

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and I am proud to honor them and their work today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, my scheduled flight into Washington was cancelled yesterday for mechanical reasons. As a result, I was absent from the House Floor during Tuesday's rollcall vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 49.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 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 \$15,359,384,163,919.51. We've added \$10,557,978,988,625.23 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 THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT OF MR. JIM BERGD AHL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Jim Bergdahl, on his retirement from the federal government after 52 years of service.

Jim Bergdahl was born and raised in Chicago, was educated at Northwestern, and served in the Air National Guard while attending college.

In 1959, during his senior year at Northwestern, Jim began his federal civil service career as an appraiser with the Army Corps of Engineers in Chicago. Six years later, he joined the General Services Administration in the San Francisco regional office as an appraiser in the Real Property Division.

Jim's work quickly caught the attention of his supervisors. He was soon nominated for and received a "Career Education Award", sponsored by the National Institute of Public Affairs and the Civil Service Commission. The prize for receiving this prestigious award was one year of free graduate study at the University of Virginia.

Following graduation, Jim relocated to the Office of Real Property in Washington, D.C. where he was in charge of reviewing the fast growing Federal property holdings, which had literally doubled between 1954 and 1969. The government was on pace to own the whole

country by the year 2000. Jim was asked to determine the cause of this tremendous expansion.

As he quickly discovered, while U.S. federal land holdings had doubled, the phenomenon was directly related to the increase in the number of States in the U.S. between 1954 and 1969. Jim determined that the newest state, Alaska, had the distinction of having more government-owned land within its borders than all of the other 49 States combined. Case closed.

In 1974, Jim transferred to the Federal Buildings Fund Management Division to help get the new division up and running. Here he again was tapped for a special project, working to develop critical information to persuade the Department of Defense to correct congressional testimony as to the total amount they were spending on rent. In short order, the record was corrected.

Following that daunting yet successful challenge, Jim returned to the Office of Real Property as Program Policy Advisor to the Assistant Commissioner in 1976. He played a major role in the establishment of the Federal Property Resources Service, where he became Director of Special Projects. One project involved the sale to the public of a large number of Carson City Silver Dollars minted in the 1800s that were found in a vault. The sale began just as the Hunt brothers were trying to corner the silver market and the price of silver skyrocketed. Suddenly, the coins were worth more for the silver they contained than their value to coin collectors. To avoid delaying or postponing sales of the coins, toll free phone lines were set up for buyers to obtain the price of the coins based on the price of silver each day. This fast action by Jim and his office was fortuitous. Shortly after the sales were completed, the Hunt brothers failed in their attempt to corner the market and silver prices collapsed.

The curtain rose on Jim's final act as a civil servant when the new Public Building Service was rolled out in 1995. Jim was part of the Courthouse Management Group, formed to provide oversight, program management and budgeting for the largest federal courthouse construction program in the nation's history. As a senior member of the Group, Jim provided extensive knowledge and expertise in many aspects of the federal courthouse program, working with Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, and the federal Judiciary, as well as regional GSA offices to see that the ambitious program succeeded. When he retired this year, he was the last charter member still remaining with the agency.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Bergdahl on his retirement from the federal service. During Jim's successful 52 year career, he was a model employee, consistently recognized by his peers and his congressional colleagues as providing the highest level of professionalism, superior subject knowledge, and willingness to take on and solve even the toughest problems. I wish him only the very best as he continues tackling new endeavors and conquering even greater challenges in the years ahead.

PASSING OF MRS. FRANCES BROCK STARMS FEBRUARY 9, 2012

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and work of Mrs. Frances Brock Starms, a compassionate leader, educator, writer and advocate for children who passed away on February 9, 2012, at the age of 97.

She was considered a treasure by our community and an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Epsilon Kappa Omega Chapter), Links Inc. (Milwaukee Chapter), Town & Country Garden Club, Jack and Jill of America Inc., Delta Kappa Gamma Honor Society, Milwaukee Urban League, and a lifetime member of the N.A.A.C.P.

