

CONGRATULATING THE MISSOURI  
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION ON  
ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Missouri Cattlemen's Association, which is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary this year.

The Missouri Cattlemen's Association began in 1911 as the Missouri Livestock Producers Association and adopted its current name in 1968. In the beginning, dues were only \$2, and were reduced to a quarter during the Depression.

Missouri ranks third in the Nation in the number of cows, and the Missouri Cattlemen's Association is the voice for the State's 60,000 beef producers, focusing on issues that affect beef production while also providing a safe, abundant, and nutritious source of food.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the members of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association congratulations on reaching this significant milestone.

HONORING THE LIFE OF "J.  
BLACKFOOT"—JOHN COLBERT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of John Colbert, better known as J. Blackfoot, a great soul singer and entertainer from the city of Memphis, Tennessee. J. Blackfoot was a special talent known for his unique vocal style. Born in Greenville, Mississippi, his family moved to Memphis when he was two. Colbert earned the nickname "Blackfoot" as a child because he would run barefoot through his neighborhood.

J. Blackfoot began his music career after meeting Johnny Bragg, founder of the 1950s-era music group "Prisonaires." Together they recorded a "behind-the-walls" hit for Sun Records, after which J. Blackfoot embarked on a solo venture under his birth name. Strongly pursuing his love for music, he eventually found himself at Stax Records under the tutelage of songwriter/producer, David Porter.

In the late 1960s, J. Blackfoot auditioned at Stax Records where David Porter and his song writing partner, Isaac Hayes, initially wrote many solo songs for him to perform. When the R&B duo Sam and Dave left Stax, Porter and Hayes decided to fill the stylistic void. They paired J. Blackfoot with Norman West, Anita Lewis and Shelbra Bennett to create the "Soul Children." They put out 7 albums over their decade long career and released 15 R&B hits.

In 1983, J. Blackfoot began a successful solo career, scoring many chart successes in both the U.S. and the U.K. He released several hit songs, including "Taxi" from the 1983 album City Slicker, which was perhaps his biggest solo career single. Over the last two decades, J. Blackfoot continued to record dozens

of solo albums, performed at Stax-related events and reformed the "Soul Children."

J. Blackfoot passed away on November 30, 2011 at 65 years of age. Memphis, known for its rich musical heritage, mourns the loss of one of its unique voices. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the contributions J. Blackfoot made to the music community. As an artist and music maker, his was a life well lived.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF SIS-  
TER CATHERINE (MARY ISAAC)  
COLBY, DOMINICAN SISTER OF  
PEACE

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the memory of Sister Catherine (Mary Isaac) Colby, O.P., Ed.D., of the Dominican Sisters of Peace in Columbus, Ohio, who passed away suddenly on December 2, 2011.

Sister Catherine Colby was a native New Yorker, and a graduate of St. Helena's Elementary School in the Bronx and Dominican Academy in Manhattan. She entered the Novitiate of the former Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs in 1960 and made her Profession of Vows in 1963. Sister Catherine earned a Doctorate in Education from Nova Southeastern University of Florida; an M.Ed. in Educational Administration from Xavier University of Cincinnati; an M.A. in Pastoral Ministry from St. Joseph's College of Connecticut; and a bachelor's degree in Education from the former College of St. Mary of the Springs, now Ohio Dominican University, in Columbus.

A lifelong educator, Sister Catherine was an outstanding administrator and a compassionate and perceptive preacher—the principle charism of the Dominican Order—as well as a division chair, faculty member, school principal and teacher in New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Mexico. Additionally, she had been Vocation Director and Director of Candidates for her Dominican Congregation.

Sister Catherine was an Associate Professor of Education at Ohio Dominican for twenty-three years, and for seven of those she served as Chair of the Division of Education. The founder of the Center for Dominican Studies at ODU, Sister Catherine was also the University's first Vice President for Mission and Identity. In that capacity, she coordinated and facilitated the university-wide process of sustaining, enhancing, and promoting its distinct mission as a Catholic and Dominican university.

Her passing is a great loss not only for the Colby family, but for the Dominican Sisters of Peace, the entire campus community, the twelfth Congressional District of Ohio, and for Catholic education across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Sister Catherine's family, including her godson, John Colby, who serves with us here as a United States Capitol Police Officer, as well as to her Congregation, Ohio Dominican University, the Dominican Order, and her friends and colleagues during this most difficult time. Her legacy will stand as an exemplar for all Catholic educators and

women religious, and she will be dearly missed.

HONORING 1LT IVAN D.  
LECHOWICH

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, sacrifice, and heroism of Army First Lieutenant Ivan Lechowich of Valrico, Florida.

1LT Lechowich, a combat engineer, was unfortunately killed while conducting combat operations for Operation Enduring Freedom on September 28, 2011, in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan.

U.S. Army combat engineers are greatly admired for their fearlessness and diligence in helping to tackle rough terrain in combat situations and for providing combat effectiveness to maneuver forces. 1LT Lechowich personified this bravery and dedication while he and his team worked to clear a roadway of explosive devices on the day of his death. During his Army career, he has been awarded a Sapper Tab, the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, and NATO medal.

Outside of the Army, Ivan was a loving husband and new father, whose daughter was born during his deployment. 1LT Lechowich enjoyed reading, studying history, and was an avid fan of the University of Florida's football team.

Mr. Speaker, though proud to have such a fine example from the Tampa Bay community, it is with great remorse that I rise to commemorate the life of 1LT Lechowich. I am in awe of the young men and women like Ivan Lechowich who choose to serve their countrymen in the armed forces. As professionals in all that they do, they exhibit honor, courage, and commitment in every pursuit. Their sacrifices, like that of 1LT Lechowich, will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING MRS. DONNIE POW-  
ELL FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true valued member of our society, Mrs. Donnie Powell. Mrs. Powell has dedicated a great deal of her life to championing causes relative to education and criminal justice.

