

more genuine and more sincere than the memory of our minds. Without a shadow of a doubt, I know Nita has a permanent place in the hearts of those who had the good blessing to know her.

To say that Nita left her fingerprint on the world is an understatement. She was a friend and confidant to many, and deemed a source of strength by all; I know she will continue to touch and guide the loved ones she leaves behind.

CONGRATULATING DR. MARK J. LEMA ON THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise today to congratulate Mark J. Lema, M.D., Ph.D on receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the American Society of Anesthesiologists. The award is the highest honor bestowed to an individual for lifetime of exemplary service and achievement in the specialty of anesthesiology.

As the 65th recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in the organizations' one-hundred plus year history, Dr. Lema joins an illustrious group of awardees that includes the founders of anesthesiology, and pioneers in the field.

Dr. Lema is currently Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, Critical Care and Pain Medicine at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y. He also serves as Professor and Chair of Anesthesiology at the University of Buffalo, State University of New York, as well as a board member on the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER). He has also served as president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (2007), the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (2004) and the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists (2001). He is currently President of the Medical Society of the County of Erie.

Dr. Lema received his PhD in physiology from University at Buffalo and his medical degree from SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Throughout his prominent career Dr. Lema has been recognized as one of the country's authorities in the field of anesthesiology. He has served Western New York community with nearly thirty years of service and achievement in scientific research and organized medicine.

Mr. Speaker it is with great pride I recognize Dr. Mark Lema for receiving the Distinguished Service Award and extend my thanks for his countless contributions to the Western New York community in which he calls home.

HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST RICARDO CERROS, JR.

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and deep sadness that I wish to

commend United States Army Specialist Ricardo Cerros, Jr. for his bravery and willingness to fight for his country. Specialist Cerros was assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. While serving in Afghanistan on his first deployment, Specialist Cerros was killed by enemy forces during a firefight while conducting combat operation on October 8, 2011. His sacrifice will forever be remembered by those he fought to protect.

A native of Gary, Indiana, Ricardo spent his early childhood years in Gary, Indiana, before moving to Salinas, California, to live with his father. He graduated from Everett Alvarez High School in Salinas and continued his studies at the University of California in Irvine. He enlisted in the United States Army in July 2010. Family members recall that Ricardo had a strong feeling to join the military, and that he wanted nothing more than to serve his country. Colleagues remember Specialist Cerros as a well-respected leader. Family and friends remember Ricardo for his cheerfulness, positive attitude, and happy-go-lucky manner. For his courage and sacrifice, Ricardo has been honored by the military with awards including: the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Parachutist Badge. Ricardo will be greatly missed by so many people in the communities he was part of and forever cherished by those who loved him.

Specialist Cerros leaves behind a loving family. He is survived by his father, Ricardo Cerros, Sr., and stepmother, Deborah A. Cerros, both of Salinas, and his mother, Marguerite D. Cuevas, of Gary, Indiana. Ricardo also leaves to cherish his memory his siblings; Nicholas, Theresa, and Marco Cerros. He also leaves behind many other dear friends and family members, as well as saddened communities and a grateful nation.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Specialist Ricardo Cerros, Jr. Specialist Cerros sacrificed his life in service to his country, and his passing comes as a great loss to our nation, which has once again been shaken by the realities of war. Specialist Cerros will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his communities, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,940,671,706,465.75.

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 \$4,302,245,960,171.95 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

RECOGNIZING DIXIE SMITH AS A HASTINGS' STAR STUDENT

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dixie Smith, a Suncoast High School senior in Riviera Beach, as a Hastings' Star Student. During her junior year of high school, Dixie earned recognition as the Palm Beach County All-Conference selection for diving. This year however, her accomplishments go even further. Recently, world renowned tennis player Serena Williams chose 17-year old Dixie as the recipient for the M Foundation's Silver M Award. With this award, she joins the ranks of previous recipients who are viewed as "exemplary role models" in their communities. The award will present Dixie with a \$1,000 college scholarship and a \$1,000 donation to a charity of her choice. It was Dixie's commitment to giving back to her community which earned her this award.

