

While, all across our nation their mother's cry!
 For they have lost their greatest of all loves,
 Their most blessed of all sons for us who have so died . . .
 As some have lost their strong legs, arms and even eyes . . .
 While awake in the middle of the night, as PTSD rules their lives . . .
 Sleep well this night . . .
 Upon the Bed of Freedom that they so provide!
 And as you lay yourself so down to sleep . . .
 All because of our brave sons from Tennessee, ones like Jonathan . . .
 Who his fine promises did so keep!
 Whose fine blood has so run red,
 All for us so very deep!
 This Volunteer, from this great state . . .
 Jonathan whose courage so makes us weep!
 As even the angel's too so cry . . .
 All at selfless sacrifice,
 All for God and Country as he did not so ask why!
 As it was on that day, out on his patrol . . .
 When his fine life almost went away . . .
 When, an IED . . . went off putting him so close to the grave . . .
 With his leg lost and dying, as death just minutes away so lying . . .
 As when he so made a choice, listening to his most inner voice . . .
 As when Jonathan woke up on that next day . . .
 Telling him go forth marine,
 For you have mountains to so climb all out upon your way!
 As when his new battle would begin,
 As his fine heart would so command him to win!
 Command him, to a recovery . . .
 Step by step, day by day . . .
 As this United States Marine how so makes his way . . .
 As this Tennessee Titan,
 So teaches us all in his actions upon each new day . . .
 As he so beseeches, so deep down as he so reaches us . . .
 All in what his fine heart so to convey!
 As if I ever had a son, I wish he could have the heart half as this one . . .
 As I watch in awe, all in what I saw . . . as this marine gets up and so runs!
 For heaven so holds a place,
 All for such men or honor and of such grace . . .
 As Thy will be done . . .
 Sleep well this night,
 All in your hearts ever so hold these heroes and their families so tight . . .
 These fine women and men,
 Who but country tis of thee do so defend!
 United States Marines, like Jonathan who so gallantly fight that fight!
 That kind of man,
 That Andrew Jackson would love and so understand,
 And hold up to such great heights!
 So as you lay your heads down to rest,
 Remember all of these, our very best . . .
 and sleep well this night!
 All because of these . . .

HONORING LEE COLLEGE ON RECEIVING AN OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Lee College on re-

ceiving an Official Texas Historical Marker. Lee College is known as one of the fastest growing community colleges in the Nation. It currently ranks 6th in the Nation for degrees awarded in science and technologies; and offers more than 130 degrees and certificates. I am proud to honor Lee College, located in Baytown, Texas, for receiving this marker.

On Friday, March 23, 2012, the Texas Historical Commission will dedicate the Historical Marker with the following text:

In 1934, during the Great Depression and after several years of planning, the residents of the Goose Creek Independent School District voted to establish Lee Junior College, stressing the importance of higher education opportunities for area residents. One hundred seventy-seven students registered during the fall 1934 semester, and paid less than \$15 per semester in fees. The junior college first shared facilities with Robert E. Lee high school, and classes met at night. In 1935 four women made up the first graduating class, and vocational education was inaugurated with a non-credit class in child psychology. The school's name was changed to Lee College in 1948, and a separate campus was first utilized in 1951. In 1965, the college separated from Goose Creek C.I.S.D. and obtained its own board of regents.

Lee College instituted a college level program in Huntsville at the Texas Department of Corrections in 1966, becoming a pioneer in prison education. The program was designed to reduce recidivism of inmates by offering them educational opportunities, and remains a vital part of the college's programming. The Lee College Honors Program was established in 1974 to serve gifted and highly motivated students by preparing them for success in education and employment opportunities. Classes in the program are taught in a seminar format, and several scholarships are awarded through the program based on academic excellence. Lee College continues today to offer academic as well as vocational-technical and continuing education classes to the residents of Baytown and the surrounding area.

I congratulate the past and present administration, faculty, staff, and students of Lee College for all of their hard work and dedication to education. And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize Lee College on receiving an Official Texas Historical Marker.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 111. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 111: "yes"—To allow otherwise eligible Israeli nationals to receive E-2 nonimmigrant visas if similarly situated United States nationals are eligible for similar nonimmigrant status in Israel.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MIRIAM V. HENSON ON THE OCCASION OF HER 105TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor a beloved leader in the Co-op City community, Mrs. Miriam V. Henson, on her 105th birthday.

