

to their families and loved ones. He is a highly decorated veteran. His awards include the World War II Victory Ribbon, Army Good Conduct Medal, EAME Theater Ribbon and Two Bronze Service Stars, Purple Heart, One Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, and a Distinguished Unit Badge. He was also nominated for the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest military honor that can be awarded to a member of the United States Army for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize Mr. Meza's accomplishments and faithful service to our country. His hard work and valor have truly impacted many lives and our community. Thank you.

APPLAUDING THE FORTUNE
SOCIETY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fortune Society on their continued success. I recently had the honor to support the Fortune Society's partnership with City University of New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice in their effort to provide technical assistance and training to other reentry services organizations. Thanks to their hard work, countless more inmates will transition back into my community with the prospect of a better life.

Under the excellent leadership and vision of Chairperson Ms. Betty P. Rauch, the Fortune Society is doing far more than providing those who have dealt with the harsh realities of incarceration. Their advocacy inspires them and gives them the means to live a positive life in which they can become valuable and contributing members of our society. Furthermore, I would also like to congratulate the Fortune Society on the numerous grants they were recently awarded.

For over 40 years the fortune society has been working with people with criminal records. Today they serve approximately 3,000 men and women annually at three primary New York City-area locations including West Harlem in my Manhattan Congressional District. Thanks to their dedicated and experienced staff of professionals, the Fortune Society is able to successfully offer: Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI), drop-in services, employment services, education, family services, health services, housing services, substance abuse treatment, transitional services such as the Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement (R.I.D.E.) program, recreation, and lifetime aftercare.

I look forward to seeing all that the Fortune Society accomplishes in the coming year. I will continue to serve them proudly and support them in their great cause.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

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 \$15,356,140,493,616.06. We've added \$10,554,735,318,321.78 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 JOHN S. CZYSCON FOR
HIS SERVICE IN THE U.S. ARMY
DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor a very special veteran for his service to our nation during World War II.

Mr. John S. Czynscon was a member of the United States Army and served in the Pacific Theater. Mr. Czynscon was in harm's way numerous times and involved in serious combat. His heroism and bravery were recognized through his awards: the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three bronze battle stars and arrowhead attachments.

Mr. Czynscon served as a Technician Fifth Grade, with the Second Battalion 188th Glider Infantry during his service to the Army. He joined the Army in 1943 and was honorably discharged in 1946 after providing honest and faithful service to this country.

Mr. Czynscon will turn 92 this spring and he lives in New York Mills, New York. It is a privilege and an honor to have veterans like Mr. Czynscon residing in the 24th Congressional District. His service to our country should always be a great source of pride. To serve one's nation is among the most noble and selfless acts available to man, particularly during times of war. Thank you, Mr. Czynscon. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Technician Fifth Grade John S. Czynscon, United States Army, for his service and sacrifice during World War II on behalf of the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRIS
TURNERY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a lifelong educator and political activist. Chris Turney passed away in December at the age of 60. Chris dedicated her life to the education of children. Chris was a music teacher for 34 years, and spent the

last 20 years of her career teaching at Lincoln Junior High School in Skokie, Illinois. Ms. Turney, as she was known by her students, shared her passion and love for music with many students over the years. She played a variety of musical instruments including the piano, flute, piccolo and guitar. She frequently used these instruments in her classroom. Most importantly, Ms. Turney inspired hundreds of children to follow their dreams. Ms. Turney encouraged all her students to believe in themselves and their own unique skills and abilities as they moved through life.

Outside of the classroom, Chris was a political activist fighting for a better education system. Chris was a lifelong Democrat and very active in the National Education Association (NEA). She was president of the Skokie-Morton Grove Education Association, was the Region 36 Chair of the Illinois Education Association, and eventually became an NEA State Director. As a State Director, Chris was frequently on Capitol Hill meeting with members of Congress. Some of Chris's favorite moments in her life were shaking hands with President Clinton and then Senator Barack Obama. After retiring from her teaching career, Chris continued to be politically active. She served as the President of the DuPage Chapter of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association, a position she held until her death. She was an advocate for public education and for better schools for our children.

