

the committee. The group elected Cartwright as its chairman and he and King as permanent directors.

Born Robert Nicholas King in Sacramento on March 21, 1933, he studied acting at the Pasadena Playhouse after graduating from high school in 1951. King had uncredited roles in *The Long, Hot Summer* and as a medic in *The Young Lions*. He had the role of Arnie in *Joy Ride* (1958) and Georgie in *The Threat* (1960). He also had a recurring role on the TV version of the radio serial "One Man's Family."

In 1969, King became a partner in a land cooperative on the Garcia River in Point Arena in Northern California, where he moved with his wife, Kate, and their two young children. King was involved in logging and started a nursery business in which he grafted apple trees and sold root stocks and apples. He also helped organize the river preservation group Friends of the Garcia and was active in the group Save Our Salmon.

Nicholas King's inspirational life reminds us to preserve the rich artistic history of America. William Cartwright said it best, "We knew we had to do something that we believed should have been done before us: preserving something that needed it and not abandoning it." Generations to come will be touched by the artwork at Watts Towers and we have Nicholas King to thank. He will be deeply missed and I urge my colleagues to join me in extending condolences to the King Family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of Nicholas King.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Last year, agricultural producers had record net farm income and trade surplus. One in twelve jobs is linked to agriculture and forestry and American consumers spend less than 10 percent of their disposable income on food. USDA programs affect each of us—from nutrition programs to food safety, conservation to plant and animal health, and rural development to research and extension.

The department manages anti-hunger and nutrition programs that help ensure millions of Americans have enough food. Food banks across the country count on the Emergency Feeding Assistance Program to keep their pantries stocked. USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is helping more than 46 million Americans. More than 30 million American school children rely on the National School Lunch Program for a nutritious lunch. But there is clearly more to do.

With almost 13 million unemployed in this economy, and one in six Americans living below the official poverty line, we know that millions of middle-class and working families are hurting. Across the country, nearly fifteen percent of American households were food insecure in 2010. In other words, nearly 50 million Americans, including over 16 million chil-

dren, struggled with hunger. In my district in Connecticut, nearly one in seven households were not sure if they could afford enough food to feed their families. Earlier this month, the Meals on Wheels Association released its first report card on senior hunger: with 1 in 7 seniors facing the threat of hunger, the country received an F.

At a time such as this, our key federal food security policies become all the more vital. They make a difference for the health and well being of millions of families. In the words of Harry Truman, "Nothing is more important in our national life than the welfare of our children, and proper nourishment comes first in attaining this welfare."

As we look to the future, it is important that the United States maintains its leadership in agriculture. And we must also strive to ensure that everyone has access to the food they need to thrive.

CELEBRATING 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 150th anniversary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Founded by President Lincoln in 1862 as "the People's Department," the USDA has helped modernize and advance American agriculture to the point where Americans now enjoy a safe and abundant food supply at a cost of less than ten percent of their disposable income. The USDA has been critical in protecting the farmers and ranchers who are the stewards of our land and essential to ensuring that our nation maintains an independent and secure food supply.

Over the course of its 150 years, the USDA has repeatedly been vital in solving the many agricultural challenges facing our nation. For example, a rapidly declining pollinating species population currently threatens the sustainability of our agriculture across the country. With one out of every three bites of food we eat the result of the intervention of pollinators like birds, bats, bees, and butterflies, the USDA has taken a lead role in addressing this looming disaster through programs like the Agricultural Research Service's research on the cause and treatment of Colony Collapse Disorder. The importance of the USDA is reflected in the fact that without pollinators, our country would not be able to grow food.

The USDA also does much more than just work with our local agriculture. It is a key player in addressing the changing needs of agriculture across the globe. The world's population is estimated to be nine billion people by 2050. Consequently, the world will need to produce more food in the next 50 years than has been produced during the past 10,000 years combined. The USDA, America's farmers, ranchers, and research scientists will answer this challenge together through programs such as Food for Progress, McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition, the USDA National Hunger Clearinghouse, and the Norman Borlaug Commemorative Research Initiative.

