

the Virginia Tech Police Emergency Response Team. In 2008, he also received an award for his commitment to the department's Driving Under the Influence efforts.

Before joining the Virginia Tech Police Department, Officer Crouse worked at the New River Valley Jail and the Montgomery County Sheriffs Department. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army.

Officer Crouse, formerly of Galax, resided in Christiansburg, VA. He is survived by his wife, Tina Akers Crouse; son, Dustin Crouse; stepchildren, Logan and Hayden Schack, and Tyler and Peyton Robinette; parents, Tony Crouse and Bonita Arnold; and brothers, Darris Upchurch and Kevin Crouse.

I am honored to pay tribute to this great man. Officer Crouse will be long remembered throughout the Virginia Tech and law enforcement communities. My continued prayers are with his family as they grieve this tragic loss. Southwest Virginia has truly lost one of its finest.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF KING'S PARK AND THE 4TH ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Kings Park Community, and the 4th Annual Potluck Dinner. The quality of life enjoyed by the residents of Kings Park is a testament to the strong community spirit that has existed for half a century.

King's Park is a community of 1100 homes located in central Fairfax County, in the heart of the 11th Congressional District of Virginia. Although this is a very large community, it maintains the feel of a true neighborhood or small town. Within the Kings Park boundaries, there are two elementary schools, a large public park, and a community swimming pool. The residents are well served by the local civic association; King's Park Civic Association (KPCA). KPCA publishes The Gazette news letter, helps to ensure the safety of the residents through its Neighborhood Watch and Block Captain programs, and sponsors community events such as the Annual Yard Sale, 4th of July Parade and Picnic, Children's Holiday Party, Senior's Lunch, and Community Potluck Dinner. In addition, KPCA oversees several citizen committees which address residents' concerns, provide assistance, and facilitate communication with the county on local governmental issues.

Fifty years ago, in 1960, the total population of Fairfax County was 261,417; in 2010 the population had more than quadrupled to 1,081,726. Despite this phenomenal growth, King's Park has retained its unique identity thanks to the efforts of the volunteers and community activists. The success of the King's Park Civic Association can be attributable to its ability to provide tangible benefits to its residents, and to promote a spirit of collaboration and inclusion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of King's Park, and the 4th Annual potluck dinner organized by the King's Park Civic Association. I

also thank the residents and members of the Kings Park Civic Association for their efforts to ensure that Kings Park remains a wonderful place to call home.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 914, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### RECOGNIZING THE 4TH ANNUAL LAFAYETTE VILLAGE ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Arbor Day 2011 and to recognize the Lafayette Village Community's annual neighborhood cleanup and tree planting.

Founded by J. Sterling Morton, the first Arbor Day was held in Nebraska April 10, 1872. Arbor Day has since grown to be celebrated in more than 30 countries around the world. Arbor Day recognizes and celebrates the value and beauty of trees in our communities, and it is observed by planting a new tree.

Lafayette Village is a community of 313 homes in Fairfax County, Virginia. This is its fourth annual Arbor/Earth Day ceremony, and tree planting is a longstanding tradition for Lafayette Village. In conjunction with the annual tree planting, Lafayette Village conducts a community cleanup as well. Children are encouraged to participate, which helps to instill the values of community service and teamwork.

Environmental stewardship leads to beautiful communities such as Lafayette Village. Hundreds of trees have been planted over the years as an affirmation of their commitment to this stewardship.

Mr. Speaker, I express my gratitude to the residents of Lafayette Village. Their efforts prove that beautifying a neighborhood requires only a generous amount of time and community spirit.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 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 \$15,054,018,277,569.01. We've added \$10,252,613,102,274.73 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.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2011 LIFECIRCLE ALLIANCES KUDOS FOR CAREGIVERS AWARDS

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the 2011 LifeCircle Alliances Kudos for Community Caregivers Awards. LifeCircle Alliances, a non-profit organization based in Fairfax County, Virginia, is a leader in promoting and enabling independent living for older and adults with developmental, intellectual, or physical disabilities, including our Wounded Warriors.

