

Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,306,713,138,468.87. We've added \$5,679,836,089,555.79 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$5 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
ELMA TERESA SALINAS ENDER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Honorable Elma Teresa Salinas Ender, an award recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Laredo-Webb County Bar Association for her accomplishments and services in Webb County of South Texas. Judge Ender is currently completing her term in the 341st Judicial District Court in Laredo, Texas.

Judge Ender, a native Laredoan, is a remarkable and highly respected member of the community who has dedicated her life to promoting fairness and justice. She serves the community as Texas Supreme Court Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families. Judge Ender became the youngest woman and first Hispanic female to serve as a district court judge in Texas. She is also the longest serving district court judge in Webb County in recent history, serving one appointed term and seven elected terms consecutively.

Currently, Judge Ender serves as chair for the Board of Judges overseeing the Auditor and on the Indigent Defense Services Oversight Committee for the Webb County Judiciary. She holds a Juris Doctor degree from St. Mary's University School of Law and a B.B.A. from University of Texas in Austin, with a major in accounting. She holds a Certificate in Commercial and International Arbitration from the University of Houston Law School, A. A. White Dispute Resolution Center and certificates in dispute resolution from the National College for the Judiciary, the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution at the University Of Texas School Of Law, and the DRC in Austin, Texas. Appointed in 1995 by then Governor George Bush, as an ad hoc committee member, Judge Ender worked to rewrite the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Appointed by Governor Mark White in 1986, she served on a Task Force charged with drafting professional standards to be used to certify juvenile detention centers. She has served as President, Vice President and 4th Administrative District Representative for the Texas District Judges' Association.

Not only has Judge Ender enjoyed an esteemed and honorable career, she also devotes much of her time to community organizations. She was one of the five Leadership Texas Alumnae who initiated, planned and funded the Leadership Laredo program sponsored by the Laredo Chamber of Commerce. Judge Ender is involved in numerous civic and community activities. Her leadership in organizations includes Leadership Texas, the Laredo Business and Professional Women's Association, and participation in the National Hispana Leadership Institute, which included study at

Harvard University's JFK School of Public Affairs. She has received numerous awards throughout her career, including "Laredoan of the Year" in 2012, Laredo UT Exes Longhorn Legacy Award in 2008, and the 2003 Tejano Achievement Award, to name a few. Additionally, she has been featured in numerous publications due to her influence in Texas. She is married to David Ender and they are the proud parents of two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and pleased to have had this time to recognize The Honorable Elma Teresa Salinas Ender on her career and community involvement. She has contributed her time, knowledge, and efforts to the judiciary and to community outreach.

CONGRATULATING MR. EDWARD
SPAR ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS ON FEDERAL
STATISTICS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Edward Spar on his retirement as Executive Director of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, COPAFS. Since December 1992, Mr. Spar has led COPAFS, a consortium of over 50 organizations and individuals dedicated to increasing knowledge about issues affecting Federal statistical agencies and to encouraging dialogue between its member organizations, federal agencies, Congress, and the public about these issues.

As you may know Mr. Speaker, I am a strong supporter of our nation's federal statistical agencies and the data that they collect, disseminate, and protect. These agencies, which include, for example, the Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, and Bureau of Justice

Statistics, are national treasures. Simply put, federal, state, and local governments and American businesses could not function effectively without these agencies which produce high quality, reliable, and accessible data.

As the COPAFS Executive Director, Mr. Spar has shared my passion for these agencies and successfully raised awareness about their often-overlooked needs. He achieved this goal by conducting quarterly meetings and other colloquia for users and producers of federal statistics where they could share information about current federal statistical policy developments and discuss issues important to governmental and non-governmental data user communities. Mr. Spar was also a constant presence at meetings with federal statistical agencies, Members of Congress, and congressional staff, offering his expertise on federal statistical policy issues and suggesting improvements.

Mr. Spar's achievements include an initiative he led for the Bureau of Labor Statistics to update the Consumer Expenditure Survey, which resulted in crucial changes to the survey's interviewing structure, questionnaire design, and proxy reporting. In addition, he served on the National Academy of Sciences' panel on transportation statistics whose recommenda-

tions guide the current collection of key infrastructure data. Mr. Spar has also worked closely with the Office of Statistical Policy of the United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB), particularly to review and improve geographic classifications, as well as to bring statistical policy and research developments to broader audiences.