One hundred and fifty years ago, President Lincoln recognized the potential of America's farmers to resourcefully cultivate our land to provide an ample food supply. Today, we must use the same innovative spirit in approaching agricultural production. By supporting USDA programs and initiatives, we are able to link research and scientific innovations to effective adaptations in order to successfully address the food security needs of our country. I am pleased to honor our country's farmers and ranchers, and acknowledge the work of the USDA on this historic occasion.

HONORING OFFICER CRAIG BIRKHOLZ

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize those peace officers being honored during National Police Week, and I particularly want to honor a constituent of mine who was killed in the line of duty last year.

Officer Craig Birkholz was only 28 years old when he was shot and killed during a six-hour standoff at a home in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, on March 20, 2011. Officer Birkholz is one of the 166 being honored today as part of National Peace Officers Memorial Day, and his name has been engraved on the National Memorial wall.

Officer Birkholz had been with the Fond du Lac Police Department for two years and was a veteran who had served in Iraq and Afghanistan with the Army. Born in Kenosha in 1982, he graduated cum laude from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh with a degree in criminal justice. In 2009, he married his wife, Ashley. Men and women such as Officer Birkholz, who make the ultimate sacrifice in order to keep us safe, truly are owed our eternal gratitude.

I hope that National Police Week celebrated here in Washington will help those affected by the loss of a relative or fellow officer know that their life of service will continue to be honored. We will remember the life and service of Officer Birkholz, and the memorial is a lasting tribute to him and all fallen officers.

TRIBUTE TO SIGNAL HILL POLICE OFFICER ANTHONY GINIEWICZ ON THE OCCASION OF BEING ADDED TO NATIONAL PEACE OF OFFICERS MEMORIAL WALL OF HONOR

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, later today the name of Anthony Giniewicz of Signal Hill, California, will be added to the National Peace Officers Memorial Wall of Honor. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is the nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. Officer Giniewicz, who served on the Signal Hill Police Department, died on December 7, 2011, as a result of gunshot wounds sustained 26 years earlier during an exchange

of gunfire with gang members. He will be enshrined on the Memorial Wall of Honor with 361 other peace officers who died in the line of duty in 2011, 19 of whom are from California.

Dedicated on October 15, 1991, the Memorial honors Federal, State and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our Nation and its people. Carved on its walls are the names of more than 19,000 officers who have been killed in the line of duty throughout U.S. history, dating back to the first known death in 1791.

On February 19, 1985, Officer Giniewicz and his partner were accosted by three gang members while off duty in Signal Hill, California. When Officer Giniewicz identified himself as a police officer the assailants opened fired and shot him multiple times. Miraculously, Officer Giniewicz survived the shooting but was paralyzed from the waist. He spend the next 26 years as a paraplegic and underwent multiple surgeries before succumbing on December 7, 2011 due to complications from his injuries.

It is fitting recognition of Officer Giniewicz's heroism that his name will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall during the National Peace Officers Memorial Service.

Officer Giniewicz was more than a police officer, he was a dedicated father, son, brother, friend, and role model to his colleagues on the Signal Hill Police Department. Although his injuries were severe and followed him throughout his life, he fought through it and was still able to enjoy many of the activities he loved before the shooting. Officer Giniewicz was a 35-year member of the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, as well as a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Anthony Giniewicz epitomized everything that is good and true and great about America. He was brave and kind and fearless and devoted to serving others. He is survived by his mother, Nellie; son, Anthony Aleksandr; stepson, John; stepdaughter, Barbara; former wife, Barbara; six sisters Paula, Linda, Elaine, Christine, Diane and Laurie; and two grandchildren Katelyn and Marissa.

