

I thank Chief Svetanics for his service to his family, community, nation, and to his beloved firefighters all over the St. Louis Metropolitan Area.

COMMISSIONERS COURT OF EL
PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the El Paso County's Commissioners Court who signed the following resolution.

Whereas, a "Super-Committee" was formed and tasked to reduce \$1.2 Trillion from our Nation's budget over the next 10 years, but failed at their mission; and,

Whereas, the Department of Defense could endure budget cuts of \$487 Billion throughout the next 10 years; and,

Whereas, due to the failure of the "Super-Committee" there is an additional \$600 Billion in potential budget cuts for deficit-reduction measures targeted towards the Department of Defense; and,

Whereas, future budget reductions of this nature can potentially affect all branches of Defense with reduction of employment and could decrease the benefits that our troops and past veterans receive; and,

Whereas, future reductions should raise concerns of National Security and the ability to defend our Country from future extremities; and,

Whereas, the United States of America has fought for freedom since its creation and knows that freedom does not come easy and it definitely does not come without a price tag; and,

Whereas, our Military's men and women are to be held at the upmost respect and honor for the service they provide to our Country and they should feel assured that they are a priority and the American people are behind them; and,

Whereas, policies of this type have the ability to create an internal decrease in morale and the capability to deter future enlistments to our volunteer military; and,

Whereas, recent developments of Russia and China vetoing a United Nations resolution aimed at ending Syria's violence should raise concerns that the United States should keep its military in full force and maintain their combat readiness for these potential adversaries and other; and, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court hereby disagree with any future budget cuts that can affect National Security and Benefits provided to our Veterans that have defended our Nation from opposing threats and to all of our soldiers that continue to protect our Country's future and our children's future by placing their own lives in harm's way.

Signed, this 13th day of February 2012.

Commissioner Anna Perez Pct. 1

Commissioner Sergio Lewis Pct. 2

Commissioner Willie Gandara Pct. 3

Commissioner Daniel R. Haggerty Pct. 4

County Judge Veronica Escobar

HONORING CHAIRMAN RICHARD M. MILANOVICH OF THE AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart after the passing of Chairman Richard M. Milanovich of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

Chairman Milanovich grew up on the reservation in Section 14 in Southern California, where poverty was rampant. Currently, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe located in Palm Springs, California with 32,000 acres of reservation lands that spread across Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, and into the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains.

Mr. Milanovich has always been dedicated to serving his tribal nation and his country, where he served in the United States Army from 1960 to 1963 and was stationed in Munich, Germany, during the Cold War. He later returned to school to fulfill a lifelong ambition to secure his college degree and received a Bachelor of Science in Business and Management from the University of Redlands in 1996.

Mr. Milanovich returned to the Agua Caliente reservation and started as a member of the tribal council in 1978. He then quickly ascended through the ranks to serve as secretary from 1982 to 1984, before he was elected chairman.

The Chairman's connection to his tribe's history was never lost in his efforts to reinforce tribal sovereignty for Indians across the country. He was a strong practitioner and supporter of the ancient traditions, ceremonies and practices that are important to Indian people. But he was also a very strong leader in 21st-century Indian America.

Through Chairman Milanovich's leadership, he helped craft mutual land-use agreements with Cathedral City in 1984 and with Rancho Mirage and Riverside County about five years later, modeled on an agreement struck with Palm Springs in the late 1970s. The intergovernmental agreements were among the first of their kind and served as a model for tribes throughout the rest of the country.

His first major undertaking was the purchase of the Spa Hotel in Palm Springs in 1992. Since then, his 28-year role as a leader of Agua Caliente has allowed the tribe to develop self-sufficiency through education, cultural preservation, housing, and health care programs.

