

I am honored to recognize Hillsides for its 100 years of loving care and support to countless children and families and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating Hillsides for its remarkable achievements.

HONORING MELVIN YOUNG, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a determined young man, Mr. Melvin Young, Jr.

Melvin Savelle Young, Jr. was born June 28, 1994 in Vicksburg, Mississippi to the proud parents of Melvin Young, Sr. and Rhonda Morris Young. He is also the proud grandson of Bernice Profit of Hollandale, Mississippi and the late Emma Lee Dorsey of Rolling Fork, Mississippi.

While in high school, Melvin was the runner up for Mr. South Delta High School, a member of the varsity football, baseball, and the track team. He also participated in the JROTC program. He is a faithful member of Salem Missionary Baptist Church where he is a devoted choir member. In conjunction with his hopes to positively impact his community, Melvin became a member of the Mayor Youth Council and has worked as a volunteer at the Sharkey County Tax Assessor and Collector Office. Melvin also volunteered in the emergency response efforts of the county to save public records during a flooding crisis; as a volunteer he worked to move official records to a secure location.

In the fall Melvin plans to attend Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston, Mississippi where he will pursue a degree in Pre-Engineering.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Melvin Savelle Young, Jr. for his hard work and dedication in his efforts to achieve his goals.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 469 and 470 I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 469, and "aye" on rollcall No. 470.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,884,155,929,632.05. We've added \$5,257,278,880,718.97 to our debt in

just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR TAMMY COON

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representative ISSA rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Major Tammy Coon, United States Army. Sergeant Major Coon has served a distinguished career in the United States Army, spanning over twenty eight years. She has distinguished herself with exceptional meritorious service in a succession of positions of great importance and responsibility to the Army and the nation. She has culminated her military career in the Army's Office of the Chief of legislative Liaison as a Congressional Legislative Liaison to the United States House of Representatives for the past 2 years. Additionally, she is the first Sergeant Major in the United States Army to serve as a Congressional Legislative Liaison to the House of Representatives. Over the course of the 28 years which she has spent in uniform serving her country, she has been cited by her command as exhibiting outstanding initiative, leadership and professionalism in all of her actions. In doing so, she has made significant contributions to the welfare of soldiers and their families, to say nothing of the service she has provided to the people of this nation.

Sergeant Major Coon's previous positions of significant leadership included: First Sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Space Brigade, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Chief, Enlisted Promotions, Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Virginia; Senior Enlisted Advisor, Directorate of Personnel, Multi-National Forces-Iraq (MNF-I), Baghdad, Iraq; Senior Enlisted Advisor, Special Management Division, Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Virginia; and Senior Enlisted Advisor for Soldier Programs/Community Recreation, Department of the Army, Alexandria, VA.

Sergeant Major Tammy Coon served as a Congressional Legislative Liaison to the United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC. During this assignment she served as the primary point of contact for 70 Members of Congress within the Pacific Region, which included California, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Additionally, she served as the Army House Liaison Division's primary point of contact for Wounded Warrior Care issues and for the Mental Health and Invisible Wounds Caucuses, routinely interacting with Members of Congress and senior staffers.

As First Sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Space Brigade, Colorado Springs, Colorado, she was responsible for discipline, health & welfare, safety, and training of 120 active duty, reserve, and National Guard soldiers as well as 130 Department of the Army Civilians. Even though the unit was deployed in five separate locations, Sergeant Major Coon ensured that the soldiers, civilians, and families were well cared for.

Sergeant Major Tammy Coon served as the Chief, Enlisted Promotions, Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Virginia. She managed the Department of the Army's enlisted promotion system, affecting Army enlisted soldiers worldwide. Her guidance and leadership were instrumental in the execution of over 50,000 promotions annually, while markedly increasing the efficiency of the promotion process. Additionally, Sergeant Major Coon reviewed and provided input for regulatory guidance revisions. She routinely proposed new initiatives and prepared correspondence on behalf of the President, Congress and Department of Army Senior Leadership.

