

American, as they are in mine. I recall the disbelief, the shock and the horror we felt as we saw our Nation rocked to its core and saw thousands of innocent Americans lose their lives in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington in acts of deliberate and horrific violence. It was an assault, the likes of which had never before been carried out on our homeland.

Yet, in the face of overwhelming tragedy, we witnessed the enduring resilience and unwavering determination of the American spirit as our public safety personnel thrust themselves into unimaginable danger to save the victims. Indeed, our public safety personnel, overcoming fear, in a moment that embodied their sense of service and professionalism, rose to meet a challenge that none before them had ever faced. And on that day, some of our brave firefighters, first responders and police, made the ultimate sacrifice as they gave their lives in the fulfillment of their duty to protect the communities they served.

In this poignant display of their bravery, their courage and their resolve, we are reminded that our public safety personnel willingly and fearlessly put their lives on the line every day to ensure our wellbeing.

The men and women of the West Bloomfield Fire Department in Oakland County, Michigan carry within themselves these same virtues. The 86 employees that comprise the department have made protecting the residents of West Bloomfield and its surrounding communities their professional responsibility. It is a tribute to the dedication and professionalism of the West Bloomfield Fire Department that it is being honored with a piece of steel from the World Trade Center. I know this dedication ceremony will serve as a constant reminder to the communities served by the first responders of West Bloomfield's Fire Department that their vigilance and sacrifice make our lives safer every day. I commend and recognize the families and individuals who have made this dedication possible.

Mr. Speaker, the service and sacrifice of our public safety personnel make them true American heroes. On the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, I rise with my colleagues and stand with my constituents in honoring the commitment and sacrifice made by our family, friends and neighbors who hear the call to serve the public as police, firefighters and first responders—they are truly emblematic of the great strength of our Nation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,711,737,198,477.91.

On January 6, 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 \$4,073,311,452,184.11 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

ON RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF THE BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor public safety workers across Michigan's Ninth Congressional District, the State of Michigan and our Nation as we remember the tragedy that befell our country 10 years ago on September 11, 2001.

The brutal attacks of September 11, 2001 are no doubt etched into the minds of every American, as they are in mine. I recall the disbelief, the shock and the horror we felt as we saw our Nation rocked to its core and saw thousands of innocent Americans lose their lives in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington in acts of deliberate and horrific violence. It was an assault, the likes of which had never before been carried out on our homeland.

Yet, in the face of overwhelming tragedy, we witnessed the enduring resilience and unwavering determination of the American spirit as our public safety personnel thrust themselves into unimaginable danger to save the victims. Indeed, our public safety personnel, overcoming fear, in a moment that embodied their sense of service and professionalism, rose to meet a challenge that none before them had ever faced. And on that day, some of our brave firefighters, first responders and police, made the ultimate sacrifice as they gave their lives in the fulfillment of their duty to protect the communities they served.

In this poignant display of their bravery, their courage and their resolve, we are reminded that our public safety personnel willingly and fearlessly put their lives on the line every day to ensure our wellbeing.

As is the case with their brothers and sisters across the Nation, these virtues are embodied by the first responders of the Birmingham Fire Department in Oakland County, Michigan. Last year they responded to over two thousand emergencies ranging from fires to motor vehicle accidents and hazardous material spills. With 32 employees, the department has worked vigilantly on daily basis to ensure the safety of Birmingham residents. And in honor to their service, I know the steel from the World Trade Center which is being presented to the department, will remind us all of the unwavering commitment they have made to our community. I commend and recognize the families and individuals who have worked hard to make this dedication possible.

Mr. Speaker, the service and sacrifice of our public safety personnel make them true American heroes. On the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, I rise with my colleagues and stand with my constituents in honoring the commitment and sacrifice made by our family, friends and neighbors who hear the call to serve the public as police, firefighters and first responders—they are truly emblematic of the great strength of our Nation.

HORSESHOE RIVERBEND FESTIVAL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, every second weekend in September, Wayne County's population doubles as citizens and visitors alike attend the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival. Located on the banks of the Tennessee River in historic Clifton, Tennessee, this three day Festival celebrates the musical heritage championed in this great state.