Without a doubt, Dixie Smith exemplifies the term volunteerism. She started the Autism Speaks club at her high school, teaches gymnastics at Gymnastics Revolution, and also lends her time to instructing developmentally disabled children at the Renaissance Learning Center. Additionally, she has taught surfing to autistic children for the past three years, and has participated in the Surfers for Autism event regularly. In a recent letter, Dixie shared with me how these events served to be a humbling experience as time after time she witnessed children, who were initially afraid of the ocean, overcome their fears and catch waves on their own. She believes that surfing changes them, and the joy felt by their parents as they thank her is better than any award or scholarship she could ever receive. Dixie's work with developmentally disabled children is to be commended. Her selfless service represents a true dedication to the betterment of her community. I am sure Dixie's outstanding achievements are an inspiration to her peers and to the greater Riviera Beach area. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LONG-TIME MEMBERS OF SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 20

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, October 21, 2011, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 honored long-time members with their 25, 40, 50, 60, and 70-year service pins at the Sheet Metal Banquet, which was held at Ambassador Banquets in Hobart, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 presented pins for 25 years of membership to: Scott H. Allmon, Jeffery Bacon, George R. Bassett, Jr., Scott Blount, John Breezley, Richard J. Cervantes,

Daniel L. Claussen, John Eggebrecht, Alexander W. Einikis, Paul James Einikis, Jimmie D. Fauser, Jr., Travis Frank, Jerome Franz, Gregory A. Gill, Michael J. Gorski, Kathleen Gray-Wesley, Anthony J. Gresham, Jeffrey Arnold Hamilton, Emmett R. Higgins, George Carl Hofer, Kenneth R. House, James E. Irvin, Steven A. Johnson, Timothy K. Kelly, Kyle Whitney Kingsbury, Benny Knox, James D. Knox, Robert J. Krantz, Anthony R. Ladwig, David W. Leonard, Russell Eugene Long, Richard J. Majewski, Jr., Fred J. McColly, James L. Miller, Ronald Dean Miller, Mark D. Moore, Timothy Shawn Myres, Gary Noveroske, Edward K. O'Daniel, Jeffrey E. Pierson, Michael R. Price, John Rachford, Victor Neville Rachford, Arnie P. Ranegar, Jr., Jeff R. Relinski, Scott R. Ribar, Mike C. Rivich, Anthony W. Romanowski, Vance Thomas Rozdilsky, Richard J. Singel, William Michael Sweeney, Kevin Allen Szczudlak, Eva M. Washington, Ted Daniel Wells, Philip Everett Werno III, David L. Whisler, David Gordon White, Rodney Whiteside, Richard Gene Wozniak, and Eugene R. Yagelski, Jr. Pins for 40 years of membership were presented to: James Alm, Howard L. Alward, Jr., Gene E. Arnold, Gerald S. Banach, Frank Beiglebeck, Keith E. Benson, Roby W. Billings, Joseph E. Bloomfield, Larry E. Boger, Jerry W. Bryan, Roland L. Butler, Joseph L. Byers, John Cubit, Benjamin Dear, Jr., David W. Erb, Jerrone Garlach, Milton D. Gerner, Robert Golden, Randall B. Hamilton, Dale A. Hansen, Terrence Henney, Donald Hill, George C. Hofer, Kevin B. Hoffman, Clifford E. Hudson, Jr., Clifford L. Hynd, Carlton Kobe, Thomas L. Koedyker, Jerry H. Krachinski, Arthur Kurth, Thomas L. Leonard, Daniel Longacre, Tom G. Lopez, Gus Marktakos, Fred T. Minard, Ronald M. Muha, Marty Mushinsky, Floyd M. Nelson, Thomas Nuni, Walter J. Olenik, Larry D. Perigo, Katherine Plahtaric, Hugh Ponder, Jr., James J. Potesta, Richard Preissig, Rocky W. Richardson, Joseph Edward Ring, Steven D. Sasko, William T. Schaeffer, Michael Schammert, Richard Shinabarger, Eugene Skalba, Normand J. Soucy, Robert L. Swisher, Michael J. Turner, Ronald E. Vaughn, Michael J. Vernich, John W. Wacnik, Robert J. Walton, Larry Whisler, and Dennis G. Wojciechowski. The 50 years of membership pins were presented to: Edgar B. Baker, Walter Biser, Walter Bogielski, J.B. Bugg, Gilbert W. Franz, Roger Gault, Dellis Ivers, Robert J. Kish, Arthur John Kobeske, Jr., Gordon F. LaBounty, Frank Macewicz, Donald L. O'Dell, Hugh Ponder, Jr., Homer H. Rachford, Louis R. Trznadel, and Gerard Wardell. The honorees for 60 years of membership are: Miles R. Becvar, Sr., Earl Chance, Melvin E. Crook, Eugene H. Koontz, Robert L. Molnar, James Moscato, Leland E. Thompson, and Louis R. Trznadel. Finally, for his outstanding dedication, Raymond J. Klodzen received a special recognition as he was honored for his 70 years of service to the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals who have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District. I am very proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

# CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF OFFICER REYNAUD "REY" WALLACE

## HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Reynaud "Rey" Wallace of Fresno, California, as he celebrates his retirement from the Fresno Police Department. For 30 years, Mr. Wallace has served the Fresno community proudly. Not only did he work to keep our neighborhoods safe, but he also served as a mentor, coach, father figure and friend to many people in our community.