Frances Starms was born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama, and she graduated with honors from Spelman College. She continued her education at Atlanta University, receiving a Master of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Her postgraduate work included scholarly research at the University of Southern California and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In 2004, she was recognized by UWM with an honorary doctorate in Public Service.

In 1948, Frances Starms moved to Wisconsin and continued her career as an educator with Milwaukee Public Schools, MPS. During her teaching career, she became the first African American to be appointed as director of the Head Start Program.

Mrs. Starms was one of few living Milwaukeeans after whom a Milwaukee Public School had been named; in fact, three schools now claim her as namesake: Starms Early Childhood Center, Starms Monumental Baptist Early Childhood Center, and Starms Discovery Learning Center.

Mrs. Starms was a prolific writer and received numerous awards and citations for her work. She was published in numerous local and national publications and was best known for her poems which focused on the richness and enduring strength of the African American Heritage. Her book entitled "Love is Best" expressed the beauty and texture of this heritage.

Her poetry was described as coming straight from the "heart" and reflected the elegance and authenticity of her own experience, reaching out to children and adults alike. For her commitment to our children and for her many efforts and gifts, Mrs. Starms was awarded with the 1979 Award for Meritorious Service from the UW-Milwaukee School of Education; 1983 Special Citation from Governor Tony Earl for her inclusion in the Smithsonian Institute/Wisconsin Humanities Committee exhibit "Black Women Achievement Against the Odds"; the 1984 Sarah Scott Administrative Leadership Award from the Metropolitan Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators for her leadership and commitment to improving educational opportunities for children; 1989 G.A.E.P. Award from Delta Sigma Gamma Society International Sigma State for the publication of her poetry; and was the recipient of St. Marks's Anvil Award for service to the church and the community. Mrs. Starms

was an active member of St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Milwaukee for more than 62 years.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Frances Brock Starms' passion for education, writing and her church have served the people of the Wisconsin Fourth Congressional District well, and we need only to look at the buildings that bear her name or read her poems to be reminded of her legacy. For these reasons I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Frances Brock Starms, who dedicated her life toward educating and improving the lives of children.

Today, I thank her and her family for their immeasurable contributions, mourn her loss and I salute her legacy.

RECOGNIZING MRS. JUDY EVANS
FOR HER SERVICE AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Judy Evans, a health care professional, from Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Mrs. Evans has served in the health care profession for more than 25 years in her hometown of Crystal Springs, Mississippi. She uses her current position as a deputy medical examiner investigator to support, encourage, and assist families in need.

Mrs. Evans is the youngest child of Benjamin and Betty Hicks. She is the wife of Arthur Evans Jr. and mother to their two children, Arthur Lee III and Jabreanne. Mrs. Evans has been recognized as First Lady of Crystal Springs for the past six years. She is an active member of New Zion United Methodist church where she serves as youth ministry co-chair and sings in the gospel choir. She is also a member of the Covich County Animal Rescue League board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in expressing my appreciation to Mrs. Judy Evans of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, for her commitment and servitude to the cause of health care.

HONORING HULET HORNBECK

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today with my colleagues Congressman PETE STARK, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman JERRY McNERNEY, and Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI to honor our friend, Hulet Hornbeck, who passed away on January 7, 2012. The State of California has lost a tireless leader whose many contributions to the East Bay Regional Park District will be remembered and revered by the residents of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and by all who knew him.

Hulet relocated to California soon after the end of World War II and began his career at the East Bay Regional Park District. He enjoyed a distinguished career as Chief of Land Acquisition for the East Bay Regional Park

District from 1965 through 1985, serving with legendary leaders William Penn Mott and Richard Trudeau. Hulet is credited with overseeing the acquisition of 49,000 acres of parkland and expanding the District's land holdings from eight parks of 13,000 acres to 46 parks of 62,000 acres. His acquisitions elevated the East Bay Regional Park district to the largest regional urban park district in the nation, a unique distinction it still holds today.

