

combination of psychosocial and pharmacological treatments and support, 70% to 90% of individuals with mental health issues experience significant reduction of symptoms and improved quality of life.

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, CAPAC, also, I recognize that there is a significant need for enhancing awareness of mental illness within the Asian American and Pacific Islander, AAPI, community. AAPIs are among the fastest growing and most diverse racial group in the United States. Despite this, our community's use of mental health services is the lowest among ethnic populations. As such, there is a critical need to raise awareness about mental health within the AAPI community to de-stigmatize seeking help and enhance access to culturally competent community services.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which Congress passed and the President signed into law earlier this year, will greatly expand access to mental health care and additional treatment for millions of uninsured individuals, including AAPIs. In addition, the law supports equity in coverage and will extend the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, which prohibits discriminatory limits on mental health and substance use conditions beyond current law to health insurance plans offered to small businesses and individuals. These principles are also reflected in the expansion of Medicaid, which would require those newly eligible to receive mental health and substance use services at parity with other benefits.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month. Through education, we can help remove the stigma around mental health and encourage organizations and health practitioners to continue to promote mental well-being and awareness so that people can access appropriate services and support.

HONORING MS. MELODY OLIVER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Ms. Melody Oliver has given of herself as an educator of E.L. Bouie, Sr., Elementary Theme school; and

Whereas, Ms. Oliver makes learning fun, inspirational, motivational, but most of all achievable; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her tireless works, motivational speeches and words of wisdom; and

Whereas, Ms. Oliver is a virtuous woman, a courageous woman and a fearless leader who has shared with the world her vision and passion to help ensure that our future, our children, receive an education that is relevant for today, but also for the future; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this

day to honor and recognize Ms. Melody Oliver for her outstanding leadership and service;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim May 20, 2010, as Ms. Melody Oliver Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO MARION ASHLEY, 2010 FATHER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate an individual and dear friend from my Congressional District who will be presented with the 2010 Father of the Year Award next week in Riverside, California.

The purpose of the Father of the Year Awards is to honor fathers who have remained a positive role model for their children while also making a positive difference in their community.

Marion Ashley is one of those fathers. He has been married to his wife Mary for 54 years, and has 6 children, 19 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. As a lifelong resident of Riverside County, he has worked for decades to improve the lives of his fellow citizens.

After years of working in the private sector, both at a national accounting firm and in real estate investment, Marion decided to become more involved in public service. In 1973, he served on the Riverside County Planning Commission and in 1992 was elected to a seat on the board of the Eastern Municipal Water District. In 2002, he was elected to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, a position he still holds today.

As Supervisor of the 5th District in Riverside, Marion oversees a budget of \$4.5 billion and sets public policy for more than two million people. In addition, he is the only Supervisor who has served as Chairman of: the Board of Supervisors; the Western Riverside Council of Governments; and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments.

Throughout his many roles, Marion has made family and public service his top priorities. His dedication to the people of Riverside County has not gone unnoticed, and he has become a respected leader on critical regional issues. Marion himself has said that he and his wife hope to build a community in which his children and grandchildren enjoy the same quality of life he has known in Riverside County, and I cannot think of someone who has worked so tirelessly in that effort.

I am proud to call Marion a friend, fellow community member and American. And today, I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating him on this well-deserved recognition.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the World War II veterans from Illi-

nois who are traveling to Washington, D.C. with Honor Flight Chicago, a program whose goal is to provide as many World War II veterans as possible the opportunity to see the World War II Memorial here in Washington, D.C., a memorial that was built to honor their courage and service.

The American veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen traveling here today answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing thanks.

