

Dave spent his adult life working in the public's best interests. He served our nation in the United States Air National Guard and served our state in several capacities, such as a field representative for former Assembly Member Rusty Areias, and later as Assistant Secretary at the California Resources Agency. Dave also worked for the City of Los Banos as Planning Commissioner, and Director of the Merced County Farm Bureau Board. In 1992, Dave joined the Grassland Water District and served as Assistant General Manager.

Prior to returning to the Grassland Water District in 2007 as General Manager, Dave dedicated his time to a number of organizations, and served in a number of roles, including Chief Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs at the California Waterfowl Association and as Director of Conservation Policy for Ducks Unlimited. Dave's breadth of experience gave him a unique combination of intellect and enthusiasm, which allowed him to serve the San Joaquin Valley—and its people, water, and wildlife—with tact and influence.

Whether he was working on issues important to the Valley or spending time with his son Ty, currently a student at Purdue University, Dave lived a full and rich life. His dedication and service will leave a lasting legacy, and we will miss his insights and his humor.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in paying tribute to the life of David Lowry Widell, a respected and joyous man with a steadfast commitment to protecting the Central Valley's natural resources.

A TRIBUTE HONORING THE LIFE OF EVELYN HAUSNER LAUDER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and extraordinary accomplishments of Evelyn Hausner Lauder, who passed away at her home in New York City on November 12, 2011. Evelyn was a loving wife and mother, a savvy business woman, a devoted philanthropist, and a noble citizen of our country who put the "active" in the word activist.

Evelyn Hausner married into one of America's most distinguished families, but her beginnings were humble. In 1936, Evelyn fled Nazi-occupied Europe with her parents, making their way to America and eventually settling in New York City. While attending Hunter College, Evelyn met her future husband, Leonard Lauder. In 1959, they married and worked together to help grow the Estee Lauder Company.

With only six products when she joined, Evelyn recalled that "it was a baby company"—something to grow and nourish. Today, Estee Lauder stands as one of the most respected companies in the world. Evelyn herself created the Clinique product line and was an integral part of the fabric of the company.

Evelyn's real fame, however, was found in her role as an advocate for the one in eight women in the United States who develops breast cancer. Evelyn herself was a survivor. When she learned of her cancer diagnosis in 1989, she fought back—and won. She went

on to personally help build the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center, founded the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and launched the Pink Ribbon campaign. Evelyn's pink bows today are recognized symbols of hope for a cure for breast cancer, as does her lipstick Pink Ribbon.

I have always admired Evelyn's work from afar, and I have the honor and privilege of representing her son, Gary Lauder, her daughter-in-law, Laura Lauder, and grandchildren, Ellie and Josh, and having them as my dear friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Evelyn Lauder's husband, Leonard Lauder; her children, William Lauder and Gary Lauder; her daughter-in-law, Laura Lauder; and her beloved grandchildren. Evelyn Lauder's life is instructive to all of us of the significance that one person can have for an entire nation . . . to literally insert an issue into the national dialogue and consciousness. As the poet wrote, "and so she passed on, and all the trumpets sounded on the other side."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND HUMANITARIAN ACHIEVEMENTS OF FAROOQ KATHWARI

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to seek Congressional recognition of the exceptional achievements and outstanding charitable and humanitarian works of Farooq Kathwari.

Just this month, Mr. Kathwari received yet another prestigious honor, as the United States Institute of Peace, USIP, dedicated the Farooq Kathwari Amphitheater in recognition of both his long standing work with USIP, as well as his decades of humanitarian efforts across the globe. Not only has Farooq enjoyed a long and illustrious business career, but throughout his life he has also dedicated himself unflinchingly to numerous humanitarian causes. I have always marveled at the way he balances such a successful business career with his commitment to giving back and "paying it forward." Farooq Kathwari is a most fitting recipient of this singular honor from USIP. While leading a Fortune 500 company, he generously lends his valuable time and energy to promote world peace through advocacy and by serving on the boards of numerous human-rights organizations.

