

To summarize, I ask my colleagues if the Congress can answer these questions and, if not, why?

Was there an intelligence failure in vetting the true loyalty of the Libyan security guards for the U.S. consulate? Which agency was responsible for vetting the militias?

Who provided the terrorists with details of the consulate property? Was it the security guards or someone in the Libyan government who was notified about the ambassador's visit?

Why did the guards in the car outside the consulate not warn the U.S. staff of the gathering terrorists as they drove away a minute before the assault began? Were they complicit in the plot?

When the Congress departs for the August recess in two and a half weeks, will the American people know why, after a year of investigations, who provided the terrorists with insider information about the consulate property and the ambassador's location?

Again, this is why I believe a House Select Committee is the best way forward to ensure that these and other unanswered questions are resolved. To date, 160 House Republicans—nearly three quarters of the entire Republican Conference—have cosponsored H. Res. 36 to create a Select Committee on Benghazi to ensure the American people learn the truth.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. 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 \$16,738,177,765,933.41. We've added \$6,111,300,717,020.33 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING UNITED METHODIST OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing United Methodist Outreach Ministries, an organization devoted to the service and shelter of homeless families in Arizona. Since 1964, they have provided the state of Arizona with the highest quality of service, providing families and individuals with temporary and permanent housing, medical care, child care, and education to rebuild lives traumatized by desperate circumstances.

In addition, I would like to commend the Department of Veterans Affairs for their work in facilitating UMOM's outstanding service. The VA, since 2011, has awarded grants to 319 deserving organizations in all 50 states, Puer-

to Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia as part of their Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. In July, 2013, for use in the upcoming year, they awarded \$300 million that will help approximately 120,000 homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families. UMOM has been awarded an SSVF grant in all three years the program has been active.

One of UMOM's Veterans housing facilities is in my district, and I am thrilled that such an organization is raising the level of care provided to my constituents—the veterans who have given so much to our country. I would like to encourage UMOM and other such organizations to continue serving the most in-need and deserving of Arizona residents with such admirable dedication.

UMOM is a wonderful representative of the non-profit organizations across the country serving our Veterans with the efficient help of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing United Methodist Outreach Ministries for beginning to pay the debt we owe our most honored Veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 354 I was not present due to a flight cancellation and subsequent late arrival.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 355 I was not present due to a flight cancellation and subsequent late arrival.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 356 I was not present due to a flight cancellation and subsequent late arrival.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN HONOR OF CHINATOWN, LOS ANGELES IN RECOGNITION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of a place of history and a cornerstone of Los Angeles culture: Chinatown.

Chinatown today is a dynamic neighborhood where the old and new come together harmoniously to create a unique destination point for Angelinos and newcomers alike. It spans 24-city blocks with a bustling commercial district and active residents. When walking down North Broadway, you can see the well-preserved historic architecture and cultural celebrations alongside innovative commercial developments that protect the integrity of the Chinese American community's history in Los Angeles.

Understanding how Los Angeles' Chinatown found a home opens a fascinating window into

the quest for dignity and opportunity for Chinese Americans. That journey did not start with the creation of Chinatown in its current location. In fact, it began in 1852 when the first Chinese settled around El Pueblo Plaza. By the 1870s, it had grown to 200 people, mostly male, who made their living as laborers working in laundry, gardening and ranching.

It was during this time of growth that the Chinese community experienced one of the most serious incidents of racial violence in Los Angeles' history, the Massacre of 1871. This horrific event occurred when a mob of over 500 white men entered Chinatown to attack, rob and murder Chinese residents of the city. Despite such severe discrimination, the people of Chinatown persevered and found a way to prosper. Chinatown grew to over 3,000 people, boasting a Chinese Opera theatre, three temples, a newspaper, even a telephone exchange. As the town thrived, residents formed family organizations and church missions.

Even as the Chinese community continued to make significant contributions to Los Angeles and the nation, sadly there was an increase in anti-Chinese sentiment. State laws prohibited the Chinese from owning property and the federal Chinese Exclusion Act barred others in the future from emigrating to the United States. America made life difficult for its people of Chinese heritage.

