

putting an end to political prosecutions and other reprisals against those who oppose him and allow their full participation in political life. In order to find credibility with both the Ukrainian people and the international community, he must end restrictions on freedom of speech and association and reverse the debilitating corruption and judicial subservience to the executive which has so eroded the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for the Ukrainian authorities to stop their slide to authoritarianism and resulting isolation which will only harm Ukrainians who for so long—and at such great cost—have struggled for freedom, dignity and justice.

**RECOGNIZING FAIRFAX COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACHERS FOR  
PARTICIPATING IN THE SALLY  
RIDE SCIENCE ACADEMY**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a select group of math and science teachers from Fairfax County Public Schools. They recently participated in the Sally Ride 2011 Science Academy in San Diego.

The Academy is an intense one-week professional development program in which elementary and middle school teachers learn new skills for introducing students to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and educating their students about the diverse education and career opportunities in those fields. The Academy uses a train-the-trainer model, in which participants return to their school districts to train other teachers during the school year. Sally Ride Science, founded by the first American woman in space, operates the Academy in partnership with ExxonMobil, which has one of its corporate headquarters in Fairfax County.

With only 29% of American 4th graders and 33% of 8th graders performing at proficient levels in science, we need to redouble our efforts in the STEM fields, particularly to recruit more girls and minorities. In today's economy, 8 of the 10 fastest growing jobs require proficiency in math and science, yet American universities rank 27th among developed nations with respect to the number of students graduating with science or engineering degrees.

Thanks to the work of the Sally Ride Science Academy, these and other teachers now have additional training and skills to assist them in encouraging more of our young people to become excited about science and math. I am pleased to recognize the following Fairfax County Public Schools teachers for participating in the Academy: Heather McCarthy, Lynnette Harris, Luann Hoyseth, Lauren Bello, Jodi Hepner, Danielle Heffron, Alane Peragallo, Shannon Waite, and Holly Eelman.

To date, the Sally Ride Science Academy has successfully trained more than 650 educators spanning 16 States, and they have returned to their perspective districts to train an additional 4,400 teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these remarkable teachers for their efforts to change the way math and

science are taught in our classrooms and for improving the quality of education for youngsters in our community.

**CONGRATULATING MEME OMOGBAI  
FOR BEING NAMED CHAIR OF  
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
MUSEUMS**

**HON. LEONARD LANCE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Meme Omogbai, Chief Operating Officer of The Newark Museum, on being named Chair of the American Association of Museums. This is an unprecedented honor for The Newark Museum in Newark, New Jersey. Prior to her election, Omogbai served the AAM in many capacities including as co-author of its ground-breaking strategic plan.

Ms. Omogbai was born in Nigeria and moved to the United States as a child. She obtained both a Bachelor of Science degree in accountancy and an M.B.A. in finance and management consultancy from Rutgers University. She has a keen interest in public service and pursued opportunities in New Jersey state government. During her 10-year tenure with the state she became the youngest deputy assistant chancellor of the NJ Department of Higher Education.

Ms. Omogbai was part of the team that developed the widely acclaimed NJ College Loan to Assist State Students Program while overseeing \$6.5 billion in assets and crafting legislation as a policy adviser in the state treasurer's office. She also worked with the Casino Control Commission.

Ms. Omogbai is a community leader with important, active roles on the boards of such organizations as the New Jersey Historic Trust, the American Association of Museums, the Advisory Board of Montclair State University, St. Vincent Academy and the Newark Regional Business Partnership.

I congratulate Meme Omogbai on being named Chair of the American Association of Museums.

**RECOGNIZING THE 51ST ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE PEACE CORPS AND  
11TH DISTRICT VOLUNTEERS**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today and recognize the Peace Corps on the 51st Anniversary of its inception. Since President John F. Kennedy's inspirational call to service in the 1960s, the Peace Corps has played an integral role in the journey toward world peace and understanding.

