

Whitfield. He attended Beach Elementary School, Piedmont Middle School and Piedmont High School for his freshman year, before residing with his mother and stepfather, Karen and James Binion, in Fresno, California. As a youth, Matthew Abbate was charming, athletic, independent and free-spirited. After graduating from high school in 2002, he moved to Hawaii in search of work that would support his interest in world travel.

As an employee on the Norwegian Star cruise ship, he enjoyed adventures throughout Asia and the Pacific, including Thailand, Australia, Fiji and the Panama Canal. Following those travels, he attained his goal of enlisting in the Marine Corps, and, by the age of 20, was training for his first 10-month tour of duty in Iraq.

Sergeant Abbate's passion and steadfast dedication to the Corps led him to re-enlist after finishing his first tour, and to spend a year in sniper training. Just three months into his mission in Afghanistan, Sergeant Abbate's commitment to service resulted in the ultimate sacrifice.

Among the many sources of pride Sergeant Abbate found in being a Marine, the brotherhood he had with his fellow troops was foremost. He was a stalwart team member and a leader who inspired his peers to vote him as the Marine they'd most like to be.

As we gather in remembrance, we celebrate the life of a man who took great pride in being a loving father, a good person and a brave Marine. Sergeant Abbate leaves behind an extended network of loved ones, including his wife, Stacie Rigall, his two-year-old son, Carson, his parents, stepparents and four siblings.

His contributions to our nation will be remembered for generations to come, and his legacy continues in the hearts of those whose lives he touched in remarkable ways.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors United States Marine Corps Sergeant Matthew Thomas Abbate. His exemplary spirit and sense of public duty will continue to guide others toward courage, fortitude, selflessness and service. Sergeant Matt Abbate was truly a great man and he will be deeply missed. May his soul rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House Chamber yesterday. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 628, 629 and 630.

IN RECOGNITION OF SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF MATAWAN'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Second Baptist Church of

Matawan, New Jersey as the parishioners gather to celebrate the church's 120th anniversary. Members of the congregation enthusiastically dedicate their time to religious service in Matawan and its surrounding community. Their actions are undoubtedly deserving of this body's recognition.

The Second Baptist Church of Matawan was founded in 1890 and continues to build upon its rich history. Under the leadership of Reverend Stephen Moore, Reverend Jeffrey Gray, Deacon Willie Kiah and the Church Board of Officers, the Second Baptist Church of Matawan provides a harmonious environment for members of the congregation and the community to build upon their faith. Faithfully serving the members of its congregation, the Second Baptist Church of Matawan adheres to their principles of individual freedom in matters of faith. They continue to welcome new members to their congregation. They have implemented numerous ministries and continue to assist ailing members of the community. Their humble actions and service to the community are commendable.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledging the Second Baptist Church of Matawan, as the parishioners celebrate their 120th anniversary. The Second Baptist Church of Matawan community is tremendously valued in my district and the State of New Jersey.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,852,589,330,911.83.

On January 6, 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 \$3,214,163,584,618.03 so far this Congress.

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

HONORING HOMER C. FLOYD UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, Homer C. Floyd, a champion of civil rights and human relations in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the past four decades, is concluding a remarkable career. Since February 1970, Mr. Floyd has served as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. He has an impressive record of accomplishments in civil rights, and has received numerous awards from organizations including the Pennsylvania NAACP, the International Association of Official Human Rights Organi-

zations, and most recently the Talk Magazine 2009 Person of the Year.

Even before attaining his executive position in Harrisburg, Mr. Floyd amassed a wealth of experience and accomplishment that spans North America. A graduate of the University of Kansas, Homer Floyd played Canadian professional football for the Edmonton Eskimos. He worked as a recreation supervisor in Kansas City, Missouri, and directed a civil rights commission with jurisdiction across the Dakotas, Missouri and Kansas. He consulted with the government of the Virgin Islands and worked with the U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission in Washington. Since his arrival in Harrisburg he has donated his time to a long list of boards and committees and has volunteered on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and numerous community, sports, youth and civil rights organizations in central Pennsylvania. He was married to the late Mattie Longshore and has three children and three grandchildren.

Now Homer C. Floyd is retiring, although it is bound to be a busy retirement based on his high-energy career. His family, friends, colleagues and admirers are gathering for a Retirement Celebration of Audacious Service on Monday December 20, 2010, at the African American Museum in Philadelphia. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in honoring and congratulating Homer C. Floyd for a valuable and achieving life on behalf of his fellow citizens.

H.R. 4173, THE DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT—CLARIFICATION OF INTENT WITH RESPECT TO SECTION 625

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, as a House conferee for H.R. 4173, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank Act"), I rise to reaffirm the intent of section 625 of the Dodd-Frank Act, which the President signed into law earlier this year (P.L. 111-203).

For years, many federal mutual holding companies have waived receipt of dividends in reliance on current Office of Thrift Supervision ("OTS") regulations which permit waivers of such dividends. These regulations also provide that such dividend waivers would not affect the exchange ratio in the event of a full conversion to stock form.

Section 625 of the Dodd-Frank Act seeks to maintain the current OTS regulation regarding dividend waivers for federal mutual holding companies which, prior to December 1, 2009, had waived the receipt of dividends pursuant to current OTS regulations permitting such dividend waivers. Section 625 authorizes that these mutual holding companies may continue to do so as long as they provide proper notice beforehand and no finding is made that such dividend waivers constitute a safety and soundness violation. Section 625 also provides that such dividend waivers shall not affect the exchange ratio in the event of a later full conversion by the mutual holding company to stock form. The OTS's regulations (which

remain unaltered from when the Dodd-Frank Act was being debated and became law) define a mutual holding company as the top-tier company and includes any mid-tier stock holding company. Therefore, regardless of what level of the federal mutual holding company had or continues to waive the receipt of dividends, the clear intent behind Section 625 is to preserve the current OTS regulations with respect to these institutions.

