

Trumbull, Monroe, Bethel, Fairfield, and Danbury have joined Newtown in this program. There has been a great deal of national interest in the program this year as well. There are clubs, groups, churches, senior centers, professional offices, and schools from such diverse locations as Colorado, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Texas, and New York City lending their support to the program.

I conducted a similar program called Holiday Cards for Heroes this holiday season. School children in northwestern Connecticut made hundreds of cards for veterans staying in the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the State of Connecticut Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill. So I know what these small tokens of appreciation can do to lift the spirits of a veteran.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can all agree that the Valentines for Troops program deserves recognition for their efforts to show the admiration that this nation has for its troops. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Valentines for Troops program for the service it provides to the men and women of our Armed Services.

CONGRATULATING LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE FIRST "GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS" IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly to congratulate Longfellow Elementary School located in my hometown of Long Beach, California, and the 37th Congressional District which I am proud to represent, on its designation by the U.S. Department of Education as one of the first-ever Green Ribbon Schools.

According to Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Longfellow Elementary School was recognized for its outstanding achievements in the areas of environmental curriculum, energy reduction, campus recycling and water efficiency.

The Green Ribbon Schools program is a federal recognition program that began in September 2011 under the leadership of President Obama, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson. Honored schools embrace and exercise a comprehensive approach to creating "green" environments, which includes taking remedial action to reducing adverse environmental impacts, promoting health, and providing high-quality environmental instruction that prepares students with the skills and sustainability concepts needed to compete and win in the global economy of the 21st century.

Green Ribbon Schools promote environmental education and learning as well as protect our children's health.

Under the leadership of Principal Laurie Murrin, Longfellow Elementary School has successfully gone "green" by reducing energy use by 17 percent since 2004, has a 34 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

since 2003, and an increased recycling rate of 46 percent. Also, 100 percent of the landscaping at the school is water-efficient, and the District uses Compressed Natural Gas School Buses.

Additionally, Longfellow Elementary School actively promoted environmental learning by implementing environmental programs on campus like Energy Star Recycling program, Water Quality and Efficiency program, Green Cleaning program, Safe Routes to School, School Garden, School Integrated Pest Management Program, Indoor Air Quality Program, as well as Environmental Education.

This is a remarkable record and is all the more impressive given the economic background and demographic diversity of the Longfellow Elementary School student body. The student body is comprised of 1,080 students, 30 percent of whom are Hispanic, 17 percent are African American, 5 percent Asian and Pacific Islander, and 28 percent Caucasian. Four in ten students receive free or reduced lunches.

Despite their challenging backgrounds, the students at Longfellow Elementary School have shown that great things can happen if you are motivated, committed, and have the right leaders like Principal Murrin. As King Henry V exhorted his comrades in arms at the Battle of Agincourt, "all things are ready if our minds be so."

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Lions of Longfellow Elementary School, Principal Laurie Murrin, The Green Team, and the entire Longfellow Elementary community for being at the forefront of improving our environment and helping prepare our students to be competitive and succeed in an emerging green economy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TAMBURITZANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Tamburitians, a group which has been promoting Eastern European arts and culture for 75 years.

Established by Dr. A. Lester Pierce in 1937, the Tamburitians are a multicultural song and dance group. The group consists of students of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Duquesne University Tamburitians are dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the cultural heritage of Eastern Europe and its neighbors through performance, while awarding scholarships to talented and deserving student performers.

The Duquesne University Tamburitians have grown from an original group of 12 men to today's company of more than three dozen performers. Since 1988, the Tamburitians have been under the direction of Mr. Paul Stafura, a former member of the Tamburitians during the late 1960s. Each year, the Tamburitians travel throughout the United States to put on an average of 80 concerts. They have also held concerts in numerous Latin American countries, Canada, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Poland, Romania, the former Czechoslovakia, Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the Duquesne University

Tamburitians, the longest-running live stage show of its kind in the United States.

ANJELICA HARRISON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anjelica Harrison for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Anjelica Harrison is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anjelica Harrison is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anjelica Harrison for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II veterans who traveled to Washington, DC, on April 4, 2012 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II veterans the opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial on The National Mall in Washington, DC. This memorial was built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on April 4 answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Leonard David Adler; David S. Albert; Donald John Anderson; Richard J. Andrew; Theodore Arey; Harold L. Autrey; Asa Melville Bacon; Rudolf Balek; Stanley C. Bartecki, Jr.; Robert L. Barz; Victor J. Biasetti; Otto R. Bobysud; Raymond J. Brejcha; Joseph P. Brooks; Walter H. Burtan; Joseph S. Buttice; Jack R. Cerniglia; Ranson Coleman; John M. Conway; James J. Corolis; James M. Cribbs;

Robert Chapman Dillion; John L. Dykstra; Harry A. Fandre, Jr.; Chester S. Faron; Willie Ferba, Jr.; Joe J. Fleck; George E. Fyock; Edwin D. Geisenheimer; Mark M. Greenburg; Joseph H. Gross; Don R. Gunderson; Maurice G. Guysenir; Hallie J. Hamilton; George J. Hazdra; Floyd J. Hoffman; Emmitt Ingram, Jr.; Edward Jage; Richard H. Johnson; George M. Kaiser; Frank William Karl; Chester J. Kijak; Richard R. Kinneman; Robert F. Kirby; John D. Kiser; Joseph Kujawa; Wallace Bruce Kurtz; Walter E. Lambert.