Mr. Wallace was born on October 18, 1952, to Carl and Ernestine Wallace in Montgomery, Alabama. The eldest of six children, Mr. Wallace grew up immersed in sports and was an avid baseball, basketball and football player. Mr. Wallace graduated from John Muir High School in Pasadena, California, and eventually made his way to Fresno.

In 1981, Mr. Wallace joined the Fresno Police Department. During his time with the department, Mr. Wallace served as an innovator and educator. His inventive spirit led to the creation of the Fresno Police Activities League, better known as PAL, in 1992. Fresno PAL seeks to prevent juvenile crime and violence by establishing relationships between law enforcement personnel and Fresno youth. Mr. Wallace spent seven years in PAL where he coached teams and served as a consultant for the national PAL program. He oversaw programs in Oregon, Santa Barbara, Ojai, as well as others in the San Joaquin Valley. Many current police officers were in the PAL program while it was under Rey's purview.

Following his time in PAL, he became a member of Southwest Problem Oriented Policing, where he continued to use his leadership and collaboration skills to protect and improve the lives of those he served.

Mr. Wallace's unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community has earned him recognition from his colleagues and community members. In 1985, he was named the Northwest District Officer of the Year, and in 2007, he was recognized as the Officer of the Year for the Southwest District. In addition, Mr. Wallace was awarded the Life Saving Medal of Valor, the Medal of Merit and the National Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Reynaud "Rey" Wallace for his years of service to the Fresno Police Department and to the people of Fresno, California. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Wallace's commitment, dedication, and success and wish him well as he embarks on new endeavors.

# RECOGNIZING WASHINGTON'S SECOND ANNUAL 'PELTON OF AWESOME'

## HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Global Road

Safety Caucus I rise today to congratulate the men and women who took part in the recent World Bicycle Relief charity bike ride. The ride is the brainchild of DC resident Miriam Schwedt, who was inspired to take her love of bicycling and share it with the world. Miriam, upon learning to ride a bike—about a year and a half ago—felt like she had discovered a whole new world. She started biking everywhere—to work, to play, to run errands—not only was it fun, but she got to work faster and cheaper, and was able to explore places she'd never been before. Miriam realized that if biking had changed her life in these ways, what might bikes mean for people who face far bigger transportation challenges? That's when Miriam discovered a charity called World Bicycle Relief. World Bicycle Relief not only funds bicycles in communities around the world, but also fosters local expertise and supply chains for local assembly and repair of bikes, creating important related jobs and skills.

In conjunction with World Bicycle Relief, Miriam decided to join forces with her friend Katie Heller to start what would become an annual charity bike ride and fundraiser in Washington called 'The Peloton of Awesome'. For those of you that don't know, a 'peloton' is a group of bikers. Miriam and Katie enticed their friends to join the peloton because they wanted to bring the opportunities and fun of biking to communities where faster, easier transportation can create access to markets, schools, health care, and other opportunities. These women also took the initiative to partner with local businesses to help the cause. Bike and Roll donated bikes for the ride to enable people to participate who don't own a bike, and a local restaurant hosted a post-ride celebration with a percentage of the profits donated to World Bicycle Relief. In addition, they added a raffle for items donated by local cycling stores, including a brand-new bike. Through generous support, last year the team raised almost \$10,000, with all of the funds going to World Bicycle Relief to purchase nearly an entire school's worth of bicycles in Zambia. More than 150 bicycle activists came together for the inaugural event. Given the success last year, the Peloton came together once again earlier this month. The second annual 'Peloton of Awesome' took place on Saturday, October 1st, and by all accounts it proved to be just as big a success, despite some inclement weather.

I helped form the Congressional Global Road Safety Caucus because I believe that safe and effective transportation is a key component of global economic development. World Bicycle Relief is just one of many organizations nationally and internationally who are helping to make the dream of safe roads and effective transportation for everyone possible. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the work of Miriam Schwedt, Katie Heller, all the staff and volunteers of World Bicycle Relief for their hard work and I look forward to hearing about the future successes of the Peloton, as I am sure this ride won't be the last.