

A TRIBUTE TO TIFFANY  
JOHNSTON

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Tiffany Johnston of Graettinger, Iowa for being named a national recipient of the 2011 Teacher Mentor Award from the National Association of Agricultural Educators. Ms. Johnston is one of only six individuals nationwide who received this great honor.

Over the past six years, Ms. Johnston has been educating high school students at Graettinger-Terrill High School as well as Iowa's new agriculture teachers through the Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators New Teacher Program. Ms. Johnston's passion has reinvigorated our state's agricultural education through updated methodology and countless hours of dedication.

During the 2010 Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators Summer Conference, Ms. Johnston teamed up with fellow Iowa agricultural educator, Tara Fastert, to help other new teachers in the profession. Together they would help develop a new teacher program to provide teachers with more resources and ideas for their lesson plans, as well as introduce them to cutting-edge online resources to assist in further professional networking. Ms. Johnston's work to establish partnerships within an agricultural education program, starting at the local level, has culminated to her nationwide recognition through the Teacher Mentor Award.

Mr. Speaker, the commitment Ms. Johnston has shown to Iowa's agriculture, educators, and students is unparalleled. Her efforts embody Iowa's proud traditions of quality education and hard work, and it is an honor to represent Tiffany in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating her on this remarkable achievement and will wish her continued success in educational excellence.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE 109TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE ILINDEN UP-  
RISING

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2012*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 109th Anniversary of the Ilinden Uprising. On August 2, 1903, the Macedonian people rose together to fight for their freedom. Today is a cause for true celebration.

The Ilinden Uprising's ideas were rooted in the ideals of the American and French Revolutions. The Macedonian people fought for an independent state, whose people would enjoy civil liberties and be free in their pursuit of happiness.

Macedonia's forefathers fought bravely for the Macedonian nationhood, and their dream became a reality in 1991, when the Republic of Macedonia became free, independent and sovereign.

I would also like to take a moment to congratulate the Macedonian-American commu-

nity in my district, in New Jersey, and throughout the entire United States on the progress their homeland has achieved. Today marks the Anniversary of a huge step towards an independent Macedonia, and I am happy to support the Republic of Macedonia as it continues to move forward on its path to full NATO membership.

I am always pleased to recognize and commemorate historic occasions such as this one. As a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans, I again commemorate the 109th Anniversary of the Ilinden Uprising in Macedonia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, all Macedonian people, and me, in recognizing the 109th Anniversary of the Ilinden Uprising in Macedonia.

JOB PROTECTION AND RECESSION  
PREVENTION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 8, the Job Protection and Recession Prevention Act of 2012. I oppose this bill because it extends the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts to millionaires who do not need it, have not requested it, and at a time when the nation cannot afford it.

The extension of this 2001 tax policy would keep the rates of all tax brackets at a reduced level. While this reduced level would keep more funds in the hands of American families, it provides for a disproportionate distribution of the tax burden on different income levels. These reduced rates give a greater break to the incredibly wealthy, placing unfair monetary responsibility on the middle class.

The extension of this tax policy also maintains a lower rate on capital gains, and taxes dividends at the same rate as capital gains instead of as ordinary income. In addition, this extension lowers the estate tax. Lower rates on such incomes further burden the middle class, as they further relieve the incredibly wealthy from their duty to give back to this country. As a result of these policies, the average income tax cut for households making more than \$1 million a year would be over \$74,000 in 2013.

Concurrently, as a result of H.R. 8, some of the tax cuts for working families which were adopted in 2009 would be allowed to expire, and eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit will be reduced. This bill also ends the American Opportunity Tax Credit, 85 percent of the benefactors of which made less than \$100,000 a year. These actions will effectively raise taxes on 25 million middle- and low-income households by an average of \$1000.

The conversation surrounding our nation's tax policies has focused on ensuring that tax cuts for the middle class are extended. It has been made clear, on both sides of the aisle, that this is imperative not only to helping American families get back on their feet, but also to the continuing recovery of the United States economy.

Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues are determined to use these middle class tax

cuts as leverage to make sure that the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy are extended. They use top-down economics as the argument for the validity of these cuts—that they help to restore our economy and reduce the unemployment rate, because the individuals earning incomes in the top two percent are “job creators.” Contrary to this claim, the facts demonstrate that fewer than 35 percent of small business owners make over \$250,000 a year. Allowing the Bush tax cuts for the upper class to expire would not affect the vast majority of “job creators” in the American economy, but it would help relieve the tax burden of working families.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 8 not only because the policies included within it would inflict an unbalanced tax burden on working families, but also because it will prevent this Congress from helping to reduce America's budget deficit. My colleagues across the aisle consistently claim they are committed to reducing our deficit, yet they have fought to pass this bill, extending Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy. If we were to let these cuts expire, our deficit could be reduced by \$50 billion in 2013 alone. Simply stated, the tax plan laid out in H.R. 8 will not raise adequate revenue to fund our national priorities or repay our debt.

Instead of arguing over tax cuts for those individuals who don't need our help, this Congress should be working across the aisle to create a fair, comprehensive tax reform that unburdens our working families. The conversation should be focused on continuing to rebuild our economy and reduce our deficit, not give handouts to the wealthy few. When a bill that outlines real, fair tax reform comes up for consideration on the Floor, I will support it.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 8, the Job Protection and Recession Prevention Act of 2012.

RECOGNIZING MARK DAVIS FOR 45  
YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE AIR-  
LINE INDUSTRY IN SEATTLE

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mark Davis of Auburn, Washington, for forty-five years of dedicated service to the airline industry.

In 1967, Mr. Davis began working on the ramp for Northwest Airlines, with a propeller-driven Lockheed Electra. Over the next 45 years, he served in a variety of capacities for his company. These included time as a ramp agent, cleaner, working in the commissary, fueling aircrafts, serving at the post office and, finally, as a freight runner.

At a special ceremony, Mr. Davis received a pin commemorating his 45 years of service. Delta Cargo leaders and employees surprised him by unveiling a ramp tug personalized with his name, employment date and years of service.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Mark Davis for a long career of service to the airline industry in Seattle, Washington. Employees like Mark make companies, our economy, and our country thrive.

IN HONOR OF SAMUEL L. ODLE ON  
HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2012*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Samuel L. Odle on his retirement from Indiana University Health. IU Health is our state's most comprehensive healthcare provider, encompassing twenty hospitals and health centers. U.S. News & World Report has named IU Health as one of the "Best Hospitals in America" for fourteen consecutive years—a laudable achievement and further evidence of Mr. Odle's prowess as one of the very best health care executives in the Nation. For 31 years, Mr. Odle has worked to improve patient care and expand the reach of IU Health to underserved communities throughout Indiana. The establishment of the new IU Health Pathology Laboratory and Neuroscience Center are testament to his leadership and devotion to advancing the practice of medicine.

In addition to spending long hours at IU Health and raising his three children, Mr. Odle has worked tirelessly on behalf of the United Way of Central Indiana, the Jordan Foundation, the Crossroads of America Boy Scouts Council, and the Methodist Health Foundation.

Mr. Odle is more than just an outstanding executive, community leader and philanthropist. On a personal level, he has served as a role model for me and a source of inspiration for many years. Samuel L. Odle is a pillar in the community; he sets a fine example for all of us.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sam Odle for his exceptional service to the 7th District of Indiana. I wish him the very best in his retirement, and look forward to working with him for many years to come.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 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 \$15,907,138,660,280.97. We've added \$5,280,261,611,367.89 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.

IN HONOR OF SISTER MARY  
CECELIA HARRISON, FMS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2012*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an inspiring woman of faith, beloved educator and spiritual leader, Sister Mary Cecelia Harrison, FMS. Sister

Cecelia will be retiring after 25 years of outstanding leadership as Principal of Mother Mary School in Phenix City, Alabama. On Saturday, August 4, 2012, Sister Cecelia will be honored with an appreciation luncheon at the Columbus Trade and Convention Center in Columbus, Georgia.

