

service. The forty-plus years of service the Arie family has provided in owning, operating, and developing Fun Spot Attractions is a true testament to the significant importance of small businesses.

This is not the first time that Fun Spot Action Park of Orlando has been recognized for their commitment to excellence in the tourism industry across Central Florida. Fun Spot has been chosen and honored two prior times by the IAAPA for their standards of excellence in promoting and advertising the family entertainment center industry.

The efforts of Mr. Arie and his family to serve the Central Florida community are to be commended. It is not often that such a strong commitment to service is found within one family. I wish them great success as they have the opportunity to undergo a 10-acre expansion that will triple the size of the Orlando Fun Spot Action Park.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Mr. Arie and his family for their hard work, dedication, and leadership on this well-deserved award. May their investment to community and small business inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

**DON'T LET FOREIGN AID FALL
OFF THE FISCAL CLIFF**

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as negotiations to avoid the "fiscal cliff" enter the final stages, it is important that we keep in mind the potentially devastating consequences of across-the-board cuts. This is true not only for domestic programs, but also for foreign assistance, which represents less than one percent of the federal budget and is one of the most cost-effective ways of protecting our interests across the globe. Today, more than ever, our health, security, and prosperity depend on a world in which basic human needs are met, fundamental rights and freedoms are respected, conflicts are resolved peacefully, and the world's resources are used wisely.

In this regard, I commend to my colleagues an excellent op-ed by Sharon Waxman, vice-president of the International Rescue Committee. Her article in *The Hill*, "Don't Let Foreign Aid Fall off the Fiscal Cliff," outlines the importance of foreign aid in saving lives and easing suffering for millions around the world.

**RECOGNIZING THE CHAMPIONSHIP
SEASON OF THE WYOMISSING
SPARTANS HIGH SCHOOL FOOT-
BALL TEAM**

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the players, coaches and staff of the Wyomissing Spartans High School football team of Berks County, Pennsylvania on their undefeated season and on capturing the PIAA District III AA State Championship.

The Wyomissing Spartans set a Berks County record for points scored and wins in a season, finishing with a perfect 16–0 record. The Spartans are the first team in Berks County history to win a state title in football at any level.

The Spartans' championship roster includes: Gerald Burns, Thomas Paolini, Corey Unger, Spenser Lloyd, Sean Smith, Joseph Cacchione, Scott Kuczala, Brian Walters, Rahul Kalani, Adam Chaffe, Caleb Naylor, Juche Jackson, Bern Donahue, Chase Hartman, Alex Anzalone, Brandon Faust, Eric Waxler, Brandon Gonzalez, Mason Smith, Scott McAvoy, Justin Causa, Jonah Bowman, Sam Debell-Mitton, Peter Geyer, Josh Naylor, Jack Baker, Sam Weaver, Peter Bonino, Josh Pappas, Shane Hasenauer, Connor Reedy, Chris Eaton, Jeremy Bell, Will Kroppe, Anthony Colon, Jeriko Reyes, Cody Cox, Ben Wertz, Sean Reusing, Logan Jones, Dan Sweitzer, Wyatt Metzger, Finnegan Daly, Brian Bamberger, Jon Olmeda, Sean Clark, Nate Hain, Jack Wertz, Liam Reedy, and Daniel Faust.

The champion Spartans were coached by Head Coach Bob Wolfrum and Assistant Coaches Tom Baldwin, Andrew Siggins, Al Silveri, Todd Zechman, Steve O'Neil, Richard Hoffmaster, Nick Wojciechowski, Frank Ferrandino, Bill Hartman, Steve Brunner, Chris Blickley, Corbett Babb, Ty Smith, and Jim Delp. In addition, the School District's Athletic Director is Corbin Stoltzfus.

Mr. Speaker, in light of their outstanding accomplishments, undefeated season, and state championship victory, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the players, coaches, and staff of the Wyomissing Spartans High School Football Team of Berks County, Pennsylvania for their incredible and unforgettable season.

HONORING BARRY RUTENBERG

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of my constituents, Barry Rutenberg, from Gainesville, Fla. Barry is the 2012 chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and has been deeply involved in helping housing—and his fellow builders—get back on course.