A lifetime conservationist and outdoorsman, Hulet held many positions in local trail and conservation organizations and received countless honors and awards as a result of his work. He provided leadership and advice for organizations, including the California Conservation Council, the American Hiking Society, the National Trails Council, the Martinez Land Trust, the Trails and Greenways Foundation, American Trails, Heritage Trails Fund, Amigos de Anza, the California Recreational Trails Committee, the East Bay Area Trails Council, the American Trails Association, Solano County Farmlands and Open Space Foundation, and the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club.

In 2005, on Hornbeck's 88th birthday, the California Riding and Hiking Trail in the Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline Park was renamed the Hulet Hornbeck Trail, "in recognition of [his] tireless efforts in parkland development and management on behalf of the East Bay Regional Park District," according to the National Trails Training Partnership.

Hulet was one of the most creative land acquisition agents in the country; on behalf of the public he partnered with private companies, individuals, non-profits, and all levels of government. We owe him and the East Bay Regional Park District a great debt of gratitude for creating the largest urban regional park district in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, we invite our colleagues to join us in offering our condolences to Hulet's family and friends. Hulet will be sorely missed, but his contributions toward environmental conservation and dedication to public access to open spaces will be enjoyed for generations to come. His legacy lives on in the heart of every resident and visitor who seeks solace in the thousands of acres of wild greenbelts that grace the East Bay.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF SAMUEL
MARTIN, SR.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute to a great activist, pioneer, and role model, Samuel Martin, Sr. who passed away on February 3, 2012 at the age of 87.

Samuel was the 2nd of 20 children born in 1924 to Will and Mary Martin in Edwards, Mississippi. Enlisting in the Army in 1944, Samuel served his country honorably as a soldier. After serving his country, Samuel married Willie Mae Martin in 1946. During this time, Samuel worked for the Sante Fe Railroad in Needles, California where he first became involved in the NAACP and veteran's issues. Samuel moved his family to San Bernardino in 1954 due to a job opportunity at Norton Air Force Base.

Because of his childhood and upbringing in Mississippi, Samuel strongly believed that everyone should have an equal opportunity to succeed. In San Bernardino, Samuel continued his activism, fighting for integration in Veterans' Housing and integration in schools. His early retirement allowed him to continue his fight for equality in Southern California. In 1962, Samuel became the first African American to be elected to the Democratic Central Committee.

In 1965, Samuel Martin and Arthur Townsend founded the Precinct Reporter, a newspaper that still serves San Bernardino today. Later, in 1969, Samuel and his wife, Willie started the San Bernardino American News, which is now operated by his daughter, Mary Harris, and his son-in-law, Clifton Harris.

With his experience and expertise in the newspaper business, Samuel also worked with the Black Union at University of California, Riverside to establish the Black Voice News in 1972 and helped the Hispanic community start El Chicano newspaper.

Samuel was preceded by his beloved wife, Willie. Samuel is survived by his four children; Violet Jean Rose, Mary Florene Harris, Samuel, Jr., and Barry Lymond. He leaves with cherished memories a loving family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Rialto City Councilman Joe Baca, Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer are with Samuel's family at this time. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pay tribute to Samuel Martin, Sr.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARCHIE
SAVAGE, JR.

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Archie Savage, Jr. Sadly, Archie passed away last year at the West Haven Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Archie was born in Memphis in 1930 but called New Britain, Connecticut home since 1980. As a young man just out of high school, Archie served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and afterwards continued to serve his country as a counterintelligence agent at the height of the Cold War. Archie found time during his 22 years of service to this country to acquire an education with a Bachelors Degree from the University of Denver in 1966 followed by a Masters in Education in 1971, and a Ph.D. from Denver University in 1976.

As a public servant Archie was truly exceptional. The first African-American operative in the Central Intelligence Agency, Archie's 22-year career with the Agency brought him across Europe and Asia. He served with distinction on the frontlines of the Cold War at a time of great peril to America and her allies. Archie was given the rank of Officier de la Legion d'Honneur, one of the highest civilian awards granted by the French Republic, for his role in foiling an attempt on the life of President de Gaulle of France in the 1960s.

After he retired from government service, Archie dedicated his life to improving his community in New Britain and across Connecticut.