dr. Parikh has donated to charitable organizations in both the United States and India. Most notably, he accompanied former President Bill Clinton to Gujarat in 2001 following the devastating earthquake and in 2004 launched a humanitarian program to help tsunami victims. Dr. Parikh has worked to establish trauma centers in India and supports the One Teacher School in tribal regions. Moreover, Dr. Parikh has donated considerably to the Indian Independence Day Parade, the American India Foundation, Share and Care, and the Nargis Dutt Foundation. Dr. Parikh is one of the largest benefactors of both the Vraj Temple and the Vaishnavaite Temple.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledgement of the extraordinary contributions of Dr. Sudhir Parikh. He is a greatly valued citizen of the state of New Jersey, and I am honored to recognize him today.

RECOGNIZING THE FORSAN LADY BUFFS' SOFTBALL 2009 AND 2010 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I proudly congratulate the Lady Buffs softball team of Forsan High School in Forsan, Texas for winning the 2009 and 2010 Texas 1A State Softball Championships.

In their second appearance in the state tournament, the Lady Buffs defended their softball state championship. The Forsan Lady Buffs finished their 2009–2010 season with a 26–4 record, with none of their four losses coming against Class 1A opponents. The impressive record demonstrates the team's strength and ability to work together to achieve success.

Coached by Shanna Roberts, this year's Forsan Lady Buffs successfully proved that their 2009 State Championship was not a fluke, as critics claimed. The team had a strong postseason, outscoring their opponents by 41 runs, 50–9. In the 2010 state championship game, Amanda Longorio pitched a one-hit shutout, leading the Lady Buffs to a 5–0 win over Blue Ridge; this earned her the distinction as the game's Most Valuable Player.

I applaud the Lady Buffs' hard work and tradition of success. With great support from the community, the team proved itself as the best 1A softball team in Texas two years running. The Lady Buffs exemplify the principles of competitive spirit and success both on and off the field, and I congratulate them on their well-deserved state championships.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. STEVEN MORRISON

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of Mr. Steven Morrison, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Madison, as he retires from his esteemed position after 27 years of service.

From an early age, Steve displayed a passion for service in the Jewish community. Shortly after joining the B'nai Brith Youth Organization in his hometown of Elgin, Illinois in 1959, he was elected AZA Grand Aleph Godol—International President. This position was only the beginning of a long career dedicated to improving the world and giving back to his community.

When Steve arrived in Madison in 1984, he immediately began working to strengthen Madison's Jewish community and weave it into the larger fabric of this great city. Under his leadership, Camp Shalom grew from a program serving 150 youngsters to one which now serves almost a thousand children of diverse racial, ethnic, and social backgrounds and abilities every summer. Steve helped enrollment in the Hilde L. Mosse Gan HaYeled Preschool and Midrasha Hebrew High School reach record levels. He also assisted in the development of the recreational facilities and programs offered at the Goodman Campus, which are now enjoyed by families throughout the region. Furthermore, as Executive Director of Madison's Jewish Social Services, Steve expanded the agency's outreach to immigrants and refugees in need of support as they adapted to a new home and way of life.

Steve's commitment to the larger Madison community is rooted in the Judaic teachings of education and justice. With humor, tact, keen intellect, compassion, and chutzpah, he brings people to the table and helps guide them toward mutual understanding and growth. Steve is a fierce defender of minority rights, whether speaking against hate crimes or in support of same-sex marriage. As Chair of the Madison Public Schools Human Relations Council for more than two decades, Steve helped teachers and administrators better understand the needs of students who come from a variety of backgrounds. Among the countless awards and honors that Steve received over the years are the Mandelkorn Distinguished Service Award given by the Association of Jewish Community Organization Professionals and Ally of the Year given by OutReach, Madison's LGBT Community Center.

