

Lois O'Keefe, thank you for your service to the 4th Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent due to the passing of my close personal friend and was not present for rollcall votes on Tuesday, October 22, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner: H.R. 185—To designate the United States courthouse located at 101 East Pecan Street in Sherman, Texas, as the "Paul Brown United States Courthouse"—"yes"; H.R. 3205—Promoting Adoption and Legal Guardianship for Children in Foster Care Act—"yes"; Journal Vote—"yes."

HONORING KEVIN SHANLEY OF GLADSTONE, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kevin Shanley of Gladstone, New Jersey. Kevin was a fine leader of the Newark Museum whose contributions will long be remembered. Kevin was also a successful businessman, a generous and caring philanthropist and a wonderful father and grandfather.

Kevin served as the Chairman of the Newark Museum for over 25 years. Under his leadership the museum underwent its largest expansion to date with the completion of its North Wing. His work at the museum expanded its mission and brought in objects and ideas that educated and inspired.

Kevin was a generous and caring philanthropist. He served as President and Treasurer of the Victoria Foundation, which assists young children and their families in the Newark community. Kevin also served on the Board of Trustees of New Jersey Futures, as a regent of St. Peter's University in Jersey City and on the boards of many other organizations. He was also a successful businessman working with a number of major companies. There he mentored many of his colleagues who appreciated his sound perspective and high degree of integrity.

Kevin's long devotion to his civic and personal responsibilities will forever be his legacy.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 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 \$17,078,769,687,926.64. We've added \$6,451,892,639,013.54 to our debt in 4

years. This is \$6.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on October 22, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed three votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 551, rollcall No. 552, and rollcall No. 553.

CRUCIAL NEGOTIATIONS ON HOW TO RESOLVE BUDGET CHALLENGES

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, for months the President repeatedly pledged that he would initiate long overdue negotiations on matters ranging from tax reform to regulatory reform and work with Republicans on the flaws emerging with his health care law. His stipulation was that Congress must first reopen government and raise the debt limit. Consequently, Mr. Speaker, last week I voted to end the budget impasse and tentatively cooperate with the President. While this agreement does not solve our long term challenges, it does allow us to move forward and begin crucial negotiations on how to resolve our budget challenges.

Throughout the fall, President Obama and Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID demanded a blank check and refused to negotiate. This plan is not a blank check. It was forged through negotiations and provides a short term extension for funding at lower spending levels than the Senate wanted. It includes a long overdue conference on a federal budget. The plan also includes a much needed change in the Affordable Care Act to ensure the income of individuals receiving subsidies is verified instead of relying on an honor system.

Most importantly, the plan ensures a host of other negotiations pledged by the President will move forward so we can address our growing debt, improve our economy, and fix the problems with the health care law. President Obama has promised on numerous occasions that once the government was open and the debt ceiling was raised he would be willing to negotiate "on anything." This includes the budget, economic reforms, entitlement programs, and even the health care law. In the next few months the American public should be keenly aware whether he does what he said he would do. Finally Congress can hold the President accountable for his pledge to negotiate with Congress over these impediments to economic recovery.

Over the past several weeks, conservatives put up a strong fight to stop President Obama's health care law from being fully implemented. After trying to defund the law, delay it for a year, and ensure fairness so that

members of Congress don't get special treatment, it became clear that our tactics weren't working and we needed to regroup.

Given that Republicans are a minority in Washington we need to be realistic about what we can achieve. That does not mean we will give up the fight. We just need to be smart about where and when we choose to fight and pick battles we can win.

As we move forward with negotiations over the budget and other issues, we need to focus on ways we can achieve our objectives. We need to seek true reforms that don't just put off hard decisions to the next crisis. The challenges we face—a weak economy, a growing debt, a health care law that isn't working—are too important to just push off into the future.

The next step to overcome these challenges is for the President and Senator REID to open the negotiations we were promised.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL DARRELL D. JONES

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Darrell D. Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower, Personnel, and Services, Headquarters United States Air Force, for his 34 years of faithful service to our country. The Air Force's senior personnel officer, General Jones is responsible for comprehensive plans and policies covering all life cycles of military and civilian personnel management, including military and civilian end strength management, education and training, compensation, resource allocation, and the worldwide United States Air Force services program. Over the course of Lieutenant General Jones' distinguished career, he commanded a squadron, group, two wings and a direct reporting unit. As previous Commander, Air Force District of Washington, and Commander of the Air Force Forces for Joint Forces Headquarters-National Capital Region, he organized, trained and equipped combat forces for aerospace expeditionary forces, homeland operations, civil support, national special security events and ceremonial events. He also provided major command-level support for 60,000 worldwide military and civilian personnel and was the Uniform Code of Military Justice authority for 40,000 Airmen.

