

When, who lives . . . , or dies? And who but lives to see another sunrise?
 When, it all so depends on you! Such Splendid Splendor, Such God-like Light!
 Which, bring's such tears to even The Angels eyes! All in such selfless sacrifice!
 While, bathed all In Honor's Light! Goodness! Evil! Darkness! Light!
 Those Brave Hearts, Who Evil Must Fight! Who so shine, who but bring their light!
 All In Honor's Light!
 Moments! Are all we have! When, it all so depends on you!
 When, death but lies so very close! As when you Leroy, so rose to such new heights!
 Ranger, all in your most brilliant light! As it all so came shining through!
 All in valor's most magnificent hue! For what child will now be born?
 For which love's, will so live on?
 Who might change the world, or rise . . . all In Honor's Height!
 Sgt. 1st Class Petry, All because you! When, All In Honor and Death . . .
 What your fine heart, so pledged!
 For what was right and what is true! 'Ah yes, Ranger's lead, Leroy as so did you!
 All for our nation, and that old Red, White and Blue!
 All for your Brothers In Arms, as your most courageous heart so grew!
 All in, Your Most Magnificent Hue! All In Honor's Light, So Very True!
 As why this day Ranger Petry, you so shine so true!
 With all of those other magnificent's . . .
 Who now so who, have so shown All Honor's Light so too!
 As this Medal of Honor, we now bestowed upon You!
 All In Honor's Light! This hue!
 OOO-AH!

—by Albert Carey Caswell.

IN HONOR OF PAUL BURIK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Paul Burik, who is being honored at this year's American Nationalities Movement's awards dinner.

Mr. Burik, was born in Budvar, in what was then Czechoslovakia. In 1968, during the Soviet invasion, he and his father managed to escape and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. After graduating from Kent State University with a degree in architecture, Paul spent much of his professional career working as Chief Architect for the City of Cleveland.

Mr. Burik is currently the President of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation, an organization consisting of more than two dozen gardens representing various nationalities. Among the gardens is a Czech Garden. Since he became President, the Cultural Gardens have expanded annually for the past four years and several more nationalities are waiting to build a garden. Mr. Burik is also the President of the Cleveland Chapter of the Czech and Slovak Society of Arts and Sciences, a nonprofit cultural organization.

Mr. Burik currently resides in Avon, Ohio, with his wife, Fran, with whom he has two children and two grandchildren. In Avon, Paul is the co-Founder and Secretary of the French Creek Development Association, an organization dedicated to the improvement and promotion of downtown Avon.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Paul Burik, a man who has dedicated so much of his time and talents to his community and its betterment.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and privilege to congratulate New York—Presbyterian Hospital for its impressive achievement of once again ranking number one among New York hospitals according to U.S. News and World Report's 2011–2012 Best Hospital Rankings. Nationally, New York—Presbyterian ranked sixth out of almost 5,000 hospitals. The hospital offers the highest quality comprehensive care, which has also landed it on U.S. News' Honor Roll for the eleventh year in a row. Achieving this prestigious distinction is no small feat. In order to reach this list, a hospital must be ranked at or near the top in at least six specialties. New York—Presbyterian is highly ranked in 11. These specialties include Cancer; Cardiology & Heart Surgery; Diabetes & Endocrinology; Geriatrics; Neurology & Neurosurgery; Orthopedics; Psychiatry; and Pulmonology. The hospital is also nationally ranked in 15 adult and 10 pediatric specialties.

New York—Presbyterian Hospital is the largest not-for-profit, non-sectarian hospital in the United States, with 2,409 beds and nearly 2 million inpatient and outpatient visits annually. The hospital has 6,144 affiliated physicians and a staff of nearly 20,000. New York—Presbyterian is a teaching hospital with five major centers located throughout New York State. It is accredited by the Joint Commission and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

There are many other attributes to this great institution that keep it among the nation's top hospitals. New York—Presbyterian Hospital puts its patients first, staying on the cutting edge of life-saving technology. As the only hospital in the United States affiliated with two Ivy-League medical schools, the hospital seeks to reinvent medical practice, offering breakthrough treatments for brain and prostate cancers. The hospital has centers and institutes dedicated specifically to cardiology and reproductive medicine. New York—Presbyterian Hospital offers world class care, with the largest solid organ transplant program in the nation. Safety and quality are top priorities for the hospital and they have created an award-winning "Patient Safety Fridays" program that has been adopted by medical centers throughout the country.