Sponsored by the Clifton Rotary Club, the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival brings not just music, memories, and fireworks for those in attendance. More than those, the three day event raises support for charitable needs both at home and abroad. Gathering musicians with crafters and families with friends, the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival celebrates the great traditions of Tennessee.

I congratulate all those whose hard work and dedication to the City of Clifton have brought another year of success for the Festival. Tied together with the love of music and community, I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the music, the local artisans, and the 29 years of service that comes from the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival.

ON THE OCCASION OF DEDICATING OAKLAND COUNTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S NEW "GREEN" TERMINAL

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the leaders of Oakland County on the completion of Oakland County International Airport's new "green" terminal. This impressive accomplishment will undoubtedly enhance the service the airport provides to residents and businesses across Southeast Michigan. As a believer in the idea that economic development can be environmentally balanced, I am pleased to have advocated for national support of this project, which received federal resources to make this new terminal a reality.

Following its construction in 1928, the Oakland County International Airport, OCIA, has been a symbol of the forward-thinking economic vision and entrepreneurial spirit upon which the county was founded. In 1930, as a first-in-the-nation event, the OCIA was certified with an A-1-A rating from the U.S. government and has since been an important component of the local economy.

Today, the OCIA continues to play a significant role in the ongoing development of Southeast Michigan's economy. On an annual basis, the airport generates over \$150 million in revenue which supports the operations of Oakland County and the broader region. In 2010 alone, the airport served over a half a million passengers and pilots. With almost 120,000 departures and landings annually, the OCIA was the nation's twelfth busiest general aviation facility in 2010.

In keeping with its status as a symbol of Oakland County's economic progress and forward-thinking vision, the new terminal for the

OCIA has been LEED-certified by the U.S. Green Building Council—the first airport in the nation to achieve this distinction. Among its “green” features, the new terminal at OCIA boasts use of wind, solar and geothermal energy systems, which drastically reduce the environmental impact and cost of operating this regional economic engine. Additionally, the terminal includes recharging stations for electric vehicles and not only showcases the use of recycled materials in its construction, but also demonstrates recycling of rainwater for landscape irrigation use on the building’s “living” wall.

Mr. Speaker, this latest first-in-nation accomplishment of the Oakland County International Airport is truly a remarkable milestone and as a lifelong Oakland County resident, it is a source of great pride. This “green” terminal is not only a realization of Oakland County residents’ continuing commitment to build a better future, but is also a model for the nation of the success that comes from the merging of economic development and environmentally sound building strategies.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL JAMES C. MILLER FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Colonel James C. Miller on the occasion of his retirement from a long and outstanding career in the United States Air Force and the Oregon Air National Guard.

Colonel Miller began his career in the Air Force through the ROTC program at Central Washington University in 1984. Early in his Air Force career he qualified as a pilot in the T-37 and the F-15 Eagle aircraft and served honorably throughout the United States. In 1999 he became a member of the Oregon Air National Guard as an instructor pilot in the Fighter wing at Kingsley Field, Oregon, and has since served in numerous jobs of increasing responsibility at Kingsley Field. Throughout his career in the Air Force, he became an accomplished pilot, exceeding 4,300 flying hours in the F-15 Eagle.

Colonel Miller most recently served as the Commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field. During that tour of duty his exceptional leadership and tenacious dedication to duty to both the State of Oregon and the United States of America resulted in an outstanding set of accomplishments.

He commanded over 800 airmen, oversaw over \$20 million annually in operating costs, and orchestrated over 44,000 Class A accident-free flying hours. Under his leadership the wing accepted 19 new aircraft and converted the aircraft to new engines in only five months, while maintaining the highest mission capable rate in the Air Force.

Colonel Miller’s visionary leadership was instrumental in the establishment of Kingsley Field as the Air National Guard’s premier F-15 training unit and the Wing’s selection as the sole F-15 fighter training unit in the U.S. Air Force.

Colonel Miller served his community as well as his military mission. He spearheaded the efforts of the most successful series of Combined Federal Campaigns in Kingsley Field history, raising more than \$500,000 for local non-profit agencies. He re-invigorated the Kingsley Field Military Affairs Committee, directly involving local civic and Chamber of Commerce leaders in supporting Kingsley Airmen. He created the “Pilot for a Day” program, allowing local underprivileged and challenged youth to experience what it’s like to be an Air Force pilot.

