

into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame, Bill began a career in Army intelligence.

In 1979, while in command of an electronic warfare company, Bill developed a key intelligence-gathering tool that was still being used a decade later during Operation Desert Storm.

The details of the intelligence system Bill developed are still considered classified but rest assured it was an asset to our troops in battle and may have saved American lives as it gathered intelligence on our enemies.

The Knowlton Award was named after Revolutionary War hero LTC Thomas Knowlton of Connecticut who was commissioned by George Washington to raise a regiment to perform desperate and delicate intelligence services and LTC Bill Anton has exemplified this tradition with his service to our country.

I congratulate LTC Bill Anton on this well-deserved honor.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RICHARD SCHNELLER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great solemnity to share with you the recent death of Richard Schneller.

Richard "Dick" Schneller, a tireless Connecticut resident who celebrated his 90th birthday just last March, leaves behind a storied life of service to his family, his state, and his country. A native of Essex, Dick attended Mount Hermon School and went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree from Yale University in 1943. Following graduation, Dick served his country with the United States Navy as a Lieutenant and participated in several South Pacific D-Day island invasions. After his military discharge, Dick applied his skills to his family's business, becoming President of The Verplex Company in 1952 and serving until 1972.

Dick proudly served his community and his government as a five-term State Senator representing Connecticut's 20th Senatorial district. From the time he entered the State Senate in 1975 until his departure in 1984, Dick maintained a fierce dedication to service of his state and his community. As a State Senator, Dick served successively on a number of committees, including the Education Committee and the Appropriations Committee. He served as chairman of the State Urban and Development Committee. Dick also held the title of Senate Majority Leader for the final three years of his tenure in the State Senate.

In addition to his commitment to the betterment of Connecticut government, Dick also played significant administrative roles in a broad range of local institutions. In his home town of Essex, Dick served for seven years as Chairman of the Essex Democratic Town Committee, was a member of the Essex Board of Finance, and was a member and chairman of the Regional District #4 Board of Education. He was also Charter President of the Essex Rotary Club and Founding Treasurer of the Essex Community Fund. Some of his other involvements in local organizations

include his work as Trustee of the University of Connecticut, the Connecticut Conservation Association, Middlesex Hospital, Connecticut College, Yale-New Haven Hospital, Mount St. John's School and the Middlesex County Y.M.C.A.. Dick proudly served as the President and Chairman on the Board of the Goodspeed Opera House.

Dick recognized the importance and inherent value in serving in a community, through his commitment to service in government, and also through his devotion to his local congregation, the Congregation Beth Shalom, of which he was a lifelong member.

On a personal note, Dick was a generous mentor for me and many others of a younger generation, serving in the Connecticut General Assembly. He imparted experience and good judgment to us all and was a great inspiration for those of us thinking about entering public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Dick Schneller, and sharing our condolences with the family he leaves behind.

HONORING JIM SWEENEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleagues, Representative COSTA and Representative VALADAO, to honor the life and career of Jim Sweeney, who passed away on February 8, 2013. Mr. Sweeney was the legendary coach of the Fresno State football team, leading the Bulldogs for nearly two decades and leaving an indelible imprint on his team, his school, and his community.

The son of a hardscrabble miner, Mr. Sweeney worked in the mines during his college summers. Afterward, he coached high school football for several years in his native Montana and then became an assistant coach of the Montana State Bobcats in 1960. Appointed head coach in 1963, he served five years in that position and eight years as head coach of the Washington State Cougars before becoming head coach at Fresno State, the position that would define his career.

During his nineteen years at Fresno State, interrupted by a two-year stint on the coaching staffs of the Oakland Raiders and St. Louis Cardinals, Mr. Sweeney elevated the Bulldogs to national prominence. A charismatic, no-nonsense leader, he brought an infectious enthusiasm to the entire community and inspired fierce loyalty in his players. He implanted an enduring team spirit with his resounding renditions of team fight songs and his inception of the "Bulldog born, Bulldog bred" chant that players still invoke today. In Fresno, Mr. Sweeney won eight conference titles and five bowl games on his way to amassing 144 victories, the most of any head coach in Bulldog history. Among his many well-deserved accolades, the team's football field was renamed in his honor.

Personifying excellence, hard-work, and integrity, Mr. Sweeney was well-loved in his

community and is a true California icon. His trademark wit and unceasing passion will be missed by the legions of fans and admirers he has left behind.

HONORING CRAIG SCOTT GRISWOLD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Craig Scott Griswold. Craig is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 345, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Craig has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Craig has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Craig has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Craig designed and constructed new stairs and landings for the One-Room Schoolhouse operated by the Putnam County Historical Society at the City Park in Unionville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Craig Scott Griswold for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MIKE WALKER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the mark of a great community is found in its leadership. Hard working, always professional, and dedicated to long-term vision are the key qualities of a strong local leader. For the past 23 years, Brentwood, Tennessee has had the great honor of Mike Walker's leadership as City Manager.

Mike Walker has a strong history in leading and leading well. Serving as the administrative head of Brentwood's municipal government, Mike has been responsible for full service government including a \$60 million annual budget and 250 employees. In addition to his outstanding service to the City of Brentwood, Mike's legacy of excellence reaches to Oak Ridge, Knoxville, and the International City/County Management Association.

