

honored last week with the Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairman's Circle of Commendation Award for her tireless advocacy for children's product safety. This is the first time that this award has been presented, and I cannot think of anyone more deserving.

Nancy is the Executive Director of Kids in Danger (KID), an advocacy organization dedicated to protecting children by improving the safety of the products they play with or otherwise use. In the more than a decade that Nancy has headed KID, she has served on the front lines, educating parents and caregivers about the dangers of certain products, promoting the development of safer children's products, and advocating for important legislative and regulatory improvements. She has worked on numerous issues both as a member of panels and as an outside advocate for safety improvements in CPSC standards and recall efforts.

Nancy has played a significant role in the improvement of consumer product safety, ensuring that children and families have a voice and that product-makers are held accountable. In Washington, Nancy's work has served as an invaluable contribution to the creation of CPSC standards and the implementation of recalls, no doubt saving many lives in the process. She has served as an invaluable resource for me and many of my colleagues who are committed to protecting the health and well-being of children.

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) became law in 2008, and it is the most significant reform of the CPSC and its responsibilities in decades. With Nancy's input, I authored several provisions to the bill, including mandatory standards and testing for infant and toddler products such as cribs and high chairs and a provision requiring that postage-paid recall registration cards must be attached to products. I am proud of those provisions, and the overall bill, which would not have been as strong or protective without Nancy's guidance.

I would like to thank the CPSC, and Chairman Inez Tenenbaum, for recognizing the contributions of Nancy Cowles toward making products safer for children and families. As the Chairman said, Nancy's "contributions to product safety are invaluable."

As a mother and grandmother deeply concerned about preventing injuries to children, I could not be more grateful for Nancy's efforts and I am proud to call her a friend.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM (BILL)
H. OSBORNE ON 50 YEARS OF
OUTSTANDING FEDERAL SERVICE
WITH THE U.S. ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate Mr. William (Bill) Osborne of Atlanta, Georgia for 50 years of dedicated Federal service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has also served as the Commandant of the 3388th USARF School in

Tampa, Florida with prior assignments in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics at the 81st U.S. Army Reserve Command in Atlanta, Georgia. He retired from the Army Reserve in April 1993 at the rank of Colonel. I hope Members will join with me today to thank Mr. Osborne for his contributions to the Corps of Engineers, his local community and the United States of America.

Mr. Osborne began his career with the Corps of Engineers in 1957 as a summer hire in the Operation Division in the Nashville District. After graduating from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering he joined the Jacksonville District as a Civil Engineer. In 1970, he transferred to the South Atlantic Division and took a position as the Assistant Chief of the Program Management Office. Since 1988 he has been the Chief of the Civil Works Integration Division. In this position he puts together the South Atlantic Division's portion of the President's Civil Works Budget for Congressional consideration.

Some of the major projects for which he has provided Congress justification documentation include the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway, Herbert Hoover Dike, Portugues and Bucana Rivers, and two of the largest environmental projects in the country; South Florida Ecosystem Restoration and the Comprehensive Restoration of the Mississippi Barrier Islands projects. Over his stellar career he has justified billions of Federal dollars in support of these and countless other much needed projects. For over two decades he has provided exceptional support to Division Commanders, Chiefs of Engineers and the Assistant Secretaries of the Army in their annual testimony before Congress. Through his expert knowledge of the Civil Works process Mr. Osborne consistently provided outstanding service in the relationship with the public, Congressional Members and their staffs, involving controversial and complex issues.

Mr. Osborne has received numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding efforts to include Superior Civilian Service Awards, the Meritorious Civilian Service Award and he has been nominated for the prestigious Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service from the Secretary of the Army.

Bill Osborne is a tremendous assist not only to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but also to Members of Congressional Delegations throughout the Southeast and his country. I want to sincerely wish Bill and his wife, Fran, every success in the future.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 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 \$15,071,624,794,970.66. We've added \$10,270,219,619,676.38 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.

A TRIBUTE TO DEBRA DAVIS-
SMITH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Debra Davis-Smith for her service to the health and well being of those living in the 10th Congressional District of New York.

