

his father, Rev. Dr. Willis M. Hickerson and was called to become a preacher at a young age.

Through his ministry, he has many accomplishments. The Reverend helped revitalize the youth ministry of his home church in Pennsylvania, significantly increased church membership wherever he has served, established various mission ministries and invigorated the commitment to God in every community he has served.

Chaplain Hickerson is a proud husband of Mrs. Hickerson, where they live a happy life raising their daughter, Octavia Belle. He has learned, served, preached and taught nationally and internationally and is currently the seventh pastor of the historic Springfield Baptist Church of Washington, DC.

On behalf of Washington's Eighth Congressional District, it is my pleasure to introduce our Guest Chaplain for today, Rev. Dr. Carl Que Hickerson.

RECOGNIZING THE VICTIMS AND TRAGEDY CAUSED BY RECENT STORMS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn recognition of a tragedy that took place in my home State of Illinois and throughout the Midwest last week. On February 29th, storms ravaged homes and businesses leaving 39 people dead due to the severe weather that swept through the middle of the country.

I offer my condolences to the families who have lost loved ones in this tragedy. I know that my words offer little in the way of comfort, but I must offer them, for the families that have been affected are in my thoughts and prayers. The lives taken in these recent events are truly a misfortune to behold. I mourn the lives lost and feel heartfelt sorrow for the families that have been denied future time with their loved ones. I ask my countrymen for their assistance to help alleviate the anguish of the victims of this disaster, either through volunteering or by being there for your neighbor in their time of need.

While it is difficult to find positives amidst such a catastrophe, upon further examination, admiration and honor should be recognized. As we can see across the country, there are stories of courage, generosity, selflessness, and kindness. These acts deserve our praise. At this moment, there are people volunteering to help rebuild communities that have been damaged and destroyed. Such communities are a representation of a cause greater than one's self. By helping to rebuild a neighborhood people are demonstrating their belief in an altruistic form of living. I offer my admiration to the volunteers' courage and sacrifices made in the face of extreme adversity. I thank the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Team Rubicon, and other organizations for their efforts during this crisis. Their support has proven to me that these storms may destroy homes, level businesses, and take valuable lives in the process, but they cannot destroy the human spirit. One person's willpower is stronger than wooden buildings, brick founda-

tions, and steel structures. During times of great hardship, Americans have routinely made a determined effort to move forward. So, to all those that have been affected by this tragedy: victims, rescuers, and volunteers alike, may God bless you all.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF C-SPAN FOUNDER AND CEO BRIAN LAMB

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Brian Lamb, the founder and CEO of C-SPAN, who recently announced his decision to retire.

Mr. Lamb founded the non-profit educational network 34 years ago and since then has worked tirelessly to bring live coverage of government and politics to the American people. Before Mr. Lamb created C-SPAN, most Americans had to rely exclusively on news reports about what their representatives said and did in Washington. Because of his vision, millions of Americans everyday can see and hear government in action for themselves. I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Lamb over the years and I am a proud supporter of his efforts to make government transparent and accessible.

I commend Mr. Lamb for his vision, humility and his commitment to educating Americans about history and the government. I wish him all the best in his future career endeavors. I commend the following article to my colleagues.

C-SPAN FOUNDER LAMB STEPS DOWN AFTER 34 YEARS

(By Paul Farhi)

Want to know just how purposefully unglamorous and resolutely non-partisan is C-SPAN, the pioneering public-affairs TV network founded by Brian Lamb in 1978?

Consider this: In countless appearances spanning thousands of hours of interviews and call-in programs, Lamb has never once uttered his own name on the air. Too showy. Too much like regular TV, which is what Lamb, a stolid Hoosier, has always sought to avoid.

"No one does that here," he protested on Monday. "We just don't do it. It's always been part of our mission not to make us the center of attention . . . We're the antithesis of everything you see on commercial television."

So Lamb, typically, also wasn't making a big deal about the news C-SPAN buried in the second paragraph of a news announcement it issued in the dead of Sunday evening: that after 34 years as C-SPAN chief executive, he's stepping down from running the Washington-based operation he conceived and built.

Lamb, 70, isn't fading away entirely. He'll continue as executive chairman of the non-profit organization and as host of "Q & A," his Sunday interview program. He also plans to continue teaching, primarily at Purdue University, his alma mater.