It takes a great number of talented people to keep a city running. Keeping such an excellent city like Brentwood on the right track requires more than talent; it requires excellence, dedication, and leadership. The City of Brentwood has been lucky to have Mike Walker leading the way. I ask my colleagues to join with me, Linda, Lauren, Evan, and Travis, in celebrating Mike's outstanding legacy of service and commitment.

NATIONAL GUARD STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the National Guard State Partnership Program, SPP, Enhancement Act which strengthens and expands this critical capacity building program. The National Guard provides unique capacity building capabilities to Combatant Commanders and U.S. Ambassadors via 65 comprehensive partnerships between National Guard units across the United States and partner nations. The SPP directly supports the broad national interests and security cooperation goals of the United States by engaging partner nations via military, socio-political, and economic conduits at the local, state, and national levels. The program's public diplomacy effectiveness lies in its ability to leverage the full breadth and depth of U.S. defense and interagency capabilities from within the state-country relationship.

The goals of the program reflect an evolving international affairs mission for the National Guard emphasizing its unique state-federal and civil-military characteristics to interact with both the active and reserve forces of foreign nations, interagency partners, and international nongovernmental organizations. The value of the SPP lies in its ability to concentrate a small component of the U.S. defense structure—a state's National Guard—on a single country or region in support of U.S. Government policies and objectives. This concentrated focus supports the development of long term personal relationships and interagency coordination mechanisms that would not otherwise exist.

The SPP has the potential of being increasingly more important tool for Combatant Commanders and U.S. Ambassadors in achieving long-term US objectives. The program has developed from assistance and partnership with primarily Eastern European nations to a program that supports all the non-CONUS combatant commanders. Of particular interest to me are the opportunities that SPP poses for our rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region. I believe the SPP brings unique capabilities to US Pacific Command in expanding and strengthening bilateral relations with many Asian and Pacific nations. The program can help to demonstrate the U.S. commitment to the region and our allies.

The bill I introduce today helps the SPP by codifying the program's use of funding and spells out the roles that National Guard units can play in their capacity building. The legislation is needed to ensure the program meets its intended goals. The legislation first establishes the process through which funds appropriated to the National Guard may be used to support the program's goals. This is merely a codification of Department of Defense guidance and National Guard Bureau process. Additionally, the legislation outlines the mechanism through which partnerships may be requested and approved. The bill ensures that Department of Defense, a state National Guard and Department of State's equities are considered in the context of broader program goals. Finally, the legislation expands the roles

that a National Guard may perform when in support of the State Partnership Program. The capabilities and missions outlined in this legislation leverage the very unique capabilities inherent in the National Guard which would strengthen our relations with allies and nations across the globe. The dual role of the National Guard provides them a unique opportunity to support Combatant Commander as well as an Ambassadors needs in a given country. I believe this legislation is necessary to codify current practices and enhance the program's positive impact.

Finally, I would note that a version of this legislation passed by voice vote, last year, during consideration of amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. The program has broad support in Congress and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2009, the day I took office, the national debt was \$10,627,961,295,930.67.

Today, it is \$16,498,229,961,731.67. We've added \$5,970,268,665,801 to our debt in 4 years. This is a \$5.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

HONORING NATHAN T. ITAO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan T. Itao. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan T. Itao for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

LESSONS FROM THE ROMAN EMPIRE

HON. TREY GOWDY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker I submit the following paper on lessons learned from the

Roman Empire from Rachel Castellani, a 6th grade student from Southside Christian School in Simpsonville, SC. Rachel wrote,

I believe that what I have learned can help me with politics and economics. I think that if the Romans had not gone and taken some of the risks they had taken and maybe had been less violent, the empire might still be alive today. A topic I want to talk about is the economy. If you are trying to encourage the lower class citizens (plebians) why do you raise tax rates higher? This is the same thing happening to America, I don't want to be left in the same situation. Let's lower taxes and form new business in America. Don't let our nation crumble like Rome's!

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE REVIEW ACT

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing, along with a number of our colleagues, the National Wildlife Refuge Review Act. This legislation is necessary because under current law, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can administratively create a national wildlife refuge regardless of size, location or support from the local communities without any input from the Congress.

There may have been some logic in granting this federal agency an unfettered ability to establish a national wildlife refuge in 1903 when the first was created by President Theodore Roosevelt. However, with our national debt exceeding \$16.5 trillion, it is now imperative that the Congress carefully review each significant expenditure of our tax dollars.

During the past four years, the Fish and Wildlife Service has administratively established more than ten national wildlife refuges including two in Kansas and Florida that involve more than 1 million acres of private property and a price tag exceeding \$1 billion. Under current law, the Service first establishes these refuges and then comes to the Congress seeking funds to actually obtain the lands through either fee title or conservation easements.

On October 25, 2011, the Service testified before the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs and stated that requiring a Congressional authorization would "Impede the Service's ability to be strategic, flexible, nimble and responsive to strategically grow the Refuge System."

Mr. Speaker, this is the same federal agency that has an operations and maintenance backlog exceeding \$3 billion, with dozens of refuges infested by invasive species, with overgrown trails and full of potholed roads. By their own admission, they lack the financial resources to fix more than 3,300 mission critical projects. During the past two years, it has become increasingly clear that the Service is incapable of effectively managing what they already own. The Congress has a responsibility to curb their insatiable appetite for property acquisition. For far too long, this agency has placed too much emphasis on growing the refuge system rather than maintaining it.

What I am suggesting is neither a new or radical idea. In fact, under current law, no Administration can create or expand a national