

watchers, and others. Jan is especially proud of her work with the 'Dismantling Racism Team' of the Greater Dallas Community of Churches.

Not only do her social justice interests know no bounds, but her combination of skills and approaches to the pursuit of justice make her a relentless champion. She has built local, national, and international coalitions against injustice.

Finally, Jan demonstrates seemingly limitless personal commitment. She brings care and compassion to every struggle. Through her coalition building, she has crafted a peace movement that focuses on the humanity of everyone, including policymakers and the peace leaders.

I am indebted to Jan for her expertise, her friendship, and the example of her leadership, and I am honored to have this opportunity to thank her for her lifelong commitment to equality and peace.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Jan Sanders on her recognition. I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending her for service and dedication.

LECH WALESA DAY IN ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to announce that the Illinois General Assembly passed a resolution which declares February 9th to be Lech Walesa Day in Illinois. I have been honored to meet this great patriot during both of my trips to Poland, and fully support this tribute to a man who spent his life fighting for liberty and democracy.

Lech Walesa is a freedom fighter. He fought for the rights of the worker as a trade union activist in the Gdansk shipyards. He is a man who fought to lift the yoke of communism and oppression off of the Polish people and as President of Poland led them into a new age of democracy. President Walesa helped fight for the rights and freedoms of Poles past, present, and future.

President Walesa has always followed his moral compass, which led him towards freedom and democracy. Representing a district which has more than 110,000 people of Polish and Polish-American descent, it is my honor to salute a truly great world leader of the 20th century, President Lech Walesa.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 34, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 35, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO DR. HENRY LEWIS III

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Henry Lewis III. After conducting a year-long, nation-wide search, The Florida Memorial University Board of Trustees chose Dr. Lewis to serve as the university's 12th president in 2011. I congratulate him on thirty-five plus years of leadership and service to the Florida community.

Dr. Lewis is recognized for his passion through his motto of transforming educational outlets from Good to Great. This educational passion pushed him to increase FAMU College of Pharmacy's endowment from \$1 million to more than \$22 million. Dr. Lewis is responsible for educating and training 25 percent of the nation's African-American pharmacists. In addition to his legacy as an educator, he raised over \$95 million in biomedical research training grants.

Dr. Lewis has also transitioned his exceptional leadership skills in the community serving as the first African-American elected to the Leon County Board of County Commissioners in Tallahassee, Florida. While a Commissioner, he established the county's Minority Business Enterprise program, developed the branch health clinic network, successfully advocated legislative funding for a \$2.5 million clinic building and strategically placed a \$20 million public library downtown adjacent to the C.K. Steele bus terminal, making it reachable to all Tallahassee citizens.

Dr. Lewis is frequently lauded as a leader amongst leaders. He has been the recipient of the Outstanding Educator Award, Dr. Martin Luther King Leadership Award, Outstanding Tallahassee Award and Pharmacist of the Year. Colleagues, please join me in saluting Dr. Henry Lewis III, whose future educational investments will continue to create the nation's future global leaders.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAYOR MARCUS CLARK, PIPER CITY, ILLINOIS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Mr. Marcus Clark, former Mayor of Piper City, Illinois, and a veteran of the U.S. Army. Mr. Clark passed away on Thursday, February 2nd at the age of 82 at his home in Piper City.

Mr. Clark was born September 23, 1929, in Latona, Illinois and spent his childhood in Piper City, graduating from Piper City High School. He married Phyllis June Read in 1952 and together they had six children. Following his service to our country in the Army, Mr. Clark was an active member of the Gibb Post 588 of the American Legion, as well as Rotary and Eastern Star. He was the Plant Manager for Louis Melind in Onarga and announced football games in Piper City for 22 years.

Mr. Clark served as the Mayor of Piper City for twelve years and was also a Board mem-

ber. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed golfing. His rich legacy lives on through his family of five children, eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and three siblings.

Mr. Clark was a tremendous ambassador for Piper City, and he will be missed. Thank you, Mr. Clark, for your service to your country and your support of your community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 6, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 34 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 537) and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 35 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1162, as amended).

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD PHILLIPS

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to a true American hero. Harold Phillips of Moorestown, New Jersey, will soon be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. Harold was a member of our Nation's first African American combat unit, the 51st Defense Battalion, at a time when discrimination pervaded our society. Harold has lived a life of patriotism and service to his community, his State and his country. He is a pioneer who forged a path for future generations of African-American men and women to serve their country in the Armed Services. I am proud to call Harold Phillips my constituent and I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 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 \$15,335,666,215,381.09. We've added \$10,534,261,040,086.81 dollars 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 REVEREND CARLTON GARRETT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Carlton Garrett, a lifelong Dallas resident and founding pastor of The Lord's Missionary Baptist Church on Bexar Street. Reverend Garrett was a devoted pastor for more than 37 years before he passed away at the age of 82.

Reverend Garrett was highly respected and well known throughout the South Dallas community. His selfless contributions to those around him and his unwavering dedication to his faith and congregation empowered him to become a dynamic community leader. Even before his passing, people of South Dallas reflected on his seemingly limitless passion for helping others.