Ms. Davis-Smith was born to the late Joyce and Robert Davis, and raised in an extended family that included her maternal grandparents and aunts in Brooklyn, New York. Being the eldest of three, Ms. Davis-Smith always had the instinct to care for and look after others.

Ms. Davis-Smith was educated in both the public and parochial school systems. It was during this time that she recognized her interest in helping others outside of her family by volunteering her services after school as the Candy Striper at Kings County Hospital. On weekends and during the summer months, she volunteered with the Department of Aging which allowed her to work with elders in various senior citizen centers and also work with her local precinct in mentoring teenagers.

After high school, Ms. Davis-Smith attended The City College of New York where she majored in Sociology. During her studies, she continued to volunteer and intern with several non-profit groups. Her focus was always on educating and empowering others whether they be youth or senior citizens.

Following her undergraduate studies, she attended Fordham University and received her Master's in Social Work. While at Fordham her studies focused on individuals and families which eventually led her towards the field of mental health. The National Institute of Mental Health provided support to Ms. Davis-Smith which would also determine her future employment.

Upon graduating Fordham, Ms. Davis-Smith was employed by The Catholic Guardian Society where she worked with children in foster care and adoption service. She remained there for a year until she began working as a social worker at Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center in their Inpatient Psychiatric Unit. Ms. Davis-Smith would spend the next 25 years with the health center, working alongside dedicated professionals who shared her passion in working with the mentally ill. Within this time she held several positions within the discipline of social work, and is currently in the position of acting Director of Social Work Services.

Ms. Davis-Smith is married to Clifford Smith and has two daughters, Brittany and Morgan. With her family's continued love and support she is able to continue her community service.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the community achievements of Ms. Debra Davis-Smith.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE
LIFE OF THE HONORABLE JAMES
E. BURCH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the extraordinary life and work of the Honorable James E. Burch, known to all as 'Jim', who died on Monday, November 28, 2011, at the age of 85.

Jim Burch was born on February 27, 1926, in Evanston, Illinois to a World War I veteran and a religious pacifist. He, his parents and two brothers moved to San Mateo, California in 1940. Jim graduated from San Mateo High School in 1943 and served in the U.S. Army until 1946.

He returned to civilian life and launched a very successful career in advertising, retiring in 1974 to serve his community as a volunteer. He co-founded San Francisco's Urban Coalition and was President of Palo Alto's Creative Initiative Foundation, which evolved into Beyond War and then into the Foundation for Global Community, organizations he volunteered with for 36 years. He gave so generously of his time and considerable talents to many other organizations, including the Boy Scouts, United Way, NAACP, and most recently he served on the Palo Alto Police Chiefs Advisory Committee, where his wise counsel earned the respect of the entire committee.

In 1999, Jim was elected to the Palo Alto City Council, and he was elected Mayor in 2005. At the age of 78, he was the City's oldest Mayor, but he served in the role with energy, enthusiasm and distinction. He was honored for his Lifetime of Achievement by Avenidas in 2011.

I was privileged to know and work with Jim Burch for many years. He was a friend, a mentor, and an inspiration to me. The memory of this strong and gentle, wise and funny, proud and humble man will live long after him, as will his countless contributions which have made our community better and our country stronger.

Jim's son, Bill, is quoted as saying "My father led a life of giving to his family, of giving to his community, of giving to his city and giving to the world." His daughter, Barbara Lindsay, said "He was the most giving person in terms of what he sought to do out in the world and his hometown." There can be no greater tributes than these from his beloved children.

I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and the accomplishments of Jim Burch, and extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Wileta, and his children, Barbara, and Bill.

RECENT EVENTS IN BAHRAIN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. and Bahrain share a decades-old economic and strategic partnership that spawned a free trade agreement in 2006 and influenced the

decision to locate the U.S. Fifth Fleet in the port-city of Jaffair. That partnership has endured for years in part because the U.S. viewed Bahrain as a nation committed to evolving toward a political system that allowed greater public participation and respect for religious tolerance. Events over the last year have dealt a serious blow to that long held belief.

