

JANUARY 25, 2011.

Hon. HEATH SHULER,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR HEATH: Thank you for your interest in serving on the House Budget Committee in the 112th Congress. According to the Democratic Caucus rules, members are entitled to take a leave of absence from their standing committee until their tenure on the Budget Committee is complete. Thus, your full seniority on the Small Business Committee shall be fully protected for the duration of your service on the Budget Committee.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
House Democratic
Leader.
ROSA DELAURO,
Co-Chair House
Democratic Steering
& Policy Committee.

JANUARY 25, 2011.

Democratic Steering and Policy Committee,
Chairwoman ROSA DELAURO,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN DELAURO: This letter is to advise you that, effective today, I am taking a leave of absence from the Committee on Small Business until my tenure on the Committee on the Budget is completed. It is my understanding from Clause C of Rule 19 of the Democratic Caucus rules (referenced below) that I will continue to accrue seniority during the leave of absence, at the same rate as if I had continued to serve on the Committee on Small Business.

Rule 19, Clause C: "Any Member of the Committee on the Budget shall be entitled to take a leave of absence from service on any committee or subcommittee during the period he or she serves on the Budget Committee and seniority rights of such Member on such committee and on each subcommittee to which such Member was assigned at the time shall be fully protected as if such Member had continued to so serve during the period of the leave of absence."

Accompanying this letter is a letter from the Democratic Leader verifying that my seniority on the Committee on Small Business will continue to accrue during my absence.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HEATH SHULER,
Member of Congress.

JANUARY 25, 2011.

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cratic Steering &
Policy Committee.

HONORING RESIDENTS OF THE
VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS,
ILLINOIS ON THEIR 125TH ANNI-
VERSARY AS A VILLAGE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the residents of Western Springs, Illinois, a village in my district and my hometown, which will celebrate its quasiquintennial anniversary on January 30, 2011.

Western Springs enjoys a long and colorful history beginning in the early 19th century. The area, originally consisting of swampland and flat plains, was settled by a small population of farmers in 1834. These rural families enjoyed a very quiet life until the CB&Q Railroad arrived in 1863. New construction filled the swamps and the Western Springs Land Association purchased the three tracts of land on which Western Springs now sits for \$105,000.

Many of the area's earliest inhabitants were Quaker, so the town adopted a personality that included a simple lifestyle and a prohibition of alcohol. Eventually, developer Thomas Clarkson Hill moved to the area and helped to organize the community to attract more residents. Area inhabitants built a school house in 1872 and a post office in 1873 and as more new immigrants arrived, Quaker influence dwindled. After several more community projects, the Village of Western Springs incorporated in 1886, named for the mineral springs to the southwest of the town.

In 1890, the Village hired Edgar and Benezette Williams to design and build a waterworks system after the local water springs were depleted. The famous Western Springs Water Tower was part of that project and still stands 112 feet tall as a National Register Historic Place.

Western Springs' other most historic site is the Ekdahl House, built by August Ekdahl as a general store. The general store was one of the town's first businesses and later served as a post office. The building is now a museum where local residents can learn about the history of their village. The preservation of the Water Tower and the Ekdahl house can be attributed to the efforts of the determined members of the Western Springs Historical Society.

Although Western Springs has come a long way since its days as a Quaker farm settlement, it is still a safe and quiet town as demonstrated by its being named by Business Week a "Great Place to Raise Kids" and one of CNN Money's "Best Places to Live." My wife Judy and I are proud to be counted among the Village's 12,493 residents. I will gather with my fellow Western Springs residents at McClure Junior High on January 30th to celebrate the Village's 125th year. We will enjoy festivities including a giant tower cake, ice skating, and a bonfire, along with honoring the 2010 Citizens of the Year.

I ask you to join me in honoring the residents of Western Springs, Illinois on their 125th anniversary as a village. May they enjoy this weekend's celebration and may the Village continue to thrive as a close community.

COMMENDING THE EFFORTS OF
NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, parents across this country have taken a stand, and they are demanding more academic choices for their children. In that spirit, I would like to highlight that this week, January 23–29, marks the inaugural "National School Choice Week," an event that promotes giving parents a choice on education.

The mission of National School Choice Week is simple: we need a K–12 education system that provides a wide array of options. We need an effective education system that has the flexibility to personalize and motivate students and allow parents to choose the school that is best for their child.

To provide a system of learning that meets the needs of tomorrow's students, we need to empower the parents, teachers and school systems today. I am honored to take this opportunity to champion this cause and the individual freedom to choose. I believe that promoting educational choice for parents and students is a vital part of the educational process. Our students deserve the best teachers, facilities, and studying environments. I am proud to say that I am "all in" for National School Choice Week.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BLACK
JANUARY IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the people of Azerbaijan in remembrance of the tragic events of Black January, when at midnight of January 19, 1990, 26,000 Soviet troops stormed the capital city of Baku with tanks and armored vehicles.

That night the Soviet military machine intended to restore public order by bulldozing innocent people and firing on peaceful demonstrators, including on women and children. According to Azerbaijani records, as a result of this merciless act authorized by then President Mikhail Gorbachev, 130 people died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested, and 5 went missing.

Human Rights groups have condemned the Baku incursion for its attacks on medical personnel, ambulances and even hospitals. The punishment inflicted by Soviet soldiers was intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in other Republics of the Soviet Union. The Soviet use of force in Baku was a desperate attempt to rescue the totalitarian regime. However, Black January had the opposite effect on Azerbaijan. It consolidated the rising independence movements in the country and united the Azerbaijani nation in their quest for freedom.

Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country and has become an essential partner of the United States in the region, collaborating on strengthening energy security and working together to counter terrorism and extremism. I would like to thank the Azerbaijani

people for their friendship and share my thoughts and prayers with the families of those who gave their lives fighting for a better Azerbaijan. The United States will continue to work with Azerbaijan and other countries in the region to promote human rights, maintain stability, strengthen institutions, enhance the rule of law, and settle conflicts.

HONORING THE LATE HMONG GENERAL VANG PAO FOR HIS VALIANT SERVICE AND STEADFAST ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to General Vang Pao, the revered leader of the Hmong community residing in my Northern California congressional district and throughout the United States. I join that community in mourning his loss.

It is fitting for all Americans to pause and reflect on General Vang Pao's steadfast alliance with the United States during the Vietnam War. General Vang Pao commanded the Secret Army, a highly effective CIA-trained and supported force that fought against the Pathet Lao and People's Army of Vietnam. His tremendous courage and leadership aided American soldiers against aggression from the North Vietnamese. By fighting valiantly at our nation's side, he helped preserve and protect our way of life.

Our nation should not forget General Vang Pao's contributions to the American cause. We must also remember the Hmong who lost their lives or who were forced out of their homeland as they fought against the evils of communism. They sacrificed tremendously and deserve our enduring gratitude.

HONORING MELVIN E. ZIEGLER

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melvin E. Ziegler, who soon is to receive the World War II Bronze Star Medal. This prestigious award is given to those in the United States Army distinguished as heroic or meritorious during their service fighting against an enemy of the United States.

Mr. Ziegler fought in the 88th Infantry Division during World War II in Italy. He previously was honored with the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman Badge. Unbeknownst to Mr. Ziegler, he was awarded The Bronze Star Medal; however, it was never awarded or issued to him. Melvin recently received a letter from the Department of the Army informing him of this honor. I am pleased to say that after 65 years, Melvin E. Ziegler will receive the medal he so greatly deserves.

During World War II, Private Ziegler was part of the force driving the Nazis from North

Italy. Melvin was shot by a German machine gunner. The bullet was stopped from going through his chest by a New Testament Bible that he held in his chest pocket. Mr. Ziegler stated that he frequently did not read the Bible at the time, but since that fateful day, he reads it often.

Melvin currently lives in Owensville, Missouri, with his wife of over 60 years, Iola. He will be presented the medal on Sunday, January 30, 2011, at his church of 20 years, the Salem Full Gospel Church in Salem, Missouri. Surrounded by his family, friends, and congregation members, Melvin E. Ziegler will finally receive the Bronze Star Medal for his service and heroism.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Melvin E. Ziegler for this celebrated award and thank him for his service to this great country.

REDUCING NON-SECURITY SPENDING TO FISCAL YEAR 2008 LEVELS OR LESS

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 38, an irresponsible piece of legislation that asks the members of the House to abdicate their responsibility to vote on a budget for the federal government. This resolution opens the door to massive funding cuts to programs that are critical to our fragile economic recovery.

Mr. Speaker, with H. Res. 38 the Republicans have offered what they call a "Budget Resolution"—but what should be called a "Budgetless Resolution" because it contains no numbers, no specifics and, worst of all, no ideas for job creation or economic recovery.

Instead, it takes the unprecedented step of giving unilateral authority to the Budget Committee chairman to set spending limits for the federal government. With all due respect to Chairman Ryan, no members of Congress should ever contract out their vote to another member—especially not on something as fundamentally important as setting funding levels for the federal government.

H. Res. 38, the Budgetless Resolution, is a one-page document that makes the vague and simplistic goal of reducing federal spending to 2008 levels or less. Democrats are serious about deficit reduction. But we also must make sure that we continue on the path to economic recovery.

Mr. Speaker, we have to be able to walk and chew gum at the same time. If we are going to work on deficit reduction—as we should—we should go through the budget surgically, examining where federal investments are working and where they are not.

The Republican plan is the exact opposite approach—it is deficit reduction while blindfolded. The across the board Republican budget cuts would seriously hurt the people in my district by gashing funding for critical programs.

We are not talking about "duplicative" or "wasteful" spending. We are talking about Title I education funding that gives poor students after-school support that helps them

reach their full potential; GOP cuts would leave over 332,000 students in California without extra academic support.

We are talking about Title II education funds that keep class sizes small and classrooms more focused; GOP cuts would lay off over 1,000 teachers in California, resulting in dramatically larger class sizes for students in my district.

And this is just one example of the effect that Republican budget cuts would have in one state and in one area. Imagine how devastating the cumulative effect of Republicans' blind, across the board cuts. We are not talking about stripping funding for "bridges to nowhere"—we are talking about real people; real lives; real families.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to cut spending, let's not do so blindly. Let's have a bipartisan conversation about what our spending priorities are and where we can afford to trim the budget. I am certain that we can come to some agreement if we at least allow a conversation to be had. Deficit reduction is one of Democrats' top priorities. But we owe it to the American people to do so responsibly.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H. Res. 38.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,062,239,904,820.69.

On January 6th, 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 \$3,423,814,158,526.89 since then.

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

HONORING ROSEMARIE DUERTA HUGGINS FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CABRILLO CIVIC CLUBS OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosemarie Duerta Huggins for her outstanding leadership and service as the 2010 President of Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California, Inc.

Rosemarie is a long-standing civic leader in California's Portuguese community. Upon joining Cabrillo Civic Club #10 Fresno County in 1967, Rosemarie embraced the mission of the Clubs, which is to be dedicated to the progress of California in memory of Portuguese compatriot, Joao Rodrigues Cabrilho, discoverer of California; to observe September 28 of each year as "Cabrillo Day"; to erect and maintain appropriate memorials, shrines and landmarks of Portuguese navigators who discovered and explored California; to teach