

number of different projects, including those that provide housing loans and loans to farmers and ranchers who are having difficulty obtaining commercial credit. Over the last seventeen years, she has worked ardently to help 51,450 households and businesses to obtain \$331 million dollars in loan and grant funds for public water and sewer service.

Susan O'Donnell, also an Area Specialist, has been with USDA since 1977 and has done extensive work in the business, multi-family housing and community facility programs across six counties. She is extremely passionate about public service, and plans to continue to working to promote the welfare of others through volunteer work upon retirement.

Having performed over 36 years of Federal service, Mary Ellen Polosky has set a laudable example for current and aspiring public servants. While with USDA, she has worked mainly in the Housing Division. She has served in her current capacity for the last 9 years, during which time she has helped numerous individuals living in rural areas to procure loans for home purchases and improvements.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of working closely with these individuals while serving as the District Director for the late Congressman John Murtha, and can attest that they embody the highest order of integrity and proficiency. We should all be grateful that such exemplary individuals chose to engage full-bore in the effort to secure a prosperous future for rural America. Their work has given hope to countless individuals and businesses in southwestern Pennsylvania. All of us in the Federal Government should attempt to emulate their commendable public service in our own careers.

HONORING THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF SOMERSET, HUNTERDON AND WARREN COUNTIES

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties located in Bridgewater Township, Somerset County, New Jersey, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

For half a century, the Federation has helped raise funds to coordinate services and help support agencies that touch the lives of Jews in Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties. Through numerous programs, they have not only assisted in funding but have also provided a place for Jews to come together both in their faith and in the spirit of community service. The Federation is the umbrella organization of the area's Jewish community, bringing together agencies, organizations, and communities to support and fulfill the needs of the Jewish people.

The Federation targets those in their twenties through forties with their Young Leadership Division (YLD) that aims to strengthen the Jewish community by focusing on three principles: "Live Jewishly. Live Socially. Live Generously." YLD encourages involvement in the Jewish community and provides members with opportunities to not only socialize within their faith but to join together to help others.

The Women's Philanthropy Division is a program that educates and engages women to be active in their religious community. These women work to support those in need locally, in Israel, and around the world through numerous events and fundraisers.

In an effort to aid local businesses, the Federation holds several events throughout the year for the business community to build valuable, lasting relationships. With the understanding that the success of a business is dependent on its visibility and connections within a community, the Federation gives them the boost they need to establish their credibility.

In addition to the programs the Federation offers, it also hosts mission trips overseas to Israel and other countries in an effort to show the history, status and future of Jewish People.

The Federation is a resource of information for anything from educational organizations to social services. No matter the needs or the issues, the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties, continues to work to address them.

Mr. Speaker, I task you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties on 50 years of dedicated service.

HONORING FRED BIRCHMORE

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of one of the 10th Congressional District's most impressive and dedicated constituents, Mr. Fred Birchmore. Renowned for his round-the-world cycling trips, Birchmore has biked tens of thousands of miles worldwide on a one-speed 42-pound Reinhardt that now sits in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. His travels have taken him 25,000 miles across Europe, and through Africa, the far Middle East, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and 2,000 miles along the United States Appalachian Trail. He's traversed deserts, jungles, beaches and warzones, even once crossing paths with Adolf Hitler. Birchmore's adventures on his trusted bike opened his eyes to not only new horizons, but new cultures, peoples, and ways of life that enriched his own in many aspects.

Even more than a sportsman, Fred is a decorated World War II war hero, a loving father of four and has been a devoted husband to Willa Deane Birchmore for 72 years now. His eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren know him to be an adventurer, an intellectual, and an all around outstanding man and role model.

Birchmore is a graduate of the University of Georgia and was a personal friend of the late Larry Munson. He carried the Olympic Torch under the Arch in the Classic City, takes great pride in his possession of the sword of Colonel Sanford who is the namesake of UGA's Sanford Stadium, and still remains a faithful community servant to Athens-Clarke County today.

I am honored to be able to wish Mr. Birchmore a happy 100th birthday on behalf of the United States Congress, and I am pleased

to have the opportunity to shed light on a life that has been so filled with adventure, hard work, passion, and love for family, friends, community, and country. Happy Birthday Fred and may you continue to set an example for all those who love and admire you for many more years to come.

