

Water funds, limiting resources for these vital repairs and breaking faith with our state and local partners on this collaborative effort.

Chesapeake Bay clean-up is at a critical juncture. As state and local governments are working to implement ambitious plans, the federal government must maintain or increase its funding support, not cut it.

Sequestration's meat-ax approach jeopardizes the years of planning and collaboration that have led to this moment, arbitrarily and unwisely slowing progress on what should be a national priority. We must replace sequestration with a balanced approach that includes revenue increases and targeted cuts while maintaining investments in initiatives like Bay restoration that preserve our national resources. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and an economic engine for the Bay states. It must not fall victim to sequestration's ill-advised cuts.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF PASADENA CITY COUNCILMAN CHRIS HOLDEN

##### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Holden for his 23 years of service on the Pasadena, California, City Council. A graduate of Pasadena High School and San Diego State University, Chris was a basketball star in school and played professionally overseas. He then returned to California to give back to his community by spending the great majority of his life in serving the city he loves.

He was first elected to the Pasadena City Council in 1989 at the age of 28 as the youngest member of the Council, and served until he resigned in November 2012, upon his election to the California State Assembly. In 1997, Chris was chosen by his colleagues to serve a two-year term as Mayor of Pasadena, the first African-American man to hold that position.

During his years on the City Council, Chris served his Pasadena district with distinction, championing efforts to establish a living wage in Pasadena, crack down on slumlords, create drug-free zones, and bring development, jobs, and services to Northwest Pasadena. Chris has also been a strong supporter of deregulation of Pasadena's municipal utility, a leader of charter reform that created a city-wide elected mayor, and a proponent of policies and projects that have revitalized Pasadena, such as the Paseo Colorado, Old Pasadena, and the Pasadena Convention Center.

His service as a long-time Board member of the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority and supporter of the creation and expansion of the Los Angeles to Pasadena Gold Line clearly demonstrates his commitment to the entire region.

I know that Chris will be missed in Pasadena City Hall, but I am pleased that he has chosen to bring his unique talents on our behalf to Sacramento. I join my colleagues in thanking Chris for his service and wish he, his wife Melanie, and their children, Nicholas, Alexander, Austin, Mariah, and Noah the best in this new chapter of their lives.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK VENNER III

##### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, during the Christmas Season we remember people far and near and reminisce about those who are no longer with us. I rise to remember Frank Venner, who passed from this life in the summer of 2012 at age 85 years.

Frank Venner was born March 8, 1927, in Baltimore, Maryland. After living in Providence, Rhode Island and Binghamton, New York, the family moved to Toledo when Frank was a teenager. He graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1944 and from the University of Notre Dame in 1949. He served in the Army Air Corps. Frank and his wife Ruth married in 1952 and together raised six children. Their children, along with their eleven grandchildren, were his pride and joy.

While in college, Frank began working in radio on the college station. Back in Toledo he embarked on a career over four decades in broadcasting. He started at WSPD, Toledo's local radio and television station. Later, the television component became WTVG. Frank Venner was a news fixture at the station, his journalism respected in the community. His signature features were the popular "Weather-in-the-Weather" show which was broadcast from atop the former Commodore Perry Hotel, the High School Quiz program which he hosted for a quarter century, and the Venner-Ward Report which he co-anchored with another longtime Toledo newsmen Gordon Ward. Mr. Ward recalled, "Integrity was primary in all that he did. His word was his bond." Frank Venner also served as editorial director and news director at the station.

Frank Venner's imprimatur on Toledo news is solid. A true journalist, his impact on television from its earliest days into the 21st century is remarkable. He leaves a lasting legacy. He was a man who often reported what others did, but also went beyond his profession and left our community and its institutions stronger for his presence. His resonant voice became synonymous with Toledo.

A more important legacy is his family. His presence will be missed by his children and grandchildren, relatives and friends. Yet, he lives on in them and in the media he was so much a part of shaping.