It brings immense honor to the fifteenth district of New York and to the state as a whole, for the commendable work of this hospital to be recognized on a national scale. I congratulate New York—Presbyterian, the President and CEO of the hospital, Dr. Herbert Pardes, and encourage them to keep up the great work.

RECOGNITION OF BEVERLY ARMSTRONG AND HER SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable service of Beverly Armstrong to the United States of America. Like many military spouses, Beverly has devoted her life to the United States Army as the wife of Retired Sergeant First Class John P. Armstrong and as a Department of the Army Civilian. After twenty-one years of loyal and dedicated service to the U.S. Army as a civilian employee, Beverly retired from Fort Devens, Massachusetts on June 30, 2011.

Beverly Armstrong was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia on October 11, 1947. Beverly met SFC Armstrong when he returned to Virginia in 1967 from his first tour of duty in Vietnam and they married two months later. Shortly after, SFC Armstrong was deployed to Fort Wainwright, Alaska and Fort Leonardwood, Missouri with Beverly by his side. SFC Armstrong was deployed to a second tour of duty in Vietnam two years later where he was wounded by gunfire. SFC Armstrong returned to active duty in Korea and Germany while Beverly remained in the United States. Their last active duty posting was at Fort Devens, Massachusetts where SFC Armstrong retired in 1986.

Beverly and SFC Armstrong both returned to the U.S. Army in 1989 as civilian employees. Beverly continued serving her country and its military as a Military Pay Clerk, Statistician at the U.S. Army Hospital, and a Procurement Clerk and Purchasing Agent, all at Fort Devens. Later, as a Contract Specialist within the Fort Devens Contracting Office, Beverly honored her country by processing contracts for soldiers involved in Operations Desert Storm, Desert Shield, and Enduring Freedom. During her tenure as a federal employee with the U.S. Army, Beverly served with pride and valor just as she has served her country throughout her life.

Beverly Armstrong contributed twenty-one years of civilian service in addition to over forty years as a military spouse. Beverly stood by SFC Armstrong through six deployments including three overseas and one in a combat zone. Military families sacrifice much in the support of our troops. It is only fitting that all Americans recognize their considerable service for our country. On the occasion of her retirement, I commend Beverly for an extensive and auspicious civilian career with the U.S. Army and express my sincere gratitude for her distinguished service to the United States of America.

ADDRESSING OUR NATION'S POVERTY PROBLEM

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, earlier today my colleagues spoke about poverty in

America. I regret that I could not join them at that time and now I wish to submit my own remarks. These are very tough times for rural districts such as the one I represent in the northeastern corner of North Carolina. It is the fourth poorest Congressional District in the U.S. 24 percent of the people I represent and 36 percent of the children live below the poverty line. Those are chilling statistics.

There are enormous racial disparities in poverty rates, and they are only getting larger. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 25.8 percent—one in four—of all black Americans live in poverty compared to an overall national poverty rate of 14.3 percent. This compares to 25.3 percent poverty among Hispanics, 12.5 percent among Asians and 9.4 percent among whites.

The poverty problem in America is getting worse; not better. In 2006, the overall poverty rate was 12.6 percent, and in 2008, the overall poverty rate was 13.2 percent. The poverty rate now is the highest it has been since 1994.

Other indicators are equally alarming. More Americans than ever find themselves in need of food. In 2009, 14.7 percent of U.S. households had difficulty providing enough food for family members at some point during the year. This is the highest level observed since the U.S.D.A. started monitoring food security in 1995. From 2007 to 2009, the number of households using food pantries rose by 44 percent from 3.9 to 5.6 million households.

Similar trends of racial disparities exist amongst individuals lacking health insurance coverage. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 21 percent—one in five—black Americans are uninsured. This compares to 12 percent among whites and 17.2 percent among Asians. The number of uninsured children has risen to 7.5 million. In total, over 50.7 million people, or 16.7 percent of the country's population lack health insurance coverage—a dramatic increase from 46.3 million in 2008.

Poverty, hunger, and suffering are increasing—especially for people of color—during these difficult economic times. These are sad and terrible realities that a distressing number of my constituents face.

My district has many vivid and unfortunate illustrations of poverty: nearly one in 20 homes in some counties do not have a telephone or a kitchen, and many of my constituents are still living without indoor plumbing. As the national numbers show, eastern North Carolina is not unique in its poverty or suffering. People are poor, getting poorer, and are largely being ignored by policy makers all across the country.

Recent budget plans offered by the other side of the aisle would cut spending from most safety net programs, such as Medicare, Social Security, and food security programs, while increasing defense spending. If these misguided plans are passed into law, the impacts would be felt by all Americans and we would face a second Great Recession.