Chris will be missed dearly by her former students, colleagues, friends and family. She is survived by her life partner of 30 years, James C. Keating, her sisters Judy Goldsmith and Linda Turney, and three nephews. She encouraged all three of her nephews to follow their dreams which they have done. Her oldest nephew Rob Goldsmith is currently an education and labor staffer for Congressman BRUCE BRALEY. Jeff Goldsmith is a very successful musician who has written and recorded numerous songs and albums. Mark Goldsmith, the youngest nephew, is currently an engineering student and baseball player at the Colorado School of Mines. Her memory and influence lives on through them.

Chris's memory will live on through the people whom she inspired for years to come. She was an agent of change to many. If you knew Chris well, she changed your life. Her uplifting, energetic, and positive attitude will be missed and she will not be forgotten.

WARREN BUFFETT'S SECRETARY
NOT SYMBOL OF ECONOMIC IN-
JUSTICE

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, billionaire Warren Buffett's longtime secretary has become a symbol in the current Administration's fight over the tax code and economic fairness. While she was the President's chief stage prop in a show of the alleged unfairness of our tax system, this is hardly the truth.

The national media have painted this as a case of the little person paying a higher tax rate than her billionaire boss. Thankfully, Forbes and a few media outlets have researched the facts. By reviewing the Internal

Revenue Service's own detailed tax tables by income level, Forbes has determined she likely makes between \$200,000 and \$500,000.

The national media have not done their homework on Mr. Buffett's longtime secretary. They have misled the American people on the important issue of income taxes and capital gains investments that help create jobs. We need to remind the national media of their obligation to provide the American people with the facts.

DENNIS KELLY—COMMUNITY
BANKER, COMMUNITY LEADER

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important leaders in the economy of southeastern Massachusetts is about to retire.

E. Dennis Kelly, Jr. joined Bristol County Savings Bank in 1977 as Operations Manager and held various titles before being named the President and CEO in 1993. Mr. Kelly has held this position for the past 18 years, but will retire as the 12th President of Bristol County Savings on March 13, 2012. During his tenure, Mr. Kelly was instrumental in creating the Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation in 1996, first serving as President and currently as Chairman.

Mr. Kelly has been a community leader and has made a difference in the lives of many organizations, families and individuals throughout the regions where Bristol County Savings Bank operates. Under his leadership, the Bristol County Savings Bank and the Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation awarded \$1.1 million in grants last year and more than \$8.0 million in total to area organizations since 1996. In addition to the significant financial support provided by the Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation, he has personally invested his time and expertise to help develop solutions that addressed community needs. In this role, he currently holds leadership positions in various organizations including Chairman of the Depositors Insurance Fund; former President and current member of the Board of Directors of Annawon Council of Boys Scouts of America; Trustee of the Augat Foundation; member of the Board of Directors of the Attleboro YMCA and Capital Campaign Chairman; Immediate Past Chairman and Current member of the Board of Trustees of Bridgewater State University Foundation; member of the Board of Directors of the Taunton Development Corporation; member of the Board of Directors of the Sturdy Memorial Hospital Foundation; member of the Board of Directors of the Old Colony Historical Society; Incorporator of the United Way of Greater Attleboro Taunton; Board Member of FAIR, Friends of Attleboro Interested in Revitalization; Incorporator of the Hockomock YMCA; and Incorporator of Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island.

Over the years, Mr. Kelly has contributed his time and talent to many other organizations as well and has held leadership positions in various banking and professional associations including Chairman of the Massachusetts Bankers Association; Chairman of the Massa-

chusetts Bankers Charitable Foundation; former Regional Chairman of the New England School of Banking; President of the Heart of Taunton; President of the Route 44 Businessman's Association; Treasurer of the Southeastern Massachusetts Manufacturing Partnership and President of the Taunton Kiwanis Club. In addition he has also served as Chairman of the Board & Campaign Chairman of the United Way of Greater Attleboro-Taunton; Trustee of Morton Hospital & Medical Center; member of the Rotary Club of Taunton; member of the President's Advisory Council for Bishop Feehan High School and Chairman of the St. Mary's Education Fund Dinner.