LifeCircle Alliances has created innovative public-private partnerships with its 45 members including businesses, individuals, educational facilities, philanthropic organizations and government agencies to showcase and raise money for creative and cost-effective long-term care solutions. The funds raised and the efforts of the LifeCircle partners help to create innovative long-term care initiatives, enhance existing programs, and address workforce, mobility and transportation issues. The goal of these efforts is independence for life; ensuring that our older adults and adults with disabilities are able to live independently and with dignity in their communities of choice.

The LifeCircle Alliances Kudos for Community Caregivers Award celebration recognizes the efforts of five outstanding caregivers, who provide dedicated care, day in and day out. The recipients of the 2011 Kudos Awards are:

Inas Eldarwish—For years, Inas and her husband Ayman provided care to their two disabled sons, Ahmed and Hazem. Sadly, Ahmed passed away several years ago. The grace with which Inas handled this tragic loss was remarkable. Through her mourning, she has remained a dedicated and selfless mom to Hazem supporting his interests and helping him reach his full potential.

The Belvoir Woods Healthcare Center Family Council at The Fairfax (BWHCC)—This council is comprised entirely of volunteer family caregivers of current or former BWHCC residents. Through their efforts, residents at Belvoir Woods enjoy guest speaker programs and quality of life resources such as dog therapy visits, loaner scooters, and wheelchairs. They also are able to keep in touch with out-of-area family and friends through the use of free Wi-Fi.

Linda Walthall and Family—Through considerable adversity Linda and Frank Walthall have provided exceptional care for the last 7 years to her elderly mother, who requires 24 hour supervision. It is this selfless devotion to family that warrants her recognition as an exceptional caregiver.

Colonel Christine Ingle (Rtd)—Col. Ingle has served as a volunteer mentor and caregiver to our Wounded Warriors at Fort Belvoir. She recently has started a program for Veterans who are interested in pursuing careers in the healthcare field after their discharge from the Warrior Transition Unit.

Deborah Dodge—Despite personal obstacles, Deborah has gone above and beyond in single-handedly providing care to her adult son for the last 12 years. Deborah's son is severely ill, and requires 24/7 care. She has served on the Northern Virginia Mental Health Board, and is an exceptional caretaker and maintains her positive and cheerful attitude despite the hardships that she faces.

I congratulate today's winners and recognize each of them for their devotion and personal sacrifices. These individuals are examples of the many thousands of caregivers who put the needs of their families, friends and colleagues above their own. I also would like to applaud the efforts of LifeCircle Alliances. As a strong advocate for public-private partnerships, I commend LifeCircle Alliances for its creative approach to addressing these very important challenges within our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to today's awardees and in thanking the volunteers, staff, and partners of LifeCircle Alliance for their efforts in providing assistance to not only those in need of care, but to those who provide the care here in our community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 904, the RECORD indicates that had I been present, I would have voted "no." This is a mistake. The RECORD should indicate that had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### COMMENDING ANTHONY GRIFFIN FOR RECEIVING CAREER EXCELLENCE AWARD

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Anthony Griffin and commend him for receiving the International City/County Management Association's Award for Career Excellence in honor of Mark E. Keane. After a career as City Manager for Falls Church, Virginia, Tony came to Fairfax County in 1989.

In 2000 the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, of which I was a member, appointed Tony as County Executive. As County Executive, Tony Griffin managed the day-to-day operations of a jurisdiction with more than 1 million residents and more than 11,000 employees. Tony provided over Fairfax County during some of its more challenging times including 9/11, the 2001 anthrax attacks, the Beltway Sniper, Hurricane Isabel, the flooding of Cameron Run in 2006, the 2007 recession, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. Throughout it all, he has continued to provide outstanding leadership to Fairfax. During his tenure, *Governing Magazine* named Fairfax County its Best Managed County in the Country. Fairfax has won numerous e-government awards including the Digital Counties Survey

and the Best of the Web. Time Magazine referred to Fairfax as, "the economic success story of our time."

