

In 1993, AJC gave Karski its highest award. In his acceptance speech, he memorably declared that he was confident there would never again be a Holocaust against the Jews and said he knew why. He paused for a moment and then, summoning his one-word explanation from the depths of his soul, he pronounced each of the three syllables of "Israel" as if they were separate words, allowing the moment to linger.

Jan Karski is gone, leaving no immediate family behind. But with his eyewitness account, his recorded words, and his towering example of courage, conviction, and compassion, there is hope the world won't descend into an abyss of moral fog and historical relativism or denial.

May Story of a Secret State become required reading, as a source of both information and inspiration, in every 20th century history course. And may copies find their way into the hands of those today who display their shameful ignorance by misrepresenting history.

IN RECOGNITION OF SENIOR VICE
COMMANDER EARL COURTER, JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Senior Vice Commander Earl Courter, Jr., honoree at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Testimonial Dinner. This highly decorated veteran has proven to be a valuable member of the community. His actions are deserving of this body's recognition.

Commander Earl Courter enlisted in the United States Army on April 30, 1964 and subsequently endured 13 weeks of basic training in Fort Knox, Kentucky. It was followed by another thirteen weeks of Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He was later assigned to the 1st Battalion 28th Infantry Mechanized Headquarters. Commander Earl completed two months of intense jungle training and later volunteered to serve in Vietnam. He was assigned to the reconnaissance platoon of the 2nd Battalion 18th Infantry Division as a radio/telephone operator, platoon leader aide and driver. While deeply entrenched in "Operation Mastiff" in the Dau Tieng region of Vietnam, the Commander's reconnaissance platoon came under intense fire and sustained extensive wounds, forcing him to return home.

As a result of his heroic actions in Vietnam, Commander Earl was awarded with multiple medals. He is the recipient of the Purple Heart, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal Ribbon with Device, National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, U.S. Presidential Citation, Vietnam Presidential Citation, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation Badge, New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal, among others.

Commander Earl has conducted various philanthropic services and holds multiple leadership positions. He served as Post Commander of VFW Post 3620 from 1971 through 1972, and earned the position of Assistant District Quartermaster after twelve years of service. Throughout his tenure, he has also held various prestigious titles which include District 7 Assistant Quartermaster, District Convention Chairman and Public Relations

Chairman. Mr. Courter was appointed state Commander on June 18, 2011 and continues to hold this title to this day. As a member of the Townsend C. Young VFW Post # 3620, Commander Courter has counseled other amputees of various Veterans Organizations. He has remained an active member of the community, assisting wounded warriors and hospitalized veterans. Commander Courter is a true testament to the VFW's mission, Honor the Dead by Helping the Living. The Commander is married to the former Janet Walter Kerney and they are residents of Delran, New Jersey. Together they have six children and thirteen grandchildren and are life members of VFW Post 3620 Auxiliary.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Commander Earl Courter, Jr. His heroic actions in Vietnam and commitment dedicated toward other wounded warriors are inspirations to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF SAVE THE AMER-
ICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Save the American River Association (SARA), as the organization's staff, volunteers, and supporters celebrate its 50th anniversary. It is my pleasure to recognize SARA's dedication to preserving the American River for future generations, and I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their leadership in protecting the American River.

Established in 1961, SARA, a grassroots non-profit organization, has grown to a group of over 600 members. Initially, SARA was founded to establish the American River Parkway. The American River is designated both as a state and national wild and scenic river. It is governed by the American River Parkway Plan, which is approved by the State Legislature upon recommendation of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors.

The efforts of thousands of SARA volunteers who contributed countless work hours to maintaining and improving the parkway over the last 50 years are evident as the American River Parkway has come to be known as the "Jewel of Sacramento." The American River offers a unique wildlife and recreation area that provides for fishing, boating, rafting, picnicking sites, golfing, and nature historic tours for Sacramento residents and visitors.

SARA has been able to ensure a clean, comfortable and safe environment along the river. Volunteers work to preserve the native habitat and vegetation, improve public safety, reduce the threat of fires and increase the public's stewardship of the American River.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Save the American River Association and the organization's continuous commitment to providing the public with access to the incredibly beautiful American River. Their past 50 years have been tremendously successful and I am confident SARA will continue to enjoy great success in the future. While the SARA staff, volunteers and supporters gather together to celebrate the organization's 50th an-

niversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring their outstanding work in keeping the American River the "Jewel of Sacramento."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF ELEANOR NORRIS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Eleanor Norris, a resident of my district in Norwell, Massachusetts, who today celebrates her 100th birthday.

Eleanor was born on December 5, 1911, in Chicago with her family later moving to Boston. A product of dedicated homeschooling, she went on to attend Vassar College and became a first-grade teacher, working in Hanson, among other towns. Shortly after that she met, Albert Norris, a World War II naval aviator, with whom she had a 17-year courtship before they married.

Starting in the 1920s, Albert and Eleanor began purchasing land along the North River, a National Natural Landmark and a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Scenic River. They eventually built a cottage, cut a trail system, opened up the shady forest to attract wildflowers and ferns, and created a haven for woodland and riverside wildlife. Sadly, in 1962, six years after they married, Albert passed away.

Upon his death, she inherited 100 acres along the North River. Many people would have caved to the numerous developers who made her offers, but not Eleanor. She decided, rather, that the land should not be sold but left to the public to enjoy forever. So starting in 1970, she donated those 100 acres to The Trustees of Reservations, a non-profit land management organization. The plot was named the Norris Reservation. This was an extraordinary gift to all of us from a woman who to this day lives very simply next door to the land she donated.

In addition to this timeless gift, Eleanor helped launch the South Shore Natural Science Center in 1962 and was named Norwell Citizen of the Year for 1994. Adding to her numerous achievements, she became an accomplished ballroom dancer in her 60s.

Eleanor's greatest pleasure in life now comes from "seeing people enjoying themselves with the right thing," such as nature and music. And on occasion, she still gets out into the woods of the reservation.

Her legacy of service and commitment to our community will live forever in the Norris Reservation. It seems to me that there is no more fitting a memorial for a woman who contributed so much to Norwell than a living, breathing, growing part of the town she and her husband loved. The Norris Reservation, like the people it is named for, has made its mark on the lives of countless members of our community and will continue to for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Eleanor Norris on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING THE THAI MONARCHY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to extend our best wishes to the King of Thailand, Bhumibol Adulyadej, today on his birthday. For more than half a century, King Bhumibol Adulyadej has applied technical ingenuity and resources to build his vision of a modern, prosperous Thailand. He has continually sought to improve the lives of the Thai people.

King Bhumibol's philosophy of a "sufficiency economy," developed and refined since the 1970s, provides guidelines for individuals and businesses on how to conduct themselves in

life. The King's philosophy emphasizes moderation, responsible consumption and resiliency. In 2006, in recognition of King Bhumibol's contributions to sustainable, human-centered development, the United Nations Development Programme awarded him its first-ever Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award.

Thailand has been America's friend since 1833 and our oldest Treaty ally in Asia. Our economies are tied together, our militaries train together, and our people-to-people ties have never been stronger. Again, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we are pleased to join our friends in Thailand as its people celebrate the Seventh Cycle Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on December 5, 2011.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,073,380,701,589.57. We've added \$10,271,975,526,295.29 to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.