

country who are counseling homeowners on how to navigate this process.

These expert counselors are too often the last line of defense between a struggling homeowner and a lender seeking to foreclose and cast families out of their homes. Sadly, they do not have the resources they need to help the staggering number homeowners in crisis—a number projected to rise significantly in the coming months.

That is why I am introducing the Making Home Affordable Improvements Act—legislation that will direct funding designated for the big banks, as part of the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), to the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program.

Federal foreclosure mitigation funding has enabled housing and mortgage experts to work with homeowners to avoid foreclosure, offering counsel on budgeting and planning as well as offering assistance in negotiating mortgage modifications with servicers. With this new funding, comes more stringent demands on banks, financial servicers and counselors.

The Making Home Affordable Improvements Act seeks to achieve two goals. First, for counselors working with borrowers struggling to stay in their homes, this legislation provides a small, lump-sum payment for each temporary trial modification arranged. But the ultimate goal must be either a permanent modification of the terms of their mortgage or an orderly, foreclosure-free exit from their homes. Unfortunately, there has been a substantial disconnect between the number of temporary agreements made between borrowers and servicers and the number of homeowners that ultimately receive permanent relief. That is why this legislation places a priority on permanent modification by providing counselors with a greater incentive to see these borrowers through to the end.

Because we have struggled to get access to meaningful data on the mortgage modifications performed by financial servicers, this legislation also requires regular, public disclosures by participating servicers.

Madam Speaker, this is not a perfect solution and I hope we will continue to look for ways to restore the authority for judges to modify mortgages through the bankruptcy process. But, in the meantime, lenders and servicers can and must do more to help struggling homeowners stay in their homes. By providing additional resources for mortgage modification counselors, we can provide expert assistance to struggling homeowners who are seeking an equitable agreement with their lender.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA'S MAJORETTES ON WINNING THE 2010 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I, along with Congressman JACK KINGSTON rise today to congratulate the Majorettes from our Alma Mater, the University of Georgia on winning the 2010 National Collegiate Championship.

It is often stated in Athens that “there is nothing finer in the land, than the Georgia Redcoat Marching Band” and the fact that our Majorettes have brought home yet another championship make that statement all the more true.

At every football game, whether home or away, these thirteen young women perform alongside the band, contributing to the pride and spirit of everyone who wears the Red and Black. They can also be seen at community events, pep rallies, and various sporting venues.

Their commitment to excellence and success is indicative of what the University as a whole strives for, to provide an avenue for young people to reach their fullest potential. We, along with the rest of the Bulldawg Nation, commend these young ladies on their achievement and wish them well in all their future endeavors.

Go Dawgs!

HONORING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY AT THE HOYT LIBRARY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, on August 12th the Hoyt Library in Saginaw Michigan will celebrate their 120th anniversary as a Federal Depository Library. One of the oldest Federal Depository Libraries in the United States, the Hoyt Library is the only Federal Depository Library in Saginaw County and one of three Depository Libraries in Michigan's 5th Congressional District. The Hoyt Library is one of five branches in the Saginaw Public Library system.

Saginaw native, Congressman Aaron T. Bliss, initiated the designation and the first publications started to arrive from the Government Printing Office during the summer in anticipation of the Library's opening on November 1, 1890. Congressman Bliss's correspondence regarding the designation is available for viewing at the Library. Harriet Ames was the first Head Librarian and the first Government Documents Librarian. A representative of the Government Printing Office will attend the open house to celebrate their 120 year partnership.

The Library has copies of documents from all three branches of government: the legislative, the executive and the judicial. Copies of the Congressional Record, federal statutes, federal court decisions, Department publications and the documents of independent agencies can be found at the Library. For the past 120 years, the Hoyt Library has provided the public with the opportunity to view and read historical documents. The Hoyt Library contains some of the oldest documents available at a Federal Depository Library.

Madam Speaker, Hoyt Library has continuously provided service to the residents of Saginaw since 1890. Under the leadership of current Head Librarian, Trish Burns, and Anne Birkam, Depository Librarian, library patrons are able to read about the proceedings of Congress, and Supreme Court decisions, and obtain information, and forms for government

programs. The Federal Depository at the Hoyt Library is a valuable community asset and I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding their work of the past 120 years.

