

program has supported the youth in my district for over thirty years with an emphasis on youth development through education and discipline. They also provide cadets with the opportunity to indulge in basic military skill building activities such as rappelling, marksmanship, and weapons safety. The children of Harlem have thoroughly benefited from this program through the development of body, mind, and spirit. Ackeem was a remarkable testament of their success.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we, the Village of Harlem, will honor Ackeem's life by ensuring that his young infant son, Ackeem Paul Green, Jr., follows in his father's drill steps and exceeds his dreams and aspirations to be all that he can be. May First Sergeant Ackeem Paul Green's legacy be far remembered and everlasting, as we pick up the flag and defeat this enemy of illegal gun violence that has destroyed the lives of our children, families and communities. I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring a great young man and an impassioned mentor whose legacy shall be far remembered and everlasting.

**ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Joseph's Slovak Catholic Church of Raritan, Somerset County, New Jersey, which is celebrating 100 years as an important member of the local community.

Since St. Joseph's establishment in 1912, it has been contributing to the religious, cultural and social diversity that has come to define New Jersey. The church was initially founded by immigrants fleeing religious persecution in Slovakia. Many of the early members of the congregation worked in the Woolen Mills, Duke Park and along the railroads crisscrossing the area. Beginning with only a handful of families, the parish of the new St. Joseph's Slovak Catholic Church gathered on October 1, 1912 to form a church society with the goal of raising enough money to build a church where they could practice their faith in their native tongue free from persecution or prejudice.

In 1914, the society raised enough money to purchase a piece of property in Raritan for the construction of a church. The church was formally dedicated in 1915 after a year of construction. Adding to their permanent presence in Raritan, the parish added an adjoining school in 1926. The school initially had a class of 234 students and was focused on providing students with a source of education on their Catholic faith and Slovak heritage.

St. Joseph's provides an exemplary illustration of the benefits of sharing culture and beliefs with others. Religious and cultural centers such as St. Joseph's, provide religious education, philanthropic assistance for those in need, and a greater sense of cultural awareness to the local community while providing a place for people to gather and worship.

The parish of St. Joseph's has been very involved in giving back to the community philanthropically, participating in food bank collections, gathering baby clothing and formula for

struggling mothers, and joining other churches in their charitable works. St. Joseph's assistance casts a wide net, helping people from the Raritan area as well as participating in worldwide assistance efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Joseph's Slovak Catholic Church for 100 years of dedicated work on behalf of the Great State of New Jersey.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 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 \$16,046,680,286,836.39. We've added \$5,419,803,237,923.31 dollars to our debt in 3 years. This is \$5.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

**CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF UNITY CHURCH IN
GRAPEVINE**

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the 30th anniversary of Unity Church located in Grapevine, Texas. It is an honor for me to celebrate this congregation's achievement and share its history with my fellow colleagues in Congress.

The Unity Church of Northeast Tarrant County, which is now commonly called the Unity Church of Grapevine, held its first worship service in rented hotel facilities on September 12, 1982. The church moved to facilities in Hurst, where they remained until 1991 when the church purchased property at 1970 E. Dove Road in Southlake, Texas.

In January 1996, the church purchased 5,825 acres on Hughes Road, one mile south of downtown Grapevine. The church built a 13,116 square foot building which was dedicated in September, 1996. Funding for the building was through issuance of \$920,000 in church bonds through American Church Trust. The bonds were re-financed in 2002, providing funding for the start up of Hughes Road Montessori in September, 2003. The Church sold 1.75 acres of back property in 2005 for \$285,000, leaving it with roughly 4 acres. The church received a signing bonus for the property mineral rights from Chesapeake Exploration in 2008 for the amount of \$92,754.50 which was applied against the mortgage. A campaign to pay off the mortgage of \$106,000 by June 1, 2012 began February 12, 2012 from a \$50,000 matching contribution from anonymous donors.

For 26 years, Unity Church in Grapevine has conducted a weekly ministry in the Federal Prison System at Federal Correctional In-

stitute in Fort Worth, Texas. In June 1989, the church received the John Templeton Radio Grant to begin a radio ministry and in 1991 was awarded the first Voice of Unity Award for excellence in broadcasting. Also in 1991, a Care Team was established in the church with its members making hospital calls, nursing home visits, furnishing food for members as needed, and contacting members by phone once a month.

Active in the community, Unity Church of Grapevine assists Grapevine Relief and Community Exchange (GRACE) by furnishing food for the food pantry. The church partners with Grapevine Middle School and has tithed to the school over the past eleven years with funds providing an after school martial arts program, medical assistance, and for needs of students and their families in time of crisis. Members also volunteer as mentors to the students.

Rev. Carol Record has served the Unity Church in Grapevine since its inception. She served as Chaplain of Trinity Springs Pavilion (the County psychiatric hospital), the first woman president of Grapevine Rotary, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, a 26-year volunteer at Federal Correctional Institute, mentor at Grapevine Middle School, and a MHMR Visions Board member. Rev. Record leads the weekly Sunday services, teaches a Bible class each week as well as spiritual growth classes throughout the year. She is a published author, a well known speaker, and a community leader.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Unity Church in Grapevine on its 30th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall No. 558; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall No. 559; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the nearly three thousand lives lost in the attacks of September 11th. On Patriots Day, we also honor the servicemen and women who have paid the ultimate price in the war on terror. We will never be able to fully honor their sacrifice in the defense of our freedoms.

In the 11 years since the devastation of that day, our anger and sadness have turned to unfaltering resolve and determination. On that terrible day, 19 terrorists believed they would bring America to its knees. They believed our Nation and our people could be defeated by a cowardly attack. They were wrong.