#### IN HONOR OF THE LT. WALTER SOLENSKI

##### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of a beloved officer of the Coventry Police Department. Lt. Walter Solenski will retire on December 31, 2012 after 37 years of service to his town. A lifetime resident of Coventry, Connecticut, Walter's compassionate attention to the community is known by young and old. Police Chief Mark Palmer described Lt. Solenski as an "every day hero." He is someone who is steady and

reliable; he is always there for the residents of Coventry when they need him.

Following his graduation from Coventry High School in 1970, Walter joined the United States Navy. Upon returning home from a four-year tour of duty he was hired as a Class D Patrolman in his local police department. Walter quickly proved his dedication to his work by actively pursuing training and certification courses. He continued to seek out ways to improve his service to the town throughout his career. This professionalism and diligence allowed Walter to rise to the rank of Lieutenant in April, 1995.

Throughout his time on the police force, Lt. Solenski received many accolades and letters of gratitude from those whom he had helped. Coventry residents appreciated his timely response and attention, especially to emergency situations. Last summer he was chosen by a local committee to be a parade marshal at Coventry's 300th Anniversary Parade—a testament to his importance in the town.

I ask that my colleagues join with me to honor Lt. Walter Solenski and the work he did for the people of Coventry. As he prepares for his retirement with his wife Yvonne, I am confident that Walter will continue to play an active role in the community. His commitment to the Coventry Police Department and to his town will not soon be forgotten.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 30, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on vote No. 612 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 6429 with instructions); and "no" on vote No. 613 (on passage of H.R. 6429).

#### RECOGNIZING LISA SANTERAMO

##### HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise to recognize a departing member of my original district staff, Lisa Wieber Santeramo.

Since I opened my first district office in Coram, New York, Lisa has distinguished herself as among the most competent and hard working members of my staff. Over the course of this past decade, I watched her develop and rise from a staff assistant answering the telephones at my reception desk to her ultimate position as the highest ranking member of my district staff, District Office Director.

Lisa was born and raised in Holbrook. She attended Sachem High School, the largest high school in the township, where she first developed her talent for public affairs as a leader in student government. She brought her enthusiasm and passion for leadership to my first campaign and to my congressional office after graduating from Stony Brook University where she was also involved in student leadership. While an undergraduate at Stony

Brook, Lisa spent a semester interning with Minority Leader Gephardt.

Having skillfully proved her ability to manage casework and the many important responsibilities of my constituent services operation, Lisa was promoted to manage special projects and coordinate intergovernmental affairs. She excelled in these areas and built a reputation for solving problems and delivering outstanding service to my constituents. Thus, her promotion to District Office Director in January of 2012 was well earned and richly deserved.

Lisa has proven time and again that she is self-motivated and is constantly striving to assume ever greater responsibility. I have such tremendous confidence in Lisa that I asked her to take an official leave of absence to manage my campaign for re-election in 2008. Lisa has since managed my past two campaigns in 2010 and 2012, which were the two most challenging races in my congressional career. Lisa presided over each of these three consecutive campaigns with skill, determination and an unparalleled work ethic.

Lisa has indeed proven invaluable and achieved all of this success by the age of only 30. She became a mother earlier this year and now moves on to become the Assistant Deputy County Executive for Intergovernmental Affairs for the County of Suffolk on Long Island. Lisa will be missed very much, but my staff and I are comforted in knowing that she will remain nearby and continue to serve a mutual constituency in her new capacity.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's first congressional district, I thank Lisa Santeramo for her many years of outstanding service and wish her continued success in serving the residents of Suffolk County in the years ahead.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MR. FELMERS CHANEY

#### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Felmers Chaney, a civil rights leader and the first African American Sergeant in the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD). Mr. Chaney passed away on December 5, 2012 at the age of 94.