Henry Adema, Richard I. Africk, Carl S. Ames, George R. Apato, Louis Bakos, Ernest E. Bassi, James R. Bateman, Charles I. Battaglia, Irving H. Bernard, Anthony Biancardi, Sigmund A. Bogdziewicz, Leonard J. Borth, Raymond A. Boss Sr., Richard E. Brhel, Robert C. Bruhn, Leonard G. Buresh, Albert Conforti, Charles Corte, Rene Couture, Charles F. Cummings, Charles F. Davis Jr., Henry W. De Young, Laverne Harriett Dennhardt, Joe Deprizio, Edwin Drzymkowski, Richard W. Ehrhardt, George L. Faust, Raymond Feltes, Robert Firnbach, Stanley P. Fundanish, Charles C. Giglio, John A. Gillespie, Ernest S. Gregory, Richard Guimond, James H. Hammock, Rudy S. Hans, Herbert Leo Hay, Martha H. Honigman, Joseph G. Houska, Harry James Howarth, Robert Jayko, Thaddeus A. Jelen, John Lester Johnson, Thomas L. Kablach, Waitman Kapaldo, Richard A. Karst, John Kearney, Walter L. King, Clarence R. Kleinfelter, Thomas Kohl, Antoni L. Kozak, Milford H. Lau, James W. Leichti, Everell B. LeSage, Martha B. Loss, James W. Maddin, Bryan W. McCarty, Joseph C. Montino, Dwane E. Moss, Vernon R. Nelson, Edmund J. Nowiszewski, Thomas O'Neill, John H. Ortmann, Edward M. Pasierb, Phay Peck, Milton W. Pick, Morris Picker, Edward S. Pietrucha, Bruno G. Quagliani, James S. Rosenbaum, Odean A. Rosenberg, Walter B. Rutkowski, Donald J. Schommer, Raymond T. Schwartz, Saul Seltzer, Robert S. Smith, Donald St. Hilaire, Robert J. Starzynski, Howard F. Stateman, Arthur R. Stratemeyer, Alvin Franklin Swenson, Lee R. Tolksdorf, Walter Trzesniewski, Lester S. VanDeursen, John L. Vinke, George C. Walczak, Clarence James Williams.

LETTER TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND REFORM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I have been working for nearly 4 years with Representative JIM COOPER to address the country's unsustainable financial path. While I believe

our legislation offers a better choice in solving this Nation's financial crisis, the President has moved forward with his National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

I have written to that commission's co-chairmen, Erskine Bowles and Senator Alan Simpson, to offer suggestions as this process continues, and insert my letter for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
May 25, 2010.

MR. ERSKINE BOWLES,
Hon. ALAN SIMPSON,
Co-Chairmen, National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, Washington DC.

DEAR MR. BOWLES AND SENATOR SIMPSON: As you know from our letter to you of April 17, Jim Cooper and I have been working for nearly four years to establish a bipartisan commission to address our nation's debt crisis by examining all policy options—entitlement spending, other program spending, and tax policy—holding public hearings, and recommending to Congress a plan of action with a mandated vote.

While I would have preferred passage of H.R. 1557, the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act, the president has moved forward with an executive commission and named each of you cochairmen of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. As I write this letter today, the U.S. stock market as well as global markets are continuing a deep and downward slide. Our nation is on an unsustainable fiscal path. You know the staggering and unprecedented debt and deficit statistics. We owe nearly \$62 trillion in obligations, spend nearly \$4 billion each week solely for interest payments to service the debt, and the Congressional Budget Office projects that debt held by the public will encompass 90 percent of the gross domestic product by 2020. Many are concerned that Greece's collapse and the European debt crisis will spread to the United States.

British historian and Harvard professor Niall Ferguson wrote in the March/April 2010 edition of *Foreign Affairs*: "One day, a seemingly random piece of bad news—perhaps a negative report by a rating agency—will make the headlines during an otherwise quiet news cycle. Suddenly, it will be not just a few policy wonks who worry about the sustainability of U.S. fiscal policy but also the public at large, not to mention investors abroad. It is this shift that is crucial: a complex adaptive system is in big trouble when its component parts lose faith in its viability."

That "one day" is now.