After suffering the worst housing downturn since the Great Depression, Barry's steady leadership at NAHB during the past year has paid great dividends as he has presided over a solid recovery for the industry. Housing starts and single-family sales are projected to jump 20 percent for the year, and the number of improving housing markets has soared from just 12 in September of 2011 to more than 200 in December of 2012. Meanwhile, home prices have stabilized across much of the Nation, helping to put more workers on the job and making housing a net contributor to economic growth.

As chairman of NAHB, Barry has provided a laser-like focus to help get housing back on track by working with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to get pro-housing bills introduced and passed. NAHB played a pivotal role in re-

authorizing and preserving the National Flood Insurance Program for an additional five years. This put to an end the many short-term lapses the program has endured in recent years—along with the delays and canceled home sales those lapses have caused home buyers and home builders.

Under Barry's direction, NAHB instituted a nationwide Protect Homeownership campaign that featured several rallies in key political swing states during this past election season. This effort to elevate housing on the national agenda sent a powerful message to the electorate that Americans value homeownership and Congress must support pro-housing policies that will create jobs and help local communities to flourish.

In normal times housing accounts for more than 17 percent of the Nation's total economic output. Building 100 single-family homes creates more than 300 full-time jobs and generates millions of dollars of tax revenues which increase the property tax base that supports local schools, police and firefighters across the land.

To help housing return to its position as an engine of economic growth, Barry instituted an aggressive agenda at NAHB. He made it a priority to help protect housing tax incentives that are vital to renters and home buyers; prevent expensive, pointless regulations from impeding home building and dampening the recovery; and to push for a balanced solution to overhaul the Nation's housing finance system that retains a federal backstop in the event of a catastrophic situation while providing a stable, affordable supply of credit for home buyers and limiting taxpayer exposure.

He also maintained a regular presence on Capitol Hill, meeting with lawmakers and testifying on behalf of the Nation's home builders on how small businesses and consumers would benefit from smarter and more sensible regulation.

I commend the efforts of Barry Rutenberg and NAHB to ensure that housing remains accessible and affordable to America's families and an important national priority.

**HARRIS COUNTY VETERAN'S
COURT PROGRAM**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, since the United States of America entered the War on Terror, many things have changed with what our troops encounter overseas. Our soldiers are not only fighting a war where guerrilla tactics, suicide bombings, and targeted killings are used, but they are fighting over values and morals versus territory. This war has not been in one specific country, but takes place wherever our enemies are attacking or hiding.

A lot has changed in this modern day war, but thankfully a lot has changed with how we help our troops when they return home. 2.4 million Americans have fought in Iraq or Afghanistan and the Department of Veterans Affairs have diagnosed roughly 200,000 of those Americans with post-traumatic stress disorder with many more that have gone undiagnosed. Many of these men have come home and are still fighting internal demons from these perilous places that they have returned from.

Thankfully, Harris County Texas District Judge, Marc Carter, an Army veteran himself noticed that many of the defendants coming through the Harris County courts were veterans who had recently come home from fighting overseas. Judge Carter is judge of the 228th Criminal District Court of Texas. He replaced me after I served as judge in that court for 22 years.

Judge Carter and other members of the Harris County community recognized this problem in 2009 and took the initiative to create the first veteran's court in the state of Texas. The Harris County Veteran's Court Program specifically works with first time misdemeanors and felonies. If veterans choose to go through the program instead of going to prison, it requires two years of probation and treatment.

The reason why the Veteran's Court Program is so successful is because it addresses the root of the problem, which is PTSD and drug abuse. Many of these veterans are still mentally overseeing fighting for ours and their lives and these programs give them the help they need to readjust back into society. Since 2008 veteran's treatment courts have been created in 27 States.

These men have been to the darkest places on earth to protect the American people and although there is a lot we owe our veterans, most importantly, we owe them a second chance.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER TOM G. WEILER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served this great Nation with honor, men such as Lieutenant Commander Tom G. Weiler, United States Navy.