James T. Langan; LeRoy Larson; Stanley Marvin Levy; Edward V. Lisowski; Robert R. Luke; Charles E. Mahan; Anthony Marino; Wilbur J. Martin; Virgil E. Mathias, Jr.; William J. McCaffrey; James A. Moscato, Jr.; James M. Mulqueeny; Carl A. Nelson; Joseph A. Nemanich; David S. Newquist; Franklyn M. Nipper; Daniel N. Obriot; John Oldenburger; David E. Olson; Joseph V. Pacelli; Robert V. Peck; Betty M. Peterson; Harold Peterson; Richard L. Raddatz; Angelo S. Regopoulos; Robert Joseph Roelle; Marvin Rose; Arnold Marshall Rusten; Robert T. Sasman; Jean A. Scheve; Charles William Schoenherr; Richard S. Schofield; Frank A. Schroeder; M. Eldon Schultz; William Springer; Robert A. Thatcher; James H. Thoma; Preston G. Thorpe; Robert W. Tobiaski; Fred E. Turek, Jr.; Robert G. Wallace; Allan A. Walters; Donald Lutter Wood; Bill Zamzow; George Zervos; Norman H. Zumm.

SMALL BUSINESS TAX CUT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 9, the so-called Small Business Tax Cut Act. This bill is an incredible waste of taxpayer money that will do nothing to grow America's economy or create jobs.

House Republicans admit that H.R. 9 will add \$46 billion to federal deficits and force our country to borrow more money from foreign countries such as China. They argue deficit-spending is worthwhile because their bill will create jobs and stimulate economic growth. Unfortunately, there is absolutely no evidence to support their claim. The nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation determined the economic impact of this Republican bill is "so small as to be incalculable."

The country's wealthiest individuals and corporations are the true beneficiaries of this legislation. H.R. 9 will provide over 125,000 millionaires with an average tax cut of \$58,000. According to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, nearly half of the bill's benefits go to individuals with annual income over \$1 million even though this group comprises just 0.5 percent of all taxpayers and 4 percent of all small-business employers. The largest tax breaks in this bill go to law partners, corporate consultants, lobbyists, hedge fund managers, and other highly profitable, private enterprises that do not need extra support from America's taxpayers.

The tax benefits in H.R. 9 are so poorly targeted that reality-show stars Donald Trump, Paris Hilton and Kim Kardashian qualify as

"small businesses" and will receive taxpayer-financed handouts. In fact, this legislation provides tax breaks to pornography shops and corporations that ship American jobs overseas.

This legislation represents a new low point for the House Republican majority. It is so flawed that even fellow conservatives are mocking the bill. The Wall Street Journal editorial page calls H.R. 9 a "tax gimmick." Former economic advisor to President Reagan Bruce Bartlett said H.R. 9 "will do nothing whatsoever to increase employment. It is nothing more than an election year give-away to a favored Republican constituency and should not be taken seriously."

H.R. 9 is a signal to the American people that House Republicans are officially out of ideas for creating jobs. This bill merely recycles the Bush Administration's failed economic policies that ballooned the national debt and produced the lowest rate of job creation since World War Two. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office analyzed a range of policies that could be enacted to strengthen the economy and promote economic growth: this measure ranked second to last.

I urge my Republican colleagues to abandon this dead-end legislation and instead, join with Democrats to support proven job creation measures, including bonus depreciation for main street businesses.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF WAYNE AND KATHY FOWLER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 50th wedding anniversary of Wayne and Kathy Fowler.

Wayne and Kathy Fowler nee Pierce were married on March 17, 1962, at Kathy's parents' home in Kissee Mills, Missouri, where her father was postmaster and owned a grocery store and gas station.

Kathy graduated from Forsyth High School, where she was salutatorian of her class. She then attended Draughon's Business College and went to work for Charles A. Moon, attorney at law. She left the law office to work for Frisco Railroad, later Burlington Northern and then Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, where she retired after 32½ years. She then worked for Burrell Behavioral Health for over 6 years before retiring and starting a home transcription business. She always had a huge love for horses, with her dad buying her first Fox Trotting mare for her 12th birthday. The horses have always remained her passion.

Wayne was originally from Waterloo, Iowa, and had moved to Kissee Mills with his family in 1961. Wayne was a car enthusiast and drove stock cars for several years at the Fairgrounds Speedway, Bolivar Speedway, Odesa Speedway, and Fort Smith Arkansas. When he got out of racing, he took up bass fishing. Wayne is a welder and retired from the Paul Mueller Company several years ago. He now has a portable aluminum/stainless welding business and specializes in marine repairs. They have one son, Ken Fowler, and three grandchildren, Chase, Katie and Nick, who reside in Camdenton, Missouri.

Kathy and Wayne have resided in Springfield for the past 28 years, operating horse boarding and training stables in Republic for 13 years. Wayne and Kathy are both very busy pursuing their hobbies. Wayne still participates in bass fishing tournaments and Kathy trains and rides her Fox Trot horses. The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a stay at Downstream Casino, one of their favorite things to do.

I am proud of Wayne and Kathy Fowler and am honored to call them my neighbors in the 7th Congressional District of Missouri. I wanted to take this opportunity to commemorate their 50th anniversary. May God bless them with many more happy and loving years together.

ARISAI GURROLA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Arisai Gurrola for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Arisai Gurrola is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Arisai Gurrola is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Arisai Gurrola for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 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 \$15,628,266,498,708.04. We've added \$5,001,389,449,794.96 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF OF POLICE, ROBERT "BOBBY" HYATT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retiring Chief of Police, Robert