

(c) Minority Staff.—The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall appoint, determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the legislative and administrative staff assigned to the Minority within the budget approved for those purposes. The legislative and administrative staff assigned to the Minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee who may delegate any authority he determines appropriate.

(d) Availability.—The skills and services of all Committee staff shall be available to all Members of the Committee.

#### RULE 12. COMMITTEE TRAVEL

In addition to any written travel policies the Committee may from time to time adopt, all travel of Members and staff of the Committee or its Subcommittees, to hearings, meetings, conferences and investigations, including all foreign travel, must be authorized by the Full Committee Chairman prior to any public notice of the travel and prior to the actual travel. In the case of Minority staff, all travel shall first be approved by the Ranking Minority Member. Funds authorized for the Committee under clauses 6 and 7 of House Rule X are for expenses incurred in the Committee's activities within the United States.

#### RULE 13. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed, by a majority vote of the Committee, provided that written notice of the proposed change has been provided each Member of the Committee prior to the meeting date on which the changes are to be discussed and voted on consistent with Committee Rule 3(a). A change to the rules of the Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record no later than 30 days after its approval and made publicly available in electronic form.

#### RULE 14. OTHER PROCEDURES

The Chairman may establish procedures and take actions as may be necessary to carry out the rules of the Committee or to facilitate the effective administration of the Committee, in accordance with the rules of the Committee and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### HONORING LOGAN CASSIDY AZEVEDO

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Logan Cassidy Azevedo. Logan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Logan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Logan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Logan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Logan Cassidy Azevedo for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING WILLIAM L. BLANCKENBURG OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge William Blanckenburg, a great leader in the community of Napa Valley. Judge Blanckenburg is being honored by the Napa Valley College Foundation with their "Spirit of Napa Valley College Award" for his many contributions to higher education in Napa County.

Judge Blanckenburg is being recognized this evening for being one of the founding fathers of the Napa Valley College Foundation. He served as its first President and as a member of the board of directors for 33 years. His vision and leadership was essential in growing the foundation—today it boasts assets of over \$5 million. He has also made personal financial contributions to the college by establishing several endowment funds to support the library, student scholarships and college programs.

Bill is one of Napa Valley's most accomplished citizens. He is a retired Napa County Judge who served for 22 years on the bench. He received his B.A. in History from UC Berkeley as well as a JD from Boalt Hall of Law. He was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1939, establishing a law practice in Napa from 1941 to 1957. Bill's career as an attorney was interrupted by his service with the United States Army in World War II. Judge Blanckenburg was a combat infantryman with the 3rd division at Anzio and was later commissioned in the Judge Advocate General Corps Reserve.

Judge Blanckenburg's catalog of community involvement and achievements is far too prolific to list here. He is a past President of the Rotary Club of Napa as well as the Napa Chamber of Commerce and the Napa County Bar Association. He is also a lifetime member of the Ridgeview PTA and a Member of the UC Berkeley Alumni Council, among many other boards and commissions.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Bill Blanckenburg for his many years of service. He has been a model citizen and leader in the Napa Valley and his presence has enriched the lives of everyone in our community. I join his entire family in thanking Bill for a distinguished lifetime of service and wishing him continued success and fulfillment.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,099,823,671,305.06.

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 \$3,461,397,925,011.20 since then.

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

HONORING CLIFFORD M. KENDALL

#### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding achievements of my constituent, Clifford M. Kendall. On February 9, 2011, Mr. Kendall will be receiving the Technology Council of Maryland's Lifetime Achievement Award. This recognition is richly deserved.

Cliff Kendall is a widely-respected business leader and entrepreneur whose accomplishments have benefitted our local community and our Nation. The first member of his family to graduate from college, Cliff earned a B.A. from the University of Maryland. Following graduation, he received an ROTC commission and served as a contracting officer in the U.S. Air Force. After earning an M.B.A. from the George Washington University, Cliff held positions at the Washington Gas and Light Company, American University, Washington University in St. Louis, and the consulting firm of Booz, Allen, & Hamilton, Inc.

In 1968, Cliff Kendall co-founded Computer Data Systems, Inc. (CDSI), now one of the nation's largest government contractors for information technology services and consulting. Serving as the company's President, CEO, and Chairman, Cliff helped CDSI become a company known for its outstanding service to Federal, State, and local government agencies and for its loyalty to its employees. Cliff is currently the Chairman of the Board of VSE Corporation, and has served on the Boards of i360technology, Inc. and Burdeshaw Associates, Ltd. He has also served as Chairman of the Board of On-Site Sourcing, Inc., and on the Boards of Washington Real Estate Trust and Affiliated Computer Services, Inc.

An inductee to the Washington Business Hall of Fame, Cliff Kendall has drawn admiration and respect from his peers and competitors alike. He has received numerous honors for his accomplishments in the business and education communities. He is Past Chairman of the Technology Council of Maryland, the Montgomery/Prince George's County CEO Business Roundtable, and the Greater Washington Board of Trade, and the President of the Montgomery County Education Connection. He has also served on the Board of the Maryland Economic Development Commission and the Suburban Maryland High Technology Council.

Cliff Kendall has dedicated substantial effort to ensuring access to higher education. He is currently serving in his eighth year as Chairman of the Board of Regents for the University System of Maryland and has also served on the Board of Directors for the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Cliff led the effort to build a new building for the George Washington University School of Business and continues to serve on the GWU Business School Advisory Board. He and his wife Camille created the Cliff and Camille Kendall Foundation, which funds scholarships to students studying Computer,

Mathematical, and Physical Sciences at the University of Maryland and Montgomery College. Cliff also has taught the capstone course for Johns Hopkins University's M.B.A. program as an adjunct professor.