For the past year, Lieutenant Commander Weiler, a proud submariner and graduate of the University of Notre Dame, served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. During his assignment, he served as a senior member of my staff responsible for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and intelligence matters. Lieutenant Commander Weiler executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of the First District and the numerous defense installations in the First District with distinction. Furthermore, he provided exceptional support to me as my staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my role as a Subcommittee Chairman and as the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus.

Lieutenant Commander Weiler directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion and he was able to leverage his personal and operational experience to respond to the most challenging inquiries.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the First District, Lieutenant Commander Weiler took on projects with regional, state and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and de-

velop innovative solutions often requiring collaboration across many levels of government.

Lieutenant Commander Weiler's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers.

I would also like to thank Lieutenant Commander Weiler for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, for our Nation and our great Navy. His keen sense of honor, impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. After spending eight of the last eleven years stationed in Hawaii, which included multiple patrols in the Western Pacific and a 12-month deployment to Germany, Lieutenant Commander Weiler is headed to the England as the only U.S. Navy submarine officer to participate in the Royal Navy Submarine Command Course in Portsmouth, England in 2013. Following this distinguished opportunity to train with the British Royal Navy, Lieutenant Commander Weiler will embark on his journey to become an Executive Officer of a United States Navy submarine and attend the Submarine Command Course. After this intense course of instruction Lieutenant Commander Weiler will return to sea and to leading Sailors as he goes back into harm's way to execute his trade as submariner in the "silent service" of this great Nation. I have no doubt that Lieutenant Commander Weiler will continue to serve the United States Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish him the best of luck as he continues his Naval career. It was an honor and a pleasure having him serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that men and women like Lieutenant Commander Tom Weiler are members of our all-volunteer force and they stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

Lieutenant Commander Weiler, thank you. Best of luck to you and God bless you, your family, and all the Sailors you are charged with leading. Fair winds and following seas . . . and GO IRISH!

TRIBUTE TO TERESA VANZANT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS
OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Teresa Vanzant, in honor of her retirement after dedicating 31 years of public service to Kentucky's Rockcastle County Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

Teresa's passion and commitment to public service was inspired by her father and my dear friend, the late Denver Miller, who also served as Circuit Court Clerk in Rockcastle County for three terms. Denver instilled in his family, the value of being an engaged citizen and giving back to the community. Denver's service as Clerk and Administrative Assistant to the Administrative Office of the Court also influenced his son, James Miller who serves as Rockcastle County's Jailer. The tireless dedication of this entire family will be a legacy long admired in our region.

Teresa Vanzant is also a role model for women in public service in our rural communities. In addition to her role as Circuit Court Clerk, she has volunteered for the Kentucky Women's Missionary Union, the Mt. Vernon Elementary Family Resource Center Council, President of Kiwanis Rockcastle, the Education Chair of Kentucky's Circuit Court Clerk's Association, Secretary of the Trust for Life, and a board member of the anti-drug Rockcastle County UNITE Coalition. Teresa works diligently, to not only serve her county, but to be a voice for opportunity and vision for generations to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a leader and dear friend of southern and eastern Kentucky, Teresa Vanzant, on her retirement. My wife, Cynthia and I wish Teresa and her family all the best in the years to come.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 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 \$16,359,758,742,907.76. We've added \$5,132,881,693,994.68 to our debt in nearly 4 years. This is a \$5 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO ADOLFO JESUS VALADEZ

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 80th birthday of Adolfo Jesus Valadez.

Adolfo Jesus Valadez, the son of Mexican immigrants who came to the United States fleeing the Mexican Revolution, was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. Adolfo attended local public elementary schools and in 1949, graduated from Central Catholic High School. He enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin to study business administration and pharmacy studies. However, his studies were interrupted when he was called to serve his country as part of the post WWII occupation forces. Adolfo served as an Army Corp medic in Germany, where he provided health care services to American troops and learned to speak German fluently.

When Adolfo returned to the U.S., he completed his studies at the University of Texas at Austin and received a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy, one of the few Mexican-Americans at that time to receive an undergraduate degree. Adolfo moved back to San Antonio and worked as a registered pharmacist serving the city's poor in various settings, including the Stella Mares Clinic on the west side of the city. Eventually, he opened his own small