Today, America is a brighter beacon of freedom than she ever has been. We remain a nation inspired by the sacrifices of those before us and committed to the ideals they fought so dearly to protect. Mr. Speaker, we will never forget the loved ones and the heroes lost on that day.

HONORING JOHN TOS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Tos of Kings County, California, as he is recognized by the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce as the 2012 Agriculturalist of the Year. A third generation farmer, John has been farming since 1961. John has consistently maintained a deep commitment to his family, faith, and community—which serves as a clear testament to his superior moral character. He is well deserving of this honor.

A passionate and proud son of the agriculturally rich San Joaquin Valley, John has earned the respect and admiration of his friends and neighbors. Tos Farms was started in 1912, north of Hanford in an area called Queen Wilhelmina Colony by Joe Tos, John's grandfather. John's father and his Uncle Larry were the second generation to take over the family farming operation. Since then, John and his son Jeff, along with Bill's son, Mark, have become partners in the farming operation—making Tos Farms, Inc. a four generation, one-hundred year old farming operation. Clearly, the Tos Family is a living example of the American Dream—an illustration of success that shows overcoming adversity and achieving success is possible through hard work and perseverance.

Today, Tos Farms employs an average of 250 to 300 people, many of whom have been with the company for as long as 30 to 40 years.

John is not only being honored by the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce for his exemplary work ethic, he is also being recognized for his meaningful contributions to our community. He and his wife of 50 years, Victoria Tos, have been members of the Christian Reformed Church, where John has served on the Church Council and as Deacon. In addition, John has dedicated his time to the Hanford Christian and Central Valley Christian School Boards. He was also a member of the California Tree Fruit Agreement (CTFA) for 30 years. Currently, John serves on the Marana and Sierra Village Retirement Homes Board of Directors. John also acts as Director of the California Grape and Tree Fruit League, the Kingsburg Federal Land Bank Association, and the Burris Park Foundation. John's steadfast devotion to his community is evident from his loyalty and extensive contributions to our Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. John Tos for his numerous contributions to California agriculture, the San Joaquin Valley, and our Nation. His selfless nature and strong work ethic, truly exemplifies the best of what our Nation has to offer.

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP ACT
OF 2012

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Instructional Leadership Act of 2012, which will strengthen schools by helping principals become high-performing instructional leaders.

The passage of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) charged school principals with additional responsibilities. They not only serve as organizational leaders, ensuring that school culture and resources support teaching and learning, but they are also accountable for student achievement and the broader goals of NCLB. Unfortunately, principals often lack the appropriate training and resources needed to accomplish these goals. It is time to bring attention to the importance of developing programs that train principals on the best practices to guide instruction in schools, so that they can more effectively support teachers in improving student academic achievement.

The Instructional Leadership Act of 2012 provides grants to State and local educational agencies to drive gains in academic achievement for all children by: 1) Creating innovative programs and sites to train principals in instructional leadership skills including developing a school vision, staff development, and effective instructional practices; 2) Developing pilot programs to evaluate the incorporation of standards of instructional leadership into State principal certifications; and 3) Establishing state-of-the-art principal induction programs that provide mentoring and on-the-job training for new principals.

This legislation is strongly supported by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), two of the leading organizations working to develop and promote excellence in school leaders. The Instructional Leadership Act of 2012 represents a necessary first step towards developing the next generation of school leaders who are committed to, and effective in, increasing student achievement. I will continue working to include this bill in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act during the next Congress, and I urge you to join me in championing our Nation's principals by supporting this important piece of legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 10, 2012 I had obligations that necessitated my attention in Champaign, Illinois and missed suspension votes on H.R. 6186, which directs FEMA to assess options, methods, and strategies for making voluntary community-based flood insurance policies available through the National Flood Insurance Program. H.R. 2139, which directs the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and

issue as legal tender \$1 coins in commemoration of the centennial of the founding of the Lions Clubs International. And lastly, H.R. 6122, which directs the Librarian of Congress to accept in the interest of the Library of Congress, its collections, or its service personal property valued at \$25,000 or less, nonpersonal services, or voluntary and uncompensated personal services.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the above stated bills.

HONORING NEIL ARMSTRONG

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true American hero, the first human being to walk on the moon, Neil Alden Armstrong.

I had the privilege of meeting Neil Armstrong, and even introduced my son Eli to him at an event commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the *Apollo 11* landing. It has been said that "we're all dreamers," but Neil Armstrong inspired generations of Americans to dream big and reach for the stars, both literally and figuratively. He believed that the yearning to explore is part of what makes us human and his singular achievement on July 20, 1969 still inspires.

A reluctant hero, Mr. Armstrong never used his *Apollo 11* achievement for personal gain. On more than one occasion he questioned his own notoriety, protesting that his walk on the moon was the result of the dedication of more than four hundred thousand people from engineers who designed the Lunar Module to ground controllers who monitored every aspect of the mission, to seamstresses, who stitched by hand the suit that kept him alive on the moon.

The late 1960's was a time of tumult in America, when our nation was riven by Vietnam, the struggle for civil rights and the emerging women's movement. In the midst of this, Armstrong's climb down the lunar module's ladder and his "giant leap for mankind" united not just Americans, but people of all nations as they watched. That night . . . July 20th, 1969, countless children—including a nine-year old boy in Framingham, Massachusetts—looked up at the moon and dared to dream.

Neil Armstrong is no longer with us, but it is a remarkable testament that even now—more than four decades after *Eagle* landed on the Moon—the mission of *Apollo 11* still inspires us and challenges us to press forward in the exploration of space.

HONORING THE IZAAK WALTON
LEAGUE OF AMERICA'S 90TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Izaak Walton League as it celebrates 90 years of defending Minnesota's great outdoors.