In addition to his leadership and many contributions to business and higher education, Cliff Kendall has been deeply involved with non-profit organizations. He is the Founding Chair of the Community Foundation of Montgomery County and has been active with Lighthouse for the Blind and the Greater Washington Salvation Army.

On a personal note, I have benefitted greatly from Cliff's sage advice on a range of issues over the years. He was actively engaged in our debates in Annapolis over the future of higher education in Maryland. He has also been a strong advocate for making sure Maryland is at the cutting-edge of the high-technology economy. I am very grateful for all he has done for our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Clifford Kendall and his extraordinary contributions to our country.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEVADA TEST SITE

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Nevada Test Site on January 27, 2011, and the contributions of the thousands of men and women who served there throughout the Cold War. I deeply appreciate their dedication to their work and their unwavering patriotism. These test site workers are outstanding Americans and I thank them for being outstanding members of the southern Nevada community.

In 1950, President Harry Truman approved the recommendations of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense to establish a continental site for atomic bomb experiments. After consideration of possible sites throughout the United States, it was decided that the 5000 square mile Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range would be used for America's atomic weapons development program.

Shortly after midnight on January 27, 1951, personnel from the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory delivered a "nuclear capsule" to a heavily guarded Air Force B-50D sitting on a taxi strip at Kirtland Air Force Base outside Albuquerque. The B-50D lifted off from the runway and headed west through the darkness toward Frenchman Flat, a remote desert valley located on the new Nevada Test Site, sixty-five miles northwest of Las Vegas.

Shortly after 3:00 a.m., the go-ahead was issued for the test, code named Able. At 5:45 a.m., the device exploded as planned at a height of 1,060 feet. The Atomic Energy Commission swiftly moved to turn the Nevada Test site into a permanent proving ground for nuclear weapons.

For over four decades, the Nevada Test Site served as the nation's principal proving ground for nuclear weapons. Almost 90 percent of the 1,052 tests since 1945 were con-

ducted at the Nevada Test Site. During the 1950s, atmospheric testing provided for some spectacular visual performances, but also sent radioactive clouds beyond the test site boundaries and over inhabited areas. Concern regarding radioactive fallout spurred international test ban negotiations that culminated in the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963. The test ban treaty banned atmospheric testing, replacing it with underground testing.

The Nevada Test Site played a major role in winning the Cold War. Nuclear weapons capabilities and their testing shaped the manner in which the Cold War was fought. Many have argued that it was the determining factor in keeping the struggle from becoming an all-out hot war.

The Nevada Test Site resembles an actual battleground. Hundreds of saucer-like craters, formed by the subsidence of the ground above an underground test shot, pock the test site, creating an almost moon-like landscape. Although massive amounts of high-level radioactivity were locked into the earth in the contained blasts, plutonium and other radioactive substances are still detectable above ground. This is the legacy of Cold War combat.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it is my great honor to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Nevada Test Site and commend all the men and women who contributed to the security of our Nation through their expertise, service, sacrifice and duty to country.

#### HONORING JEFFREY BRENDAN LEAN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeffrey Brendan Lean. Brendan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brendan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brendan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brendan has earned rank of Ordeal Member in the Order of the Arrow and Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Brendan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Brendan designed and supervised the construction of a brick walkway to connect the East Entrance to the Family Life Center at Liberty United Methodist Church in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeffrey Brendan Lean for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, banks repossessed more than 1 million homes and issued nearly 3 million foreclosure notices in 2010. These record-breaking numbers defy a massive effort over the last two years by the Obama Administration to prevent foreclosures. Nearly \$12 billion dollars has been spent on a system to incentivize banks into lowering the monthly payments of troubled borrowers. But the program hasn't made a serious dent, and here's why: banks make more money on foreclosure than they do on mortgage loan modification.

Banks who give mortgages to homeowners also own many of the companies, known as servicers, which collect the monthly payments by borrowers. This seems like a logical arrangement, until you understand that servicers make more profit if a homeowner defaults on their mortgage and gets foreclosed on, than if the bank gives that struggling homeowner a mortgage modification. Yet one in five homeowners owe more on their mortgage than their home is even worth.

This has kept well-intentioned mortgage modification efforts by the Obama Administration will not be able to seriously reduce foreclosures until the banks are forced to write down the value of mortgages.

#### IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the current participants of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program is a unique eight week experience that brings some of the most dedicated Australian university students who have exhibited a passion for civic engagement and public service to Washington, DC to work in Congressional offices.

This year, I am honored to welcome Elizabeth 'Liz' Noble into my Washington, DC office and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in this valuable exchange program, as I have since this program was established in 2000. Since its inception, the program has seen 118 young Australians walk the halls of Congress in various capacities and it is with the utmost pride that I recognize the importance of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program in the United States House of Representatives.

Ms. Noble joined my office on January 3, 2011 from the University of Canberra where she is pursuing her B.A. in International Studies and Political Communication. During her time in my office, Liz has proven herself to be a tremendously caring, intelligent and dedicated intern and I am honored to host her. In addition to serving my constituents with professionalism and respect, she has attended hearings and briefings, drafted legislative correspondence and has assisted my staffers with a variety of important research projects.