Aside from raising his own tribal membership out of poverty and into self-sufficiency, Chairman Milanovich has contributed his time and wisdom to many advisory committees, charities, and other efforts to better Indian Country and the lives of people across the country. He served as the chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Office of Special Trustee for the U.S. Department of the Interior, which oversees the federal government's fiduciary responsibilities to manage tribal trust funds. In 2004, he was appointed to the Na-

tive American Stewardship Committee for the prestigious Autry National Center. Chairman Milanovich also served as a member of the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert Advisory Council, and the Native American Heritage Commission. The tribal leader served as an advocate for HIV prevention with the Desert AIDS Project for more than 10 years. As well as having the Agua Caliente tribe partner with the City of Hope's "Hike 4 Hope" each year at the Indian Canyons trail. The hiking event supports women's cancer programs at the foundation.

Indian Country has lost a true leader and staple of the ideals of sovereignty and self-sufficiency. His leadership will not be forgotten and his efforts will be the foundation of the future for Indian tribes throughout the United States.

BREESE CENTRAL CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Breese Central High School Cougars upon winning the 2012 IHSA Class 2A Boys' State Basketball Championship.

This victory is the perfect end to a remarkable season, in which the Cougars recorded 32 wins and only one loss. The Cougars beat the South Holland Sting to advance to the championship game, where they defeated the Normal Pioneers 53-47 and earned their first state championship.

I would like to recognize Head Coach Stan Eagleson, Assistant Coaches David Thomas, Kurt Peters, Jeremy Shubert, Donny Petterson, and Ryan Meyer, Trainer Marty Stewart, and the players themselves: Justin Becker, Brandon Book, Nick Grapperhaus, Tanner Imming, Luke Jackson, Greg Meyer, Luis Perez, Austin Rickhoff, Kyler Scheer, Andrew Schulte, Noah Stockmann, Gavin Thomas, and Jacob Timmermann.

Congratulations to the Breese Central Cougars for their championship and their incredible season. I look forward to next season, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes.

Following are the votes I missed and how I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 112, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 113, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 114, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY ON MARCH 25

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 191st anniversary of the independence of Greece. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, it gives me great pride to draw attention to our nation's strong Hellenic heritage and celebrate Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Following 400 years of Ottoman rule, in March 1821 Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the traditional Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavras, inciting his countrymen to rise against the Ottoman army. Against overwhelmingly difficult odds, the Greeks arose victoriously. The following year, the Treaty of Constantinople established full independence for Greece.

The United States and Greece have enjoyed a long history of friendship since the early days of Greek independence. Today, we are close partners and allies. We share democratic ideals and common values, many of which were inspired by ancient Greek civilization. In fact, our republic is based on ideas about self-government set forth and practiced in Athens over 2,500 years ago.

Over time, many Greek citizens chose to bring their families to the United States, often to New York and surrounding areas, including Connecticut. They became proud American citizens, but preserved their history and culture to pass on to future generations.

I am proud to represent the thousands of Greek-Americans who live in northwest Connecticut. Their vibrant culture and important contributions have enriched our towns and cities throughout the state. I count many Greek-Americans as friends, and am pleased to join them in celebrating this important day. Zeto E Eleftheria!

HONORING MAJOR NENG LO

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life and service of the late Major Neng Lo. Major Lo's life was dedicated to his service in the United States Secret Army during the Vietnam War.

Neng Lo was born April 1, 1946, in Ban Houi Kinning, located in the Houi Kinning District of Muang Khoun in the Xieng Khouang Province of the Kingdom of Laos. He attended Muang Khoun Elementary School. While in the fifth grade, he was recruited to train and serve in the United States Secret Army. After completion of training, Neng Lo was incorporated into the Auto Defense Community stationed at Lima Site 15.

In 1964, at the age of 18, he was selected to transfer to the 2nd Company Infantry, 203rd Battalion, Special Guerrilla Units. This unit was a mobile unit that moved around the Plains of Jars to ambush and counter attack North Vietnamese Army, NVA, troops that oc-

cupied the areas. In 1966, he was promoted to Second Lieutenant and became the Commander of the 3rd Company, 203rd Battalion. In January 1967, Neng Lo's unit was sent to Na Khang at Lima Site 36 in the Sam Neua Province. His assignment on this mission was to capture Muang Heim, which had been invaded by the North Vietnamese.