As the Senior Enlisted Advisor, Directorate of Personnel, Multi-National Forces-Iraq (MNF-I), Baghdad, Iraq, she was the principal advisor for all enlisted personnel readiness and Human Resource management issues for 150,000 U.S. military and 13,000 members from 25 Coalition Countries deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During this time she developed, synchronized, and implemented personnel policies and training that impacted enlisted members throughout the Iraqi theater.

As the Senior Enlisted Advisor, Special Management Division, Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Virginia, Sergeant Major Coon was responsible for the manpower management and strength management of enlisted personnel assigned to Special Mission Units (SMU) and Special Access Programs (SAP) which support national security objectives. SGM Coon compiled, analyzed, and produced personnel statistical information for all enlisted career management fields quarterly reviews ensuring that these units were properly manned in order to execute missions directed by the National Command Authority.

While serving as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for Soldier Programs/Community Recreation, Department of the Army, Alexandria, Virginia, she coordinated and implemented Soldier Programs for 84 United States Army Garrisons and had oversight of a \$40 million budget. She co-authored and analyzed strategies and surveys for various Army initiatives and served as lead trainer for all Soldier programs across the Army, training over 30,000 Soldiers and civilians.

Sergeant Major Coon is the perfect representative of the United States Army. We have gotten to know Sergeant Major Coon as the "soldier with a smile". She brings an enjoyment and enthusiasm to serving her country and representing the Army that is unparalleled in the halls of Congress. We are grateful for the advocacy Sergeant Major Coon has done on behalf of the physical and mental well being of soldiers and their families. Sergeant Major Coon has provided us with advice and counsel on issues affecting wounded warriors and their families that has lead to legislative action improving wounded warrior care and mental health care. We particularly appreciate the work Sergeant Major Coon has done with our staff in providing them with the materials, briefings and support they need to work on issues affecting the Army.

Sergeant Major Coon's dedication to duty and superior leadership has left an indelible mark on the United States Army, the soldiers with whom she has served, and the Congress of the United States. Her actions, in over 28 years of military service, are in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army.

We have been honored to work with Sergeant Major Coon, and thank her for extraordinary service to our nation.

HONORING CHERRY MATHIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young woman whose commitment to her academics has earned her this recognition.

Ms. Cherry Mathis. Ms. Mathis is a straight-A honors graduate of Charleston High School in Charleston, Mississippi.

She has been consistent in maintaining the highest average in nearly all of her courses throughout high school. Her grade point average is an astounding 4.1, which gives her the highest average among her peers in the twelfth grade. As a result of her studious feat, Ms. Mathis was designated as the Valedictorian of the Charleston High School Class of 2012.

Receiving this honor implies that Ms. Mathis is incredibly hard working, and dedicated to her education. She has earned numerous awards and distinctions such as being inducted into the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars. However, her proudest accomplishment was being named as a National Merit Scholar. In addition to her academic responsibilities, Ms. Mathis has also held leadership positions in several school organizations including the Yearbook Club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Science Club, and Student Council.

Ms. Mathis plans to attend the University of Mississippi where she will major in Integrated Marketing Communications. She believes that obtaining this degree will be a primary tool in achieving her future goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Cherry Mathis for her outstanding academic achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes yesterday. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 469 and 470.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF SOL FLORES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, last week the White House honored leaders who have made a significant difference in the way their communities combat homelessness among children and youth. I am pleased that

one of the 13 "Champions of Change" is Sol Flores, Executive Director of La Casa Norte in Chicago.

Nearly one million American men, women and children are currently homeless. That is simply unacceptable, but progress is being made. Because of Sol's leadership of La Casa Norte, the city of Chicago—and the Humboldt Park neighborhood in particular—has seen a significant reduction in homelessness.

Since founding La Casa Norte 10 years ago, Sol has made it her mission to serve youth and families facing homelessness. La Casa Norte's continuum of services to assist children, young adults, and families has proven incredibly successful. Eighty-four percent of youth leaving La Casa Norte's transitional housing program find permanent housing, and 87 percent of families who receive homeless prevention assistance maintain housing stability. The organization is a recognized leader in effective homeless prevention in the Chicago area and across the country.

