

engrained in the rules of Congress, and that both Republicans and Democrats are guilty of exploiting them.

The American people have a right to expect accountability, honesty, and transparency from their government. But every year, Washington relies on a series of budget gimmicks and accounting tricks to conceal or enable deficit spending. With our nation's gross debt over \$15 trillion—as large as our entire economy—Washington must drop the budget games and commit to honest budget practices.

We—as the freshman class—were sent to DC to do things differently and to assist on honest and transparent government.

That's why earlier this week, I, along with 28 of my colleagues, introduced the Honest Budget Act of 2012—an important step to change the way Washington works and instill integrity to the budget process.

This legislation is designed to root out the budget gimmicks most commonly used by politicians to hide the truth, confuse the public, and run up the national debt.

Last year, Senator JEFF SESSIONS from Alabama introduced in the Senate similar legislation to strengthen the Senate's rules against budget trickery. Numerous conservative groups have endorsed Sessions' bill, including the Heritage Foundation, Americans for Tax Reform, and Citizens Against Government Waste.

The House legislation expands this bill with similar rules in the House of Representatives to addresses nine specific budget gimmicks that, since 2005, have cost taxpayers more than \$350 billion and have consistently added to the burgeoning national debt. For example, the legislation makes it more difficult to pass appropriation bills without first approving a budget. No longer will the Senate be allowed to operate without a budget as it has for more than 1000 days. It tightens rules about using "emergency designations" and "disaster designations" to justify off-budget spending. It reveals both the real cost and the real commitment on what the federal government is spending. The bill prevents Congress from relying on phony rescissions, or claiming savings unless the savings are real and genuine. Money that was never going to be spent cannot later be claimed as "savings". That's common sense.

A budget is a plan for the nation's future and an annual financial report to the stockholders of the company—in this case, the American people. We deserve the truth. Mr. Speaker, given what I have witnessed over the last year, the only way to guarantee the truth is to specifically root out and end the gimmicks that so often obscure it.

We are all keenly aware that the number one issue facing America today is jobs. We must continue to do all that we can here in Washington to create an environment that fosters job growth, and we will continue to do that. But we cannot overlook the fact that Washington spends money it does not have. Certainly, this reckless spending spree has contributed greatly towards our downward economy.

The American people deserve a budget system that is accountable, predictable, and real. Regardless of party, Congress and the Administration have not always been up-front with their numbers. It is important that we instill in-

tegrity back to our budget. The President is expected to present Congress with his budget for Fiscal Year 2013. We have a responsibility to our constituents to ensure that the final budget is accurate and any savings included are real savings.

In many respects, the Honest Budget Act of 2012 embodies the spirit of transparency and accountability that unites my freshman class. The bill is a rallying point for those who truly want to put an end to the tricks, gimmicks and empty promises, and for all who believe that the American people deserve a government that they can trust. I look forward to work with my colleagues to see this become reality.

#### RECOGNIZING WENDY FREITAG

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Wendy Freitag for being named a Champion of Change in recognition of her work to prepare Washington communities for unexpected events and developing innovative and creative approaches to emergency preparedness and response.

As the External Affairs Manager for the Washington State Military Department's Emergency Management Division, Wendy Freitag oversees statewide emergency management outreach programs. These programs focus on disaster preparedness public education, private-public partnerships and public information programs. She encourages all residents of Washington State to take preparedness steps in their households and communities before a disaster strikes.

Wendy and her team continue to work on designs for outreach campaigns and programs to empower individuals and organizations to proactively prepare for disasters. They know that in order to effectively respond and recover from disasters, work must be done at the community level. Her team uses a combination of reason and emotion to engage and inspire all community members to become more disaster resilient.

Wendy has tremendous experience in the public and private sectors developing innovative solutions for preparedness. Prior to joining the Emergency Management Division, Wendy worked for a decade on physical security, national crisis management and business continuity projects and teams at Microsoft and the former Washington Mutual Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in recognizing the dedication of Wendy Freitag to helping all Washington residents be better prepared for disasters.