In late March of 1968, Neng Lo was promoted to Lieutenant and joined Group Mobiles 21 counter attack on Phou Pha Thi, the mountain where United States radar systems were installed to guide U.S. airstrikes over North Vietnam. Phou Pha Thi had been captured by the NVA. During several unsuccessful attempts to recapture the site, Neng Lo's unit lost most of its members.

In December 1969, Neng Lo was promoted to Captain and was appointed Commander of the 203rd Battalion, Special Guerilla Units of the 21st Mobile Group of the United States Secret Army. During this assignment, La's Unit was ordered to control the Long Matt Ridge located south of the Plains of Jars. This was a springboard mission to capture the Plains of Jars from the NVA. His mission was to attack the North Vietnamese front line directly so other units could penetrate the NVA line to attack its reinforcement units and supplies.

In November 1970, Captain Lo heliported to Khang Kai Lima Site 4 to capture a strategic position. In December 1970, the NVA attacked Khang Kai with Russian armored tanks and 130 mm mortars, capturing the site. Lo was killed in action. In February 1971, the 201st Battalion recaptured Khan Kai Lima Site 4, but Captain Lo's body was never found.

After his death, Neng Lo was promoted to the rank of Major. Major Lo was married to Mrs. Pang Thao. The couple has two daughters: Mee Lo and Mao Lo. Neng Lo's family resides in Fresno, California.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in posthumously honoring Major Neng Lo for his heroic service to the United States of America, and extending deepest condolences to his family. His legacy serves as an example of excellence, and his contributions to our country will not be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
RODNEY A. ANDERSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Dr. Rodney A. Anderson, a noted professor at California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) who passed away on March 7, 2012. Dr. Anderson served as a political science professor and mentor for hundreds of students. He characterized the best of what our nation's education system has to offer—he was wise, kind, and worked tirelessly to ensure that his students were successful.

Dr. Anderson grew up on his family's farm where he learned the value of hard work. Dr. Anderson attended Geneva High School, where he was an active member of the Future Farmers of America and excelled in extemporaneous speaking competitions. Upon graduating from high school in 1984, Dr. Anderson pursued a bachelor's degree at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. After graduating with

high honors, he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in political science at the Ohio State University.

In 1996, Dr. Anderson joined the Fresno State Political Science Department and worked there until his passing. Throughout his career, he taught 200 students in five classes every semester. American politics, statistics, political behavior, and comparative politics were among the subjects Dr. Anderson taught.

Many of Dr. Anderson's students have gone on to graduate school or rewarding careers as attorneys, teachers, staff members for the California State Legislature and the United States Congress, or consultants. Henry Adams famously said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." As an alumnus of the Political Science Department at Fresno State, I know firsthand the importance of a dedicated teacher who serves as an academic guide, moral paradigm, and mentor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Dr. Rodney A. Anderson, a principled man and treasured member of the Fresno State community. Dr. Anderson's life was not only filled with personal milestones, but his dedication to his work and students was admirable.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,585,576,040,333.70. We've added \$4,958,698,991,420.62 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

INTRODUCING THE REPUBLIC OF
GEORGIA DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2012

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Republic of Georgia Democracy Act of 2012. This bill sheds light into the deteriorating political situation in the Republic of Georgia and makes clear to the Georgian Government that maintaining democratic institutions and regular free, fair and competitive elections are key priorities for a strong relationship between our two countries.

This bill will help to reverse the suppression that has been intensifying by showing the Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili the cost of these anti-democratic actions. I know Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle share my growing concern over the violent suppression of parties, nongovernmental organizations and workers in Georgia. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and stand up for democracy in Georgia.