Throughout his long career, Colonel Miller served his country and his state honorably, and, on behalf of the people of Oregon’s Second District, I want to thank him for his service.

ON THE OCCASION OF DOKKA FASTENERS’ GRAND OPENING IN AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dokka Fasteners Inc. as the company commemorates the grand opening of its new facility in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Dokka Fasteners is a company with over a century of experience in manufacturing precision quality bolts and studs for use in construction and energy development. Most recently, the company has expanded its focus to include production of bolts for alternative energy production systems, such as wind turbines. Over the company’s history it has developed the expertise to create a precision process, certified by the International Organization for Standardization, which results in a 100 percent traceability of its materials and a consumer confidence that has made Dokka a leader in its field.

Dokka Fasteners’ investment in Michigan is well poised to take advantage of a state whose leaders, from the local level to the federal level, are engaged in a concerted effort to develop Michigan as the center of knowledge, manufacturing and infrastructure of the next generation of energy production. As a commitment to developing alternative energy, state leaders passed a renewable portfolio standard which requires Michigan to produce at least 10 percent of its energy from alternative sources by 2015. As Oakland County’s Representative to Congress, I am pleased to have supported multiple national efforts to develop our nation’s alternative energy industry and nurture companies that are developing the vital information and infrastructure bases which are necessary to achieve those goals.

Dokka Fasteners’ investment in the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, and Michigan speaks to the progress Oakland County and Michigan are making in the fight to become the leaders in alternative energy production. The company’s facility will house a state-of-the-art quality inspection laboratory and will be the first hot-forming fastener manufacturing plant to open in the United States in over 40 years. Dokka’s choice to develop their products in Michigan represents a multi-million dollar investment in our local economy which will create nearly 100 new jobs and will aid the

Southeast Michigan region as it continues to develop its alternative energy portfolio.

Mr. Speaker, the grand opening of Dokka Fasteners’ new facility in Auburn Hills is a testament to our local, state and national commitment to strengthen our development of alternative energy. It is with the hard work of companies like Dokka that America will be able to approach a clean energy future with the knowledge and production capabilities necessary to achieve our goals.

HONORING PETER DOUGLAS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of an exceptional man and public servant. Peter Douglas has dedicated his life to defending our natural heritage and promoting conservation along the California Coast. Rarely does a single man cast such a long and positive shadow over our state; but as an architect of the California Coastal Commission, and as its longest-serving Executive Director, Douglas’s contributions are truly incalculable. His retirement in November 2011 will mark the end of a proud era in the history of our environmental movement.

Peter Douglas has long been a passionate fighter for a just cause. As a Jewish child born in Berlin in 1942, Douglas’s early life was imbued with a special sense of purpose. Douglas eventually immigrated via Mexico to California, where he attended the University of California at Los Angeles, graduating with a law degree in 1969—months after the Santa Barbara oil spill, and just as the national environmental movement was beginning to make significant strides.

Douglas wasted little time in putting his passion for public service to work, throwing his energy and expertise into the California campaign for 1972’s Proposition 20. Douglas was key in drafting the language for the voter-approval initiative that created one of the country’s most powerful land-use agencies, overseeing development across California’s entire Coastal Zone. In 1985, he became the third Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission, a position he has held to this day.

Under Douglas’s tenure, the Coastal Commission has become a formidable instrument for ensuring that all Californians’ voices are heard in development decisions affecting our unique coastal environment. Douglas has helped to expand public access to our beaches, limit private encroachment on public lands, and prevent the spread of pollution throughout our fragile ecosystem. His work has ensured that our coast remains above all a public landmark, inclusive of any individual who wishes to enjoy the same unspoiled natural wonder that has inspired others for generations.

Countless organizations have acknowledged the impact Peter Douglas has made as an environmental pioneer. He is the recipient of awards from groups as varied as the National Resources Defense Council, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Center, the California State Legislature, and the National Coast Trail Association. He was the first recipient of the