His efforts have not been limited, however, to domestic statistical issues. Mr. Spar has also been recognized as a leader regarding international surveys and agencies. Major international agencies, including the United Nations, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Information Agency, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, have consulted with Mr. Spar. In this capacity, Mr. Spar advised these agencies and their international counterparts on a range of issues, including data collection and confidentiality standards, the establishment of statistical policy offices, and the development of strategies for outreach to users of federal statistics.

In addition to all of his achievements, Mr. Spar has been a mentor, teaching courses at Georgetown University and the U.S. Census Bureau, leading workshops at national and international scientific and data user conferences, and encouraging the next generation of statisticians and data users. And, as President of Market Statistics from 1972 to 1992, Mr. Spar was one of the pioneers of private sector applied demography.

I am proud to rise in recognition of Mr. Spar, a native New Yorker and a national leader on federal statistical issues. Although he is leaving COPAFS to enjoy a well-deserved retirement, he leaves behind a legacy of stronger statistical agencies and policies and an appreciative cadre of colleagues who have benefited from his dedicated years of service.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Spar and his family.

A TRIBUTE TO THE UNION
LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Union League of Philadelphia which will commemorate its Sesquicentennial Celebration on December 27, 2012. This occasion will reflect on the great history and traditions that have helped sustain the League, and have made it one of the great civic institutions in Philadelphia.

In late 1862, during some of the darkest and most turbulent days of America's Civil War, a group of patriotic Philadelphians resolved to create an organization to assist President Abraham Lincoln and the North to save the American Union. By early 1863 The Union League of Philadelphia was diligently printing and distributing anti-secession literature, financing military regiments, and devoting its talent and resources to the protection of southern Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia from the menace of invasion. Following the northern victory in April of 1865, the Union League found a new and continuing purpose as it demonstrated its support for Reconstruction legislation and new amendments

to the U.S. Constitution, positive political action, and election reform.

Into the twentieth century and the present day, the legacy of the Union League includes an outstanding record of 150 years of civic, philanthropic, and cultural activities. Today, its 3,300 members continue to sustain the Union League and its ethos of patriotism and service.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the Union League of Philadelphia for its 150 years of service to the city of Philadelphia and the Union.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
COLONEL MAREN CALVERT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Maren Calvert, who has worked in my office for the past year as a Defense Fellow. Lt. Col. Calvert started in my office last January and she has truly been a pleasure to have on the staff. Her law background coupled with her military experience has benefited the office tremendously. She offers a unique perspective, is always prepared, takes on any task and does it with a smile.

Lt. Col. Calvert is a Category A reservist and came to my office from the 701st Combat Operations Squadron (COS) detachment 1 at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawai'i where she served as the Deputy Commander. The 701 COS operates out of March Air Reserve Base, California which is located in my congressional district. The 701 COS provides trained, experienced Air Operations Center (AOC) warfighters primarily in support of 7th Air Force, the Combined AOC, and Commander of Air Force Forces at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. In her capacity as Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Calvert provided expertise within the Operations, Plans and Strategy Divisions on the Law of Armed Conflict and Rules of Engagement. She advised the Commander on all legal issues, including military justice and civil law.

Lt. Col. Calvert was commissioned in 1993 from the Air Force Academy where she graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree in Humanities. She served on active duty through August 1998 and then obtained her law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles before joining the Air Force Reserve. In addition to her 701 COS assignment, Lt. Col. Calvert has served as the Chief of Health Services, 701 COS; Commander, Business Operations & Beneficiary Services, TRICARE, and Resource Management Flights; and as Squadron Section Commander. Lt. Col. Calvert has furthered her Air Force education, having completed the Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and the Judge Advocate General Staff Office Course at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

As a civilian, Lt. Col. Calvert is a commercial litigation attorney at Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing in Honolulu, HI. Her practice is diversified, with experience in condominium law, real estate development, foreclosures, adversary proceedings in bankruptcy, and an emphasis in health law and health care compliance. She is

admitted to both the California and Hawai'i Bar.

