

men and women in uniform that Larry considered to be one of his greatest achievements.

Larry Wilson was a community leader and a patriot. I am proud that exceptional citizens and public servants, such as Larry, call my District home and am honored to recognize his life's work today. My condolences and well wishes go out to his wife of 38 years, Linda, and to his children Laura, Jeremy, Michael and Christopher as well his grandchildren.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 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 \$16,738,126,867,888.58. We've added \$6,111,249,818,975.50 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.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF AMERICA HONOR GUARD

#### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2013*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of the Korean War Veterans Association Honor Guard and the dedication of the leaders of Chapter 299 of the Association: Mr. Arthur Griffith, Mr. Otis Mangrum, and Mr. Mark Tiilikkala.

The Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) was founded in 1985 with the goal of organizing, promoting, and maintaining an association of individuals who served the United States during the Korean War. Mr. Mangrum, Mr. Tiilikkala, and Mr. Griffith, of KWVA Chapter #299, have served as the KWVA's Honor Guard at Memorial Day and Veteran's Day commemorations in Washington, D.C. every year since 2007. Based in the Massachusetts State House, the KWVA Honor Guard of Chapter #299 has proudly performed their duties at Arlington National Cemetery and the Korean War Memorial for appreciative citizens and veterans. As we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the armistice between North and South Korea, it is essential that we recognize the selfless actions of the soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, coast guardsmen, and others who fought to secure peace for the Korean people and safeguard America's allies. Mr. Mangrum, Mr. Tiilikkala, and Mr. Griffith deserve our gratitude for dedicating themselves to their fellow veterans and ensuring the nation's colors stand tall whenever we honor our service men and women.

As the years continue to pass, we must make sure that the commitment made by the veterans of the Korean War is preserved in our memories now and in the future. The commitment made by the KWVA Chapter in hon-

oring this memory sets an example for us all to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to thank Mr. Arthur Griffith, Mr. Otis Mangrum and Mr. Mark Tiilikkala of KWVA Chapter #299 for their steadfast commitment to honoring veterans. I ask that my colleagues join me in commending these gentlemen for their skill, military excellence, and deportment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. GLORIA NEGRETE McLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2013*

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, from July 8, 2013 to July 19, 2013, I was unavoidably absent from the House and missed rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote Nos. 305, "nay"; 306, "nay"; 307, "aye"; 308, "nay"; 309, "nay"; 311, "aye"; 312, "aye"; 313, "aye"; 314, "aye"; 315, "nay"; 316, "aye"; 317, "nay"; 318, "aye"; 319, "nay"; 320, "aye"; 321, "aye"; — 322, "aye"; 323, "aye"; 324, "aye"; 325, "aye"; 326, "aye"; 327, "aye"; 328, "aye"; 329, "aye"; 330, "nay"; 331, "aye"; 332, "aye"; 333, "nay"; 334, "aye"; 335, "aye"; 336, "aye"; 337, "aye"; 338, "aye"; 339, "nay."

Rollcall vote Nos. 340, "nay"; 341, "aye"; 342, "aye"; 343, "nay"; 344, "aye"; 345, "nay"; 347, "nay"; 349, "nay"; 350, "nay"; 351, "nay"; 352, "aye"; 353, "nay"; 354, "aye"; 355, "aye"; 356, "aye"; 357, "nay"; 358, "nay"; 359, "nay"; 360, "aye"; 361, "nay"; 362, "aye"; 363, "nay"; 364, "nay"; 365, "nay"; 366, "aye"; 367, "aye"; 368, "nay"; 369, "nay"; 370, "nay"; 371, "aye"; 372, "aye"; 373, "aye"; 374, "nay."

#### INTRODUCING THE WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACT OF 2013

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2013*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training Act of 2013. This legislation will serve as a source of job growth, promote robust public health policy, and develop affordable opportunities for individuals who are interested in becoming wildlife and zoological veterinarians.

Wildlife and zoo veterinarians are the primary source of essential health care and management for wild animals in their natural habitat and in captivity. Not only do these physicians preserve natural resources and the lives of animals, but they subsequently help protect human health by preventing, detecting and responding to exotic and dangerous diseases.

With the intensification of global interaction between humans, livestock and wildlife, the threat posed by emerging infectious diseases to humans and wildlife continues to increase. Controlling these pandemic and large-scale outbreaks of disease has become more problematic and much more pertinent of an issue.

However, the United States faces a shortage of positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians to ensure our safety from this threat.

Following graduation, professionals practicing wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine go on to earn relatively low salaries, compared to their companions in animal medicine. Studies also show that on average, veterinarian graduates owe roughly \$130,000 in student loans. The reality of a low salary, combined with high educational debt, amidst scarce employment opportunities, discourages students from pursuing these important careers. Furthermore, due to the severe lack of practical training and formal educational programs specializing in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine, graduates are unable to make significant contributions to the field.

