

supply and environmental impacts to the region's imported water sources, the Colorado River, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta. This water supply would also mitigate the potential impacts of planned or emergency water supply interruptions.

The Project includes the following components:

A Regional Concentrate Conveyance Facility would serve existing and future desalting and water reclamation facilities. The proposed Conveyance Facility will facilitate continued and expanded operation of the existing Reynolds Desalination Facility and potentially other facilities that may be developed in the region.

An additional groundwater desalination facility in the Otay River Valley.

A Recycled Water Membrane Bioreactor Facility to treat wastewater and produce recycled water that will be constructed as part of Phase II of the project.

The South San Diego County Water Reclamation Project will highly leverage scarce Federal resources. The maximum Federal share would be 25 percent, so each Federal dollar authorized would be matched by a minimum of three nonfederal dollars. In addition, no Federal funding would be used for the operation or maintenance of these facilities.

PETRA REAGAN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Petra Reagan for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Petra Reagan is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Petra Reagan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Petra Reagan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING LINDA ELLIOT

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Linda Elliot, a loyal and committed LGBT rights advocate, who will receive the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Arizona Individual Equality Award on March 19, 2011. She is truly deserving of this unique honor, and we recognize her many contributions in addressing issues affecting Arizona's LGBT community.

Ms. Elliot's commitment to HRC is commendable, and will soon be marked by 20 years of service to this organization. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Elliot has served in a variety of diverse roles, including her most recent position as the National Co-Chair for the HRC Board of Director's Public Policy Committee. In this capacity, Ms. Elliot and her fellow committee members have helped achieve a series of accomplishments for the LGBT movement, including hate crimes legislation, the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, and other gains related to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and gender rights.

Ms. Elliot should also be congratulated for her efforts as a founding member of two HRC chapters in Phoenix and Denver, and for her dedicated membership on a host of community boards and steering committees, including Arizona's Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS, the One-Voice Community Center, the "No On Prop 107" steering committee, and the Colorado AIDS Project.

Ms. Elliot has maintained a constant presence in the community she serves, encouraging and inspiring the involvement and participation of numerous other LGBT activists in Arizona.

Personally, I also want to thank Linda for her continued friendship and support, which she has generously offered to me throughout the years.

In considering all of these achievements, I ask that you join me in recognizing Linda Elliot for her tireless advocacy efforts and offer her sincere congratulations upon acceptance of her laudable award.

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BROWN-ALLEN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Barbara Brown-Allen.

Barbara has a feisty attitude and no-nonsense approach to life's obstacles; she believes there is nothing that cannot be achieved if one formulates a plan and acts on it. This ambition led to a life of exciting opportunity for this proud, Jamaican-born, businesswoman.

One of Barbara's greatest opportunities came from Crown Heights North in Brooklyn, New York. In 2000, she and her husband, Michael, lived in East Flatbush. They drove through Crown Heights North one day and noticed a neighborhood filled with potential. Barbara immediately invested in property there and spent the next few years developing it. Despite several construction obstacles, she accomplished her goal: a beautifully renovated five story townhouse to call home.

While developing her property in Crown Heights North, Barbara found herself in two new careers: community activism and real estate. She was originally a secretary for a federal bankruptcy judge, but wanted new challenges. Barbara took real estate classes and began bringing buyers and renters to Crown Heights North. To raise the reputation of the neighborhood, Barbara began lobbying local politicians for change. For example, she encouraged Borough President Marty Markowitz to offer homeowners tree guards to protect the

neighborhood trees, a successful program that remains in place today.

As her political strength grew, Barbara remained dedicated to improving the quality of life in Crown Heights North. She joined local organizations that advocated for land-marking, increased city services, and business improvement. To better the quality of life for all of Crown Heights' residents, she also worked with several organizations: Crown Heights North Association, CHARM, Nostrand Park and the Crow Hill Association. With a storefront on Franklin Avenue, Barbara's dedication to the community was exemplified by her actions as a landlord: she would only rent to the "right" tenant, one who would help revitalize the Crow Hill section of Crown Heights.

Barbara excelled in the real estate business and is now an agent for Prudential Douglas Elliman. She was voted Rookie of the Year in 2008, and received two awards in 2009: the Top Two Sales Agent in New York City for Individual Transactions and the 2009 President's Circle Award. In spite of the recent down market, Barbara sees a bright future for her business and her neighborhood. "I think long term," she says. "I just look around, and I know." The vision and continued success of Barbara will be no surprise to anyone who has encountered this determined force of nature.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Barbara Brown-Allen.

INTRODUCING THE TAXPAYER'S FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Taxpayers' Freedom of Conscience Act, which forbids federal funds from being used for population control or "family planning." President Obama's executive order allowing those who perform and/or promote abortion overseas to receive taxpayer money, as well as the health care law's failure to prevent taxpayer money from being used for abortions, bring new urgency to the need to protect pro-life Americans from being forced to subsidize abortion.

It is not enough to say that "family planning" groups may not use federal funds to perform or promote abortion. After all, since money is fungible, federal funding of any activities of these organizations forces taxpayers to underwrite the organizations' abortion activities. Thus, the Taxpayers' Freedom of Conscience Act is the only way to protect taxpayers from having to support what they "disbelieve and abhor."

Thomas Jefferson eloquently made the case for Taxpayer's Freedom of Conscience Act when he said that: "To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical."

I hope all my colleagues will join me in helping end the "sinful and tyrannical" policy of forcing pro-life Americans to subsidize, either directly or indirectly, abortion by cosponsoring the Taxpayer Freedom of Conscience Act.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RE-  
ESTABLISHMENT OF US-ALBA-  
NIAN RELATIONS

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my warmest wishes to the people of Albania on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Albania. For more than 50 years, our countries were separated by more than just distance, and Albania lived in darkness. But, twenty years ago, the Albanian people threw off the yoke of repression and ushered in an era of democracy and freedom.