And it added to the adversity that Old Chinatown in Los Angeles confronted. Starting in 1913, Chinatown faced a continuous threat of relocation as the City of Los Angeles decided that the best location to build Union Station, it's sparkling new railroad station, would be Old Chinatown. After decades of living with the threat of eviction, the Chinese community was forced to relocate in 1931. The residents of Old Chinatown, who had built their lives in this neighborhood, were displaced with no compensation or relocation plans to rebuild their homes and businesses. They were scattered throughout the city.

Hard times were no stranger to the residents of Chinatown. And so, on April 22, 1937, Peter Soohoo brought together a group of 28 prominent Chinese Angelinos for an organizational meeting. They drafted a proposal for a new neighborhood that would combine elements of Chinese design with modern American architecture. This architectural vision would reflect the Chinese American identity that this community had worked so hard to establish.

According to the plan, a private association would wholly manage the project including the financing of it. Thus, the Los Angeles Chinatown Project Association was born. On June 25, 1938, eighteen businesses opened their doors to the public in the New Chinatown, one of the first malls in America and the nation's first modern American "Chinatown."

The Chinese American community continued its impressive growth in Los Angeles. The sons and daughters of these pioneers helped build Chinatown from three buildings on North Broadway into a dynamic commercial district and residential area frequented by both tourists and locals. It is one of Los Angeles' cultural treasures that we must nurture and celebrate.

I commend the hardworking citizens of New Chinatown, some of whom are descendants of its original families, for their dedication to advancing the area, while protecting its history and cultural significance. Their contributions are invaluable and must be applauded.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the "Diamond Anniversary" of one of Los Angeles' great neighborhoods, New Chinatown. We are a better America today because of the visionaries and pioneers who fought to survive the tough times and because of the generations that followed who continue to make our City and our country the home of the American Dream.

TRIBUTE TO THE DAVID LLOYD MITCHELL FAMILY C/O MS. CHARLOTTE MITCHELL, CHAIRMAN FAMILY REUNION 2013

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, family Reunions are very important events and activities in the lives of all people, especially for African Americans in this country who have gone through the experiences of being snatched from their homelands, taken from their tribes, brought to another country, survived hostile environments, experienced discrimination and still stand tall, achieves greatly and is an integral part of American life.

Your family, the decedents of Mr. David Lloyd Mitchell have much for which to be proud. Since his arrival in this country you all have continued to move forward and I commend you for the great research and record-keeping that someone has done. To trace one's family back to the Reconstruction Period in this country is a feat in and of itself. There has obviously been a great emphasis placed on education as evidenced by the presence of more than thirty attorneys, medical doctors and Ph.D.'s, more than 200 Master Degrees, 500 plus Bachelors and I am sure that there is a great assortment of other achievements and accomplishments made by members of your family.

I congratulate the family of Mr. David Lloyd Mitchell, commend you for your outstanding accomplishments and wish you well as you continue to reach new heights each and every day.

Welcome to Chicago and enjoy your family reunion on July 26–28th.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRED SERGEANT MAJOR HOWARD BAKEMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise a true American hero, retired Army Sergeant Major Howard Bakeman, who passed away on June 1, 2013, at the age 95.

A veteran of World War II, Mr. Bakeman survived the attack on Pearl Harbor while serving as a staff sergeant at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. Remarkably, two of his brothers were also stationed at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack and all three survived. After the war, he remained in the Army through peace-time and was again called to action in 1950 to serve his country in the Korean conflict.

In 1959, he was promoted to Sergeant Major, serving nine more years before fulfilling his obligation to Uncle Sam.

After completing his active duty tour, Mr. Bakeman moved to Mobile in 1968 where he worked for two years as an Army ROTC instructor at Citronelle High School. During his time in Citronelle, he was recognized for having the largest number of Army cadets to enlist from any of the schools in Mobile County.