Tikkun olam, or the obligation to repair the world, is a basic tenet of Judaism. Broadly, it is interpreted to suggest that we all have a role to play in giving back and enhancing the world in which we live. There is nobody, in my mind, who personifies this better than Steve. I have no doubt that the impact of his work will continue to benefit individuals in communities here in Wisconsin, across the United States, and far beyond the borders of our great nation. May his unwavering dedication, vision, and lifelong commitment to the highest ethical standards continue to serve as an inspiration for us. I join both the Jewish and greater Madison communities in honoring Mr. Steven

Morrison's achievements and thanking him for his lifetime of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, July 26, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the three votes which occurred yesterday evening, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1320, rollcall vote No. 467; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 1504, rollcall vote No. 468; and I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3101, rollcall vote No. 469.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,252,030,092,034.06.

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 \$2,613,604,345,740.26 so far this Congress.

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

THE 29TH CELEBRATION OF LA PRESENCIA PUERTORRIQUEÑA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to stand here before you today to commemorate La Presencia Puertorriqueña, or the Puerto Rican Presence, a celebration in honor of Puerto Rican heritage. On July 29, 2010, the patrons of Northwest Indiana will come together in East Chicago to celebrate, learn, and understand one another's differences through festivities of the diverse ethnic heritage. Through the variety of Puerto Rican showcases and spotlights, people will learn the history, heritage, culture, and much more about the commonwealth.

La Presencia Puertorriqueña, which embarks on its 29th celebration, is done in coordination each year with a significant event: Puerto Rico's unification to the United States through a commonwealth, which occurred on July 25, 1952. Each year, as over 5,000 people flock to line the streets of East Chicago, the initiation of Puerto Rico as a part of the United States is celebrated. With this celebration, the entire history and culture of Puerto Rico is presented to the people of Northwest Indiana for a memorable experience.

In an array of ways, families and folk who attend can share an educational and warm Puerto Rican influenced experience. During the festivities, Puerto Rican ethnic heritage is put on display. Relics, traditional instruments, drawings, paintings, and a variety of other items representative of Puerto Rican culture fill the East Chicago library. Many talented individuals find themselves performing for these festivities through music and dance. Each year, people reminisce about native regalia, delectable food, stylistic art, and the notorious island coqui, a tiny frog known throughout the island of Puerto Rico for its relentless chirping. It is an educational experience the whole family can enjoy. People are left with memories and knowledge about the culture, heritage, and diverse values of the Puerto Rico.

For the past twenty-nine years, La Presencia Puertorriqueña has brought together thousands, including an assortment of local sponsors, business and civic leaders, politicians, non-profit organizations, and people of a variety of heritages to appreciate the Puerto Rican presence in Northwest Indiana and come together.

Madam Speaker, at this time, let us pay tribute to the Puerto Rican people and their influence in the Northwest Indiana area. As we celebrate the welcoming of Puerto Rico as a commonwealth, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Puerto Rican contributions and culture in the Northwest Indiana area. Their efforts in the community to educate and serve the people are to be commended.

**HONORING FALLEN MARINE
LANCE CPL. GARRETT GAMBLE**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lance Cpl. Garrett Gamble. Garrett died in the Helmand province, Afghanistan on March 11th, 2010.

In honor of Garrett's life and service, I submit the following poem, penned by Albert Cafrey Caswell.

GARRETT'S GIFT

Garrett's!
Garrett's gift!
So Brilliant, and Bright!
So Magnificent, this light!
So all of this!
So Brave, This Light!
As That Last Full Measure . . .
Was but Garrett's fine gift, this night!
A United States Marine!
Who upon battlefields of honor, was seen!
Seen . . . Marching, into that valley of death. . . .
With no regrets!
As shone, his most brilliant sheen! His quest!
As he took, all of those most courageous steps!
But worn upon his fine chest, all in courage's crest!
Giving all, until none lie left!
For all of his most beloved Brothers In Arms, to bless!
All in a Hero's quest, all To Be The Best!
As a Freedom Fighter, no less!
For such lights come, only from one's soul so bright!