NATIONAL LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, November is National Lung Cancer Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to raising awareness of lung cancer issues for people who have been affected across the country.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in both men and women in the United States, claiming more lives each year than breast, prostate, colon, and kidney cancers combined. In fact, sadly one in fourteen Americans will be diagnosed with cancer of the lung and bronchus during their lifetime.

According to the American Lung Association, over 370,000 men and women in the U.S. are currently living with lung cancer. In Florida, an estimated 17,000 people were diagnosed with lung cancer just this past year.

While there are few early symptoms of lung cancer, treatment is available through surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. Unfortunately, only 15 percent of people who develop the disease will live more than 5 years. A need still exists for further advancement in the detection and treatment of lung cancer.

Lung Cancer Awareness Month brings much-needed attention to a deadly disease. I hope in the years to come we can make advancements in detection and treatment of this deadly form of cancer.

HONORING FRANK KAMENY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, before he died, Frank Kameny had already won a place reserved for Americans who make personal sacrifices for human rights. There can be no doubt that Frank's pioneering sacrifices for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, LGBT, community place him alongside the nation's human rights heroes. What exactly did Frank do? At a time when it was unthinkable, Frank refused to suppress who he was to keep his job with the Federal Government. A World War II veteran with a Harvard Ph.D., Frank had everything going for him except, of course, his identity and, thus, his legitimacy. It was being forced out, not coming out, that was the issue, and Frank took his dismissal from the federal service (for which he later received an apology) as a badge of honor. As we in the Civil Rights Movement began wearing our hair natural, i.e., nappy, to show that "black is beautiful," Frank coined "gay is good."

But it was Frank's lonely act of defiance, without reward, that sets him apart. Frank no

more set out to sacrifice his livelihood when he refused to deny his sexual orientation to federal authorities than Rosa Parks intended to give up her work as a seamstress when she refused to move to the back of the bus. Rosa Parks got tired of suppressing her full identity and dignity, and so did Frank. Frank did not put in those years of hard work for his Ph.D. in order to come out as a gay man. Like Rosa Parks, Frank wanted the same kind of life as the rest of us. But at a moment of reckoning, Frank summoned something few of us have: raw, pure courage. It is a brand of courage that is the opposite of self-preservation.

Long before there was a LGBT movement, Frank lost his job and his livelihood for the rest of his life. Yet Frank lived to see historic advances that bear his signature, including security clearances for gays in the Federal Government and the admission of gays into the United States armed services.

We honor those who fight for human rights. We revere those who make sacrifices for human rights. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose memorial we dedicated in October after he sacrificed his life. Anita Hill, whose fearless testimony 20 years ago brought her controversy, while she brought record numbers of women to the House and Senate.

As we honor Frank, in a place that is part of the government that dishonored him, we remember that it is one thing to join a movement; it is quite another to start one. We revere Frank because his life tells us that great human rights victories often begin with the courage of a single individual like Rosa Parks and, yes, Frank Kameny.

PROPOSING A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to further submit for the RECORD the following letter signed by 281 different organizations opposed to this or any Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. It is my intent that this letter supersedes a version previously submitted.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR: The 281 undersigned national organizations strongly urge you to oppose any balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution.

A balanced budget constitutional amendment would damage the economy, not strengthen it. Demanding that policymakers cut spending and/or raise taxes, even when the economy slows, is the opposite of what is needed to stabilize a weak economy and avert recessions. Such steps would risk tipping a faltering economy into recession or worsening an ongoing downturn, costing large numbers of jobs while blocking worthy investments to stimulate jobs and growth and address the nation's urgent needs in infrastructure and other areas.

According to a new analysis of a balanced budget amendment by Macroeconomic Advisers, one of the nation's preeminent private economic forecasting firms, if a constitutional balanced budget amendment had already been ratified and were now being en-

forced for fiscal year 2012, "the effect on the economy would be catastrophic." The analysis reports that if the 2012 budget were balanced through spending cuts, those cuts would have to total about \$1.5 trillion in 2012 alone, which they estimate would throw about 15 million more people out of work, double the unemployment rate from 9 percent to approximately 18 percent, and cause the economy to shrink by about 17 percent instead of growing by an expected 2 percent.