The Peace Corps is vital to our strategies for diplomacy and development assistance. This year alone, approximately 9,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have made significant contributions in more than 75 countries. Volunteers learn more than 175 languages and dialects with placements in Asia, Africa, Europe,

Central and South America, the Pacific Islands, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

The effects of service ripple across a wide variety of communities. The Peace Corps not only provides invaluable assistance to the developing world, but also returns effective cross-cultural leaders to the American workforce. Through their service, volunteers develop steadfast creativity and determination that permeates through everything they do.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the 28 residents of the 11th District of Virginia who have met this extraordinary call to service: Daniel Beale, Michael Burke, Megan Bush, Michelle Carr, Jennifer Cook, Kevin Dansereau, Emily Forsyth Queen, Carolyn Glidden, Kendall Gordon, Salwan Hager, Molly Jacobson, Brittany Kennell, Shantonu Kundu, Catherine Leitch, Laura Lloyd-Braff, Douglas Mann, Patricia Marks, Ryan McGibony, Laura Olsen, Kristin Powers, Eric Reeder, Kristopher Reinertson, Ashley Studholme, Anh-Minh Tran, Anastasia Tucker, Emily Vallowe, Peter Weems, and Priscilla Yu.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Peace Corps for 51 years of invaluable service to our Nation and our world. Through its diplomatic and development service, the Peace Corps has established valuable cross-cultural understanding. Virginia's 11th District is especially proud to recognize the service of our 28 residents abroad.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 2012, I was unable to vote on rollcall vote 95. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 95, on passage of H.R. 3637.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during yesterday's roll call vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 3637.

**RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF  
THE 2012 DALE CITY CIVIC ASSO-  
CIATION COMMUNITY AWARDS**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2012 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards.

The Dale City Civic Association was founded in 1967. Citizens formed the organization to give a voice to community initiatives and

collective action in Dale City. Today, the organization's purpose is to represent the interests of the residents of Dale City in a manner that benefits the entire community. Members do this with robust beautification efforts, land use advocacy and volunteer responses to community needs.

The Association hosts an annual awards banquet to honor individuals and organizations that show an exceptional devotion to their community and public service. It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2012 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards:

High School Teacher of the Year: Ingrid Hoffman Perry;

Middle School Teacher of the Year: Mary Lynn Thurman;

Elementary School Teacher of the Year: Margie Norman;

John D. Jenkins Youth Citizen of the Year: Donald E. Jones, Jr.;

Dale City Youth Environmental and Conservation Award: Ann Nguyen;

Kathie Feeney Nurse of the Year: Rosey Espiritu;

Prince William County Police Department, Police Officer of the Year: Officer David C. McKeown;

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Officer of the Year: Lieutenant Christopher Gardner, Jr.;

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year: Technician Danielle Miller;

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter of the Year: Technician Tinashe Banda;

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, "Second to None" Volunteer Community Servant Award: Irene Dell;

Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, Firefighter of the Year: Captain Steve Barr;

Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year: Lieutenant Leif Ericson;

Deputy Sheriff of the Year: Deputy Jack Richards;

Catherine Spellane Citizen of the Year: Ellen Carleton;

Kathleen K. Seefeldt Community Service Award: Jo-Ellen Benson;

Ernestine S. Jenkins Lifetime Volunteer Award: Janice Carr; and

Business of the Year: Amici's Restaurante.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the winners of the 2012 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards for their dedication to building and maintaining a healthy community. Each recipient has made a tangible imprint on Dale City, and, with these awards, we hope to show them that their contributions have not gone unnoticed.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 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 \$15,491,983,252,196.46. We've added \$4,865,106,203,283.33 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2012 OFFICERS OF THE OCCOQUAN WOODBRIDGE LORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2012 Officers of the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department.

The 2012 officers and members of the board of directors are taking leadership roles in one of Northern Virginia's longest standing volunteer fire departments. The O.W.L. Volunteer Fire Department was created to address the need for organized fire response capabilities in the growing suburbs of Northern Virginia. In 1938, the Department officially formed to become the only fire department between Fredericksburg and Alexandria. In the subsequent decades O.W.L. has expanded to staff three stations and provide emergency medical services.