I commend Chairman FRANK for his leadership in drafting the Dodd-Frank Act, as well as his assistance in working with me to fully preserve and protect the thrift charter, including the dividend treatment of federal mutual holding companies. I also urge the Congress to carefully oversee the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act, including provisions like Section 625, to ensure the regulators implement them in such a way as Congress intended.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. TOBY PALTZER

HON. STEVE KAGEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to Mr. Toby Paltzer as he retires from his distinguished career as Outagamie County Executive. For 11 years, Mr. Paltzer managed Wisconsin's sixth largest county in a manner that always best served its entire people, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this dedicated public servant.

Toby Paltzer's service to Outagamie County goes well beyond his time as Executive. Prior to assuming his current role, Toby served as an Outagamie County board supervisor for 5 years, chairman of Agriculture, Extension Education, Zoning and Land Conservation Committee for 3 years, and was an active member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee for 12 years.

In addition to his government service, Mr. Paltzer has further demonstrated his commitment to the communities in and around Outagamie County, Wisconsin through his 45 years as a member and president of Grand Chute Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, and his involvement as a mentor in the Outagamie Youth Leaders program.

Widely respected by business leaders and elected officials alike, citizens across Outagamie County will certainly miss Toby Paltzer's effective, efficient and clear-cut leadership. Despite having to weather one of the worst economic storms of our time, he leaves his Executive post having placed Outagamie County on a path to prosperity that will continue to be realized long after his departure.

Madam Speaker, as Mr. Paltzer steps down from his post as Outagamie County Executive, I ask the members of this chamber to join me in paying tribute to this valued member of our community.

TRIBUTE TO JEANETTE ROGERS- ERICKSON

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeannette Rogers-Erickson, a community leader from Kern County in the State of California.

Mrs. Rogers-Erickson holds board positions in many local organizations, such as the Kern Valley Hospital Foundation, the Kern Valley Hospital Auxiliary, the Kernville Chamber of Commerce, the Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Kern River Revitalization group, the Exchange Club, the Rotary Club of the Kern Valley, the South Fork Women's Club, the Kern Valley Women's Club, and the Kern Valley Collaborative. Mrs. Rogers-Erickson also belongs to the Kern River Valley Art Association and for many years has had her art "worn" throughout the valley on the annual Whiskey Flat Days official shirts.

In addition to her membership in many local organizations, Mrs. Rogers-Erickson is a board member of the Kern Community Foundation and is on the organizing committee of the newly formed Kern River Valley Community Foundation Fund. She has been active with the Women's and Girls' Fund of Bakersfield as well as a board member of the Probation Auxiliary County of Kern, PACK, which oversees the Kernville-based Camp Erwin Owen for Boys.

For her many great works in the community, Mrs. Rogers-Erickson was selected by Assemblymember Jean Fuller to be the 2007 Woman of the Year for the 32nd California State Assembly District. She is also the recent recipient of the Exchange Club 2010 Book of Golden Deeds given to a local resident who has high integrity, honesty, generosity, great work ethic, and high moral values. An ordained minister, Mrs. Rogers-Erickson is the South Fork Club's Inspirational Chairman and organizes several Pastor Prayer Events throughout the year. She is very active in the Exploring Careers in Health Occupations Academy, which is a local high school program that partners with the Kern Valley Healthcare District and Cerro Coso College.

I am thankful to Jeanette for all of her service to our community and I hope that she and her husband Charley enjoy her retirement.

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the Western Nebraska Community College volleyball team who late last month claimed the school's second ever National Junior College Championship title. The Cougars' win over San Jacinto College in five sets capped a wonderful season.

The Cougars came out strong—winning the first two sets—and holding off a spirited challenge to win in a five-set thriller. I am proud of the Cougars and Coach Giovana Melo—who has guided her team to top-three finishes in all three of her seasons as coach.

Debora Araujo led the way for WNCC with 22 kills in the final match. Kuulei Kabalis was named to the all-tournament team after totaling a school-record 34 digs against San Jacinto and Fernanda Goncalves was named Most Valuable Player of the national tournament.

The WNCC Cougars earned the right to be called national champions. I offer my congratulations to the team, their fans, and their community, who made the season such a memorable one.

CONGRATULATING THE GASCONADE COUNTY 4-H

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Gasconade County 4-H for 75 years of excellence.

The original Gasconade County 4-H organization started with the ideas and planning of only 10 individuals. Since its inception in 1935, the Gasconade County 4-H has expanded and now includes 11 4-H clubs, 230 members, and 107 volunteers.

The Gasconade County 4-H engages youth to reach their fullest potential, while advancing the field of youth development in four different areas of focus: head, heart, hands, and health. Through their hands-on learning, these young members build their leadership capabilities and expand their skills which enable them to be proactive forces in their communities and prepare for their future endeavors. In its 75th year, the tradition of 4-H still remains strong throughout Gasconade County.

I congratulate the men and women who continue to advance this important cause, which has had such a positive effect on our youth and on our community. I am extremely proud. I also encourage more youth to participate in 4-H and other such programs that empower them to reach their full potential. I join the rest of the 9th Congressional District when I wish you all continued success and another 75 years of excellence!

I would like to take this time to commend Gasconade County 4-H for all their hard work, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing them for a job well done!

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3082, Making Further Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011 and the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2010. I support the underlying purpose of this bill: to keep the government running through September 30, 2011 and I support a number of provisions in it.

H.R. 3082 contains the Food Safety Enhancement Act, a bill that would greatly