

promoting nutrition, as well as preventing and treating obesity. And during these tough economic times, the school breakfast program also is seeing increasing demand from students who are coming to school hungry.

Currently, there are more than 31 million children who eat school meals five days a week, 180 days a year. While the National School Lunch and breakfast programs do a good job of feeding these children, they have the potential to provide fresher and healthier foods to millions of children in the United States.

In 2010 I helped write the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act to dramatically expand access for millions of children to healthy meals year-round in schools, and provide more meals for at risk children nationwide. The law included legislation that I introduced to provide \$5 million in annual funding for Farm to School programs. Farm to School programs bring locally or regionally grown fresh produce into schools, significantly improving nutrition for children eating school lunches.

During School Breakfast Week, let us resolve to do everything we can to combat childhood hunger and also ensure that the food we are serving kids is as fresh and healthy as possible.

ESSAY BY AMANDA KERSTMAN

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Amanda Kerstman is a senior at Clear Springs High School in Galveston County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

As a citizen of the United States of America all citizens are given the right to participate in the political process whether it would be to run for office, or vote in a primary election. Having the power as a citizen to participate in the political process is a right given by the United States, but many people in the present time take this as a chore to participate rather than a privilege. The voter turnout in Houston, Texas has decreased every year because of people not willing to go vote in any election, whether it is for a district judge, or an election for the president.

Our constitution was built from people who wanted to shape the new world into a country where people have the right to choose who they want to run their country. It is the citizens responsibility to keep our country a republic and vote for people to represent us. The key to make sure that people will stay politically active is to make sure the youth of the United States stays in-

formed and up to date with what goes on in politics. Once they are informed they have the knowledge to form their own opinion and allow them to take action in supporting a candidate or coming up with their own ideas to run for office one day. Whether a person is inspired to run for local office or for president all helps the political process. Having the Congressional Youth Advisory Council is a great way to get the youth of America involved in political decision-making by letting them able to share their opinion to political leaders. It also allows the youth to be informed on what is going on in congress or in political decision making directly for a political official. Being a part of the political process is very important for American citizens be involved in because if we aren't, we will let down every man that fought for our political freedom.

STATEMENT ON THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS (IBEW), AFL-CIO, LOCAL 716

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), AFL-CIO Local 716 in Houston, Texas.

IBEW represents members who work in a wide variety of electrical trade fields, including utilities, construction, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing, railroads and government.

IBEW Local 716 was chartered March 12, 1912, starting with 9 original members and has since grown to represent 4500 members. IBEW Local 716 plays a major role in enhancing the quality of life for all electricians across the Greater Houston Area by negotiating contracts for electricians that secure top paying wages, high-quality health insurance and pensions and creating safer working conditions.

IBEW Local 716 members have built some of our most memorable Houston landmarks that have vastly contributed to shaping Houston as the internationally known city it has become today. Some of which include: the original Humble Building, The Astrodome, the Texas Medical Center, most of Downtown Houston, Minute Maid Field, Metro Light Rail projects, The George R. Brown Center and the Toyota Center.

IBEW Local 716 members are widely known in Houston for their volunteerism and community service, donating countless hours of their personal time in the restoration of the Heights neighborhood projects, including the S.H.A.P.E. Community Center and vast array of other community projects.

I salute the courageous men and women who made IBEW Local 716 an organization which utilizes the skills of its members to make a better life for everyone. I congratulate IBEW Local 716 on 100 years of community building and union spirit, as well as their outstanding dedication to the labor movement and steadfast efforts to uphold workers rights to organize.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 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 \$15,498,306,692,627.99. We've added \$4,871,429,643,714.91 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SOUTHFIELD CRS

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. David's Episcopal Church of Southfield, Michigan on the auspicious occasion of its 60th diamond jubilee anniversary.

St. David's Episcopal Church opened in 1952 and its first mass was held on March 2, inside Oxford School in Berkley, before a permanent church was built.

Founded by parishioners of St. James Episcopal Church, a venerable institution located in neighboring Birmingham, St. David's has been a fixture in the community for more than five decades.

Committed to providing a healthy quality of life for all, St. David's developed St. Anne's Mead, an assisted living and nursing care facility in 1966. The facility is committed to the unique needs of men, women and their families while preserving their dignity and enriching their lives.

Under the devoted and dedicated leadership of the Rev. Chris Yaw, St. David's current Rector, the church holds two Sunday services each week and Taize-style healing services four times a year.

St. David's parishioners are also involved in community outreach. They support local food pantry programs and manage a community garden that produced 500 pounds of fruit and vegetables in 2011, which they donated to surrounding communities.

The church also mentors kindergarten through eighth grade students at nearby Vandenberg World Cultures Academy, providing academic support and leadership skills.

For one week each spring, St. David's turns its facility into a residence for the homeless. The church offers food, shelter and companionship for dozens of men, women and children.

St. David's human service efforts extend beyond the great state of Michigan and the boundaries of our country. The church is one of the founding members of the Haiti Outreach Mission and performs humanitarian work in Port-au-Prince and Mirebalais, two cities that were devastated by the massive earthquake that rocked the country in early 2010. Congregates have helped to provide much needed care and supplies, including anesthetics, antibiotics, pain meds, dressings, operating room

equipment and supplies, IV fluids, gloves, masks, etc.

The church recently celebrated its 60th year anniversary. During a spirited and eventful three-hour celebration, held on March 3, in the Parish Fellowship Hall, a special photo display commemorated the occasion. Former members reunited to perform as a Chancel Choir in a spirit-filled musical program.