I believe that the renewal of ties between the United States and Albania flowed naturally following the end of the dictatorship. With the strong hand of President Woodrow Wilson and the United States early last century, the European powers were not able to divide Albania among its neighbors, and Albania's territorial integrity and sovereignty were ensured.

Today, our relations are strong and Albania has taken its rightful place within Europe and on the international scene. It has joined NATO and has begun the process of moving toward the European Union (EU). As a member of NATO, Albania has sent members of its armed forces to fight along side US and other countries' troops in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. And, it is my fervent hope that through continued democratic progress, Albania will someday soon join the EU.

I have visited Albania many times since the early 1990s and have personally seen the immense progress the country has made. When I first walked the streets of Tirana, I was almost as likely to have seen a horse-drawn cart as a car driving down the streets and boulevards. Today, however, Albania's capital is a flourishing city and the country is full of life and has a European outlook.

So, again, on this twentieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Albania, I would like to offer my congratulations and my best wishes for the next twenty years of friendship and progress.

A TRIBUTE TO JEAN MARGARET  
ELIGON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Jean Margaret Eligon.

Ms. Eligon was born in Grenada, West Indies, and immigrated to the United States at the age of seven. She graduated from Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brooklyn College, and a Master of Science degree from Long Island University.

Ms. Eligon is a Teacher, Educator, Special Education Itinerary Teacher, and a Resource Room Coordinator; she is licensed in General Education and Special Education. Ms. Eligon

taught Communication Arts, Math and Global History at Samuel J. Tilden High School. She retired in June 2009, after working in the public school system for 35 years.

Today, Ms. Eligon works with at risk children and has formed her own agency, known as the JME Agency. This agency was created to service children diagnosed with various disabilities, providing one-on-one support in daycare centers and in the home.

She has two children: a son, who is an elementary school teacher, and a daughter, who is a high school teacher. Besides her love for people, Jean loves reading, cooking, baking, and traveling.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Jean Margaret Eligon.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,166,030,787,779.80.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,527,605,041,486.00 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING HENRY OGINSKY

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Henry "Hank" Oginsky as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Hank is a dear friend, I have known for many, many years and I congratulate him on reaching this milestone in his life. A party will be held in his honor on March 27 in Corunna, Michigan.

Hank was born on March 1, 1931 in New Lothrop, Michigan. He graduated from Northeastern High School in Detroit and in 1950 he started working for Buick Motor Division of General Motors. He worked at Buick for 40 years. As a member of UAW Local 599, Hank was elected as a Committeeman, then Shop Committeeman, and as the Local's Financial Secretary. He served as Financial Secretary for 25 years. During this time he was also a member of the Executive Committee and continued serving when he became a retiree. Over the years he played a pivotal role in passage of the "30 and Out" retirement policy and obtaining dental benefits for the membership.

As a father of ten children, Hank also finds time to maintain two farms. He has his own farm in Lennon, Michigan and he operates his grandfather's farm in the New Lothrop area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding Henry "Hank" Oginsky as he celebrates his 80th birthday. I

have always welcomed his insight, thoughtfulness, astute judgment and assistance over the years. I wish him the best in the coming year and many, many more.

A TRIBUTE TO ANDREA PIPER

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Andrea Piper.

Andrea Piper was born and raised in Albany, New York. She was fortunate to attend private school from kindergarten through eighth grade. She then attended Albany High School, where she graduated at the top of her class. Ms. Piper had a strong educational and ethical philosophy during her childhood, a philosophy that still remains with her. This foundation, along with continued support from family and friends, allowed Ms. Piper to embrace her dream of becoming an educational leader. After high school, Ms. Piper received a Bachelor's Degree from SUNY College at Cortland. She later went on to pursue a Master's degree from Cambridge College and a certification in Education and Administration from the College of St. Rose CITE Program.

Ms. Piper has been an educator for seventeen years with the New York City Department of Education. She started as a middle school science teacher, in 1993, at Intermediate School 55, in Brownsville. In 1999, she moved on to teach for another seven years at ACORN Community High School, in Crown Heights; during this time, she was recognized by the UFT as a Teacher of the Year. While at ACORN Community High School, Ms. Piper served on several committees and started various after school clubs, including the ACHS Chorus and the Forensics Science Club. Her Principal recognized her effectiveness as a classroom teacher and assigned her as Lead Teacher of the Science Department; this prompted Andrea to pursue her administrative license. Very soon thereafter, Andrea was offered an Assistant Principal ("AP") position at ACORN Community High School, where she served as AP of Supervision, Guidance, Security and Organization. Her hard work and devotion to educating the lives of the children of ACORN Community High School led her to her current position: Principal of ACORN Community High School.

Affectionately known as "Piper," Ms. Piper has been recognized by colleagues for her hard work and contributions to the legacy of the schools she taught in. During her tenure as teacher and educational leader, Ms. Piper strived to help students become aware of their self-worth and limitless potential. She sets the bar high for both students and staff members; she understands what it takes to succeed.

Ms. Piper's hobbies are singing, crocheting, shopping and drawing. She loves spending time with her two daughters, Akili and Cheyenne. Ms. Piper owes her success and work ethic to her parents, Hilliard Sr. (deceased) and Anna Piper, as well as her great mentors. Through their love and dedication, as well as their commitment to entrench her in a guided and religious background, Ms. Piper maintains her strength and identity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Andrea Piper.