I was pleased to work with Tony Griffin during my 13 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and I know the value he brought. I urge my colleagues and the residents of Fairfax County, Virginia to join me in commending Anthony Griffin for receiving this Award for Career Excellence, and thank him for his years of dedication to making Fairfax a safe and vibrant community to live and work.

#### HONORING THE SHORT LIFE OF ANGELO ZOLTAN SCHWARTZ

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am honored, yet saddened today to come to the floor to honor the short life of Angelo Zoltan Schwartz. The son of Lawrence Sanson Schwartz IV and his wife Allison, Angelo suffered from a rare bone disease, Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI). He was born on Monday, November 28, 2011 at 11:29 a.m., just one minute after his twin sister Cecilia Anne Schwartz. Angelo was 4 pounds 15 ounces and was delivered at INOVA Fairfax Hospital in Virginia.

OI, which is a condition causing extremely fragile bones, was the main cause of Angelo's shortened life. Due to this condition his rib cage was fractured in utero and he succumbed to respiratory failure on December 1, 2011 at 3:45 a.m. Over his 64 hours of life, Angelo made a huge impact on everyone who met him, including the nursing and hospital administration staff, who worked together to modify hospital policy to ensure that the Schwartz family could spend as much time together as possible.

Angelo is loved and will be missed by his entire family including his grandparents, Debrah and Barry Shulman of Fayetteville, New York; Joanne and Lawrence Schwartz III of Anaheim Hills, California; and his parents Allison and Lawrence Schwartz IV, and his sister Cecilia Anne Schwartz of Alexandria, Virginia.

#### TO RECOGNIZE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MANTUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Mantua Elementary School. For half a century, Mantua Elementary has provided its students with a superior education and a solid foundation for lifelong learning and becoming productive and responsible citizens.

The school and community have a shared vision for elementary education based on Ernest Boyer's "Basic School" philosophy paired with tenets from DuFour's Professional Learning Communities. As part of the Basic School Network, Mantua focuses on proven elemen-

tary best practices; the school as a community, a curriculum with coherence, a climate for learning, and a commitment to character. Teachers and specialists at each grade level work in professional learning teams to assess their students' needs and design integrated curricula using the Basic School's eight commonalities: life cycle, use of symbols, group membership, time and space, the aesthetic, nature, producing and consuming, and living with purpose.

In addition, Mantua Elementary School offers programs in English for Speakers of Other Languages, Special Education for students who need additional assistance, Advanced Academics for exceptionally gifted and talented students, and Total Communication for students who are deaf or hearing impaired. These specialized programs when combined with the school's core educational philosophy ensure that every student is given access to a quality education. The result has been an award winning school and a vibrant, academically charged atmosphere that has enabled the children of our community to excel.

Mantua Elementary School has greatly benefitted under the leadership of its principal, Ms. Jan-Marie Fernandez, who has held this position since 2000. Ms. Fernandez is credited with applying brain-based research to instruction methods in order to improve literacy development for students with learning disabilities, and focus and attention issues. This innovative approach was one factor in Ms. Fernandez being named the 2010 Distinguished Principal by the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals. As the parent of a child who attended Mantua Elementary School, I have personally witnessed her effectiveness as an administrator and an educator. She has led this large, very diverse school to great success and I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the students and to the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Mantua Elementary School on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary and in congratulating the students, educators, administrators, and parents on working together as a team for the benefit of all.

#### HONORING JUDGE ELMER DAVIES, JR.

#### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, There are citizens making up this great country who never cease to explore, to learn, to grow. Skilled in multiple crafts, these men and women add much to our communities and the quality of our lives. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of one such Renaissance man, Judge Elmer Davies, Jr. Patriot, master of the law, and passionate culinary artist, Judge Davies left an indelible mark on his family and our community.

After receiving his law degree from Tulane Law School, and serving as a Reserve Colonel with the United States Marine Corps, Davies began his public service in the legal field and followed in the footsteps of his father, Judge Elmer Davies. President Roosevelt appointed Davies, Sr. to the United States District Court and he became the first Chief