

"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 SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. SABLAN. 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

been present, I would have voted “no” on #112, “no” on #113, “yes” on #114, “yes” on #115, “yes” on #116 and “no” on #117.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VIRGIL WIKOFF

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Virgil Wikoff.

The Champaign-Urbana community grieves at the loss of Virgil Wikoff. This former Champaign mayor and State Representative was a rock of strength and stability through some of the most tumultuous times in local history. Virgil Wikoff saw us through those times with courage and a steadfast temperament.

His passing follows in far too short an order the passing of former Champaign Mayor Bill Bland, and former Urbana Mayors Jeff Markland and Hiram Paley. I served with Mayors Markland and Paley on the Urbana City Council, and with Mayor Wikoff in the General Assembly. The loss of these men hits close to home. One is always reminded of one's own mortality with the loss of friends and colleagues.

But the losses of these individuals, each of them exceptional, is even more profound. They represented the best of our two cities, selfless in their public service and passionate in executing the duties of their offices.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE ISIAH COURTNEY SMITH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an outstanding human being. Isiah Courtney Smith, a former judge, pioneer and, personal friend of mine, passed away on February 29, 2012 at the age of 89.

Judge Smith, also known to many as “I.C.” was born on September 15, 1922 in Lake Helen, Florida. In 1940, after graduating from Euclid High School in Deland, he went on to enroll at Florida A&M College, where I also attended law school. Judge Smith's education at Florida A&M was interrupted by World War II, when he volunteered and was assigned to an intake facility near Raiford. It was at this facility where Judge Smith demonstrated his first acts of courage by marching through a segregated camp to inform the white officers of his resignation. A year later, Judge Smith was officially drafted. After his service, Judge Smith returned to his studies and graduated with a degree in history. At this point, he had also met and fallen in love with Henrietta Mays and together they moved to New York while Judge Smith attended Brooklyn Law School. They were married on January 1, 1949.

In 1954, Judge Smith received his law degree and started a practice with his college friend William Holland. This partnership would be the catalyst for the civil rights movement in

Palm Beach County. Judge Smith lived in a time where there were many barriers to social mobility for those of color. Institutionalized discrimination prevented many African Americans in this country from reaching their potential, but my dear friend Judge Smith possessed skills and abilities that could not be suppressed and that he used to fight for the civil rights of others.

As the third African American lawyer in Palm Beach County, Judge Smith was well aware of the injustices occurring in his community. He became a champion of civil rights and was a voice for those who were treated as second class citizens based on the color of their skin. Judge Smith and his partner William Holland orchestrated the movement to desegregate Palm Beach County's public schools after the Supreme Court's ruling of “separate but equal” being unconstitutional was largely ignored throughout the county. In his own words, Judge Smith wisely stated that: “Nothing separate can ever be equal”—a sentiment that I strongly agree with. In addition to his quest for equal access to public education, Judge Smith and Mr. Holland fought together to integrate the West Palm Beach municipal golf course and to eliminate separate eating and bathroom facilities on Florida's turnpike. It is hard to fathom the amount of courage required to combat bigotry and hatred, but Judge Smith faced these challenges head-on and spent his life taking a stand against those who sought to keep the status quo.

After spending many years in a successful private practice with Mr. Holland, he was appointed as a Palm Beach County Court judge in 1986 by Governor Bob Graham. During his time on the bench, Judge Smith was known for his professionalism. After serving in this capacity for six years, he retired at the age of 70.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere condolences to all those who have been impacted by the loss of such a great man. My thoughts are with Judge Smith's wife Dr. Henrietta Smith, their two children Robin Smith and Reverend Cynthia Smith Jackson, and all of their family and friends during this most difficult time. I was truly honored to have known Judge Smith. He was a tremendous individual whose commitment to bettering South Florida, and working selflessly to ensure equal rights for all Americans will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY D. CLYBURN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous public servant, a passionate educator, and a dear friend and relative. Beverly Clyburn is being honored on March 23, 2012 for her service on Aiken City Council. She retired in November 2011 after 22 years of dedicated service to the City of Aiken.

Beverly LaVerne Dozier was born in Georgetown, South Carolina to Maggie and William Dozier. She was the fifth of eight children and one of seven girls. From an early age, Beverly loved to learn and she graduated

in 1961 as Salutatorian of Howard High School.

She went on to attend Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina, and graduated with honors in 1965, with a degree in Chemistry and Mathematics. It was there that she met her husband, and my cousin, William “Bill” Clyburn. In 1978, Beverly earned a Masters Degree in Secondary Guidance from the University of South Carolina.

Beverly's first love is education, and she spent 42 years as an educator in both Aiken and Allendale counties. She served as a guidance counselor at Midland Valley High School and guidance director at South Aiken High School, a position she retired from in 1999. Following retirement she was drawn back into education to help improve the Allendale County schools after a State take-over. Today she continues to work in education at the Aiken Performing Arts Academy as a part-time assistant director and guidance counselor.

In 1988, Beverly was urged by members of the community to run for Aiken City Council. She took on the challenge, and won the District 1 seat. She is known for her thoroughness on council, diligently studying every issue and visiting the sites that would be impacted before she cast her vote.

During her tenure on council, she has participated in numerous development projects including the 10-year renewal plan for Aiken's Northside, the Crosland Park redevelopment project, the Center for African American History, Art and Culture, and the Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum. She served as Mayor Pro Tem from 2002–2004, and has been honored for her work in chairing the first four NLC Diversity Breakfasts. She has also served as the chair of the Aiken County DSS Board.

In 2001, the South Carolina General Assembly honored Beverly for her work in Aiken and Allendale counties and the State of South Carolina. The Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce named her the 2009 Woman of the Year for her commitment to the Aiken area. She has also earned the honor of Woman of Distinction from her church, Cumberland African Methodist Episcopal.

Beverly and Bill have been married for 47 years, and are the parents of three adult children—William, Jr., Wilson, and Courtney. They also served as foster parents to daughter, Carmen. Today they have three grandchildren, and spending more time with her beloved family was the impetus for her retirement from Aiken City Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in congratulating Beverly Dozier Clyburn on a job well done. She has spent her entire career in public service whether as an educator or an elected official. Her efforts have made Aiken County a better place, and she has been a positive influence on countless lives along the way. I wish her all the best in this new chapter in her life, and knowing Beverly as I do, look forward to her continued work on behalf of others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 19, 2012, due to an unexpected flight