The members of O.W.L. are dedicated community volunteers, and the 2012 officers and directors will be diligent stewards of this tradition of service. The 250 active O.W.L. members answer 14,000 calls and serve 60,000 people each year. Their job is demanding and the hours are long, but these brave men and women are driven by their dedication to public safety and the communities that they serve. We would all do well to follow their example. I congratulate and commend the following 2012 incoming officers:

Department Chief: James F. McAllister;  
Fire Assistant Chiefs: Karl F. Fippinger, Wayne A. Haight, David S. Halman, John M. McGovern III, and Richard C. Slusher;  
EMS Assistant Chief: Edward A. Craig;  
Fire Captains: Kurt E. Bolland, Steven R. Godin, Michael Nazonale, and Brian J. Smith, David P. Williams, and Justin W. Witt;  
EMS Captain: Richard T. Ruggieri;  
Fire Lieutenants: Jonathan W. Baldwin, Robert L. Brown, Mark A. Chandler, Jon R. Colpitts, Joshua Culp, Ernie M. Firkin Jr., Harold F. Griffith, Jamieson H. Jewett, Alexander R. Moody, Richard P. Moore, Derick N. Ondra, and John M. Roberts;

EMS Lieutenants: Tara S. Gallant, Tammy L. Hill, James M. McCue, Scott A. Schneider, Kelly Shaw, and Cynthia M. Young;  
Executive Vice President: Ronald D. Miller;  
Admin Vice Presidents: William L. Carter, Michael W. Clark, Henry J. Neyhouse, and George W. Smith;

Membership Secretary: Melissa L. Payne;  
Treasurer: George J. Nazonale, Jr.;

Election Officer: Valoree A. Brown;

Sergeant at Arms: Timothy S. VanDeusen;

Board of Directors: Jonathan D. Karnbach, Thomas S. Sullivan, and Lenny G. Peters Jr.;

New Life Members: James F. McAllister, Joseph J. Zarkauskas Jr., Derek D. Dove, and Phillip L. Hughes Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these remarkable volun-

teers on their new positions and in thanking all members of the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department for the vital service they provide to the Prince William community. Stay safe.

#### HONORING PATRICIA SMITH OF LEBANON ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartiest congratulations and thanks to Patricia Smith of Lebanon for her more than three decades of service to farmers in eastern Connecticut. This past December, Pat retired after 31 years of working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's Connecticut office.

After graduating from Norwich Free Academy, Pat began working at the Groton Sub Base. She later worked in Boston at the Naval Shipyards, a rural letter carrier in Lebanon, Connecticut and also at the Social Security office in Willimantic, Connecticut. Always a dedicated public servant, Pat worked hard to serve the people of eastern Connecticut in her various capacities. In 1980, Pat was hired by current Connecticut Farm Service Agency Executive Director Marsha Jette to serve as a Program Technician assisting farmers in eastern Connecticut.

Pat's experience as a herdsman on her brother Nathan R. Cushman's farm gave her the hands-on experience she needed to provide dedicated and timely service to her fellow farmers. At the time she began working for USDA in 1980, Pat also milked 16–20 Brown Swiss cows that she kept at her residence that belonged to her and her daughter Julie who was actively involved in the 4-H program.

Pat's dedication to her work never wavered despite the challenging times dairy farmers and others in Connecticut faced during her three decades at USDA. While Pat's retirement has left a void that will not easily be filled at the Farm Service Agency office, she continues her service through volunteer efforts at the New London County Farm Service Agency office. Always the dedicated public servant, Pat Smith's experience and care for her fellow farmers will be sorely missed as she moves from full time work to volunteering for farmers in Connecticut. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Pat on her retirement and wish her well in her continued efforts.

#### RECOGNIZING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACHERS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 21 Prince William County