But he's handing over day-to-day operations to two successors-in-waiting: current co-presidents Rob Kennedy, 55, and Susan Swain, 57, both longtime C-SPAN hands.

"This has been something I've wanted to do for a while," Lamb said. "I wanted an orderly transition when everyone was ambulatory and standing up, with some thought behind it."

Lamb was a young naval officer in the 1960s who used to slip over to the Capitol from the Washington Navy Yard to watch floor debates in the House and Senate. He later served as a telecommunications staffer in the Johnson and Nixon administrations and as a press secretary for Colorado Sen. Peter Dominick (R).

As the Washington bureau chief of the cable TV trade magazine Cablevision in the 1970s, Lamb cooked up the idea for a network that would cover, with utter dispassion, the congressional debates that he'd witnessed during his Navy days. Lamb rustled up the money from some public relations-conscious cable barons and set about convincing the House to let TV cameras onto the floor.

C-SPAN, which stands for Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network, was among the first nationally distributed cable channels, following after the debut of HBO, Showtime, Pat Robertson's CBN Network, and WTBS, Ted Turner's "super station." It is now composed of three networks, plus a Washington radio station (WCSP, 90.1 FM), and a massive and historically rich video archive of congressional sessions, hearings, speeches, campaign rallies, think-tank conferences, author interviews and what-have-yous from C-SPAN over the years.

Lamb holds the distinction of being the only one of those early network founders not to become a billionaire from his creation. On the other hand, he says, "I never wanted to be rich. I wasn't the slightest bit interested in that."

He had to settle instead for helping to revolutionize the political culture of Washington. What MTV did for popular music—that is, helped make it theatrical and visual—C-SPAN did for Congress and the wonks who follow it.

C-SPAN's gavel-to-gavel coverage of the House changed the spontaneous, free-wheeling debates on the floor into more scripted and polished speeches played for the TV cameras, said Charles Johnson, a former House parliamentarian. Members became conscious that their words weren't just going into the Congressional Record; they now had an audience at home, leading to charts and props and camera-friendly displays that hadn't existed before.

It also led to an increase in grandstanding. In 1984, the fiery, after-hours speeches of a young Republican backbencher named Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) so angered House Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.) that he ordered the House cameras (then as now under House control) to pan the empty chamber in an effort to embarrass Gingrich.

Nevertheless, after disdaining to follow the House for more than six years, the Senate finally relented and let C-SPAN carry its proceedings live in 1986.

Having the cameras on hand "changed the quality of the oratory," said Johnson, avoiding direct judgment on whether it did so in a good or bad way.

Lamb says he doesn't care either way: "If there's a public meeting, there ought to be cameras there," he says. "Those meetings are paid for by we, the taxpayers. People should be able to see what [the elected officials] look like, what the buildings look like, what language they're using."

Through all those decades, Lamb has been the continuous thread: unflashy, unemotional, "a video Buddha, television's most stationary being," in the words of one magazine writer. In 23 years of hosting "Booknotes," his author-interview show, for example, he notes that he never missed a single Sunday night, for 52 weeks every year. In total, he's logged more hours on national TV than perhaps any person in America.

He's not bragging about that, of course. Or much else.

"I never thought the person on top here mattered all that much, except to keep the rhythm of the place going," he said. "We've established a good transition. I don't think my departure will be more than a blip on the radar screen."

HONORING ROHAIL DADWANI

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 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.

Rohail Dadwani is a senior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Government is crucial in our lives. Without government, we would all be barbarically fighting for the limited amount of resources we have available. Government helps our society function the way it is, but just like anything else, too much of a good thing can be bad. Therefore, government intervention should be limited on our lives. Too much government control can lead to dictatorships or the government playing a "Big Brother" kind of role. This "Big Brother" type of rule would be bad in the long run because the people would lose faith in the government, so the citizens would try to find any way they can to overthrow the government. Government's role should be to help society but within its boundaries set by society. Crossing these boundaries can lead to too much government intervention in our society. I think the boundary that the government should never cross would be the boundary of the government tracking your every move and everything you do. The government's main role should be to lay down the expectations, make laws that people should follow, help society when needed, but don't interfere in society so much that it makes the people dependent on the government to run effectively. The government's role is important to how this society functions. Therefore, the government needs to let society work in a way so that it isn't making the society completely dependent on them. Every individual should be able to speak their mind, without control, to promote new ideas that better society. That can only happen with a limited government role, to make society work on its own. The government should do nothing except give a little push to society every now and then to keep it running. With this, the government isn't running our everyday lives but just helping us to be able to run it ourselves. We should all follow the government's laws but, at the same time, be able to have a mind of our own. To conclude, the government shouldn't play a huge role in our every day lives, rather a limited one, so we can be more effective on our own and be able to think for ourselves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 115, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, when 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. Today, the debt is \$15,583,383,846,149.34, 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.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAN HOLDINGS CORPORATION

