

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 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 \$15,623,285,528,454.41. We've added \$4,996,408,479,541.33 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.

IN HONOR OF THE EEOC RULING
THAT GENDER-IDENTITY DIS-
CRIMINATION BE COVERED BY
TITLE VII

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's decision that an employer who discriminates against an employee or applicant on the basis of gender-identity violates the Civil Rights Act. This decision is a massive step forward for transgender employment protection, a right that the transgender community has fought hard to ensure over the past decade.

As a result of this ruling, investigators at all 53 of the EEOC's district offices will now accept discrimination claims brought by transgender individuals. The EEOC's legal staff can also bring lawsuits against employers the agency determines have discriminated against transgender employees or job applicants. The decision will be binding on all federal agencies. This definitive ruling gives transgender Americans the certainty, security and reliable legal protection they deserve.

On June 25, 2008, I headed the first Congressional hearing on transgender discrimination. As I stated then, I feel strongly that a person's gender identity is an irrelevant criterion and should not play a role in his or her ability to get a job. The person best qualified to fill the role should get the job. This ruling from the EEOC ensures that transgender people across the country will be protected by federal law if they are denied a job or fired because of who they are or how they appear.

Given the incredibly high rate of employment discrimination facing transgender people, it is important to recognize all of the people who have struggled through discrimination and adversity to get this ruling passed.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the EEOC's decision and encourage Congress to seek further protections for transgender Americans and work to end all forms of discrimination.

CHESLE PARSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

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

The dedication demonstrated by Chesle Parson 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 Chesle Parson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

RIVERDALE WOMEN'S CLUB 60TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Riverdale Women's Club, located in the Borough of Riverdale, Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary.

The Riverdale Women's Club was founded in 1952 as a community service and social organization to provide community improvements, cultural enrichment and educational opportunities to the residents of Riverdale and surrounding municipalities.

The Riverdale Women's Club has made many significant contributions to their community throughout their long history.

Utilizing the many talents of group members, the Club crafts lap robes and afghans for local nursing homes and hospitals, as well as newborn baby hats for area maternity departments. In addition, the members of the Club sew sheets for local school nurses and make teddy bears to be used by local Police, Fire and Rescue for trauma victims.

During holiday seasons the Club collects food and provides food baskets to Morris County's neediest as well as making candy and cookies for local nursing homes. Throughout the year the members of the Club collect clothing and sanitary items to give to New Jersey's veterans' homes.

Every year the Women's Club fulfills their longstanding tradition of encouraging educational opportunities through the Marie S. Hagberg Scholarship, Adele Wasek Art Award and Helen Spengler Continuing Education Scholarships given to deserving students. They also sponsor Annual Academic Essay and Art Award Competitions.

In addition, the Club has participated in the establishment of the Riverdale Senior Citizen's Club, the Friends of Riverdale Library and the

Local 4-H Club. They were also instrumental in the foundation of the Children's Wellness Clinic and a number of additional health clinics in Riverdale.

Through their steadfast dedication to addressing the educational and social needs of the community while providing a gathering place for women, the Riverdale Women's Club has proved itself to be a pillar of the Borough of Riverdale. We are proud to have such a dedicated group here in Morris County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Riverdale Women's Club as they celebrate their Sixtieth Anniversary.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF
HADASSAH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, and to recognize its 100 years of service in our communities. As a lifetime Hadassah member, it is a great privilege to recognize the important work the organization continues to do, both in the United States and around the world.

Founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold, Hadassah has the extraordinary distinction of being the largest volunteer organization, as well as the largest women's organization, in the United States. A century later, Hadassah has maintained its commitment to Judaism, Zionism, and American ideals, promoting health care, education, youth institutions, volunteerism, and land reclamation in Israel, as well as Jewish and Zionist education programs, Zionist Youth programs, and health awareness programs in the United States. Hadassah remains a critical voice of the Jewish community, advocating for issues of importance to women and to American Jews.

The Hadassah Medical Organization operates state-of-the-art medical facilities in Israel, including the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center at Ein Kerem and the Hadassah University Hospital at Mount Scopus. Hadassah also maintains an extensive healthcare network including community healthcare programs, specialized outpatient clinics and services, and consultation clinics in the center of Jerusalem and in Tel Aviv. Hadassah's medical services continue to set the standard for health care in Israel, providing over 1 million people with hospital care each year.

Hadassah's critical services extend far beyond health care. The organization offers continuing education in fields such as nursing, medicine, business, and law, offering women in those professions the opportunity to join profession councils and to affiliate on a national level with other members who share the same vocation. Further, Hadassah College Jerusalem has, for over 35 years, been providing Academic and Associate degrees in a variety of subjects.

