

and Brenda; his wife, Gina; their two daughters, Ashton and Brandie; sister, Julie; Julie's children, Tisa, Rachelle, and Ryan; and hundreds of friends.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in remembering Randy Rhoads, in thanking him for his many gifts to others, and in sending our condolences to his family and friends. Godspeed, Randy.

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RECOGNIZING CSM STEPHEN  
BLAKE

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Stephen Blake, Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command. Today CSM Blake is retiring after 30 years of service to the U.S. Army and our country.

CSM Blake has served with distinction throughout his career. He has completed multiple overseas tours including combat tours in Southwest Asia during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and a tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He has earned numerous awards and decorations.

During his time at ASC Headquarters at Rock Island Arsenal, CSM Blake and his wife Karen have been tremendous ambassadors for the Army to communities throughout Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. They have opened their home and generously shared their time. The Quad City region is a better place because they are in it.

Since CSM Blake arrived at Rock Island Arsenal in 2008 I have observed and admired his service to soldiers, military families, and our community. I've seen him embrace and support Gold Star Families. He has mentored community leaders including my own staff. Through his words and actions he consistently demonstrates compassion for others. He does what all of us are called to do: help each other.

Congratulations to CSM Blake and the entire Blake family. We are grateful for your service.

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OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,236,288,061,558.65. We've added \$10,434,882,886,264.37 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

GOVERNOR BILL JANKLOW

**HON. KRISTI L. NOEM**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the passing of Governor Bill Janklow, who served the state of South Dakota with great dedication and resolve. His persistence and ambition to achieve great things for South Dakota were truly one of a kind. My family's thoughts and prayers go out to Mary Dean and the rest of Governor Janklow's family during this difficult time. He was a passionate advocate for our State and will be missed.

Because I will be attending his funeral service today, I will not be present for the vote on H.J. Res. 98, which states the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit. If present, I would have voted "yes" in favor of the resolution.

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR.  
DONALD L. FERFOLIA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor of the memory of Mr. Donald Louis Ferfolia, a man who was dedicated to his family and the Catholic Church.

Mr. Ferfolia was born on February 11, 1929 to his parents, Louis and Theresa Ferfolia. He was a licensed embalmer for 61 years and eventually became the president and chief executive officer of Ferfolia Funeral Homes.

Mr. Ferfolia was a dedicated member of the Catholic Church. He was a member of St. Wenceslas Church until its closing when he became a parishioner at St. Basil the Great Catholic Church in Brecksville. He was a member, and at one time the president, of the Maple Heights Catholic Club. Donald was also a founding member of the Callistian Guild, "an organization dedicated to the fundamental principle that the poorest of God's children are entitled to be buried with dignity."

I offer my condolences to his wife of 61 years, Alice; children, Donald B. Sr. (Margaret), Donna (the late C. Richard III) Mark L. Sr. (Christine) and Mary (Jeffrey A. Sr.); grandchildren, Donald B. Jr. (Dawn), Maureen, Joseph (Leanne), Allyson, Michelle (Michael), Megan, Colleen, Jeffrey (Erin), Kristin, Brian (fiancee, Anne), Meredith, Mark Jr., Rachael, Alex, Amy, Jeffrey Jr., Christina, Susan, Richard and Paige; great-grandchildren Ryan, Lauren, Donna, Caroline, Isadora and Julia; brother-in-law of Robert (Donna), Elaine and the late Carol Bandsuh (the late Richard).

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Donald L. Ferfolia. His contributions to Northeast Ohio and the Catholic community will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE E.  
McCARRON

**HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Mr. BRADY, our Ranking Member, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Katherine E. McCarron who is leaving the House to take a position with the Federal Trade Commission. Ms. McCarron served in the Office of the General Counsel for nearly 4 years as an Assistant Counsel. We will miss her.

Ms. McCarron provided frequent and invaluable legal advice and representation to the Committee on House Administration, as well as to Members, officers and other committees of the House more generally. Our staff came to rely on her expertise and guidance, particularly in connection with their internal oversight activities. Over the years, Ms. McCarron played a significant role in safeguarding the legal and institutional interests of the House of Representatives.

Ms. McCarron served the House with great distinction, and we know she will serve the Federal Trade Commission with that same level of distinction. On behalf of the Committee on House Administration, we thank Ms. McCarron for her devoted service, and extend to her our very best wishes for her continued success.

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REMEMBERING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF THE TUSKEGEE AIR-  
MEN

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is important that we remember the contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen in protecting our freedom and way of life during World War II. These heroic World War II veterans just recently celebrated the 70th anniversary of their first training session on July 19, 1941. It is important that we constantly remind ourselves of the sacrifices of veterans in pursuit of our liberty.

The Tuskegee Airmen were not only heroes but pioneers, becoming the first African Americans to pilot and instruct others on how to fly combat aircraft. Though only approximately 140 Tuskegee pilots remain, it is essential we celebrate their accomplishments as a realization of the American Dream that inspired millions of African Americans, as Congress did in 1998 by establishing Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in Tuskegee, Alabama.

The Tuskegee Airmen fought courageously for their country at a time when they were denied vital freedoms and liberties at home. They endured segregation and hostility from the local community, and especially stringent standards meant to exclude as many of them as possible from the piloting program. When they finally reached combat, they fought in segregated units, but still managed to distinguish themselves—engaging in over 200 bomber escort missions, damaging or destroying 409 German aircraft, and sunk a battleship

destroyer. Their prowess became so legendary they were nicknamed the "Red Tails Angels," by the pilots they protected, as only the red back end of the aircrafts were visible while they flew in front of U.S. air bombers on their vital missions. After the desegregation of the military in 1948, the Tuskegee Airmen went on to make exceptional individual contributions in the integrated U.S. Air Force.