The life story of Farooq Kathwari illustrates what our great country stands for, and the bountiful opportunities the United States offers its citizens. Farooq Kathwari came to America over 40 years ago as a political refugee from strife-torn Kashmir, and he now leads one of the Nation's largest and prestigious companies. He arrived in New York City at age 20 armed with a B.A. in English and political science, and with a determination to live and grow in a free society. Two years later he earned an MBA, went to work for Newcourt Securities, where he rapidly rose to the position of vice president, and simultaneously launched his own importing business. Soon thereafter, the iconic American company, Ethan Allen, purchased an interest in his com-

pany. In 1980, the firms merged, and Farooq Kathwari became vice president of Ethan Allen. By 1989, he had risen to the post of Chairman, President, and CEO. Farooq has been the top executive at Ethan Allen Interiors for 26 years; under his leadership, the company has become a leading competitor in interior design and home furnishings, while also fostering a business that values environmental and social responsibility. He is a national leader in the furniture industry; where he serves as the director and chairman of the National Retail Federation and director and is the former chairman and president of the American Home Furnishings Alliance. The industry also inducted him into the American Furniture Hall of Fame.

While Farooq's professional accomplishments are impressive, his most laudable contribution is his tireless dedication to foster world peace and to bettering the lives of others. His humanitarian efforts extend to those people displaced by conflict zones and who end up in refugee camps, and to those facing religious persecution in the Middle East and elsewhere. Most recently, Farooq was honored by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees for his steadfast dedication to raising consciousness of the plight of refugees worldwide. He also serves on the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and has received numerous awards for his peace activism, including the humanitarian award from the Anti-Defamation League. Farooq is a director and former chairman of Refugees International, a director of the International Rescue Committee, director of the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University and the Henry L. Stimson Center, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is also my friend.

Mr. Speaker, Farooq's life's work is to help foster a dialogue for peace in much-troubled regions, and to promote human rights around the world. I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to stand and join me now in honoring Farooq Kathwari, a most compassionate and selfless citizen. May his good works serve as a model for countless others to follow.

HONORING SGT. TIMOTHY K. GILBOE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sgt. Timothy K. Gilboe on being awarded the Silver Star for his heroic action in Afghanistan.

In 2006, Sgt. Gilboe left his home in Jackman, Maine to serve in the Army. After enlisting, Sgt. Gilboe showed outstanding qualities as a soldier, earning him membership to the 4th Brigade's Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Polk. Eventually, he was sent to Afghanistan.

On April 28th, 2011, insurgents opened fire on Gilboe's platoon, wounding the leader and squad leader. Sgt. Gilboe returned fire while suppressing the flames that ignited on a comrade's backpack. When an insurgent ran towards him with a rifle, an unarmed Sgt. Gilboe

physically arrested the belligerent, despite gun-shot wounds he had sustained to his leg. After a fellow soldier was able to neutralize the insurgent, Sgt. Gilboe delayed medical treatment to help secure the area and aid his wounded comrades.

There is no question that that Sgt. Gilboe's actions saved the lives of his comrades that day. His remarkable heroism and devotion to his fellow soldiers are an inspiration to all that know him or have heard his story. Beyond the great honor of the Silver Star, our nation owes Sgt. Gilboe our everlasting thanks and appreciation. I am proud and greatly humbled to stand here today and honor such an individual.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sgt. Timothy Gilboe for his incredible heroism.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 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 \$15,104,054,667,691.48. We've added \$10,302,649,492,397.20 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.

COMMENDING KEVIN FAY FOR RECEIVING THE 2012 JAMES L. EICHBERG LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Kevin Fay for being named the recipient of the inaugural James L. Eichberg Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of tremendous service to our community.

Kevin has been an Executive Committee member of the Leukemia Ball for 15 years, helping to raise more than \$3 million for research funding. In 2001, he founded The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Congressional Honors Program helping to educate those of us in Congress on the many challenges these deadly diseases pose, and the effectiveness of research funding in leading to advances in diagnosing and treating them.