To but vanquish the darkness, and bring The Light!
All in what you have done, all in your short life. . . !
A Mother cries, as her fine son has died . . . as she asks why?
Fine comfort! One day up in Heaven, he will be by your side!
Thy Will Be Done!
For you Garrett my son, are but the Brightest of All Ones!
Because, moments are all we have!
To Grab Hearts, To Make Difference . . . To Heaven Rise!
All in your most magnificent shades of green! You United States Marine . . .
And when there comes a gentle rain, all across Sugar Land. . . .
Our Lord's tears will remain, with your Mother to ease pain!
For Heaven has just gotten stronger, as a new Marine belongs there!
And as the tears roll down our cheeks, remember what brilliance can be!
And remember all of this, and remember Garrett's Gift!
Amen!

**IN HONOR OF THE DONATION OF
JOSEPH SCHIPRETT TO THE
LONSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the generosity of a benevolent donation to benefit the community of Lonsdale, Minnesota.

The Lonsdale public library is now home to a text enlarger that returns the gift of reading to those whose eyes aren't as sharp as they once were. Estimated to cost \$1,800, this gift was made possible by Joseph Schiprett, a Lonsdale resident. Joseph purchased the machine for his wife who was losing her eyesight due to Diabetes. Helen, who never lost her love for reading, passed away in 2007, at which time Joseph shared this gift with the entire Lonsdale community.

As the Senior Republican on the Education and Labor Committee, I commend Mr. Schiprett for his selfless donation and investment in the continuing education of the Lonsdale community.

HONORING DAVE SOLEM

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you the deep appreciation that I and the people of the Klamath Basin hold for Dave Solem, the manager of the Klamath Irrigation District.

Those who know Dave admire his considerable knowledge, skill, and leadership abilities. You can always rely on Dave to have the informed perspective and good judgment to find solutions that make a difference.

It is with mixed emotions that I join my fellow Oregonians in bidding Dave farewell as he

leaves the Klamath Basin for a new career. After 28 years of managing the Klamath Irrigation District, Dave is leaving to become the general manager of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District in Pasco, Washington. Dave's departure is a great loss for those of us who hold Klamath Basin agriculture close to our hearts.

Madam Speaker, you may be familiar with the vast agricultural bounty of the Klamath Basin. Known worldwide for its superior food and forage crops, the success of the basin depends on the conservation and delivery of water. Dave's contributions to irrigated agriculture have been unmatched.

As the general manager of the Klamath Irrigation District, Dave earned a stellar reputation as a leader, organizer, and team player, overseeing all aspects of operation and maintenance of a complex irrigation and drainage system. The Klamath Irrigation District is a major enterprise consisting of irrigation and drainage systems that span 400 miles in length.

Dave, a professional in every sense of the word, managed major water projects during his tenure, including the \$14 million A-Canal Fish Screen and Headworks Construction, the \$900,000 A-Canal Tunnel Invert Replacement, the \$700,000 Miller Hill Pumping Plant Replacement, and the \$350,000 Adams Siphon Construction.

Madam Speaker, Dave knows the value of water and has spent a career managing that precious resource for all uses. Klamath Irrigation District, under Dave's leadership, has been committed to ongoing efforts to conserve water, including several miles of canal piping, the automated telemetric control system of all of the head gates and major canals, and, most recently, the initiation of a GIS mapping and monitoring system for the district.

Dave has served as director of the Klamath Water Users Association, including two terms as president. He was frequently the voice of irrigated agriculture in state and federal forums. He distinguished himself in his time at the Klamath Water Users Association by receiving their Leadership Award three times, and was praised for the strong roles he took in the Klamath River Fisheries Task Force and his participation in addressing issues related to water supply, water quality, herbicide application, tribal trust, the environment, and electric power.

Dave is no stranger to Congress, as he has made frequent trips to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress, Senators, and staff members as well as testify in hearings. He has met with high level agency and administration officials to help them understand that intricacies of water in the Klamath Basin.

I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dave and his wife, Julie, Godspeed as they pursue new horizons. Dave will be sorely missed in the Klamath Basin, as he is a man of extraordinary character and honesty who has served the irrigators in the Klamath Reclamation Project exceptionally well.

Dave may be leaving the area, but the results of his great work will remain, and he will always be our friend.