Mrs. Henson, affectionately called Mother Henson by her neighbors, is an inspiration to me and to many of my constituents, so I'd like to take this opportunity to discuss her life and achievements.

Mrs. Henson was born in Bangbridge, GA in 1907, but her family shortly thereafter moved to Harlem, NY, where she graduated from Wadleigh High School.

She had one daughter, Virginia Henson, with her late husband, Mr. Wallace Henson. After her husband's passing in 1969, Mrs. Henson moved into Co-op City with Virginia and began working for Macy's Department store.

Mrs. Henson might now live alone, but she is never truly alone—since she is such an active member of her community.

From a young age, she has been involved with philanthropic efforts such as the Young Women's Christian Association, YWCA, and the moment she moved into Co-op City, she began to reach out to help her neighbors.

She is one of the founding members of the Community Protestant Church, and also served as a Board Trustee, President, and founding member of the Community Protestant Church's Willing Workers Organization.

The ambitious Mother Henson is also a founder of the Dreiser Loop Retirees and a member of the local AARP Chapter, serving each organization with love, compassion, and understanding. And to continue serving others, she represents the needs of seniors in our state capital in Albany.

A woman of many hobbies, Mrs. Henson is a real globe-trotter. She has visited countries throughout the world including Canada, Aruba, Switzerland, Australia, France, Germany and Brazil, just to name a few.

She especially loves cruises, and has been on many in her lifetime. Mrs. Henson recharges her batteries at home with card games, and bridge is among her favorites.

Throughout her 105 years, Mother Henson has survived the stock market crash, the Great Depression, two World Wars, and the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001. Despite these tragic events, she still has a positive outlook on the world.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can all learn a lesson from her.

There's no doubt that Mrs. Henson has seen and done a lot in her lifetime, but she says the greatest thing she's done was having the opportunity to vote for our 44th President—something she did not think would ever happen in her lifetime. Not only did she experience it, but now she is looking forward to voting in the next presidential election.

Mrs. Henson, as one may imagine, is no ordinary woman. Her philosophy in life is to keep the "pep in her step" with "good living, good friends, trusting in God, and a little tonic twice a day." And clearly, it's working.

A woman of strong religious faith, Mrs. Henson has said she would not have made it through her life's tragedies without the Lord on her side.

But made it she has, and it is my great honor to recognize her now.

And with that, I hope all my colleagues will join me in wishing Miriam Henson a happy 105th birthday, and continued health and happiness.

Her unwavering leadership and accomplishments serve as an example of excellence to us all and will forever resonate in the community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, George W. Bush was inaugurated, the national debt was \$5,727,776,738,304.64. When Barack Obama was inaugurated, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08. This was a \$4,899,100,310,608.44 increase in 8 years. Last week, the debt climbed to \$15,574,238,368,104.89, which means that President Obama has raised the debt more in just over 3 years than President Bush did in 8 years.

This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF LCDR DALE TAYLOR

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of LCDR Dale Taylor of the United States Coast Guard. Lieutenant Commander Taylor was a native of Snow Hill, North Carolina, which is in my Congressional District. Lieutenant Commander Taylor was one of four Coast Guardsmen that tragically lost their lives when Coast Guard Helicopter 6535 went down off the coast of Alabama while conducting a training exercise on February 28, 2012.

Lieutenant Commander Taylor was a source of great pride in his hometown of Snow Hill. He exemplified to the community what was possible with hard work and determination. Lieutenant Commander Taylor graduated from Greene Central High School and later Appalachian State University. After receiving his bachelor's degree he joined the United States Coast Guard and completed Officer Candidate School. Shortly thereafter, he received his wings of gold, making him a naval aviator.

Lieutenant Commander Taylor epitomized what it meant to serve with honor and distinction. These facts were demonstrated in December of 2003 when Lieutenant Commander Taylor jumped from a Coast Guard helicopter into the Atlantic Ocean during a violent winter storm to save the final person aboard a sinking sailboat. He was awarded the Coast

Guard Medal for these heroic actions, and later earned two Coast Guard Achievement Medals and Five Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbons, along with numerous unit and service awards. In only 36 years, Lieutenant Commander Taylor accomplished more than most people do in a full lifetime.