Mrs. Powell received degrees in Criminal Justice from Coahoma Community College and Mississippi Valley State University; and has worked 25 years for the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

She is an active member of the Tallahatchie County Parent Teacher Association and was recruited to be a part of the parent-community ad hoc committee's nationwide search for a new Superintendent for the Tallahatchie School District in 2009. She has received Parent of the Month awards from local elementary

and high schools in Tallahatchie County, and was most recently named the 2011 Tallahatchie School District Parent of the Year.

She volunteers her time and energy to her local Boys and Girls Club, in an effort to help educate and deter the youth from engaging in counterproductive activities such as joining gangs and committing violence in their schools and communities.

She works in conjunction with the Mississippi State Department of Health to organize speaking engagements and forums on gangs and violence in Tallahatchie, Panola, Quitman, Sunflower, and Coahoma counties.

Mrs. Powell believes that parents, teachers, and community members should work together and maintain strong lines of communication in an effort to ensure that the students of today receive adequate education and training to thrive in an ever changing world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Donnie Powell for her many contributions to education and serving her community.

#### HONORING SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WILSON "BILL" LIVINGOOD

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, next month this House will lose a dedicated public servant. Wilson "Bill" Livingood, our Sergeant at Arms, will retire after seventeen years keeping us safe. Since 1995, he has stood watch over the People's House and all of its members, staff, and visitors, overseeing the security of this chamber, the Capitol, and Congressional office buildings.

Under Bill's leadership, the House has adapted its security measures to meet new challenges faced since September 11. He has been a driving force in enhancing screening procedures while ensuring that Americans can still easily visit the Capitol and meet with their representatives.

Bill Livingood's life has been spent in service to our nation and to protecting the institutions of our democracy. Before his long service as Sergeant at Arms, Bill was an agent of the U.S. Secret Service for thirty-three years, placing his life on the line to protect our commander-in-chief.

While I have no doubt that the strong voice with which Bill has welcomed U.S. presidents and foreign dignitaries into the House chamber has become iconic, I believe he will be remembered here most for his warmth and kind-spirit and for his deep love of country. I have been fortunate to call him a friend and can attest to the attention and respect he commands from all who have known him. It has been a pleasure serving with Bill throughout his tenure, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

I join with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in thanking Bill for his long career of distinguished service to the people of the United States and, in particular, to their House.

#### CONGRATULATING THE LINN HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

#### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Linn High School Wildcats Boys Cross Country team for winning the Class 1 Missouri State Championship.

The young men and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the state cross country championship to their school and community. The boys have relied on each other throughout the season, providing one another with encouragement and displaying true team spirit. They won by a mere one point, proving that all seven boys were truly needed in securing the victory.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Linn Wildcats for a hard fought victory and a job well done.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 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 \$15,068,133,903,969.13. We've added \$10,266,728,728,674.85 dollars 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.

#### HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

#### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations and best wishes to the world's longest serving monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, on the occasion of his 84th birthday this past Monday, December 5th. King Bhumibol is beloved by his people and esteemed for his great humility, compassion and proactive engagement with everyday Thais.

King Bhumibol has spent decades in virtually every corner of Thailand, engaging with the Thai people face-to-face, seeking new and improved ways to make their lives better. Since the early years of his now 65-year reign, he has been mindful of the livelihood of farmers and others dependent on agriculture. He made water management a key priority in royal development projects, with the first such project initiated in 1963. Taking a holistic ap-

proach, the King's projects also sought to ensure local residents understand the importance of proper water management to avoid flooding, droughts and pollution.

The King has also promoted sustainable agricultural practices along with soil resource management, to maximize economic success in rural areas and to help farmers become self-reliant. His economic advice based on the "Sufficiency Economy" philosophy, which calls on individuals and businesses to practice moderation and reasonableness, and seek self-immunity against external factors in their pursuit of growth, has been embraced by rural farmers and private businesses alike.

Agriculture, environmental conservation and sustainable development are among the many other areas of King Bhumibol's initiatives to contribute to the progress of Thailand and its people. During the 1960s and 1970s, the King developed an opium crop substitution program that encourages hilltribe people to grow cash crops so that they abandon the drug trade. His initiatives on health—started even earlier in the 1950s—helped Thailand's efforts to eradicate and combat diseases such as leprosy, cholera, tuberculosis and smallpox. These and the scholarship programs he created to support Thais to study medicine and medical advancement overseas have contributed to the development of the country's public health system—today one of the most advanced in Southeast Asia.

King Bhumibol's values, initiatives, and passion for improving life for all Thais have earned him the respect of the people of Thailand. He has also been recognized internationally for his unique leadership, which has uplifted the people of Thailand during difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join the people of Thailand—America's friend and oldest treaty ally in Asia—as they pay tribute to King Bhumibol and celebrate his 84th birthday this week.

#### HONORING MR. JEREMIAH JOSEPH O'KEEFE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a World War II hero, entrepreneur, philanthropist and outstanding public servant, Mr. Jeremiah "Jerry" Joseph O'Keefe.

A native of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Jeremiah Joseph O'Keefe was born July 12, 1923, in a gracious antebellum home constructed by his grandfather. When Jeremiah O'Keefe was 13 years old, the family lost their home during the Depression and relocated to Biloxi, Mississippi. In Biloxi, Mr. O'Keefe attended Sacred Heart Academy high school, where during his senior year he was co-captain of the school's football team.

Mr. O'Keefe was attending Soule Business College when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941 and he quickly offered to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Navy. He would join the Aviation Cadet Program of the United States Navy in June 1942,