Sister Cecelia, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, was born on May 7, 1937, the ninth child of Philip and Agnes Harrison's ten children. In 1956, she entered the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help of Jamaica. She graduated from Boston College in Massachusetts in 1966 and then assumed a variety of principalships in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands where she oversaw the increase of enrollment in several schools and was appointed Member of the Cayman Islands Board of Education by the Governor for seven years.

In 1988, Sister Cecilia was assigned as School Principal and Program Coordinator at Mother Mary Mission School in Phenix City, Alabama at a time when the school was almost defunct. It had poor academic standing and low enrollment and plans were in place for its closing. Sister Cecelia was only too happy to take on this challenge. Within three years, Mother Mary School was thriving with increased enrollment, high academic standards and improved facilities.

In her 25 years as Principal of Mother Mary School, Sister Cecelia has become an educational and spiritual mentor in the community. Not only does she contribute to the education of young minds but she also works to provide assistance to the needy within the community. Her generosity is flowing and never ending and her faith is strong and enduring.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things I admire most about Sister Cecelia is her selfless determination to help others. While she was in the Cayman Islands, there was an area of land next to the school where she was Principal that was unusable because of its rocky and uneven terrain. Sister Cecelia wanted the children to be able to use this land for much-needed recess so in any spare moment she had, she would go out there and pick up the rocks one by one herself. Her dedication inspired others to help and within a year, Sister Cecelia had the area leveled, graded and cleared of rocks for the children to enjoy.

Proverbs 11:25 says, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Sister Cecelia has given her life to God and dedicated herself to the service of others. She has been blessed in many, many ways and enjoys watching the children she has mentored and nurtured grow into good, generous and hardworking men and women of faith.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Sister Mary Cecelia Harrison for her legacy of selfless life service and her 25 years of dedicated leadership to Mother Mary School and the surrounding community.

A STORY OF RECOVERY FROM  
THE ALABAMA TORNADOES

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2012*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, the State of Alabama will never forget the devastating tornadoes of April 27, 2011.

But the story that has been told since that destructive day is an inspiring one of personal resilience and a resolve to rebuild neighborhoods and communities.

A critical factor has been the commitment that employers have made to their communities.

After a natural disaster of this scale, there is always a choice to confront: rebuild or relocate?

An important part of the economic recovery efforts in Jefferson County was the decision made by Cliffs Natural Resources to rebuild its Oak Grove Mine and Concord Preparation Plant and remain as a strong presence in Alabama.

The tornadoes caused significant damage to the mine preparation plant and overland conveyor system at the coal facility, an employer of more than 500 workers in the western portion of Jefferson County. It also disrupted the transportation system that Cliffs and other companies rely on to receive and move materials.

Most critically, and thankfully, all employees were accounted for after the storms and no one was reported as injured.

Even before the full magnitude of the recovery challenge facing Alabama became clear, company officials were already thinking about how quickly they could begin to resume operations. It soon became evident that this would entail the plant providing its own power and even building a new road. The company's management and workers were undeterred.

In spite of many daunting challenges, underground mining was restarted within two weeks. Within eight months, coal was again being processed to meet our nation's energy demands.

While planning for the long-term work needed for full capacity, the company responded to the emergency needs of the ravaged communities around it. Cliffs donated \$100,000 to the American Red Cross and another \$60,000 to organizations serving storm victims in the immediate area.

The Oak Grove operations marked a significant milestone on May 16, 2012 with a ceremony that highlighted the rebuilding of the Concord Prep Plant. This engineering and construction achievement represented a \$52 million investment and was accompanied by an additional \$30 million investment in a new, LEED-certified mine portal facility.

In all, Cliffs invested \$120 million towards its Alabama operations and preserved more than 500 jobs during a year when our state needed it the most. It is a tale of resilience, determination, and a strong work ethic that stands out as my state continues its recovery from the historic storms.