

Blue and Gray!
 As why we have all so enshrined this most hallowed place!
 Where valor and courage were but the words of the day!
 So take the time,
 to homage to so pay,
 to so concert crate what they all gave!
 So that as a Nation we may long well remember,
 all of those most heroic moments in July and November . . .
 and what it all so says about America Face!
 As we now so reflect back in awe,
 and so reflect back in splendor at all of their grace!
 At Their Last Full Measures they were so to render,
 all in this place!
 And take stock in all of their courage and faith!
 All of their strong hearts of steel,
 as to our Nation what was all so revealed!
 So that never may again such heartache we feel,
 and so let such a dark day begin!
 Of Brother versus Brother,
 as so ever happen again!
 As we have so set aside this most sacred land,
 to preserve and protect and never neglect,
 but to so ever honor The Valor of Man!
 And remember that "a house divided can not stand!"

Blue . . .
 Blue and Gray . . .
 as somehow . . .
 from out of all of this darkness we all found our way!

Blue . . .
 Blue and Gray!

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
 OF FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SERGEANT AT ARMS EARNEST W. SUMNER

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to take this opportunity to recognize a close friend of mine and a highly regarded public servant of the Florida House of Representatives, Sergeant at Arms Earnest "Ernie" W. Sumner. Mr. Sumner will retire from his post this summer after a long and accomplished career in the Florida Legislature.

The past and present Florida House of Representatives and entire Florida Legislature has been fortunate to have such a dedicated and compassionate colleague and friend. In 1971, Ernie began his career with the Florida House of Representatives. As Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, I was pleased to have had the privilege to appoint Mr. Sumner as Sergeant at Arms of the Florida House of Representatives on July 1, 1998. A committee meeting room, 404 House Office Building, has been named "Sumner Hall" in honor of Mr. Sumner.

The intangible guidance and skillfulness that Mr. Sumner has displayed to the Florida House of Representatives, its Members, its staff, and the public is to be commended. His leadership has influenced many through his devotion, fortitude, and kindness, and will be set apart in the years to come.

Mr. Sumner has had an outstanding career, and he deserves special recognition for this achievement. I am honored to recognize him for the distinguished service and counsel he has provided the State of Florida, and thank him for his hard work and many contributions. After more than four decades and 138 legislative sessions, his commitment to excellence, leadership and service is to be admired. My sincerest wishes and congratulations to Ernie and his family on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE INTER-
 NATIONAL SWEETHEART OF THE
 SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY, SYD-
 NEY MADISON BINNINGTON

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2013

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sydney Madison Binnington, a true goodwill ambassador who concludes her two-year term as the International Sweetheart of the Sigma Chi Fraternity on June 29th upon the conclusion of the Sigma Chi Fraternity's 79th Grand Chapter here in Washington, DC.

Since 1946, the International Sweetheart of the Sigma Chi Fraternity has been a role model to the Fraternity's undergraduate and alumni members and a liaison to non-members throughout the world. In 2011, Sydney was selected from hundreds of nominees to receive this honor—and since that time, she has dedicated herself to her role as a leader and ambassador of the Fraternity—having traveled thousands of miles from her hometown of Toronto, Ontario to visit more than thirty undergraduate chapters, attend numerous international alumni events, and raise awareness for the Fraternity and its designated charity, the Huntsman Cancer Foundation.

A 2012 graduate of the University of Western Ontario, Sydney was a campus leader during her time there, excelling in academics as a student in the University's Baccalaureate Honors Program and serving her campus community as a member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority, a bible study leader, a literacy advocate, and a fundraising volunteer for the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

For the past two years, Sydney has dedicated herself to the Fraternity's core values of "Friendship, Justice and Learning" and fulfilled her duties with strong character and personality, poise, and grace.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and fellow Sigma Chi brothers serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sydney Madison Binnington for her tireless and dedicated service to the Sigma Chi Fraternity and wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

THANKING JAMIE FLEET FOR HIS
 SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2013

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding work of Mr. Jamie Fleet as Democratic Staff Director for the Committee on House Administration as he departs the House of Representatives next week for service in the U.S. Senate.

During his tenure at the Committee, Jamie has used his wide-ranging skills to steadfastly guide the operations of the House with an eye on history while embracing the evolving operations of the House required in the 21st century. Jamie helped oversee the expansion of House technology options for personal and committee offices and a needed upgrade to the House's information security infrastructure. Whether the matter involved contested federal elections or contested parking spots, Jamie has worked to solve the multi-faceted issues facing the House with an informed touch. And, he has done so in a way that brought bipartisan applause while never losing sight of his commitment to the values of the Democratic Party. For that, Jamie has earned the respect of Members and staff on both sides of the aisle, as well as the officers of this House, for his fair approach to managing this often partisan institution.

Mr. Speaker, I can say that Jamie has proven to be one of the most competent staffers I have had the privilege of working with during my more than twenty years working and serving in the House of Representatives. On behalf of my colleagues on the Committee on House Administration and in the House of Representatives, I thank Jamie for his dedicated and loyal service to this institution and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DOUG
 ROGERS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2013

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Doug Rogers and his 24 impressive years of service as the executive director of the Association of Texas Professional Educators. His many years of service to Texas education and his career leading ATPE are to be commended—it represents the highest level of enthusiasm and dedication to the educators and students of the State of Texas.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Mr. Rogers attended North Texas State University, where he earned multiple education degrees and certificates. Rogers served as a teacher and administrator for nine years in both elementary and secondary schools. He began his service with ATPE in 1981, spent two years with the Texas Association of School Boards, and re-joined the ATPE staff before accepting the position of Executive Director in June of 1989.

During Mr. Roger's tenure, the membership of ATPE has more than doubled, reaching its highest enrollment at 116,000 members, and is today the leading educators' association in the State and the largest independent association for public school educators in the Nation. The ATPE Foundation was established in 2000 and has since benefitted more than 23,000 Texas school children. ATPE recently honored Mr. Rogers by naming its office building in Austin, Texas, the ATPE Rogers Building.

Mr. Speaker, this month Mr. Rogers will retire after a long and distinguished career serving educators and students in Texas. While his time as Executive Director of ATPE may

be coming to an end, his impact on the association will long remain. I would like to thank him for his many decades of service to Texas education and wish him a "splendid" retirement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took of-

fice, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,629,048,819.09. We've added \$6,111,751,999,906.01 to our debt in 4.5 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.