

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,907,946,255,585.93 so far this Congress.

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

HONORING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the League of Women Voters, which celebrated its 90th anniversary on February 14, 2010.

Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has worked to increase understanding of major public policy issues, encourage informed and active participation in government, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. With organizations in every state and hundreds of local chapters across the country, the League is one of the strongest grassroots activist networks in the country.

Throughout its history, the League has played a vital role in transforming our society and preserving responsive government. Whether fighting McCarthyism, helping to end segregation, protecting our environment, organizing our Nation's presidential debates, strengthening the Voting Rights Act, or upholding the decision in *Roe v. Wade*, the League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of nearly every major policy issue in the last 90 years. Through its dedication to good, responsible government, the League has been influential in overseeing the passage of Congress' most important pieces of legislation, including the Social Security Act and child labor laws.

The League's decentralized structure enabled it to keep pace with our Nation's dynamic societal changes in the last century, ensuring that its legislative priorities reflected the needs of society and critical issues of concern. Today, the League remains true to its mission of education and advocacy, focusing on global climate change, health care reform, and voting rights for the District of Columbia.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the achievements of the League of Women Voters and the contributions it has made to our Nation and to American history. Its efforts honor the legacy of the women who assembled at Seneca Falls, New York over 160 years ago. With the same courage and belief in equality, the League of Women Voters continues to make history.

IN RECOGNIZING OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL PEANUT BOARD

HON. BOBBY BRIGHT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. BRIGHT. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, March 10th, the National Peanut Board

(NPB) celebrates 10 years of work on behalf of America's 10,000 peanut farmers, including the 500 who live in my district. Before this organization was created, there was no national effort by growers to market American-grown peanuts, spur new product development and innovative new uses, or to carry out an issues management program. Through several major strategic initiatives, the NPB's grower-funded check-off program has made measurable progress toward its goal of increasing demand and consumption since the launch of its promotion, marketing and advertising campaign.

Highlights from the National Peanut Board's past ten years will be showcased on March 10th at an event at the historic Eastern Market in Washington, D.C. featuring dishes created by celebrated chefs. They plan to honor one of America's most iconic and beloved foods. From savory to sweet, peanuts will be used in traditional and innovative dishes from a variety of cuisines at this special event celebrating this essential and deeply rooted part of America's food culture.

Since its inception, NPB has played a vital role in promoting peanuts. To stimulate consumer demand for American-grown peanuts over the last decade, NPB has extolled the value, nutritional attributes, versatility, portability, and great taste of American-grown peanuts, peanut butter and peanut products. NPB has undertaken marketing programs domestically and internationally to reach that goal, working to spark new uses for American-grown peanuts and peanut butter and to encourage the creation of innovative peanut products.

These programs are working. Since the start of NPB's programs in 2000, total peanut usage has increased more than 15 percent when compared to levels of usage in the 1990s. Peanut butter consumption alone has increased even more dramatically—over 20 percent during the same period, according to USDA Stocks and Processing reports.

Through partnerships with other commodity groups, manufacturers, and foodservice, NPB brings American-grown peanuts where they have never been before. NPB's targeted foodservice initiative actively promotes the culinary value of peanuts and peanut products by positioning them as versatile ingredients that can add nutrition, flavor, texture and appeal to any meal. In fact, listings of peanuts on the menus of the 200 restaurant chains have increased by 146 percent over the past seven years, according to Food Beat, Inc.

Production research funding is also at the forefront for the National Peanut Board. Over the past 10 years, NPB has invested more than \$14.4 million in peanut production research to help create crop efficiencies, improve crop quality and reduce production costs. Additionally, the NPB is the only commodity board investing in food allergy research, outreach and education and has allocated more than \$7 million to this cause.

Furthermore, the NPB played a pivotal role during the 2009 salmonella crisis, most notably by hosting a two-day consumer and media outreach event in Vanderbilt Hall in Grand Central Terminal in New York. Through direct interactions, NPB and its partners educated consumers, conveyed the concerns of peanut farmers, and facilitated a steady market recovery for peanut butter.

Nearly half the peanuts grown in the United States are harvested within a 100-mile radius

of Dothan, Alabama. As the Representative of the district which ranks fourth in the country in overall peanut acreage, I understand the importance of organizations like the NPB. Ten years of hard work and positive results for America's peanut farmers is a remarkable achievement. In honor of their 10th Anniversary, I commend the National Peanut Board for all of their hard work and past achievements, and wish them continued success in the future.

JACOB A. FRANKLIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob A. Franklin. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Great Rivers Council Troop 99, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Jacob has displayed dedication and perseverance with this significant achievement, values which will stay with him throughout his life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob A. Franklin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING GAIL KROHN OF THE SECOND DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today the Second District of Texas recognizes Ms. Gail Krohn for her service to the Nederland Independent School District as she retired earlier this month. For 43 years, she has helped forge the minds of countless students, preparing them for an ever-changing and demanding world.

Gail was born in Kentucky and moved around through five different states before she and her family settled in Hull-Daisetta, TX. They stayed until she graduated from Lamar State College of Technology. Soon thereafter, she embarked on a long and fruitful career working with children in the Nederland Independent School District.

She began her career as a reading teacher at C.O. Wilson Middle School but was destined for a leadership role. Gail would eventually become principal of Central Middle School before taking over the role of Superintendent in 1997. Though she no longer worked with children on a daily basis, Gail made sure that the classrooms in Nederland always empowered students to achieve their dreams.

Numerous times throughout her career, Gail received recognition for her excellence in the

classroom and for her work with students. The Region V Education Service Center named her Outstanding Principal while the Council on Exceptional Children presented her with the Will L. Smith Award. Similarly, Lamar University inducted her into their Administrator's Hall of Fame.