Reverend Garrett loved all and served all in his community. Through the Church, he created programs to help the homeless and feed the hungry, provided financial assistance to the poor, funded scholarships for underprivileged youth, and spearheaded initiatives to care for the elderly and the disabled. During Hurricane Katrina, Reverend Garrett assisted with relocating thousands of evacuees, extending his contributions far beyond the Dallas area.

In recognition of his years of service, the community came together last year to petition for the renaming of Bexar Street in Reverend Garrett's honor. With overwhelming support from the community and the Dallas City Council, the street will be named in honor of Reverend Carlton Garrett. It is a fitting tribute to someone who served the South Dallas community and beyond for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to lose such an integral member of the Dallas community. Reverend Garrett is part of a distinguished group of people who have always put the needs of others ahead of their own, and made invaluable contributions to the world. While the Dallas community will surely miss Reverend Garrett, his memory will live on in the hearts and minds of all whom he has inspired throughout his life, and through the good deeds and service that touched so many lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was out of town due to a death in my family and was not present for rollcall votes numbered 21–30 on Thursday, February 2, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner: rollcall vote No. 21—Previous Question on H. Res. 534: “no,” rollcall vote No. 22—On Agreeing to H. Res. 534: “no,” rollcall vote No. 23—Motion to Instruct Conferees—Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 24—Peters (MI) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 25—Connolly (VA) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No.

26—Fudge (OH) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 27—Jackson Lee (TX) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 28—Cicilline (RI) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 29—Motion to Recommit H.R. 3582: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 30—Final Passage of H.R. 3582: “no.”

CONDEMNING THE ONGOING VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the unspeakable violence that the Government of Syria has committed—and continues to commit—against its own citizens. For the past eleven months, the Syrian people have engaged in peaceful demonstrations to demand their basic, universal human rights. These demonstrations have been met with unrelenting bloodshed and torture. Thousands of Syrian men, women, and children have been slaughtered. There can be no question: President Bashar al-Assad must step down, or be removed from power.

Last week, the United States, the Arab League, and a growing international coalition together called for a United Nations Security Council resolution that would end the crisis and begin a transition to democracy in Syria. I am appalled that Russia and China have chosen to veto this measure, and stand with a brutal dictator rather than the Syrian people. This veto is an outrage, and serves only to endorse President Assad's ongoing massacre. On February 4th, the day of the U.N. Security Council vote, the Syrian military launched a devastating attack on the city of Homs that continues today. Hundreds of unarmed civilians have been killed.

I strongly support President Obama's efforts to work with America's western and Arab allies to stop the bloodshed. Though China and Russia have chosen to stand with Assad, the world will not. Already, nations across the Middle East and throughout the world are expelling Syrian diplomats, tightening sanctions, and ratcheting up pressure on the Syrian government. The time has come for President Assad to step down, and for the Syrian people to determine their own future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, an unavoidable conflict required that I miss rollcall No. 46, which was final passage of H.R. 3521, the Expedited Legislative Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act of 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of this bill.

RECOGNIZING MRS. LINDA WILLIAMS FOR HER SERVICE AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime Mississippi resident, dedicated health care professional and a remarkable woman, Mrs. Linda Williams. Mrs. Williams has been a nurse practitioner in my district since 1991. She is a very valued member of the Lee County, Mississippi, community and serves on several of the local area boards. She is married to Frederick Williams and to that union they have two children, James and Samantha.

She is a graduate of the Holmes Community College School of Nursing in Goodman, Mississippi. After graduating, she served as a registered nurse at the University of Mississippi Medical Center hospital assisting on the general medical and surgical floors. While there, she aided patients through high risk pregnancies and post partum pregnancy recoveries as well as normal labor and delivery birth. In 1991, Mrs. Williams began specializing in endocrinology and infertility nursing with Women's Health Care and Reproductive services. Currently, she is a Physician Assistant specialist in reproductive medicine and surgery.

Mrs. Williams is a very active member of the Lee County, Mississippi, community. She serves on the Lee County Alliance of Legal professionals and the Lee County Medical Society Alliance. Mrs. Williams has also been very active in trying to minimize adolescent driving while under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Linda Williams for her commitment to the healthcare services of women and children as well as advocacy against impaired teenage driving.

HONORING LONG-TIME COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND UNION ADVOCATE: MRS. LEORA HILL

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Mrs. Leora Hill, who passed away on New Year's Day, 2012, at the young age of 60. My heart goes out to her husband, Wayne Hill; her daughter, Tonii Nichole Brady; her six grandchildren and great-grandchild; and the rest of her family, friends and loved ones.

Leora was an extraordinary citizen, an activist for working families, a dedicated public servant and a tireless advocate for her community in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles. A fighter for her fellow California residents, Leora spent hundreds of hours attending community meetings, lobbying elected officials and volunteering on dozens of political and public service campaigns.

Leora's dedication to her fellow Californians led her to a 23-year career as a tax technician