

Jake Swihart, Brad Nauman, Jamie Swihart, and Dakota Wenzel; sophomores Garret Gehringer, Trent Verwers, Chris Darr, and Gage Gavin; and freshmen Eddy Kraber, Luke Anstil, and Travis Seymour. These young players have been expertly coached by Justin Dehmer, Sean Smith and Steve Westphal and have undoubtedly made them very proud.

Mr. Speaker, the pride and excitement that this team has brought to their community and to the state of Iowa cannot be overstated. Their unrelenting commitment to their coaches and teammates speaks volumes of the Iowa work ethic and the rewards of working together. It is truly an honor to represent the players, coaches and families of this team in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these state champions and wish them continued success on and off the field in the future.

PROCLAMATION

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Bishop Miles and First Lady Helen Fowler are celebrating fifty years (50) in marriage today in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, on June 18, 1961 because of their union then, our community today has been blessed with a family that has enhanced our district, Bishop Fowler as Pastor of Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist Church and Mrs. Fowler as First Lady, they both are instruments in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical, economic and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God and this phenomenal and virtuous Proverbs 31 woman have given hope to the hopeless, fed the hungry and are beacons of light to those in need, they both have been blessed with their family, their church and the DeKalb County community; and

Whereas, Bishop and First Lady Fowler are distinguished citizens of our district, they are spiritual warriors, persons of compassion, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their family, but with our District their passion to improve the lives of others; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop Miles and First Lady Fowler as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, fifty (50) years in marital bliss;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 18, 2011 as Bishop Miles and First Lady Helen Fowler Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 18th day of June, 2011.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Budget Control Act of 2011, S. 365.

First, with all the conflict and frustration surrounding this vote, I'm reverting to basic principles. One of which is, "don't negotiate with thugs." It's been long obvious that we have no partner with whom to negotiate; only a party that started as our comrades in government, then our colleagues, who evolved into our opponents, declared themselves our enemies and now demand that we be their enablers. I refuse to play.

Thugs are in the game to destroy, not build. They would destroy the government, and especially this presidency. They take hostages, and there is much work at stake that would be their next targets. It will be endless. The president has given into all of their demands, and they remain insatiable. It's time we starved the beast. Then . . .

They came to Washington they say committed not to do business as usual. Then they demanded that we protect every loophole, every billionaire and every greedy element in our society except those who need some help.

They set-up something that is their fail safe. I call it the "Kevorkian Commission" that will deliver the poison if in November, we don't volunteer to do it ourselves.

We Democrats in the House were not at the table, and we wind up on the menu.

There are arguments that are valid and good for voting "aye." But I didn't come to this place to forget the homeless, the hapless and the hungry.

The most vulnerable in our society don't watch their 401K plan, the Dow Jones Industrial Average or the futures market. Their future is getting through till tomorrow. They are more concerned about having a roof than they are the national debt ceiling. They need jobs, nutrition, education and encouragement. The time we've spent on this debate would indicate that we've bought into the trickle-down theory.

Here's what I know: the people I came here to help need real help. Their lives and future are really endangered. What happens to us people with portfolios, and Wall Street watchers is scary, but conjecture.

Sounds hokey, but I'm voting for what I came here to do.

PROCLAMATION

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Mr. Hank Stewart, a tenacious and poetic man from Jacksonville, Florida utilizes his gifts, talents and wisdom everyday to ensure that citizens are inspired and lives are touched; and

Whereas, Mr. Stewart is a renowned poet, motivator and community leader in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, he founded the Hank Stewart Foundation based on strengthening the whole child—mind, body and soul; and

Whereas, this model citizen has shared his time and talents for the betterment of his community and his Nation through his tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration that 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 Hank Stewart for his outstanding leadership and service to the citizens in the state of Georgia and on the 20th anniversary of becoming a poet and the 10th anniversary of his White Linen Affair;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 30, 2011 as Hank Stewart Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, This 30th day of July, 2011.