Mr. Chaney was the son of a dairy farmer and born and raised in Spooner, in northern Wisconsin. He came to Milwaukee to work as a machinist in 1941 but was unable to find work in that field. He was drafted into the Army in 1942. He was sent to officers' candidate school, graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant and commanded troops in England and France.

After the war, he returned to Milwaukee and, at the urging of a friend, he joined the Milwaukee Police Department in 1947. Mr. Chaney became an MPD trailblazer; he was only the 4th black person to serve on the police force serving 36 years as a police officer. Mr. Chaney became the first African American to rise to the rank of Sergeant but this was not without controversy. Felmers Chaney passed the Sergeant's exam in 1954 but was asked if he would consider being a detective with the same pay and no supervision of staff. He declined the detective post; in the mid-60's he

supervised 20 officers of which only two or three were African American. He had a reputation of fairness.

Felmers Chaney was elected president of the NAACP—Milwaukee Branch where he served for 12 years. He was a true advocate for the community speaking out on a range of issues including: education, housing and minority hiring and representation. He once described discrimination against blacks in Milwaukee as a "broken record; it's been going on for the past 40–50 years"

Mr. Chaney championed Milwaukee's inner city development. He was president of the Central City Development Corporation which built the Central City Plaza and he was a founder and president of North Milwaukee State Bank, Wisconsin's first black-owned bank. Felmers Chaney also served as president of the Milwaukee Urban League.

In 2009, Mr. Chaney and his wife, Jessie attended the inauguration of President Obama. Although they both were infirm, they were determined to attend this historic event. He treasured that moment of being able to participate in an event he never dreamed could occur in his lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that Mr. Felmers Chaney a civil rights champion, public servant and trailblazer lived, worked, and served in the 4th Congressional District of Wisconsin. Mr. Chaney's legacy will live on through the many people he mentored, his family and the community.

#### A BIRTHDAY WISH

#### HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a brief moment to wish a very Happy Birthday to my son, Duncan, who turns 12 years old today. Call it a coincidence, Mr. Speaker, but he turns 12 on 12–12–12. It's a special day for a very special boy.

He's got a lot of great qualities, but it's his dedication to doing what's right when no one is looking that makes me, as his father, so proud. He's also got a great sense of humor and his energetic love for life is both infectious and inspiring. So on this occasion, Mr. Speaker, and as I think about how the last twelve years have gone by way too fast, I want to wish him a very Happy Birthday.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JEAN WARD

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, during the Christmas Season we remember people far and near and reminisce about those who are no longer with us. I rise to remember Jean Ward, who passed from this life on July 16, 2012.

Jean Ward was born in Detroit, Michigan on March 8, 1934 to Clarence and Agnes Ward. He graduated from Michigan State University and served in the U.S. Navy. Together he and

his wife Jean raised five daughters. His family was most precious to him.

Jean worked with the City of Toledo in forestry, and then began a career with the Toledo Area Metroparks. He became the Metroparks Director in 1985 and served until his retirement after 35 years in service to the organization. During that time he was Founding Director of the Stranahan Arboretum. His tenure brought a growth which established the Toledo Area Metroparks as a hallmark of our region. Jean Ward was "an ambassador of conservation. He had a passion and a dedication to protecting, preserving and improving natural areas for all to enjoy." His legacy will last through the ages. His extraordinary efforts brought him statewide recognition when, in 2009 he was inducted into the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Hall of Fame and later received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

I was privileged to work with Jean through many years of shared public service. Though he will be missed by all whose lives he touched, his spirit carries forward in the natural beauty his efforts enshrined for generations to come.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 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 \$16,375, 1874,429,255.52. We've added \$5,748,997,380,342.44 to our debt in nearly 4 years. This is \$5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on December 11, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for Rollcall No. 620. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 620—"yes"—On approving the Journal.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the following law enforcement officers who have been honored by the Horse Shoe Curve Benevolent Association for their service to their communities and continued willingness to put their lives on the line to protect public safety.