HONORING JAMES W. CONSIDINE, JR.

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor James W. Considine, Jr., a devoted husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and uncle and to mourn him upon his passing at the age of 72.

Born on May 3, 1938, James Considine, Jr. spent his life in Michigan residing in Detroit and West Bloomfield before making his home in Milford. James lived a devoutly faithful life and genuinely loved serving the Lord and the Catholic church.

On July 29, 2010, James Considine, Jr. passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. James will be deeply missed by his wife of 49 years, Frances “Claire”. He will long be remembered as a father devoted to his beloved daughters, Lisa and Linda and his treasured son James III. James leaves a legacy in his 8 grandchildren and his sisters, Carrie, Catherine, Jane and Linda. He is survived by several nieces, nephews and many dear friends. James was a wonderful man, kind to all he encountered. He will be truly and sorrowfully missed.

Madam Speaker, during his lifetime, James Considine, Jr. enriched the lives of everyone around him. There is no doubt that James was a beacon of joy, hope and inspiration to those who knew him. As we bid farewell to this exceptional man, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his life.

RECOGNIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEEL PARIKH AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S 2010 SULLIVAN AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Pierce County Library System Executive Director Neel Parikh, who the American Library Association has named the recipient of the 2010 Sullivan Award. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Parikh.

The American Library Association's Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children is presented annually to an individual who demonstrates an extraordinary capacity to support and enrich children through public library services. The Award highlights individuals who demonstrate exceptional understanding and support of public library service for children and produce the best projects and partnerships that help public libraries provide for young learners.

It is a privilege to commend Neel Parikh, Executive Director of the Pierce County Library System, as the recipient of the 2010 Sullivan Award. Ms. Parikh originally studied to

become a South Asia specialist, while simultaneously working as a children's librarian at the Berkeley Public Library in Berkeley, California. However, after finding her true passion with the public library, Ms. Parikh changed her educational focus to library science and has since been serving as a librarian and administrator in Pierce County.

Ms. Parikh has become a leader in providing early learning, training, and support for families, childcare providers, and library staff both locally and across the state. While Parikh believes that early learning is a critical service for all public libraries, she maintains that teen services are equally important. She supported Pierce County Library System in becoming one of the first Libraries of Promise, which seeks to encourage people to build the character and competence of children by providing them access to additional educational outlets.

Ms. Parikh's leadership as a strong community collaborator is a testament to her success for advancing early learning forward throughout Pierce County. She has collaborated with social service organizations, schools, and community leaders to build services for young learners.

Ms. Parikh is a founding member and chair of the Early Learning Public Library Partnership, a consortium created with the vision that public libraries are full, essential partners in the early learning movement in Washington State. The consortium puts public libraries at the table with other early learning organizations. Under her leadership, the partnership has grown to include 27 public libraries across the state.

In addition to her library responsibilities, Ms. Parikh has been active in the Association for Library Service to Children, served on the Public Library Association Board of Directors, and held a seat on the Executive Committee of the Washington Library Association.

Parikh is the seventh winner of this award, provided by former American Library Association President Peggy Sullivan.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Neel Parikh on this impressive achievement, and celebrate her commitment to furthering children's education through positive library experiences.

DOD AND DEBT/DEFICIT

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today because we can no longer afford to ignore defense spending as our deficit rises.

The unprecedented federal stimulus package and two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have put the FY 2009 federal deficit at 10 percent of GDP, its highest level since 1945.

As the federal deficit grows and we look for places to cut, we must be able to scrutinize every part of the federal budget—including defense spending.

Defense spending has more than doubled since September 11, 2001, and at \$719 billion, the current defense budget, is the highest it has been since World War II.

Our discretionary spending has also grown by \$583 billion since 2001, and defense spending accounts for 65 percent of that growth.

Accounting for close to 20 percent of the federal budget, defense spending simply cannot be ignored as we look for places to cut.

For too long we have followed policies that assume more spending automatically means more safety and more power.

But new critics of this unquestioned defense spending argue cuts to the defense budget can and should be made; and these cuts can be done without compromising our safety.