St. David's Episcopal Church and serve God through worship, outreach, and love for all.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate St. David's Episcopal Church of Southfield, Michigan on the auspicious occasion of its 60th diamond jubilee anniversary. I salute the outstanding work that this revered institution has carried out in the Metro Detroit area.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting a letter from Colin Taylor Mays, a 12-year-old school kid in Oregon. He is very worried about the future of his education. The drive by some to make deep cuts in our education system is jeopardizing his education and the future competitiveness of our Nation.

While it is critical that we must not further burden our children and grandchildren with a mountain of debt, we also must make investments in their future. With limited resources we must make smart investments that put people back to work by rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure system. While we focus on creating jobs now we cannot forget about our youth and what future will lie ahead for them. We must invest in education to make sure that our children will be prepared for the workforce of tomorrow. It is possible to balance our budget and provide for the most critical needs of our Nation. We must look both at raising revenues and reducing spending in areas where appropriate. If we do not make these choices now we will continue to let our children suffer in an education system that is falling apart at the seams. I hope that my colleagues will heed this message and work with me on making the right choices for our youth by investing in their education and giving them the same if not greater opportunities than we had growing up.

(By Colin Taylor Mays)

I am age 12 and a boy scout of America. I'm writing this letter as a view not a complaint. I haven't been learning enough in school, because of all the budget cut days. It's hard to keep track of what I'm learning. We need to put more money towards schooling and education. I probably have only 12 full weeks of school and I have so many weeks that only have 4 or 3 days in them. Unlike very few children I want to learn and possibly get a very good job that I want. Please consider this letter.

CONGRATULATING LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate League City, Texas on its fiftieth anniversary. For fifty years, League City has been a growing and influential region in the Baytown area and throughout Texas. Congratulations to League City for a wonderful half-century of contributions to our great state.

League City formally became an incorporated city on March 27, 1962. The city possesses a long history before that date, first settled in the late nineteenth century. It has made significant contributions to the Houston and Texas economies through its continued growth and success. Between the 2000 census and the 2010 census, League City almost doubled its population, and it also surpassed Galveston as the largest city in Galveston County in the early 2000s.

Known for its talented and capable workforce, many engineers and scientists that work at NASA's Johnson Space Center reside in League City.

The history and economic efforts of League City bring pride to our state. League City residents agree that it's a great place to live, work and raise a family. Congratulations to League City for fifty years of excellence and to a bright future ahead.

HONORING MS. DEBRA SCHWARTZ ON HER RECENT SELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Debra Schwartz on her recent selection to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

With more than 25 years of financial services leadership, Ms. Schwartz will be a great addition to NAFCU. She has been president and CEO of Mission Federal Credit Union in San Diego since 2009. Prior to joining Mission Federal, she served as Chief Financial Officer at First Future Credit Union and as Executive Vice President at San Diego County Credit Union.

Debra Schwartz graduated magna cum laude in Economics and Marketing from the State University of New York, and obtained a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business. Throughout her 25 years of leadership in the financial services industry, Ms. Schwartz has also dedicated time and energy to a variety of non-profit organizations focused on youth and financial literacy. In fact, she currently serves on the governing board of Junior Achievement in San Diego and Imperial counties.

With more than 163,000 credit union members in San Diego community, Ms. Schwartz is

a welcomed addition to the NAFCU Board of Directors and will undoubtedly make an immediate impact in her role. She has been both a leader and an innovator in the community and the NAFCU will be well served by her representation. Ms. Schwartz's experience will be a strong asset to the NAFCU as the credit union industry negotiates the recent financial regulatory reforms that will make lasting changes in the way credit unions operate.

I wish Ms. Schwartz the best of luck in her new role on the NAFCU board and look forward to working with her in this capacity. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Debra on this achievement and wishing her luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
REVEREND DR. ISAIAH MADISON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great African American educator, pastor, attorney, and highly respected member of our community, Reverend Dr. Isaiah Madison, who passed away March 1, 2012, at the age of 71.

Dr. Isaiah Madison was born on February 16, 1941, in Lake Cormorant, Mississippi. He later graduated from Delta Center High School in Walls, Mississippi in 1960. Dr. Madison went on to receive an Associate's Degree from Owens Jr. College in Memphis, Tennessee, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Howard University in 1964. He continued his education at Howard University, where he received his Juris Doctorate. Additionally, Dr. Madison received a Masters Degree in Political Science from Atlanta University and a Masters Degree in Theology from the International Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Reverend Dr. Isaiah Madison began his career as an instructor teaching Political Science at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and the Clinical Law Program at Howard University School of Law. Dr. Madison was a retired Associate Professor of Political Science at Jackson State University, where he taught courses in Public Law, American Government and Legal Research and Writing. While at Jackson State, he was Co-Advisor of the prominent Fannie Lou Hamer Prelaw Society in the Department. The Reverend Dr. Madison was a prolific writer and author. He published several poems and essays dealing with a wide variety of subjects—ranging from the law to social justice issues.

Dr. Madison was a man of deep and abiding faith, and served wholeheartedly as a United Methodist Pastor and Church Leader. Using his God-given gifts of teaching and exhortation, Dr. Madison pastored churches in Mississippi and Georgia. Dr. Madison was a member of New Dimensions International Ministries, where he served as an Assistant Pastor.

In 1973, Dr. Madison was the lead attorney in the development of the high profile Ayers Case. In fact, he was the Chief Architect of the Ayers decision. Madison was the Founding Chairman of the Black Mississippians' Council on Higher Education which was the support