My bill will directly address these issues which prevent and dissuade veterinarians from practicing wildlife and zoological medicine. It will contribute to the national job creation effort by funding new positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians to enter upon graduation. The bill will also limit the amount of educational debt for students while providing incentives to practice wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine through the establishment of scholarships and loan repayment programs. Lastly, my legislation will advance education by helping schools develop pilot curricula around wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine and by expanding the number of practical training programs available to students.

Mr. Speaker, we have reached a point in our history when we can no longer ignore the importance of protecting wildlife, domestically and internationally. Wild animals play a very critical role in our natural resources and contribute to maintaining a balanced ecosystem. With an increasing number of endangered species, invasive non-native species, and infectious disease threats, wildlife and zoological veterinarians must be prioritized and given the resources and recognition necessary to protect both animal and human lives.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterinarians by supporting this important piece of legislation.

#### DOUGLAS A. MUNRO COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2013*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, I rise to support H.R. 2611, a bill to designate the new Coast Guard headquarters building as the "Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters Building."

Douglas A. Munro, a signalman first class of the United States Coast Guard, died heroically on Guadalcanal Island on September 27, 1942, after succeeding in his volunteer assignment to evacuate a military unit of Marines under fire from opposition forces.

Born on October 11, 1919, Munro was raised Washington State and attended the Central Washington College of Education for a year before enlisting in the United States Coast Guard in 1939. He had an outstanding record of service in the Coast Guard and was quickly promoted to signalman, first class.

In the Battle of Guadalcanal, Munro was in charge of the boats that had landed the Marines at the scene. When it became necessary to evacuate the Marines, Munro volunteered to lead evacuation. He did so under heavy enemy fire, ultimately using himself and his boats as cover allowing the last of the Marines to leave. Tragically, Munro was fatally wounded in the process.

Munro posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart Medal, and was eligible for the American Defense Service Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Mr. Speaker, Douglas A. Munro gave his life to protect his fellow service members and defend this great Nation; it is most fitting that the U.S. Coast Guard's new headquarters is named in his honor.

With its long, rich history and significant contributions to homeland security, I can see why the Coast Guard was selected to be the first occupant of the Department of Homeland Security's new permanent home—on the campus of St. Elizabeths. I wish the Coast Guard the best as it begins a new chapter in its new headquarters.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the men and women of the Coast Guard who continue to serve our country today, ensuring the service lives up to its motto of *Semper Paratus*, or "always ready."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2611.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2013*

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 375—H.R. 1542 and 376—H.

Con. Res. 44, due to jet engine problems, I was delayed 4 hours in DFW.

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

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE DAY, PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE EXCEPTIONAL UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 17TH BOMBARDMENT WING, LIGHT OF THE FAR EAST AIR FORCES, FIFTH AIR FORCE

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2013*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 17th Bombardment Wing, Light of the Far East Air Forces Fifth Air Force. The mission of the 17th Bomb Wing was to conduct night interdiction, reconnaissance of enemy supply and communications lines, seek enemy troops, and close air support of troops during the Korean War. The 17th Wing was composed of the 34th Bomb Squadron, the 37th Bomb Squadron, and the 95th Bomb Squadron.

With great conviction, courage, and perseverance, the 17th Bombardment Wing flew 960 sorties in June 1952. Additionally, the 17th Wing set a new record of flying 93 sorties in just one night. 17th Wing set another new record for B-26 type aircraft, flying an average of 102 hours per aircraft per month. By October 1952, astoundingly, the Wing set yet another record performing 1000 sorties in that month.

The 17th Wing acquired the nickname of the black knights because of their night missions. The 17th Wing was the first wing to conduct

work in two theaters of operation, Asia and Europe. The motto of the 17th Wing is *Toujours Au Danger*, meaning Ever into Danger. Even in the face of danger, the 17th Wing successfully completed many operations including the notable Spring Thaw, Bottle Neck, and Little Switch operations. Working to the last hour, the 17th Wing executed its last mission just minutes before the 2200 effective time of the cease-fire.

The 17th Wing is a successor of one of the 15 original combat air groups formed before World War II. It was also the Wing that provided the crew and equipment for the famous Doolittle Raid, which grandiosely elevated and fermented American morale during World War II. The 17th Wing is now succeeded by the 17th Training Group.

I am pleased to announce that there are approximately 780 members still alive today. Just to mention a brave few, Ted Baker, gunner of aircraft, Antonio Fucci, gunner of aircraft, Robert Pruett, gunner of aircraft, Charles Tucker, pilot, Donald H. Eaton, flight engineer, and Arthur Haarmeyer, navigator bombardier.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Day which occurred on July 27, 1953 by honoring the vast achievements of the 17th Bombardment Wing, Light of the Far East Air Forces Fifth Air Force. We thank them for their extraordinary valor and strength during the Korean War.