Mr. Bakeman's dedication to duty was typical of many who served during what is often described as "the greatest generation." He loved what he did and looked at his time served as an adventure. In an interview early last year with Mobile's Fox 10 television, he observed, "I didn't have to pay for anything. It's not every employer that pays you to go to these exotic countries."

Mr. Bakeman also offered some advice on life and patriotism. "Be respectful. Remember where you came from. Remember where you are living. Respect authority and respect the flag. Now if they can't do that, they better pack and haul it. There's absolutely no excuse."

Mr. Bakeman hailed from a family of dedicated servicemen—along with his father and two brothers—the Bakeman men served a combined total of 123 years in the armed forces. What's more, even well into his 90's, Mr. Bakeman was a familiar presence at local events honoring our veterans. He always wore his uniform proudly.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to extend heartfelt condolences to his niece, Elizabeth Lynch, and his entire family and many friends. We will forever be indebted to his heroism and his service to our nation.

MELVIN DOW

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the fine career and outstanding community involvement of a great Houstonian, a devoted public servant and my friend, Melvin Dow. Melvin is retiring after 62 years of service to our community. It is an honor for me to recognize Melvin, not only for his numerous professional accomplishments and many contributions to our community, but also for his service to our country.

After graduating from Rice University, Melvin earned his law degree from Harvard Law School where he graduated magna cum laude and served as editor of the Harvard Law Review. Melvin began his career and service with the United States Army, where he was commissioned as a First Lieutenant, in the Army General Counsel's Office in the Pentagon. Following his service in the Army, Melvin moved back to Houston to begin his legal career in Harris County.

Melvin's extensive knowledge of the justice system and his incredible work ethic quickly gained him respect from his colleagues in the law profession. Over his career, Melvin was routinely recognized for his expertise and contributions to the legal community. He was included in the Best Lawyers in America for 28 consecutive years and was listed as a "Super Lawyer" by Texas Monthly Magazine for multiple years. In addition, Melvin serves as a

member of the Harvard Law School's Board of Overseers' Visiting Committee.

In addition to his notable recognition for his work within the legal community, Melvin has also earned acknowledgements for his work within the Jewish-American community. Melvin is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and Melitz, and Melvin serves on the Advisory Boards of the University of Texas Hillel Foundation, the Rice University Jewish Studies Program, and Congregation Beth Yeshurun of Houston. Melvin previously served as National President of AIPAC, trustee of the Jewish Publication Society, President of Congregation Beth Yeshurun, Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Houston and on the Board of Trustees of St. John's School. The list of this model citizen's accomplishments is impressive and well-deserved. Melvin's service to his city, state and nation as well as his faith will have an enduring positive impact.

A dedicated family man, Melvin has been married to his wife, Frieda, for 55 years. Together, they are the proud parents of five sons and grandparents to nine granddaughters and three grandsons.

I have had the opportunity to travel with Melvin and Frieda to Israel and observe firsthand their dedication to Israel's Absolute Right to Exist and to be a free democratic Republic.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I commend this remarkable Texan for his exemplary service and dedication to Harris County and to the State of Texas. Thank you, Melvin, for a lifetime of remarkable achievements within the legal community and for your steadfast commitment in helping to better your community.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM FRANCIS HARTNETT, JR.

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable individual, William Francis Hartnett, Jr., who passed away on July 15, 2013. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to our country.

Mr. Hartnett attended St. Michael's College, Middlebury College, and Cornell University. He was also a graduate of Fordham University School of Law. After earning his J.D., he practiced law in both New York City and Port Washington, New York.

Mr. Hartnett had a servant's heart. For four years he served our nation as an officer in the United States Navy and continued to serve Americans as a Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Hartnett also served his community as Assistant to the Vice Chairman of the New York Housing Authority, Counsel to the Board of the New York City Board of Higher Education, and as East Meadow School Board President. Mr. Hartnett served on numerous boards, including St. Francis Hospital, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the Chicago Public Library, Chicago Catholic Charities, and many more. Mr. Hartnett also served on the Board of La Lumiere School in La Porte, Indiana.