For the sake of our country, I truly want your efforts to be successful and write today to offer some suggestions. It is impossible to know the outcome of your endeavor but I believe, at the very least, the commission must be a tool to educate the American people on the subject of our nation's dire fiscal situation.

The American people know that we need to look no further than the situation in Greece to understand what our future may hold if we do not make dramatic changes to control U.S. debt. They need and want to be involved in this process. Public involvement is critical to your success. The reality is that members of Congress will not support any of the commission's proposals without the full support of the American people. This cannot be just an inside-the-Beltway process.

Therefore, it is critical that the commission, in whole or in part, hold public meetings throughout the nation. The legislation I proposed with Jim Cooper required that at least one town hall style public meeting would be held in each of the nation's federal

reserve districts. One meeting that is Webcast from Washington once a month is not adequate. To date, I am unable to locate any information concerning the working groups on your Web site. It is my understanding that the bulk of policy proposals will be developed during these working groups' closed sessions. At the very least, I encourage you to publicize and Webcast all commission activities, and publicly post meeting minutes and documents as soon as possible.

Secondly, I am very concerned that the commission has been structured in a manner that will make it difficult for you to succeed, and even doom it to failure. I cannot overstate the importance of your work. Your recommendations will define America's very economic future. It is curious, though, when considering the big picture of federal priorities, that you have been allocated \$500,000 to perform the singular task before you. Consider that the Obama Administration is currently spending over \$8 million on the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, even though it will issue its report after both the House and Senate have voted on financial reform legislation. Consider that the District of Columbia was recently reimbursed for \$4.4 million for overtime work by first responders at the two-day April Nuclear Security Summit. Consider that more than \$2 million in American taxpayer money is being spent to advocate for the adoption of the Kenyan Constitution. Your charter also notes that you have been authorized to hire the equivalent of four full-time staffers. Again, I believe that this is totally insufficient to your task. Just these few examples raise questions for me about the administration's commitment to this commission's work and whether this exercise is just for political cover.

Given your limited resources, I believe you should take advantage of the incredible talent pool available in the private sector to assist the commission in its work. A number of highly respected organizations have been deeply involved for a number of years in discussions to find solutions to our nation's fiscal crisis, including holding hearings across the country and talking with the America people to explain the unsustainable spending path we are on. I strongly urge you to embrace these groups, which I believe would be willing to be involved at no cost to the taxpayer.

Robert Samuelson said as much in his May 17 Washington Post column "Wake Up, America." The article is enclosed. I believe the American Enterprise Institute, the Aspen Institute, the Brookings Institution, the Concord Coalition, the Heritage Foundation, and the Urban Institute—organizations with years of experience in the very issues before your commission—would be receptive to any overtures. They all have a long track record of working together on fiscal issues.

I appreciate your consideration of my comments. Please do not hesitate to call if I may be of assistance to you in your endeavor of critical national importance.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

[From the Washington Post, May 17, 2010]

WAKE UP, AMERICA

(By Robert J. Samuelson)

You might think that Europe's economic turmoil would inject a note of urgency into America's budget debate. After all, high government deficits and debt are the roots of Europe's problems, and these same problems afflict the United States. But no. Most Americans, starting with the nation's political leaders, dismiss what's happening in Eu-

rope as a continental drama with little relevance to them.

What Americans resolutely avoid is a realistic debate about the desirable role of government. How big should it be? Should it favor the old or the young? Will social spending crowd out defense spending? Will larger government dampen economic growth through higher deficits or taxes? No one engages this debate, because if rigorously conducted, it would disappoint both liberals and conservatives.

Confronted with huge spending increases—reflecting an aging population and soaring health costs—liberals would have to concede that benefits and spending ought to be reduced. Seeing that total government spending would rise even after these cuts (more people would receive benefits, even if benefit levels fell), conservatives would have to concede the need for higher taxes. On both left and right, true believers would howl.

The lack of seriousness is defined by three missing words: "balance the budget." These words are taboo. In February, President Obama created a National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (call it the Deficit Commission). Its charge is to propose measures that would reduce the deficit to the level of "interest payments on the debt" by 2015 so as "to stabilize the debt-to-GDP ratio at an acceptable level."

