

conference will consider proposals offered by several countries to either enhance protections of endangered species or to remove or downlist some animals from the endangered species listings and reauthorize international trade. Several countries which benefit from trade of animals' derived products, such as elephants' ivory, sharks' fins or bluefin tunas' meat, are putting economic interests before wild animals' survival, risking to bring species close to extinction. This is unacceptable.

My resolution will help preserve many endangered animals by urging CITES to accept proposals that protect these species and oppose those proposals that put them in greater danger.

Madam Speaker, the United States has a moral obligation to protect endangered species and their natural habitat. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to the diversity and stability of our environment. We must continue to maintain a balanced and healthy ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of both human beings and the world's most incredible species.

I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting wildlife and environmental conservation across the globe by supporting this important resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. TIM MURPHY OF PENNSYLVANIA. MADAM SPEAKER, ON ROLL CALL NO. 108, HAD I BEEN PRESENT, I WOULD HAVE VOTED "AYE".

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, as the tragic events of September 11, 2001, demonstrated, the continued existence of the Taliban and terrorists in Afghanistan poses a threat to the security of the American people. We need to be eliminating those who are organizing to strike at the American people.

That is why we can't afford to "double-down" on a bad policy that infringes on the ability of our troops to successfully execute their mission. Using the men and women of our armed forces to secure ground subjects them unnecessarily to risks that we should not be taking.

Several of my colleagues have stated that to end this conflict would fail to honor those who have fought and died in Afghanistan. Yet, we all acknowledge that there isn't a single American soldier who has laid down his or her life for this country that isn't a hero.

Instead, I think of families like that of Kyle Coutu. Kyle was 20 years old and had just graduated from William E. Tolman High School last June, when he was killed on February 18, 2010, in the Helmand Province dur-

ing combat operations. How many more mothers like Melissa Coutu will have to bury their son or daughter? For how much longer will we ask America's youth to risk their lives for the people of Afghanistan?

Rather than put our troops in harm's way, the best way to honor them is to take care of them when they return home, ending veteran homelessness and unemployment, and fully funding veterans' health care, particularly for the treatment of mental health and PTSD.

Additionally, with limited resources, we can't afford to continue a mission in Afghanistan that doesn't move us forward. There are places around the world, like the Horn of Africa, where our commitment and resources could be put to a greater good. More importantly, every dollar spent in Afghanistan is a dollar that can't be invested here at home to invest in our children's education, rebuild our country's infrastructure, and create jobs for American workers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on March 11, 2010, I missed roll call votes 102, 103 and 104. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all.

BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4506, the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2010, will authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges into the courts.

Personal bankruptcy filings have increased by 32 percent in 2009 due to the recent economic downturn and skyrocketing unemployment and home foreclosure rates. This unprecedented rise has put an increased strain on the legal system to respond to bankruptcy claims. This is the first piece of legislation that addresses the judicial problems caused by the economic turmoil of the past two years.

The U.S. Judicial Conference, whose membership includes the Chief Justice, provided the basis for this legislation which will create 13 new judgeships and make 22 currently temporary judgeships permanent. The bill will pay for these new appointments by increasing the cost for corporate bankruptcy.

The passing of H.R. 4506 would relieve considerable strain on the nation's bankruptcy courts through matching the increased workload with an expanded judiciary. American law exists to encourage economic growth and facilitate new business. The ability for the law to respond effectively and fairly is paramount to the turnaround of the country's economy.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,575,479,490,348.47.

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 \$1,937,053,744,054.67 so far this Congress.

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

HONORING WASHINGTON STATE REPRESENTATIVE SHARON TOMIKO SANTOS

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Washington State Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos for receiving the 2010 Desjardin Financial Literacy Award.

The Desjardin Financial Literacy Award, given by the Credit Union National Association, annually recognizes one State lawmaker for their exemplary leadership and legislative efforts in the field of financial education.

Financial literacy is a crucial skill for all to have in today's society, from balancing a checkbook to budgeting for retirement. This skill allows us to make wise decisions about our finances and our financial future. The earlier that our youth attain this knowledge, the more successful and prepared they are later in life.

In Washington State, financial literacy training supports the goals of Washington's Basic Education Act. This Act seeks to provide students with the skills necessary to "understand the importance of work and finance and how performance, effort, and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities."

Washington State Representative Santos has exemplified the effort to provide financial literacy opportunities for our youth statewide since being elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 1998. Representative Santos led the campaign to establish the Financial Education Public Private Partnership (previously the Financial Literacy Public Private Partnership) in 2003, as well as to secure public funding for the project.

The Partnership works to increase students' financial education, provide financial education information for school districts, and provides financial education instructional materials. Additionally, the Partnership has grown because of Representative Santos' enduring support and her legislative work throughout the years.

The work of Representative Santos stands as a model for all States in the effort to promote fiscal responsibility and literacy. I commend her for her efforts and congratulate her again on this tremendous achievement.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF
KOREAN AMERICANS

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1036, recognizing the contributions of Korean Americans to the United States. I am pleased to cosponsor this resolution, introduced by my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. GARRETT. For over a century, the

United States has prospered from the many contributions of Korean Americans to our society. Korean immigrants first arrived in Hawaii, but they quickly moved from the West Coast across the continent, establishing vibrant, productive communities across the Nation, including in my home State of New Jersey.

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with a small group of Korean Americans from my congressional district, as I frequently do, to hear their thoughts and learn about their needs. It impresses me that Korean Americans have clear interest in fully utilizing the intellectual capital and entrepreneurial spirit prevalent in their community to invest in the

future of Korean American youth and, for example, to contribute to the fields of science and technology—particularly green technology. It is the kind of future-oriented perspective that has distinguished the Korean American community and contributed to their accomplishments in the arts, sciences, government, education, sports, and so much more. I am confident that the Korean American community will continue to flourish and enhance the character of our Nation, and I look forward to future opportunities to support the goals of Korean Americans in New Jersey's 12th congressional district.