HONORING LACY AND DOROTHY HARBER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful couple from Denison, Texas, and outstanding community leaders—Lacy and Dorothy Harber. I have known Lacy and Dorothy Harber for many years and they are beloved and respected for their outstanding philanthropic work, generous spirit, and many contributions to their community. Knowing people like Lacy and Dorothy—and gratitude for their close friendship—is a great part of the benefits I receive as a Member of Congress.

This year the Harbers were awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, presented by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations. Each year, NECO honors "remarkable Americans who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage . . . creating a better world for all of us in the future by the work they do today."

The Harbers are in good company, joining past winners of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, including Presidents George H.W. Bush and Gerald Ford, Rosa Parks, and Bob Hope.

The couple's desire to help others springs from Lacy's humble beginnings. His father was a city bus driver and his mother cooked in a school lunch room. With four children in the family, Lacy, at the age of seven, began selling popcorn at baseball games.

From an early age, Lacy also suffered from severe scoliosis which, left untreated, would have likely prevented him from walking as an adult. At the time, the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas was developing new treatments for physically challenged children without charging for service. The hospital provided treatment for Lacy for nine years, and when he reached high school he was able to take his back brace off and compete on the track team.

Lacy learned from any early age the value of hard work and the understanding of what it means to do without. Through hard work, Lacy has become one of America's most successful entrepreneurs, and the couple has used their good fortune to improve the lives of those around them.

Lacy and Dorothy, who have been married over fifty years, wholly own the American Bank of Texas, but take no profits from the business. Rather, the profits go to charities and to those less fortunate. They have been known to pick up restaurant tabs for fellow patrons, hand out \$100 bills, provide fishing and

boating trips for children with physical or mental challenges, and give multi-million dollar donations to charities. Among the recipients of their generous gifts are Texoma Medical Center, Wilson N. Jones Medical Center, and Abilene Christian University. Recently, the couple helped buy a wheelchair and seek assistance for a handicapped teacher.

The Harbers routinely deflect attention from themselves with an humble attitude, stating that they merely enjoy helping others, adopting a “live to give” philosophy as they choose to share their good fortune with others. Their selfless giving is an inspiration to live a humble life in service to others. Mr. Speaker, I ask those here today to rise in honor of this most generous couple who represent the best values of philanthropy, Lacy and Dorothy Harber.

ON THE STATUS OF THE
EGYPTIAN COPTIC COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the ongoing violence in Egypt being carried out against religious minorities. While the end of the Mubarak regime has brought about the promise for democratic reform, it has also given rise to instability and acts of violence against religious minorities. Coptic Christians have lived peacefully in this part of the world for millennia, but sadly in recent months Coptic churches and protestors have been targeted for violence.

I am grateful to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, for holding a hearing recently on the plight of the Coptic people. I was concerned to learn of reports that young women and under-aged girls fear for their safety because of the threat of violence by Muslim extremists. As a member of the Religious Minorities in the Middle East Caucus, I strongly believe U.S. policymakers need to do more to raise awareness of this issue so that the innocent Christians of Egypt are no longer targeted for violence.

I am proud to represent a vibrant Coptic community in southeast Michigan and am privileged to consider the clergy of St. Mark’s Church in Troy, Michigan as my friends. Many of my constituents have relatives in Egypt and I know that they are deeply concerned about the security of their loved ones. I share their concerns—and the concerns of Copts across our nation—about the future of their community and the desire to preserve their right to continue to live peacefully in their ancestral homeland.

While we are hopeful for democratic change in Egypt, it is imperative that we maintain support for religious minority communities such as the Copts and seek to preserve and allow for the continuity of their community. I ask my colleagues to join me in raising awareness for the plight of the Copts, demanding an end to extremist violence, ensuring that all Egyptian political parties practice the values of pluralism and tolerance, and encouraging a democratic Egypt to fully respect the rights of all its citizens.