Lieutenant Commander Taylor is survived by his two sons, Evan D. Taylor and Emmet J. Taylor; his wife, Teresa D. Taylor; and his parents Larry T. Taylor and Judy L. Taylor. I offer my sincere appreciation to his loved ones for his service in the United States Coast Guard and his selfless efforts in the defense of our great nation. I ask that my colleagues join me in offering heartfelt condolences to Lieutenant Commander Taylor's family. I pray that his life serves as a guiding force in his sons' lives. Their dad gave them an example that is paralleled by no other.

HONORING THE LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. RAY MAHMOOD ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my distinguished colleagues, Congressman HOWARD BERMAN of California and Congressman JIM MORAN of Virginia, to honor the outstanding life achievements of Mr. Ray Mahmood, as he celebrates his 60th birthday on March 23, 2012.

Ray began his "American Dream" story when he moved from Pakistan to Alexandria, Virginia in the early 1970s, bringing with him a belief that anything is possible in America. Starting out with nothing, Ray saved \$5,000 to invest in a gas station in Alexandria. His hard work turned the business venture into a success, and he seized the opportunity to earn his real estate license and establish Mahmood Investment Corporation. Ray proved to have the genius and creativity to rapidly expand his enterprises into a broad array of developments. His projects have revitalized numerous locations, creating economic activity and employment through his developments in the residential, hotel, and commercial sectors of the real estate industry.

We congratulate Ray on his remarkable success in business, but we believe his greatest achievements are found in his tireless dedication to civic, political, and diplomatic work. Ray and his wife, Shaista, have made it their mission to bring people together to meet the challenges of United States-Pakistan relations. Ray's passion for this important diplomatic work and his ability to unite people of many backgrounds, have made him an indispensable factor in efforts to strengthen ties between America and south Asia. His unique talent to work with community leaders, and with all levels of government make him a legend as a problem-solver and as a citizen-statesman. As Ambassador-at-Large for Pakistan to the United States, Ray is an integral part of crafting effective foreign policy, and building person-to-person relationships between the two countries.

Ray and Shaista have turned their home into a hub of political discussion, hospitality, and a place where countless friendships are

made. We are proud to be among the many, many friends of Ray Mahmood. On the occasion of his birthday celebration, Congressman BERMAN, Congressman MORAN and I honor Ray's innumerable achievements in business and political life, and wish Ray and Shaista all the best in the coming years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW HAMPSHIRE EXECUTIVE COUNCILOR RAYMOND J. WIECZOREK ON 22 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, last month, one of New Hampshire's greatest citizens and political figures announced his retirement after nearly twenty-two years of continuous public service to the State of New Hampshire and his home city of Manchester. It is my honor and privilege to thank and pay tribute to my personal friend and predecessor, former Manchester Mayor and current New Hampshire Executive Councilor Raymond J. Wieczorek.

Councilor Wieczorek is among the finest examples of the selfless public servant who has served his country, state, and city in various capacities for many years. Raised in rural Connecticut in a tight knit Polish family, Ray Wieczorek learned from an early age the importance of honesty, generosity and hard work. Ray applied these lessons throughout his life beginning with his service in the U.S. Armed Services during the Korean Conflict and later opening the Wieczorek Insurance Agency in his adopted home of Manchester, New Hampshire. Throughout his professional career, Ray gave back to his community by volunteering for over twenty community clubs and non-profit organizations like the United Way and the Boys and Girls Club of Manchester. However, his professional career is most noted by his leadership and service as Mayor of Manchester for five consecutive terms and six subsequent terms as an elected Member of the New Hampshire Executive Council.

Over the years, Ray has been recognized by numerous groups for his citizenship and leadership by such organizations as the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the Granite State Taxpayers, the United States Small Business Administration and the New Hampshire State Republican Committee, just to name a few. However, far surpassing these recognitions is Ray's great love for both family and friends. He dutifully served as loving husband to his late wife Susan and continues to be a loving father to his children, stepchildren and grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD MILANOVICH

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respect to a dear friend and great