#### HONORING SURROGATE MICHAEL R. DRESSLER

#### HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, County

Surrogate Michael Raymond Dressler, for his dedicated leadership and service to our community as the recently re-elected Judge of the Surrogate's Court of Bergen County. Surrogate Dressler has committed himself to a life of public service and I am pleased to recognize him as he continues his distinguished career.

Surrogate Dressler was first elected to be the Bergen County Surrogate Court Judge in 1996. Since then, the public has demonstrated their resounding approval for his work, re-electing him in 2001, 2006, and yet again in 2011. While in office, Judge Dressler has demonstrated his talent for combining innovative community service with reasoned fiscal responsibility. Among many other first's, he created the first Guardianship Monitoring Program in Bergen County, which utilizes volunteers to monitor the work of Court appointed guardians, ensuring they care for the frail and elderly as promised.

Surrogate Dressler also organized the creation of the Surrogate Court's Satellite Office Program in which the services of the Surrogate Court are brought directly to municipalities such as Fort Lee, Ridgewood, Wallington, Norwood and Park Ridge. Surrogate Court employees offer services such as probating of wills and administering estates to those who cannot make the trip to the Surrogate Court in Hackensack. These innovative programs are operated and maintained at no additional taxpayer cost.

Also, as a lifetime advocate for education, Judge Dressler spends a great deal of time promoting awareness of the probate process, the necessity of a Will and other documents, through his speaking tours, addressing numerous civic groups and service organizations. His publication of a comprehensive booklet entitled "How to Probate a Will in Bergen County," is available to all Bergen County residents in English, Spanish, and Korean. These initiatives are just a few of many examples that reflect how his hard work extends well beyond the walls of his office.

As Surrogate, Michael Dressler was elected by his peers and served as President of the Constitutional Officers of New Jersey. He presently serves as a member of the New Jersey Highlands Council. He was honored as the YMCA of Greater Bergen County's Person of the Year in 2009.

Mike Dressler was first elected to public office as Councilman of Cresskill in 1974. In 1983, the people of Cresskill elected him to serve as their Mayor, a position he held until 1991. That same year he was the youngest person ever appointed to the position of Counsel to the County of Bergen—New Jersey's most populous county. His extraordinary dedication to public service serves as an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my dear friend, Surrogate Michael Raymond Dressler, on another re-election. I join with the grateful residents of Bergen County in thanking him for his innumerable contributions to our community. I am confident that his leadership and dedication to service will continue to improve the lives of countless New Jerseyans.

RECOGNIZING PROSTATE CANCER  
AWARENESS OBSERVANCE DAY

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Prostate Cancer Awareness Observance Day, as recognized by the Brown Byrd Prostate Cancer Foundation in my district and numerous organizations and municipalities.

Affecting 1 in 6 men, prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer and the second cause of cancer-related deaths among males. A new case occurs every 2.7 minutes, and is the cause of death of an afflicted individual every 19 minutes. Though for reasons yet to be discovered, prostate cancer is especially prevalent within the African American community, which makes awareness of this disease especially important within communities like my Borough of Brooklyn, New York.

Despite these disparaging statistics, many forms of prostate cancer are readily treatable, and with increased early detection and treatment, current trends can be reversed. Education regarding prostate cancer and early detection strategies is crucial to saving lives and preserving our families; 200,000 men will be diagnosed and over 75,000 men will die from prostate cancer annually. At any age, deaths due to prostate cancer devastate families through loss of income, partnership, and support.

In recognition of this disease and the large number of families and communities it afflicts, I stand with those today that recognize February 2, 2012, as a day to remember those who lost the battle against prostate cancer, and to pray for the families and friends that have dealt with such a tragedy. As a community, we also remember those living with prostate cancer, celebrate the lives of survivors, and thank all the prostate cancer organizations and medical professionals throughout the entire country who aid in victories against this insidious disease.

One such organization I would like to recognize today is the Brown Byrd Prostate Cancer Foundation. Started by two young individuals in my own district, Kevin Byrd and Blossom Brown to honor their grandfathers who were both lost to prostate cancer, the foundation has done a good deal of work within New York and nationally to bring attention to Prostate Cancer and methods to combat its continued threat to the wellbeing of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and may we all offer up our prayers today to every individual that has been affected by prostate cancer.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH  
FLORIDA

**HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significant achievements that

the University of South Florida (USF) has made in the fields of innovation and technology.