I thank Sol Flores for her tireless efforts to promote stable homes and stable communities, and I wish her continued success. Her leadership of La Casa Norte and dedication to eradicating homelessness are worthy of her distinction as a "Champion of Change."

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF BRINTON W. OVERHOLT, SR. IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor an outstanding Hoosier for his patriotism and service during World War II. Brinton W. Overholt, Sr., 90-years young this year, served with honor in the United States Army from 1944–1946. Trained stateside at Camp Blanding, Fort Meade, and finally Camp Shanks; Brinton was eventually shipped overseas to support the Allied march liberation of France. Landing in Le Havre, France, Brinton was assigned as a casualty replacement for the 106th Division, 423rd Battalion, Squad 4 of the 3rd Platoon. The 106th Division served with distinction in France; helping to trap some 20,000 German soldiers around St. Lazare; a vital submarine base near Paris. Of the Division's original compliment of 1500 soldiers; only 88 would survive the war.

Shooting the 81 mm mortar, Mr. Overholt served in the Heavy Weapons Unit. Later, he would become the squad leader, directing the shots of the mortar men. While Overholt was still in France, Nazi Germany surrendered; and the 106th Division became part of the United States Army of Occupation in Germany.

The American soldiers moved into German houses and Brinton Overholt was assigned the of taking inventory of the household so that if the U.S. soldiers broke anything or if something went missing, our government would replace it. Brinton was in the midst of an inventory when an officer informed him that he was going to be shipped out to the Pacific for the invasion of Japan. Fortunately, for Brinton and the Japanese, Brinton was granted a 30-day furlough in the U.S., before his rotation to Japan and the war would be over before his furlough ended.

Brinton spent the rest of his military career at Camp Campbell in Kentucky. (now called Fort Campbell) where he served as a medic's and Chaplain's Assistant to special troops. Brinton would in fact serve under three different Chaplains over the time he was there—including Chaplain John Brown.

If you ask him about his service during the war, Brinton will tell you quite honestly and matter-of-factly, that he doesn't consider himself a hero, just a kid who served his country because it was the right thing to do. I ask my colleagues to join with me today to honor and thank Brinton W. Overholt Sr.; because it is the right thing to do.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JAZZ GREAT BEN KYNARD

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Ben Kynard, the great jazz saxophonist, whose musical performances, jazz compositions, and great legacy continues to enrich the lives of so many jazz enthusiasts.

Kansas City jazz has become a worldwide staple. It was born in a town where, as the great Monarch manager, Buck O'Neal, said, "Everything was wide open." No one knows how many nightclubs and cabarets were in operation during the 1930s. The clubs were packed and the great musicians were working—and playing. In those "hot" clubs, Mary Lou Williams, the jazz pianist, said that Kansas City was, "A heavenly city . . . musicians everywhere." Indeed, they were. Among them was the soft spoken saxophonist Ben Kynard, who as a teenager, migrated to Kansas City from Arkansas.

Ben Douglas Kynard was born in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, on February 28, 1920, to Bennett and Amelia Kynard. When he was just seven years old, his mother passed away. Three years later, his father remarried, moving the family to Kansas City. He learned first to play the horn, and later the saxophone, from his older brother B.C. Kynard began to play professionally in 1938 at the age of eighteen, performing in night clubs in Kansas and in country clubs with his companion, Celester White and later Oliver Todd's band, known as the Hottentots.

Kynard later joined the U.S. Army, where he played in a military band, one that frequently played at officers' clubs and funerals. After returning to Kansas City, he joined Lionel Hampton's band and traveled the country with the group from 1946 until 1953. He wrote "Red Top," which is still a jazz favorite, while on tour in Newark, New Jersey. He named it after his wife Joyce, whom he married in 1953 and had red hair at the time. After seven years with the band, Kynard left and returned to Kansas City, where he worked for the United States Postal Service for thirty-two years, still playing jazz in the evenings. He also maintained his career as a jazz composer, writing music for himself and other local musicians.

One of the highlights of my life was the evening my father-in-law, who lived directly across the street from Mr. Kynard, introduced