Kevin has served on the Fairfax County Park Authority since 2003, improving the quality of life for local residents. He has helped provide new athletic fields, a fully accessible playground for children of all abilities, additional County trails and the preservation of historic sites. He has chaired several Park Authority committees, as well as serving as a liaison to the Fairfax County Public Schools.

Additionally, Kevin has assisted in the fundraising efforts of numerous charitable organi-

zations such as St. Patrick's Foundation, The World's Children Choir and McLean Little League. Thanks to his tireless efforts, Kevin has helped raise millions of dollars in funding for these and other worthy organizations.

I have been privileged to know Kevin Fay for many years and I have marveled at his generosity of spirit in his many volunteering capacities throughout our region. I know that our community has benefited greatly from his good deeds. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Kevin Fay for being named the 2012 recipient of the James L. Eichberg Lifetime Achievement Award, and to offer our thanks for his lifetime of work on behalf of others.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my condolences to the people of the Philippines in the aftermath of the destructive typhoon and flood that swept across Mindanao, devastating the coastal areas around Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, and Bukinon.

This past weekend, Typhoon Washi struck the Philippines with turbulent winds, overwhelming the region with a month's worth of rain over just 12 hours. The heavy rain caused rivers to overflow and, in the middle of the night, the fast rising waters ravaged the populated villages. An estimated 167,000 Filipinos have been impacted, with 957 losing their lives. Sadly, these numbers rise as each day passes.

Right now, these areas are suffering from crowded evacuation centers, inundated medical facilities, and destroyed homes. As the Philippines and the United States have an historically close relationship, it is important to ensure that we assist the Filipino people as best we can, and help the many suffering rebuild and heal. The needs in these destroyed areas are substantial.

I also commend the quick community efforts of U.S. based Filipino organizations, such as Kagay-anon International of Southern California (KISC), for answering the call to help. Within 24 hours, KISC already collected 15 boxes worth of clothing, food, and water. It is organizations like this that truly bring hope to those in need and make a difference in a crisis.

Again, I express my deepest condolences to the people of the Philippines. As the holidays approach, know that we support and stand by you as you work to recover from this natural disaster.

HONORING ASHER B. DURAND AND THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTERS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two important paintings in the Capitol

Visitors Center that were recently placed for public viewing by the Architect of the Capitol. I refer to the famous 19th century painter Albert Bierstadt's works "The Discovery of the Hudson River" and "Entrance into Monterey," which can be viewed near the starting point for visitor tours through the Capitol. These paintings represent a uniquely American point of view as part of the Hudson River School of Painting.

Within my district in New York City, there are many connections to this first indigenous American school of painting and its artists. One artist, Asher Durand, stands out in particular.

Durand helped found what is known today as the National Academy Museum and School, which I am proud to have in my district. Durand was a very accomplished artist of the 19th century and he served as president of the Academy for many years. His style was highly detailed, a hallmark of the School, and one of his most famous pieces, "Kindred Spirits," is often cited as one of the works most emblematic of the School's ideals. This painting, which resided in the iconic New York Public Library in my district for over 100 years, cemented Durand's place at the forefront of the movement created by the Hudson River School.

As the School's prominence grew, many of the painters traveled abroad to study and were introduced to the culture of the capitals of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. These travels inspired many of the artists to join with other leaders to found the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in 1870. Located in my district on Fifth Avenue, around 5 million visitors walk up the steps of this landmark institution each year. Some of the School's painters later served as trustees and members of the Executive Committee for the Met. Today, many works from the Hudson River School, including several by Durand, hang there.

Some painters also traveled to the American West, which at the time, was an exciting, undiscovered region that captivated Americans in the East. The members of Congress were so inspired by the works produced on these trips that they dedicated national parks, such as Yellowstone and Yosemite, to protect the awe-inspiring landscapes many had only ever witnessed on canvas. This spirit of environmental conservation became more and more popular, and these paintings were later used to support the creation of the National Parks Service in 1916.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the importance of painters like Asher Durand and his contemporaries of the Hudson River School, whose contributions to our country's art, culture, and society are innumerable and still important to every American today.

H.R. 3029, THE REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH ATTRITION ACT OF 2011

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Committee on Oversight and Government