Mr. Kelly earned a BA in History Education from Providence College in 1969 and was a graduate of the National School of Banking at Fairfield University.

Mr. Kelly resides in Attleboro with his wife, Michelle. They have two sons Thomas and Robert and three grandchildren, Madison, Chace and Landon.

“OCCUPY WALL STREET . . . NEXT STOP, ATHENS?” BY MALLORY FACTOR

HON. TIM SCOTT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit an article on behalf of Mallory Factor expressing his opinion regarding the need for significant reforms and spending cuts in spite of the social unrest they may cause.

“OCCUPY WALL STREET . . . NEXT STOP, ATHENS?”

[By Mallory Factor]

In the past few weeks Americans have watched with interest, bemusement and anger as protests and sit-ins on Wall Street have sparked similar demonstrations around the country. With vague goals of combating corporate greed and calls to rectify all manner of social and economic inequality, this movement seems, to the press at least, to capture a mood of deep discontent among the American people.

But if you think a thousand protesters on Wall Street is a trouble sign for our nation, wait until you see the civil unrest that follows the reforms and cuts to government programs needed to bring our national debt under control. Just look at Greece, where government is being reformed, drastic cuts are being made—and the society is unraveling. In Greece a series of severe austerity measures has been imposed as conditions for recent bailouts by the International Monetary Fund and the other members of the single European currency, the euro. Yet the economy continues to spiral downward.

And with each new round of reforms in Greece, misery and unrest are on the rise. Strikes and angry street protests are a daily occurrence, as unions fight decreases in pay and benefits for their workers, students protest the lack of opportunity and ordinary citizens resist reforms and tax increases. The confrontation with authorities is impeding business and destroying tourism, deepening the crisis further.

Some of that struggle is for naught. The Greek government couldn't reduce austerity measures if it wanted to. Fiscal policy is now out of its hands and likely to remain so for decades, perhaps generations.

And while most Greeks agree the bloated state must be streamlined, they're stiffening their resistance to reform. That's why many in the euro zone believe Greece must default in order to rebuild a more efficient government.

America isn't in that predicament—yet. But there are cautionary lessons to be lifted from the outraged streets of Athens. As the Greek example shows, government largesse is easy to expand but difficult to cut back without inflaming people.

For years our politicians have framed increases to government benefits as compassionate and obligatory. Now all that overspending must be pared back and government programs reformed to curb the federal deficit. But each round of needed cuts and reforms will likely cause misery—in an amount substantially greater than the happiness generated by spending increases.

Behavioral economics, which uses social and psychological factors to predict a population's decision-making behavior, captures this paradox in two fundamental principles.

First, the principle of “loss aversion” explains that people hate to lose something more than they value receiving something. So, even if many Americans don't value existing government programs and spending very highly, they will likely be very unhappy about the loss of those same goods and services.

Second, even if you streamline our government and make programs more efficient, the “endowment effect” predicts that people will still oppose changes to the benefits they receive. This is because people tend to value the goods and services they have more than they do equivalent replacement goods and services. The endowment effect makes it very difficult to exchange existing benefits for new ones and thus to “reform” government programs.

Whether we cut spending and make reforms now or later, course correction will be difficult and even potentially dangerous to our nation's stability. Just look at the resistance of public employees in Wisconsin, Indiana and elsewhere to relatively minor cuts to see how people will contest vigorously any decreases to their benefits and programs.

Behavioral economics teaches us that any time we make changes and reduce government benefits and programs, we can expect people to be very upset about those decisions—and likely resist them. Still, we need significant reforms and deep cuts to put the U.S. on track toward a balanced budget.

Paring back government will undoubtedly cause misery and social dislocation. However, “death” by a thousand small cuts will intensify civil unrest and may produce revolutionary fervor unlike anything we've seen in America in our lifetime. Our nation will be better off by reforming our system radically, in a single dramatic turn, rather than piecemeal—or face something very like the furious streets of Athens.

RECOGNIZING THE 2011–2012 RECIPIENTS OF THE “IN HOPE FREEDOM RINGS FOUNDATION” SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2011–2012 “In Hope Freedom Rings Foundation” Scholarships.