The Arab Spring inspired Bahrain's Shi'a majority to seek the full human and political rights that they say they have been denied since the Al Khalifa family became the rulers of the tiny island nation over 200 years ago.

The Bahraini government's response to the largely peaceful demonstrations of the opposition groups who seek only a better life for themselves and their families has been violent and systematic. Dozens of demonstrators lost their lives; independent media outlets were silenced; Shi'a mosques were burned; thousands of Bahrainis were incarcerated and thousands more lost their jobs.

Our worst suspicions were confirmed by the report recently released by the Bahrain Commission of Inquiry. The report described the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force by security forces. Opposition members were abused, beaten and even tortured.

I associate myself with the public statements of President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton as they strongly urge the Bahraini government to follow through on its promises and to systematically and expeditiously implement the forthcoming recommendations of the newly established follow-on committee.

To achieve a meaningful and lasting reconciliation, all parties must engage in comprehensive political dialogue geared toward a mutually satisfactory power-sharing solution. The long-standing commitment of the United States to a strong partnership with the government and people of Bahrain will be influenced by how the government of Bahrain chooses to negotiate this challenging moment in its nation's history.

We all will be watching closely.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDO-
NESIAN FAMILY REFUGEE PRO-
TECTION ACT OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation with my colleagues, Rep. FRANK PALLONE, Rep. LUIS GUTIERREZ, Rep. MADELEINE BORDALLO, Rep. MIKE HONDA, and Rep. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, which would simply allow Christian Indonesian citizens fleeing persecution, many of whom arrived during a five-year timeframe (January 1, 1997–November 30, 2002) and were denied asylum solely for missing the one-year filing deadline, the opportunity to reopen their claims during the two-year period following enactment.

Beginning in 1997, many Indonesian Christians fled religious persecution in Indonesia, where extreme violence and destruction of churches drove them from their homes. These individuals came to this country, seeking relief from extreme violence and persecution for their religious beliefs, but were unable to make the one-year filing deadline. They deserve the opportunity to have their claims heard.

The United States has long sought to protect refugees fleeing persecution and provide a process to fairly consider their claims. This bill does not, in itself, grant asylum, but merely removes a procedural barrier to their claims being considered. These individuals seeking asylum deserve a second chance to avoid the persecution they have fled and remain united with their families.

A TRIBUTE TO CRUZ FUKSMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Cruz Fuksman for her continued efforts to rebuild and improve her community through health and educational services.

Ms. Fuksman was born and raised in the Dominican Republic by her single mother and six siblings. Ms. Fuksman came to the United States to seek a better education to provide for herself and her family. She attained her bachelor's in Human Services from Boricua College and later received a Master's degree in Social Work from Hunter College School of Social Work. Currently Ms. Fuksman works as the Community Liaison at the New York Psychotherapy and Counseling Center where she uses her expertise in social work to serve as the director for a variety of mental health and family service programs. She likewise served in this capacity at the American Red Cross of Greater New York for more than a dozen years, where she was routinely honored as Caseworker of the Month.

The work that Ms. Fuksman has done reflects her ambition to reform her community at the highest levels. The social work discipline she learned throughout her schooling has been a guiding tool that Ms. Fuksman frequently relies on to help families. Recently Ms. Fuksman was honored by Bushwick Impact for her enthusiasm, wisdom, collaboration, and support in helping them serve over 2000 families in the Bushwick area.

Ms. Fuksman also displays her strong community ties by serving as one of the co-chairs of the Community Partnership Project of East New York, Chair of the Seed Committee of the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation and by participating in many community projects and events in East New York. Aside from her community involvement, Ms. Fuksman understands the importance of educating our youth, and has had the opportunity to work as an adjunct professor at La Guardia Community College.

Ms. Fuksman has a very genuine and unique passion for helping children and families to improve the quality of their lives and for getting the community involved in efforts to improve the quality of life for the residents. Ms. Fuksman is an excellent cook and uses her cooking skills to fundraise for many causes. Among them are victims of the earthquake in Haiti, Habitat for Humanity, Breast Cancer Foundation and various catholic charities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Ms. Cruz Fuksman.