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, forty years ago—on July 24, 1972—Tan Siu Lin, arrived in Guam from Hong Kong with a young family, one cargo ship, and plenty of ambition. He began buying surplus materials from the military in Guam and shipping those goods around the Western Pacific while distributing American movies, an especially prized commodity, to the islands.

Over the years, Doctor Tan, along with his wife Lam Pek Kim, and their children, Henry, Willie, Lilly, Raymond, Jerry, and Sunny, nurtured their small, homegrown enterprise into the 40,000-employee, international powerhouse of affiliated companies that it is today. From tourism, to insurance, logistics, information, and entertainment, Tan Holdings is vital to the economies and communities of the island Pacific.

The Tan family has not only brought employment and economic opportunity to our islands, they have brought our islands to the world. Tan Holdings is our region's premier exporter of tourism and importer of tourists. Starting with Century Travel Agency in 1992, then with the addition of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, the Fiesta Resort and Spa Guam, and the Saipan Grand Hotel, the Tans have contributed significantly to the islands' economic mainstay of tourism. Even when times have been difficult, Tan Holdings President

Jerry Tan has declared, as he did this past January keynoting the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's annual gala, his company's campaign to "Believe in CNMI," and backed up that declaration by confirming that Tan Holdings would soon be launching a new airline. Saipan Air will initially bring tourists from Japan and China to the Mariana Islands, but no doubt with Tan Holding's business acumen, the airline will soon be a force throughout the Asia-Pacific Region. Tan Holdings is no stranger to the airline industry. In 1991, the company established POI Aviation to provide ground-handling services for Northwest Airlines, Asiana Airlines, United Airlines, Korean Air, and other private airlines. And in 1999, the company began operating Asia Pacific Airlines, which provides air cargo services to the region's tuna fishing industry.

Nor is Tan Holdings limited to tourists and airplanes. Through its subsidiary Century Insurance Groups the company is the number one property and casualty underwriter in the Marianas. Tan Holding's Realty Management Services owns and operates approximately 150 residential apartment units on the island of Saipan. And Tan Holdings developed one of the preeminent buildings in our islands: TSL Plaza, which is a flagship for their commercial real estate holdings in Micronesia.

The Tan portfolio includes Cosmos Distributing and Dickerson & Quinn International Distributors, bringing some of the world's best-known consumer brands to island businesses and residents, names such as Procter & Gamble, Campbell's, Gillette, Nabisco, Cadbury, and General Mills. In Guam the public benefits from the company's investment in Tango Theaters, which provide world-class movie viewing at seventeen screens in the Micronesia Mall and Agana Shopping Center. And in Saipan the community gets its daily news from the Saipan Tribune, which has been a trusted outlet of information since 1993.

One of the greatest contributions of the Tan family and Tan Holdings to our community, however, has been the establishment of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. Although the Tan family has been generous to the island community throughout all of Tan Holdings' 40 years, the formal establishment of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation in 2009, heralded a new beginning in regional philanthropy. The TSL Foundation has donated millions of dollars to deserving, nonprofit, educational, athletic, and community ventures in our islands. Guided by its motto of "iServe. iGive back." the Foundation has not only donated from its corporate proceeds, but has also encouraged philanthropy at the grass-roots level—through its employees. The social responsibility practiced and taught by the TSL Foundation will be as enduring in our islands as any of the Tan Holdings businesses.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Tan Siu Lin, and his family, for their 40 years of contribution to the commerce, economy, and livability of the Northern Mariana Islands and all of Micronesia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 112–117. Had I