I had the pleasure of attending the Tuskegee Institute of Technology, now Tuskegee University, the site of the training program for these brave young men, as an undergraduate. Tuskegee University has provided me and a multitude of African American youth with the most precious commodities in life, education and self-esteem.

#### HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE OXFORD HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

##### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2012 Annual Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce Awards. Representing over 400 area businesses and organizations, the Oxford Hills Chamber has been instrumental in advocating for economic growth throughout the region.

Each year, the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce honors local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy economic environment. These honorees embody the kind of entrepreneurship and resourcefulness which has helped the state to weather one of the harshest economic climates in American history.

This year's award recipients include Business of the Year, New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc.; Employee of the Year, Ted Moccia, Principal of Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School; Rising Star of the Year, Mitch and Judy Green of Crazy Horse Racing Parts and Engines. Additionally, Connie Allen, Jean Delmater, Karen Ellis, Doreen Tibbetts, Carlene Treadwell, Wendy Williams, and John Williams of Right Start will receive the Community Service Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and to the region, Maine is a better place to live and to do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Oxford Hills Region Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS

##### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Mill Springs and to honor

the soldiers who fought and died in this significant battle during the Civil War 150 years ago today.

The Battle of Mill Springs took place on January 19, 1862, in Pulaski and Wayne Counties in Kentucky and was the first significant victory for the Union Army in the west during the Civil War. The battle marks the death of Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer, who was the first general to die in the Civil War.

The Battle of Mill Springs was the second largest battle to take place in Kentucky and engaged over 10,000 soldiers. The outcome of this battle broke the main Confederate defensive line that was anchored in eastern Kentucky and opened the path for the Union Army to move through Kentucky and into Tennessee, affecting the outcome of the war.

The Mill Springs Battlefield is considered a National Historic Landmark, as the Mill Springs Battlefield Association along with countless volunteers have made significant strides in preserving the site and educating the public about this historic event.

With the Mill Springs Battlefield Association Visitor Center providing visitors with battlefield tours, access to Civil War artifacts, and a Civil War library, there have been 50,000 Civil War enthusiasts who have traveled to this uniquely preserved, nearly 500 acre historic battlefield. On this anniversary, I would like to honor and thank the Mill Springs Battlefield Association for preserving this important site, particularly Chairman Bill Neikirk, who has dedicated significant time and energy to the museum and battlefield acquisition. In honor of those who fought valiantly during the battle 150 years ago and in appreciation for all that Chairman Neikirk has done in preserving this historic site, an American flag will be flown over the Capitol Building on the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Mill Springs.

Today I am also introducing non-binding legislation which commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Mill Springs and its significance during the Civil War, as well as binding legislation that directs the Department of the Interior to conduct a study which evaluates the feasibility of incorporating the battlefield into the national park system. Such an addition will ensure its preservation for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with the Mill Springs Battlefield Association and Civil War enthusiasts in commemorating this anniversary today and in seeking to preserve these hallowed grounds for tomorrow's visitors. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Mill Springs and to recognize those who bravely fought to help preserve the union of the United States.

#### TRIBUTE TO GREATER CORONA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COM- MERCE CHAIRMAN AWARD RE- CIPIENT DEAN SEIF

##### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California, are exceptional. Corona

has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Dean Seif, a board member of the Greater Corona Valley Chamber of Commerce, is one of these individuals. On January 21, 2012, Dean will receive a prestigious honor when the Greater Corona Valley Chamber of Commerce gives him the Chairman's Award at the organization's annual awards and installation gala at the Eagle Glen Golf Club.

Dean was voted onto the Board to serve in 2011 and as a new board member took on the responsibility of chairing the weekly networking group, "Chamber Networking Solutions." Taking his board responsibility seriously, Dean attended a special Southern California Training for Chamber Volunteers, bringing his wife, Shannon, who also is a member of the Chamber. They enthusiastically participated, taking notes and bringing back to the Board a full report which engaged and motivated other board members to consider future training. This past September a similar training session was held and Dean and ten other board members attended this time, bringing value back to the Chamber and its members.

Annually, the Chamber travels to Sacramento for Legislative Days and the Chamber excels in bringing a contingent of volunteers to the trip each year. In 2011, both Shannon and Dean were part of the 18-person group from the Greater Corona Valley Chamber.

Dean's passion and leadership is contagious and when it comes to commitment, Dean matches his words with his actions. He was the top ticket seller for the Super Bowl Ticket drawing contest. Dean has attended countless meetings for creating and revising the 2012 budget. This next year, Dean will serve as an officer, becoming the Treasurer and overseeing the Finance Committee. Additionally, Dean will move to the chair position for the Ambassador's committee and is planning on having the Chamber host the Ambassador Rally in 2012.

In light of all Dean has done for the community of Corona, the Greater Corona Valley Chamber of Commerce has given Dean their Chairman's Award. Dean's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. He has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF KATHLEEN "KATIE" DEVRING

##### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Kathleen "Katie" Devring who dedicated her life to those in need.

Katie was the second child of John and Margaret Devring and grew up on Cleveland's West side. She attended St. Rose Elementary School and began high school at St. Peter's.