Understand? No? Well, you're not supposed to. All the mumbo jumbo about stabilizing "debt to GDP" and according special treatment to interest payments are examples of budget-speak. It's the language of "experts," employed to deaden debate and convince people that "something is being done" when little, or nothing, is being done. For example, Obama's target for 2015 would involve a deficit of about \$500 billion, despite an assumed full economic recovery (unemployment: 5.1 percent). The commission is also supposed to "propose recommendations that meaningfully improve the long-run fiscal outlook, including changes to address the growth of entitlement spending," a mushy mandate. But balance the budget? There's no mention.

In a classroom, limiting government debt in relation to GDP can be defended. The idea is to reassure investors (a.k.a. "financial markets") that the debt burden isn't becoming heavier so they will continue lending at low interest rates. But in real life, the logic doesn't work. Governments inevitably face deep recessions, wars or other emergencies that require heavy borrowing. To stabilize debt to GDP, you have to aim much lower than the target in good times, meaning that you should balance the budget (or run modest surpluses) after the economy has recovered from recessions.

Interestingly, Europe's experience discredits debt-to-GDP targets. The 16 countries using the euro were supposed to adhere to a debt target of 60 percent of GDP. Before the financial crisis, the target was widely breached. From 2003 to 2007, Germany's debt averaged 66 percent of GDP, France's 64 percent and Italy's 105 percent of GDP. Once the crisis hit, debt-to-GDP ratios jumped; by 2009, they were 73 percent for Germany, 78 percent for France and 116 percent for Italy.

The virtue of balancing the budget is that it forces people to weigh the benefits of government against the costs. It's a common-sense standard that people intuitively grasp. If the Deficit Commission is serious, it will set a balanced budget in 2020 as a goal, allowing time to phase in benefit cuts and tax increases. It will then invite think tanks (from the Heritage Foundation on the right to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities on the left) and interest groups (from the Chamber of Commerce to AARP) to present plans to reach that goal. Their competing visions could jump-start a long-overdue debate on government's role.

The odds seem against this. The Deficit Commission may embrace debt-to-GDP targets and aim for a "primary balance" (excluding interest payments) because it's easier politically. Consider: In 2020 the deficit will be \$1.254 trillion on spending of \$5.67 trillion, projects the Congressional Budget Office. Closing that gap would require steep tax increases or deep spending cuts. But \$916 billion of the projected deficit represents interest payments. Ignoring them instantly "solves" three-quarters of the problem.

The message from Europe is that this approach ultimately fails. Intellectually elegant evasions are still evasions. Though financial markets may condone lax government borrowing for years, confidence can shatter unexpectedly. Lenders retreat or insist on punishing interest rates. Market pressures then impel harsh austerity—benefit cuts or tax increases—far more brutal than anything governments would have needed to do on their own. We are, by inaction and self-deception, tempting that fate.

HONORING ELIZABETH BROWN WILSON

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, in 1931 a virtuous woman of God was born and today we gather to pay tribute for her life's work; and

Whereas, Elizabeth Brown Wilson, not only talked the talk, but she walked the walk as it related to community service for all the citizens in our district; and

Whereas, Elizabeth Brown Wilson has served our district well as a commissioner for the city of Decatur, an advocate and activist for seniors and as mayor of the City of Decatur, being the first African American woman to serve as mayor; and

Whereas, this wise elder and woman of God has shared her time and talents for the betterment of her community and her nation through her tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration that have been and continue to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Elizabeth Brown Wilson for her outstanding leadership and service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim May 22, 2010, as Elizabeth Brown Wilson Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

FEMALE VETERANS

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take a minute to remember all of our heroic soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who have given their lives while fighting for our Nation's freedom. Their patriotism and bravery are the foundation of our Nation's history and I am honored to pay tribute to them in front of the United States Congress for Memorial Day.