Additionally, all versions of the balanced budget amendment being considered also contain a provision requiring three-fifths of the whole membership of both houses to raise the debt limit, making risk of default more likely and empowering a willful minority to hold the full faith and credit of the U.S. hostage to whatever other political demands they may have. The difficulty of raising the debt limit this summer illustrates how hard it can be to secure the necessary votes even when the consequences are so grave. Only three of the last 11 debt limit increases obtained three-fifths vote in both chambers; two of those instances occurred amidst the financial crisis in 2008 when the debt limit increases were included in larger legislation to respond to the meltdowns already occurring in the housing and financial markets, and the third occurred this August as part of the Budget Control Act and came only after a bitter process that led the nation to the brink of default.

In short, a balanced budget amendment is a recipe for making recessions more frequent, longer, and deeper, while requiring severe cuts that would harshly affect seniors, children, veterans, people with disabilities, homeland security activities, public health and safety, environmental protection, education and medical research. It would almost certainly necessitate massive cuts to vital programs including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits and lead to even deeper cuts than the House-passed budget.

A balanced budget amendment has no place in the Constitution of the United States. Our Constitution has served the nation well because it represents enduring principles that are the foundations of our government. It should not be used as a substitute for real leadership on fiscal policy. We strongly urge you to oppose any constitutional balanced budget amendment.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women; AFL-CIO; AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families; AIDS Community Research Initiative of America; The AIDS Institute; AIDS Project Los Angeles; AIDS United; Alliance for a Just Society; Alliance for Excellent Education; Alliance for Justice; Alliance for Retired Americans; American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

American Association of Community Colleges; American Association of School Administrators (AASA); American Association of University Professors; American Association of University Women (AAUW); American Counseling Association; American Dance Therapy Association; American Educational Research Association; American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO; American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO; American Jewish Committee.

American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA); American Medical Student Association (AMSA); American Network of Community Options and Resources; American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO; American Psychiatric Association; American Public Health Association; Amer-

ican Rights at Work; American School Counselor Association; Americans for Democratic Action; American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC); The Arc of the United States; Asian American Justice Center, member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice.

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum; Association for Career and Technical Education; Association of Adult Literacy Professional Developers; Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP); Association of Education Service Agencies (AESA); Association of Flight Attendants—CWA; Association of School Business Officials; Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD); Autism National Committee; AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention; Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Bienestar Human Services; Bread for the World.

Break the Cycle; Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO; B'nai B'rith International; Campaign for America's Future; Campaign for Community Change; CANN—Community Access National Network; Cascade AIDS Project; Center for Family Policy & Practice; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); The Center for Media and Democracy; Center for Medicare Advocacy; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; Child Welfare League of America (CWLA); Children's Defense Fund.

Children's Dental Health Project; Cities for Progress, Institute for Policy Studies; Citizens for Global Solutions; Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington; Citizens for Tax Justice; Clinical Social Work Association; Coalition for Health Funding; Coalition of Labor Union Women; Coalition on Human Needs; Commission on Adult Basic Education; Committee for Education Funding; Common Cause; Communications Workers of America (CWA); Community Action Partnership.

Community Food Security Coalition; Community Organizations in Action; Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED); Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders; Council for Exceptional Children; Council for Opportunity in Education; Council of Administrators of Special Education; Council of the Great City Schools; CREDO Action; Defenders of Wildlife; Democracy 21; Demos; Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO; Direct Care Alliance.

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund; Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC); Easter Seals; Elev8 (Baltimore, Chicago, New Mexico, and Oakland); Every Child Matters Education Fund; FairTest, the National Center for Fair & Open Testing, Inc.; Families USA; Farmworker Justice; Feminist Majority; First Focus Campaign for Children; Food & Water Watch; Food Research & Action Center (FRAC); Forum for Youth Investment; Foster Family-based Treatment Association.

Franciscan Action Network (FAN); Friends Committee on National Legislation; Friends of the Earth; Gamaliel; Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC); Generations United; GLSEN; Gray Panthers; Growth & Justice; Half in Ten; Health & Disability Advocates; Health Care for America Now; Health GAP (Global Access Project); HealthHIV; HIV Law Project.

Horizons for Homeless Children; Housing Works; Interfaith Worker Justice; International Association of Fire Fighters; International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers; International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers, AFL-CIO; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; International Brotherhood of Teamsters; International Society for Technology in Education; International Union of