During her time in the office she has focused her efforts on defense acquisition, TRICARE, basing issues, wildfire resource issues, Medicaid portability for military members with autistic children, and many other policy areas. She has been an invaluable resource to all my staff and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank her and her family—I know it was not easy to move across an ocean and a country to start a new life. To Jason, Braedon, and Teryn, thank you for supporting your wife and mom, she is an impressive lady. On behalf of everyone in the office, I would like to extend a heartfelt "Mahalo" to Lt. Col. Calvert for all her hard work and let her know that my office door is always open for Pau Hana!

COLONEL PETER J. BROOKS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 20, 2012, Colonel Peter J. Brooks wore the United States Army uniform for the very last time. After over 32 years of dedicated service to our nation, Pete has retired from our Armed Forces and will serve his last day with the South Carolina National Guard on December 31, 2012.

Colonel Brooks began his military service in September 1979, when he entered the Army ROTC/SMP at Valley Forge Military College in Wayne, Pennsylvania. Following graduation, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Armor branch in June 1981. Pete studied at the University of South Carolina for several years before attending officer basic course. In 1986, Colonel Brooks graduated from the University of New York where he studied political science and received a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts.

Since 1995, Colonel Brooks has worked in the public affairs department of the South Carolina National Guard and the Military Department of South Carolina. Due to his superb knowledge, he has more recently served as a senior advisor to the director of public affairs and strategic communications. Pete always worked extremely hard on behalf of the SCNG and has developed great working relationships with Congressional leaders and staffers, resulting in tremendous legislative support for the Soldiers and Airmen serving in the South Carolina National Guard. He also has served as a former president to the National Guard Association of South Carolina. Additionally, under Colonel Brooks' mentorship, the SCNG public affairs professionals earned awards from many different organizations including the National Guard Bureau, Air Force, Army, and Department of Defense. In 2009, due to Colonel Brooks' expertise, NORTHCOM/ARNOTH requested him by-name to support their communications programs.

Colonel Brooks also has worked with the University of South Carolina to develop a Media & the Military course in the university's School of Journalism and Mass Communications. This graduate-level course has helped approximately 100 recent graduates enter the public relations and journalism career fields

with a level of understanding of military operations that very few students ever achieve. Additionally, Colonel Brooks and his team of public affairs professionals, all of who have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan in recent years, served as guest lecturers and mentors for the students.

As a 31 year veteran of the South Carolina Army National Guard and with three sons currently serving in the Army National Guard, I am truly grateful of Colonel Pete Brooks and his selfless service to the United States Army. I wish him and his wife Laurie the best in the future and look forward to working with him throughout the Midlands community.

IMPORTANCE OF FEDERAL
INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the importance of federal investment in research cannot be overemphasized. Our investment in research, including through the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Science Foundation, saves lives, improves health, and increases our understanding of the world that we live in. Grants to research institutions, including Northwestern University, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Loyola University in the Chicago metropolitan area, not only help to make medical progress but train our next generation of scientists.

Biomedical research funded by the National Institutes of Health has made a real difference in the health and lives of millions of Americans. The outcomes of those research efforts speak volumes. Anti-viral therapies for HIV have been developed that make it possible for HIV-infected individuals to live into their 70s and beyond as compared to a life expectancy of just months when the disease first appeared in the 1980s. New treatments and procedures have been developed for Age-Related Macular Degeneration that will allow hundreds of thousands of Americans to continue to have useful vision over the next five years. Researchers have identified a treatment that could reduce premature birth by 45 percent among at-risk women.

Public health research sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention helps us prevent and contain disease outbreaks. As we transition from a health care system focused on the treatment of disease to a system based on disease prevention, we will increasingly rely on public health research to identify new prevention techniques and interventions that help keep people healthy. For example, the CDC has established a research grant program to help develop and test new ways to combat healthcare-associated infections—infections that harm patients and increase health care costs. Through this initiative, the CDC awarded a grant to the Chicago Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Prevention Epicenter, a collaboration between the Cook County Health and Hospitals System and Rush University Medical Center, to research strategies for antimicrobial resistance and infection prevention.

The funding of basic research in fields such as chemistry, engineering, physics, and computers by the National Science Foundation