HONORABLE DISTINCTION

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one man who has given of himself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, Mr. Ladeadrick “Bob” Jackson’s work is present throughout Meadowcreek High School for all to see, being the Principal of Meadowcreek High School, Lilburn, Gwinnett County, Georgia from 2006 to 2011, he did much to aid in the achievements of the school; and

Whereas, this giant of a man taught academics to young scholars, managed administrators, inspired elected officials, motivated the young and the old, as he accomplished so much during his time on this earth; and

Whereas, this remarkable man gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life; he never asked for fame or fortune; he just wanted to uplift those in need, he just wanted to make a difference by educating others and building up a community; Mr. Jackson inspired others to do the same by witnessing him walk the walk and talk the talk; and

Whereas, Mr. Jackson led by doing behind the scenes and on the front lines for many; Mr. Jackson was a husband, a father, an educator and a friend; he was our warrior, our patriarch, a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of the community until his end; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow an honorable distinction and recognition on Mr. Ladeadrick “Bob” Jackson for his leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Georgia and throughout the Nation; as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that Mr. Ladeadrick “Bob” Jackson of Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this “Congressional Honorable Distinction.”

Mr. Ladeadrick “Bob” Jackson—U.S. Citizen of Distinction—in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 29th day of July, 2011.

SUSPENDING IMMIGRATION STATUS PETITION AND INTERVIEW TIME REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 398, “To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to toll, during active-duty service abroad in the Armed Forces, the periods of time to file a petition and appear for an interview to remove the conditional basis for permanent resident status, and for other purposes.” As a Senior member of the Judiciary Committee and a member of the Subcommittee on Immigration

Policy and Enforcement, I am proud to support this legislation because in many ways the current immigration system is flawed, and in need of reform.

Furthermore, I want to commend my colleague, Rep. ZOE LOFGREN for her leadership on immigration issues, especially in her former role as Chairwoman of the Immigration Subcommittee. The debate surrounding how to mend our broken immigration system continues to be polarized, with many differing opinions about how to best address the issues of unauthorized persons in our country. I would also like to commend Rep. LOFGREN for introducing this bill, H.R. 398, which addresses one of the many loopholes, oversights, and shortcomings in our current immigration system. This bill makes a simple change that helps our immigration process make more sense—it tolls time period to file a petition and appear for an interview to remove the conditional basis for permanent resident status while a petitioner is serving in active duty with the armed forces. It allows those men and women serving our country abroad to focus on protecting America, and not worry about their spouse’s immigration status.

Under current law, when either a U.S. citizen or lawful U.S. Permanent Resident sponsors an alien spouse, the alien spouse is granted conditional permanent resident status. After two years, the alien spouse and the U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident spouse must jointly file a petition with the Department of Homeland Security for the removal of the conditional status. If the petition is successful, the alien spouse becomes a full permanent resident. The petition must be filed during the 90-day period before the second anniversary of the spouse’s becoming a conditional permanent resident, unless the alien establishes to the satisfaction of DHS good cause and extenuating circumstances for failure to file on time. Upon the filing of the petition, DHS interviews the spouses to ascertain whether there was any possible marriage fraud. The interview is conducted within 90 days of the submission of the petition, unless DHS waives the deadline for the interview or the requirement for the interview.

As you can see, the 90-day joint filing deadline and the interview that follows, which requires the participation of the U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouse who is serving overseas in active duty status with the Armed Forces would, without a doubt, place undue hardship on the active duty petitioner. It would clearly be a disruption to the U.S. military to have to facilitate a member of the Armed Forces deployed overseas filing a petition and traveling for a personal interview with DHS. While DHS can choose to delay this process in appropriate circumstances, a blanket tolling of the time periods while a spouse is serving abroad in the U.S. Armed Forces is appropriate.

H.R. 398 tolls the time periods of time to file the petition and have an interview for removal of condition during any period of time in which a spouse is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and serving abroad in active-duty status. The spouses do retain the right to be able to file a petition within the normal time period and DHS retains the right to waive the interview requirement in appropriate circumstances.

Let’s help our military service member by giving them the peace of mind. The tolling of