In 2010, USF furthered their dedication to these fields by founding the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). Today, the NAI works to recognize inventors, enhance the visibility of university innovation, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate research and inventions of its members that may benefit society.

With this type of commitment to innovation, it is no surprise that a recent report issued by the Intellectual Property Owners Association listed USF, along with 12 other American Universities, among the top 300 organizations to receive patents from the United States Patent and Trademark Office in 2010.

I am also proud that as USF continues to be a national leader in the field of innovation, the entire Tampa Bay area will significantly benefit. Researchers and inventors from USF will continue to work together with business and industry leaders in their respective fields to put their ideas and prototypes into action. These interactions will lead to a direct and positive impact on our local communities—communities desperately in need of high quality jobs and business opportunities.

I've always said that one of America's greatest strengths is the innovation of its citizens. Without innovation, this nation would not be what it is today. Unfortunately, many of these innovators in the past have not received the recognition for their achievements that they rightfully deserve.

That is why it is my honor to recognize and support the achievements of USF for their commitment to innovation and research.

With that, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of the University of South Florida.

HONORING LARRY VEILLEUX OF  
LEWISTON, MAINE

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Laurent "Larry" Veilleux, a man who devoted his life to his family and to his community.

A veteran of World War II, Larry's lifelong commitment to public service was only beginning when he returned home from the war. After completing his assignment in the U.S. Navy, Larry worked to obtain an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and to enroll himself in the FBI Academy. The Lewiston Police department was fortunate enough to draw on Larry's courage and dedication to his community. By the time he retired as a Deputy Police Chief, he was a local fixture and beloved within the community.

Larry never stopped giving back to his friends, colleagues and neighbors. He found time to be an active member of the Retired Police Chief Association, the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, the Lion's Club, and the Augusta Calumet Club. He was a former member of St. Joseph's Church and was most recently a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Auburn. Larry valued his roots in the community and was particu-

larly proud of his induction into the Lewiston-Auburn Sports Hall of Fame as a member of the 1942 Lewiston High School State Champion Hockey team.

It is truly remarkable that one man could have such a positive impact on the lives of so many people. Larry is survived by his wife, three children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Larry was born November 21, 1923 and passed on January 30, 2012. He was 88 years old.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Larry for his public service and allow me to extend my deepest condolences to Larry's family.

HONORING THE BROWARD COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANTI-BUL-  
LYING INITIATIVE

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Broward County Sheriff's Office Anti-Bullying Initiative, the efforts of which have undoubtedly helped make South Florida a safer and more tolerant community.

Bullying of young gay Americans has reached epidemic proportions in this country. In fact, more than 80 percent of LGBT students report suffering harassment, humiliation, and even violence at the hands of their peers in school. Even more tragic are the cases of children who take their own lives after being led to believe there is no hope for acceptance in their community. Despite these overwhelming statistics, many schools have shown an unwillingness or inability to openly address anti-gay bullying.

I commend the Broward County Sheriff's office and their many partners throughout South Florida for setting themselves apart by establishing an Anti-Bullying Initiative to address this issue head-on. Together, law enforcement officials and community leaders are acting on a shared belief that in America, no child should be afraid to go to school because he or she is different. On January 30, 2012, the Anti-Bullying initiative hosted an event at the Coral Springs Center for the Performing Arts, where they screened the film Bullied and discussed the impact of anti-gay bullying on our nation's youth. This event is one of many undertaken by the Broward County Sheriff's office to give students, teachers, and administrators the tools they need to effectively address bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The opportunity for every child to receive a quality public education is a cornerstone of our nation. To achieve their potential, our children need schools that provide safe, accepting, and abuse-free environments. I am honored to recognize the people of Broward County, whose efforts to stop bullying are helping ensure our schools are places where everyone, regardless of their sexual identity, has a safe place to learn and grow.