

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

leader who was taken from us far too soon, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Tribal Chairman Richard M. Milanovich.

For those who knew Richard, and for the countless others who did not but were touched by his impact on our community and nation, his passing leaves an enormous void. We shall greatly miss Richard's warmth, humor, humility, compassion and leadership. But most of all, we will miss the man: a beloved and caring leader whose dedication to his people was unmatched and never wavered.

Richard Milanovich's character, and also his vision for a more prosperous future for his people, were shaped by the experiences of his youth and the circumstances confronting the Agua Caliente during an era when the fortunes of the tribe he would come to lead for over a quarter of century were far more challenging and the future far more daunting. In his youth, he was profoundly influenced by the strong leadership of several remarkable women tribal council members, especially Chairman Viola Olinger and Vice Chairman LaVerne Saubel, who helped the Agua Caliente tribe reclaim control of its destiny and establish a model for future tribal land use agreements throughout our nation. Richard always felt a great connection to the Agua Caliente leaders who came before him, and the strength of his will and keen political insight were reflections of their determination and commitment to the tribe.

As tribal chairman, Richard Milanovich, earned the respect of not only his tribe but of all those who witnessed his tireless work ethic, sharp mind and gracious nature. He was revered throughout the nation as a tribal leader who achieved historic accomplishments that directly benefitted his people and numerous other tribes. He rose to become a legendary figure within Indian Country, and yet, he never lost his common touch and remained deeply grounded in the traditions and spiritual connection to the ancestral lands and heritage of his people.

Richard loved life and lived it to the fullest. Even when fighting his last great battle, he deflected concern for his condition and looked first to the welfare of others. I recall his last visit to my office in Washington on behalf of his tribe, only days after he had undergone one of the grueling treatments he endured to keep the cancer at bay, and how the strength of his spirit willed the body to soldier on. I suspect that his comportment during this painful and exhausting time was a reflection of his distinguished service in the U.S. Army; service that provided him with an opportunity to travel the world and experience other cultures and political institutions, and reinforced his fierce love of country.

Of course, one cannot speak of Richard without mentioning his love of family and friends. He was dedicated to his family, his wife Melissa and children Tammy, Travis, Scott, Trista, Sean and Reid, and he made friends wherever he went. Equally comfortable in jeans and boots or black tie, Richard instantly connected with people and was a much in demand guest at any social gathering—not merely due to his stature as a leader in our community but also for the good times that were sure to follow wherever he went. Witty and charming, he could disarm foes and captivate friends with a kind word or clever remark—all delivered with that trademark twinkle in his eye.

The legacy Richard leaves will not be measured simply by the number of hotels and casinos the tribe operates or the political battles he won on behalf of his people. Richard Milanovich's legacy will be measured by the impact his indomitable spirit had on the tribe he led, the community in which he lived, and the country he loved so deeply.

The Agua Caliente believe that the strength of their people is drawn from the sacred origins of the tribe in the mountains, canyons and desert in which they have resided for millennia. Richard Milanovich's spirit has passed from his physical body to reside with the spirits of the great tribal leaders who went before him. When I walk in the Indian Canyons of the Agua Caliente people, I shall feel strongly the spirit of my dear friend in the breeze on my face and the rustle of the wind in the palm fronds.

My deepest condolences go out to Richard's family, the Agua Caliente people and the many others who loved him. Richard will be deeply missed by us all, but he will also remain with us forever in our hearts and memories. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to take a moment and join me in paying tribute to the memory of a truly great American and the late leader of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Chairman Richard Milanovich.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JEFFREY MARXEN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, it's an absolute privilege that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Jeffrey Leonard Marxen, who died at the age of 60 on Thursday, February 23, 2012.

Dr. Marxen was a dedicated, loving father, and renowned orthopedic surgeon. After graduating from college and completing his residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, he moved to San Diego to begin his orthopedic practice. He specialized in replacement and reconstruction of the knee, hip and shoulders.

Anyone who knew Dr. Marxen is aware that he was an extremely respected and accomplished surgeon who took great satisfaction in forming lifelong relationships with his patients over the course of his 32-year practice. He was president of the San Diego chapter of the Western Orthopedic Association and held numerous leadership positions within Sharp Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa, California.

Dr. Marxen was interested in community service, sports and pursuing his passion and love for music. He loved playing in evening sports leagues, including softball and tennis, within the community. In addition he was an avid fan of the Chargers, Padres and Aztec Basketball. Along with sports, he enjoyed playing the coronet and the trumpet with the Acme Rhythm and Blues band, which performed all over venues in the San Diego area.

My condolences go to Dr. Marxen's wife and best friend, Dr. Annette Conway Marxen; his children, Philip, Jeffrey Christopher and Marissa.

Dr. Marxen was truly an inspiration to the San Diego community. I am honored to have

the opportunity to recognize such a great American and I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Dr. Jeffrey Marxen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 111. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 3992.

HONORING ROBERT JAMES ZINK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Robert James Zink. Robert is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 38, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Robert has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Robert has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Robert has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Robert James Zink for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SEAPORTS TO THE ECONOMY AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, even before coming to Congress last July, ports have been a top priority for me. I served on the Los Angeles city council for ten years and represented the Port of Los Angeles—that, with the Port of Long Beach, are America's ports.

When I arrived in Congress, I wanted to raise awareness of ports and their impact on our nation's economy. So, I started the bipartisan PORTS Caucus to work with my colleagues over the past couple months to educate my colleagues and include ports in our national dialogue. This week, I took the next step in that mission by introducing a resolution honoring our ports.

The United States is served by more than 350 commercial sea and river ports that support 3,200 cargo and passenger handling facilities. Each day United States ports move both imports and exports totaling some \$3.8