As we face an impending debt crisis and unsustainable levels of spending, we must balance our ongoing commitments to job creation and tax code reform while ensuring changes are not made at the expense of children, minorities, and seniors. We have a moral obligation to fight for the millions of Americans who are overlooked and suffering each and every day.

Mr. Speaker, we must work together toward developing comprehensive strategies to eradi-

cate the growing poverty and hunger in the world's wealthiest nation.

IN HONOR OF THE AMERICAN VOLUNTEER GROUP “FLYING TIGERS”

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Volunteer Group (AVG) known in China as “The Flying Tigers,” on the occasion of its 70th anniversary.

In 1941, Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek authorized retired U.S. Lieutenant General Claire Lee Chennault to create a group of American pilots and airmen to assist and train Chinese aerial forces. With President Franklin D. Roosevelt's permission, Armed Forces members were allowed to volunteer for this assignment. In total, 97 pilots and 185 ground personnel from the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps volunteered.

The group faced many initial challenges. To start, the group had 100 P-40 fighter planes (painted with the now-famous “shark's face” nose), many of which were in less than ideal condition. Additionally, the group had only four months to train and prepare before action started. However, the AVG was able to establish three separate squadrons: Adam and Eve, the Panda Bears, and Hell's Angels.

The group first saw action on December 20, 1941, just 12 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. While U.S. air forces and the Royal Air Force were generally unsuccessful against the Japanese at the war's onset, the AVG was notably successful, largely due to Chennault's innovative fighting tactics.

For their efforts, at the group's 50th anniversary, the AVG was rewarded veteran status for service in World War II. The following year they were also rewarded with the Presidential Unit Citation. In 1992, each member of the AVG ground personnel was awarded the Bronze Star and pilots were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the American Volunteer Group “Flying Tigers,” whose bravery and courage in the face of incredible difficulties will inspire future pilots and military servicemen and women for years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call my colleagues' attention to the 37th anniversary of the Turkish tragic invasion of Cyprus. Turkey's unlawful occupation, which began on this day in 1974, left thousands of innocent Greek Cypriot civilians without their homes, their land, and their families. It is crucial for us to commemorate this unfortunate situation and assist the people of Cyprus in reaching a solution.

Many of the Cypriot generation who suffered the invasion have not lived to see justice or a resolution to this conflict. Although many of the survivors have had the opportunity to return to their homes on the northern side of the island, it was only to discover them occupied by Turkish settlers.

Only Turkey recognizes the occupied northern side of the country as a Turkish Cypriot state, but it does not even provide a valid standard of living to their own citizens. This was made evident through the recent demonstrations by Turkish Cypriots who have displayed their own dissatisfaction with the Turkish occupation.

Thirty-seven years after the invasion, the Turkish government continues to throw obstacles in the path to peace. Instead of compromising, Turkey threatens a deadlock on relations between Turkey and the European Union if the Republic of Cyprus takes over the presidency of the European Union in July 2012. It is clear that Cypriots of all kinds are ready for peace, but how can peace be reached when Turkey will not even accept Cyprus as a member of the European Union? The time has come for Turkey to end their threats, withdraw their troops, and return the territory that is not rightfully theirs. That way, the Cypriots—and the Cypriots alone—can make the decisions affecting their future.

DEBT REDUCTION PLANS EFFECTS ON POVERTY

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the devastating effects of the Republican agenda on the poor. Debt reduction plans that gut social safety net programs will put millions of low-income families at risk.

According to the U.S. Census, the number of people in poverty in 2009—43.6 million—is the largest number in the 51 years for which poverty estimates have been published.

In my home state of Ohio, 15.2 percent of the state's population lived in poverty in 2009. Among African-American seniors, 67 percent are at or below the poverty line, and 12 percent of African Americans rely on Medicare to survive.

Cuts to Medicaid will disproportionately affect African-American communities. In 2009, 27 percent of African-Americans—approximately 10 million people, including 6 million children—were covered by Medicaid.

When everyone talks about the budget, all you hear about are numbers. Behind those numbers are people: hard-working Americans or the unemployed or those who are just getting by.

There is an urgent need to resolve the debt ceiling issue and it is beyond irresponsible not to raise the debt limit. We all agree that we have to responsibly reduce the deficit, but not on the backs of the most vulnerable. My job in Congress is to be a voice for the voiceless and I will fight to help these Americans by opposing the Republican budget.