Within our own communities, Hadassah strengthens Jewish identity and support for Israel through community programs for both youth and adult members to foster community bonds, create volunteer opportunities, and develop Jewish leaders. Hadassah members organize and advocate on issues including hate

crimes, anti-Semitism, reproductive choice, and genetic discrimination, as well as support for Israel, Middle East peace, and Israeli security.

For the past century, Hadassah has been a critical voice for women and the Jewish community and has translated that voice into powerful action around the world. I congratulate Hadassah and its more than 300,000 Members, Associates and supporters on their successes of the past 100 years, and I look forward to continuing to work together to build communities and improve lives in the United States, Israel, and throughout the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday April 23, 2012, I missed the following vote: H.R. 2157—To facilitate a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall No. 178.

CHLOE GROSSETETE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chloe Grossetete for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Chloe Grossetete is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chloe Grossetete 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 Chloe Grossetete 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 YOUTH SPORTS SAFETY MONTH 2012

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Youth Sports Safety Month and the work of the National Youth Sports Health & Safety Institute, NYSHSI. NYSHSI was formed in the fall of 2011 through a partnership between the American College of Sports Medicine and Sanford Health. I am pleased to serve as an honorary member of the Institute's

Leadership Board. NYSHSI is dedicated to leading and advocating for the advancement and dissemination of the latest research and evidence-based education, recommendations and policy to enhance the experience, development, health and safety of our youth in sports. The need for this commitment is underscored by a recent poll that shows 91 percent of Americans feel sports participation is important for children and adolescents, and 94 percent feel more needs to be done to ensure the health and safety of youth athletes. These concerns have been fueled by reports of widespread escalating prevalence of exertional heat illness, concussion, and overuse, as well as other consequences and hazards of sports unnecessarily harming the health of our youth. I look forward to all the great work that is planned over the next year and beyond, beginning with NYSHSI's initial focus on these four key areas of emphasis: Sports Trauma, Environment, Overload/Overuse, Chronic Disease & Disabilities.

As Founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I believe the work of NYSHSI is extremely important to the youth of America participating in sport and as a complement to the mission and goals of the Caucus. During Youth Sports Safety Month and throughout the rest of the year, our young athletes urgently need leadership from NYSHSI, their peer organizations, and Members of Congress, so that youth sports in America can be fun, healthy and safe.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT JEFFREY J. RIECK

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful nation to celebrate the life of Ohio Army National Guard MSG Jeffrey J. Rieck—a true American hero who lost his life on April 4, 2012, while deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. An Ohioan and fellow soldier from Columbus, Ohio, he recently joined the countless number of fearless warriors who have given the final measure of devotion in defense of our great nation.

Master Sergeant Rieck, 46, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and served a 25-year career with the military that began in May 1987. Among the medals awarded for his heroism are a Bronze Star and Purple Heart, which are just the beginning to the honors owed to him.

A dedicated and loving father, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin, and friend, Master Sergeant Rieck will be remembered as a true hero who dedicated every aspect of his life to his family, loved ones, and country—a man who served with true pride and grace. I feel absolutely privileged that I had the opportunity to serve with Master Sergeant Rieck in the Ohio Army National Guard.

George Orwell is known to have said, “We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm.” Master Sergeant Rieck highlighted this quote as one of his favorites, and no better quote could be referenced to describe the soldier we lost a few weeks ago.

As I pray for the family and friends of Master Sergeant Jeffrey Rieck, I ask that all Members of Congress join me in offering our eternal appreciation for his life and sacrifice. He went to the furthest and greatest extent in order to secure our freedom here at home, and that must never be forgotten.

CRYSTINA HOLENCY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Crystina Holency for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Crystina Holency is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Crystina Holency 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 Crystina Holency 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 ANNETTE FENTIN, RECIPIENT OF THE BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING AWARD

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Annette Fentin, recipient of the Jewish Museum of Florida's Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award. Her tenacity, professionalism, and role as a business and philanthropic leader in Florida are truly an inspiration, and it is an honor to represent her in the United States Congress.

Annette Fentin is a pioneer. At a time when the very existence of her career seemed improbable, she not only entered the workforce but skyrocketed to the top of her field. As a young mother balancing numerous family obligations, Annette was inspired to get a real estate license, and after overcoming numerous hurdles was soon a top seller at a real estate firm.

In 1969, after being recognized as a respected member of the business community, Annette became the first woman member to be appointed to the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. She worked side by side with 99 men to help make Jacksonville a place where businesses could grow and thrive. Soon, Annette was appointed to their board of governors, was organizing business exchanges with countries around the world as head of the World Trade Committee in Jacksonville, and began her own firm where she employed 30 individuals. And the honor of being the first