As a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus and the representative in Congress of Signal Hill, California, I am saddened at the loss of Officer Anthony Giniewicz but proud to represent the police department Officer Giniewicz served with such distinction. I am honored to represent the people of the 37th Congressional District of California in paying tribute to the 362 fallen heroes who will be joining the more than 19,000 gallant men and women who gave the last full measure of devotion to the communities they took an oath to protect and serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of Officer Anthony Giniewicz and every other man and woman whose name graces the National Peace Officers Memorial Wall of Honor.

HONORING DR. HAMID SHIRVANI,
PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA
STATE UNIVERSITY,
STANISLAUS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. CARDOZA, and I rise today to acknowledge and honor Dr. Hamid Shirvani, President of the California State University, Stanislaus, to thank him for his leadership and dedication to the academic advancement of the Central Valley.

Dr. Hamid Shirvani faithfully served California State University, Stanislaus, as its President for seven years since his appointment on July 1, 2005.

Under his leadership, the academic reputation of the university grew in stature and the university received national recognition for its excellence, including its first appearance in the Princeton Review's Best Colleges list in 2007, and then every year since.

Dr. Shirvani carefully managed the resources of the university: eliminating a budget deficit that existed upon his arrival, building a reserve, and guiding the university through severe budget reductions that were not fully replaced by tuition increases. While these cuts were made more catastrophic by rising enrollment, Dr. Shirvani maintained and even improved the academic quality of the university by providing a high level of service to the students.

Demonstrating his deep commitment to support and strengthen the region, he proactively and tirelessly reached out to the region's business community to learn about their workforce needs, build partnerships, and create new academic programs to address those needs. He did all this while also providing high-quality, educational opportunities for students that would prepare them for well-paying jobs in the region after graduation.

President Shirvani tenaciously advocated on the university's behalf and established relationships with diverse educational partners and businesses and secured more than \$118 million of external resources—the fruit of which included eight newly endowed professorships and many large donations used to provide scholarships to students with financial need, fund the development of new academic programs, and build and upgrade campus facilities.

His dedication to serving the students and putting their needs first was recognized when he was twice selected as President of the Year by the system-wide student body government, representing 430,000 students across 23 campuses, in 2007 and 2009.

He is a visionary leader who made substantial contributions to higher education in the Central Valley and worked hard to raise the profile and stature of the university.

In June 2012, President Shirvani will be leaving CSU Stanislaus to become the Chancellor of the North Dakota University System.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in honoring and commending Dr. Hamid Shirvani, President of the California State University, Stanislaus, for his numerous years of selfless service to the education of our community.

RECOGNIZING CURTIS WHITEHEAD,
MAY 2012 STUDENT OF THE MONTH

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding student from my congressional district, Curtis Whitehead. Curtis is a senior at August Martin High School in Queens, NY and has won the April student of the month award. During his time at August Martin, Curtis has overcome challenges, excelled in his studies and discovered his true passions: cooking and acting. Since his sophomore year, he has had a recurring lead role on a Time Warner Cable production called "Power Tools for Life." He has since, participated and excelled in countless culinary competitions. By all accounts Curtis is well liked and respected by his classmates and teachers, baking cookies and cupcakes for their birthdays and offering to help in times of need. Upon graduation Curtis will enroll in the Culinary Academy. I applaud Curtis Whitehead for winning student of the month and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 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 \$15,676,996,273,860.82. We've added \$5,050,119,224,947.74 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.

MARISHA LOZADA

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Marisha Lozada as a Gold Medal recipient of the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards of 2012 for her painting titled Woman with Black.

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is the largest, longest-running scholarship and recognition program for creative teens. Awards are presented annually by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, a nonprofit organization headquartered in New York.

This year, the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program received 200,000 submissions from students in public, private and home schools across America. Of the 200,000 submissions, 60,000 students received regional recognition and 1,600 received national medals.

Mr. Speaker, the arts are an important part of America's cultural fabric, and student creativity should always be encouraged. Therefore, I congratulate Marisha Lozada for her