The Second Congressional District of Texas honors Ms. Gail Krohn for her many years of service to the Nederland Independent School District. The lessons and ideals that she taught will resonate with students and generations for years to come.

And that's the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
VIRGINIA PIERCE AND THE
WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS
OF WORLD WAR II

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and achievements of Virginia Pierce from Alturas, California. During World War Two, Mrs. Pierce flew as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). These aviators were the first female flyers to be trained on U.S. Military aircraft. During the time when the need of the country was greatest, these brave women flew fighter, bomber, transport and training aircraft in the defense of American freedom and liberty.

I was a proud cosponsor of the legislation that recognized these women's service, and I rise today to recognize Virginia Pierce and congratulate her on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

IN CELEBRATION OF EBBY
HALLIDAY'S 99TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ebby Halliday Acres as she celebrates her ninety-ninth birthday today. Ebby has truly made a lifelong impact on the Dallas community and real estate industry through her many entrepreneurial and philanthropic endeavors.

Ebby Halliday Realtors was founded in 1945 by Ebby and her beloved husband, Maurice Acers. Their company began with only fifty-two homes in North Dallas, and has since grown to become one of the largest privately owned residential real estate firms in the country. Success for Ebby Halliday is not simply a result of her hard work and entrepreneurial spirit. She is notorious for the personal care and attention she gives to her employees, agents, and buyers. She has received numerous awards recognizing her professional success over the years. To name a few, Ebby received the Horatio Alger Award in 2005, the Visionary Award from Foundation Fighting Blindness, and the Linz Award in 2008.

Ebby is also celebrated in the Dallas community for generously donating her time and efforts, as well as significant financial support, to numerous philanthropic endeavors. St. Paul Medical Center, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, and the Communities Foundation of Texas are only three of the many nonprofit organizations and causes that have been personally touched by Ebby's love for her community and dedication to making the City of Dallas a better place.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to Ebby as she celebrates her ninety-ninth birthday. May we all strive to match Ebby's passion for improving our communities and her unwavering commitment to success.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Peace Corps Week that is celebrated from March 1 through March 7, 2010.

The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to the early 1960s, when then Senator John F. Kennedy inspired Americans to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. The Peace Corps celebrated its 49th anniversary on March 1st.

As of September 30, 2009, 7,671 Peace Corps Volunteers are making significant and lasting contributions to improve the lives of individuals and communities in 76 countries. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Volunteers have served in 139 countries around the world and in their local communities in the United States when they return home.

The Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to encourage progress, create opportunity, and expand development at the grass-roots level in the developing world.

That is why I strongly support federal funding to ensure a strong and vibrant Peace Corps program.

Throughout its history, the Peace Corps has adapted and responded to the issues of the times. In an ever-changing world, Peace Corps Volunteers have met new challenges with innovation, creativity, determination, and compassion.

Peace Corps Volunteers work in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East. Volunteers have made contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth, and the environment.

Peace Corps Volunteers will arrive in Indonesia in spring 2010 and will work as English teachers in high schools and at teacher training institutions. In mid-2010, Peace Corps Volunteers will return to Sierra Leone after a 16-year absence. Volunteers will focus on secondary education and work with their host communities on grassroots initiatives and community development projects.

Peace Corps Volunteers have strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. Their work around the globe represents a legacy of service that has become a significant part of America's history and positive image abroad. Their desire to make a difference has improved the lives of millions of people around the world as well as here in the United States.

Peace Corps Volunteers provide hope and meaningful assistance to people affected by HIV/AIDS. The tireless efforts and dedication of Volunteers have made the Peace Corps a key partner in the global response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Peace Corps Volunteers are uniquely suited to work in HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention because they are trained in the local language, live and work in the communities where they serve, and know how to share information in a culturally appropriate way.

Peace Corps Response provides returned Peace Corps Volunteers the opportunity to serve again in rewarding, high-impact, short-term assignments. Since its inception in 1996, this program has sent more than 1,000 returned Volunteers into the field in over 40 countries. Peace Corps Response Volunteers are deployed to crisis situations such as disaster relief following natural catastrophes, as well as to nonemergency interventions such as HIV/AIDS awareness.

Through Peace Corps service, Volunteers worldwide learn more than 250 languages and dialects, and they receive extensive cross-cultural training that enables them to function effectively at a professional level in different cultural settings. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are leaders in all sectors of our society.

My home state of Colorado is a very service-oriented state and its first lady, Ms. Jeanne Ritter, wife of Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, was a Peace Corps volunteer who served in Tunisia in a center for the disabled.

My district, the Second Congressional District of Colorado, has a strong tradition of volunteerism and I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize in particular the great work of 38 constituents who are currently serving as Peace Corps Volunteers in countries like Togo, Costa Rica, Peru, Zambia, Honduras, Malawi, the Dominican Republic, among others. Thank you very much for your contributions to the people and communities of these nations and for serving as ambassadors of peace, hope and opportunity.

In addition, I am very proud that the University of Colorado at Boulder—our state's flagship higher education institution—ranks second in the nation among colleges and universities for the most alumni joining Peace Corps in 2009 with 95 active volunteers and continues its great tradition of national and international service. Historically, the University of Colorado at Boulder ranks 5th for most alumni Volunteers in America, with 2,206 alumni having served as Peace Corps Volunteers since 1961.

It is indeed fitting to recognize the achievements of the Peace Corps and honor its Volunteers, past and present, and reaffirm our country's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the National Peace Corps Week and the 49th anniversary of this wonderful program.