I'd especially like to call attention to the women who have stepped forward and put their lives on the line for our country throughout the decades. Women began taking part in our armed forces nearly 220 years ago, and they have been serving courageously, selflessly, and with perseverance ever since. Their service went unrecognized for far too long, but in 1997, a Women's Veterans Memorial was established in Washington to honor these great American heroes. Likewise, I honor the impact our women veterans have had on our Nation and our freedom through their dedication and sacrifice.

My District, the 11th to District of Georgia, is home to many Servicewomen of the United States Armed Forces—both active duty and retired. I am extraordinarily proud of and grateful for these brave American women on this Memorial Day—and every other day.

HONORING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILFORD SENIOR CENTER

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate 40 years of elderly care and companionship at the Milford Senior Center, the first and oldest senior center in Milford and one of the top ten places in the country for single retirees, according to U.S. News and World Report last year.

Four decades ago this month, the Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church opened what would become the Milford Senior Center in three rooms in their church basement. Today, the Center boasts its own sprawling 30,000-square-foot facility, with an auditorium, dining hall, lounge, music room, and, for those senior citizens bravely foraying into 21st century technology, even a computer lab.

And along with providing a wonderful environment for seniors to socialize and relax, the Milford Center provides a number of important services for the community, from meals on wheels to free blood pressure screenings to energy and income tax assistance. Their Ahrens Program, while offering much-needed respite to caregivers, helps seniors with cognitive impairments to eat well, learn, and play.

All too often, one's "golden years" can be filled with struggle. Health concerns, the loss of independence, a profound sense of loneliness—these are just some of the challenges our seniors can face in later years. But senior centers like Milford, and the invaluable programs, services, and activities they provide, help to stem these obstacles. They make a real difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens. Thanks to Milford, elderly citizens can come together, get the help and resources they need to thrive, and, in short, have fun.

My deepest thanks go out to the staff of the center for all the good they have done over the past 40 years. Congratulations on reaching this milestone, and here's to many more such anniversaries in the future. Your caring each and every day reminds us, as it reminds so many of Milford's seniors, that age is really just a state of mind.

NORCO COLLEGE, 112TH COLLEGE IN THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norco College as an independent college of the Riverside Community College District and congratulate the entire college community for its success in becoming the 112th college in the California Community Colleges system.

Since 1916, Riverside Community College District has served as an institution of higher education in western Riverside County. In 1991, the district created the Norco Campus as an education center to serve the communities of Corona, Norco, Eastvale and areas of Riverside County. When Norco's doors opened in March 1991 there were 3,088 students enrolled. Now, nearly 10 years later, that number has increased to more than 11,000.

Norco College offers a full complement of lower division courses in liberal arts, sciences, humanities and basic skills education, while offering specialist career technical programs in engineering, electronics, computer information systems, architecture, manufacturing, logistics, construction, game simulation and development, and commercial music.

On January 29, 2010, the Norco Campus received approval to become Norco College, thereby establishing it as the 112th college in the California Community Colleges system. And on June 10, Norco College will celebrate 531 students as its inaugural graduating class of 2010.

The process for gaining full accreditation status has been 8 years in the making for Norco, and I commend all those involved for their diligent efforts—including faculty, staff, students and administrators. I assure you, your dedication has not gone unnoticed and has yielded an achievement worthy of your efforts. Congratulations again, on this important milestone in Norco College's history.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF RENATA STRAUSE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most dedicated and productive members of the Judiciary Committee staff for her service to the House, Renata Strause. For 3½ years, Renata has worked with exceptional dedication and drive for the Judiciary Committee, and I rise to commend her for her achievements.

After graduating from high school in Lancaster, PA, Renata began her professional career before attending college when she worked for a year as a legislative aide to State Representative P. Michael Sturla in the Pennsylvania State General Assembly. After putting together the first annual Lancaster Legislative Weekend, Renata matriculated at Oberlin College in Ohio during the Fall of 2002.