A new report by the Sustainable Defense Task Force, comprising security experts from across the country, finds that we could save up to \$960 billion over the next ten years, without jeopardizing our national security.

The report outlines a whole menu of reform options ranging from reducing our oversized nuclear stockpiles to cutting our bloated force structure in Europe and Asia—all of which are possible due to the U.S.'s current security posture: We no longer face the traditional opponents we once did.

We still operate as if we are at war with an opponent as powerful as the former Soviet Union; but today the U.S. does not face a threat that even remotely compares to the Soviet Union.

Not even China, which spends barely one-fifth as much on military as the U.S., can compete.

The U.S. spends more on research and development than Russia does on its whole military.

Today, the U.S. spends more than two and half times as much on its military as the group of potential opponents, including Russia and China.

In other words, the U.S. could cut its defense spending in half and we would still be spending more than our current and potential adversaries.

As the Task Force points out in its report, our military strength far out-weighs any threat from our adversaries, and can easily be reduced while still maintaining our military superiority.

However, while we are building up our capacity to fight traditional opponents, such as China, we are failing to build a defense force capable of combating nontraditional opponents such as Al Qaeda.

We have spent \$1 trillion and lost 5,500 American lives on large-scale military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan with little progress to show for it.

As Benjamin Friedman, of the Cato Institute, points out, our principal enemy Al Qaeda "has no army, no air force and no navy."

And the military assets most useful for counterterrorism are relatively inexpensive such as surveillance technologies, special operations forces and drones.

As the threats to America evolve, so too must our military structure.

But over the years, rather than realigning our military to meet current threats, we have simply added more requirements to our military, growing our defense budget by 9 percent on average every year.

There has never been a better time to reinvent our defense budget.

We are facing a growing deficit, forcing us to make cuts, and we have a defense budget ripe for reform.

Now all we need is the political will to make tough choices.

With limited resources we must choose, because the real ramification of overspending on

defense is not simply that we will have too many unnecessary ships, aircrafts or missiles—but that we won't have enough resources to support vital domestic investments such as health care, education, and infrastructure needed to remain a superpower.

Military power is not simply about spending more than our adversaries.

Real military power, argues Kori Schake, a top foreign policy advisor for John McCain, is "fundamentally premised on the solvency of the American government and the vibrancy of the U.S. economy."

But in order to maintain that vibrancy we must get our fiscal house in order, and in doing so reexamine our defense spending and make cuts and reforms where necessary.

Secretary Gates said it best while paraphrasing President Eisenhower, "The United States should spend as much as necessary on national defense, but not one penny more."

Let's hold him to his word. Let's reinvent the defense budget.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL DANCE DAY ON JULY 31

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating National Dance Day on July 31.

National Dance Day, in the Nation's Capital and throughout the United States, will celebrate dance as an artistic form and will promote the health benefits of dance. Here in the Nation's Capital, I will be joined by "So You Think You Can Dance" co-creator, executive producer, and judge Nigel Lythgoe, by Dominique Dawes, the well-known U.S. Olympic gymnast and a member of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition, and by the Dizzy Feet Foundation to promote dance as an avenue for physical fitness. Our partners, in addition to the President's Council, and Dizzy Feet, include the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Dance Association, and the National Council of Negro Women.

In addition to being an art form, dance can be an aerobic activity that helps to improve heart health, strengthen muscles, increase flexibility, and burn calories. Our country has a national adult and childhood overweight and obesity epidemic. Keeping with the spirit of the First Lady's "Let's Move!" initiative to combat childhood obesity and the work of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition, we will promote physical activity among children and adults, and have fun dancing, the exercise that many of us most enjoy!

On July 31, we will gather on the National Mall from 3 to 7 p.m. to watch, learn and dance, and to recognize dance expression, with "Flash Dance" instructors, Fluria Flammenco, Step Afrika, Beat Ya Feet Kings, Capitol Movement Project, DCypher, Bancker Ball Room Dancing Club, and many more. We will encourage physically active lifestyles by promoting all forms of dance for physical fitness.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating National Dance Day on July 31.