General Jones graduated from Mississippi State University's Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program in 1979. He began his career as a personnel officer at Williams Air Force Base, Arizona in the Consolidated Base Personnel Office. He excelled in a variety of jobs as the Chief of Customer Assistance, Chief of Quality Force, and Chief of Personnel Utilization. Immediately after this assignment, then-Lieutenant Jones reported to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas where he was the Chief of the Assignment Analysis Branch and later the Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel at Headquarters Air Training Command. Then-Captain Jones reported to Washington, District of Columbia as part of the very elite Air Staff Training Program as a personnel adviser and board member of the Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council.

Then Captain-Jones and later Major-Jones held the first of his many assignments as a

leader in our Air Force, becoming the Consolidated Base Personnel Office Chief and Director of Personnel, and Commanding the Mission Support Squadron at McConnell Air Force Base. As a testament of his skills and abilities, he was chosen to attend in-residence professional military education at Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Upon graduation, he showcased his talent in a variety of joint positions at Headquarters United States European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. He was the Chief of Entitlements, Compensation and Education, followed by Chief of the World War II Commemoration Branch and later Deputy Chief of the World War II Commemoration Division. Now-Lieutenant Colonel Jones was selected to return to Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama as an Air War College Student with a follow-on assignment to Headquarters United States Air Force as the Chief of Force Structure Plans and Policies in the Military Personnel Policy Directorate. Later, he was selected by the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel as the Chief of the Personnel Issues Team.

Based on his successes and ready for increased responsibilities, now-Colonel Jones took command of the 62nd Support Group at McChord Air Force Base, Washington. He then became the Director of Personnel at Headquarters Pacific Air Forces at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii followed by Commanding the 66th Air Base Wing at Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts. Later, he was selected as the Director of Manpower and Personnel at Headquarters United States Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

Then-Brigadier General Jones took command of his second wing, the 37th Training Wing at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, the largest wing in the Air Force at 21,000 people and graduating 60,000 Airmen from basic, technical, international and joint training annually. He followed command to Washington, District of Columbia, where he became the Director of Force Management Policy, Headquarters United States Air Force. In this position, he established force management policies guiding accessions, assignments, evaluations, skills analysis, promotions, readiness, retraining, separations and retirements of the Air Force's human capital. He also oversaw aspects of total force management to include contingency, mobilization, training management, and rated force policy.

Now-Major General Jones with his vast knowledge and experience took command for a fifth time as the Commander of Air Force District of Washington and Commander of the Air Force Forces for Joint Forces Headquarters-National Capital Region at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. He was again extremely successful in this position which ultimately led to his most recent assignment as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower, Personnel and Services, Headquarters United States Air Force where he and his team were responsible for comprehensive plans and policies covering all life cycles of military and civilian personnel management, and the delivery of fully-qualified, ready Airmen for the Joint warfighter while also meeting all the needs of our Airmen and their families. He planned, directed and evaluated programs, ensuring a qualified, productive and well-maintained work force of over 180,000 civilian employees. Additionally, he oversaw the execution and programming of the Manpower, Personnel and

Services portfolio with an annual \$40.9 billion personnel budget for 660,000 military and civilian total force Airmen.

Under General Jones' leadership, the Air Force implemented sweeping policy changes to enlisted developmental special duty assignments and the Air Force fitness program. He led the Secretary of the Air Force-directed Personnel Readiness Review task force, ensuring our current population is ready to meet the needs of current and future war time requirements. Additionally, he led the Air Force Personnel Center in a historic consolidation with the former Air Force Manpower Agency and Air Force Services Agency, integrating three unique functional areas designed to reduce overhead, achieve efficiencies and maximize customer service. Finally, he guided Air Force senior leadership through the impacts of the Secretary of Defense's General Officer Efficiency Study. He provided critical Congressional interaction to ensure all timelines of the reductions were met. In every instance, General Jones was a steadfast advocate promoting the Air Force's mission, and its over 660,000 Total Force Airmen and their families.

Today, I wish Lieutenant General Darrell "DJ" Jones good luck and Godspeed as he retires and enters this next phase of his life. On behalf of the Congress and the United States of America, I thank General Jones, his wife Holly, their sons, Taylor and Stewart, and daughter-in-law Lindsay for their commitment, sacrifice, and contribution to this great Nation in protecting it and our way of life.

HONORING MARCUS D. WOODS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Marcus D. Woods. Marcus 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 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Marcus has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Marcus 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, Marcus has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

HONORING MS. LINDA MCKINNIS

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Linda McKinnis of Cape Girardeau for her charitable work in Southeast Missouri. An event and wedding designer by profession, Ms. McKinnis volunteers her de-

sign expertise to a number of local groups. She has provided design services for the United Way of Southeast Missouri, the Southeast Missouri University Booster Club, and La Croix United Methodist Church.

Most notably, Ms. McKinnis founded the International Crisis Aid, Heartland hub dedicated to helping victims of sex trafficking in the United States. She has worked to raise money and spread awareness of the issue of sex trafficking by selling ICA's can tab bracelets. She has inspired many more people to volunteer and advocate on behalf of this important issue. I offer congratulations to Ms. McKinnis on her outstanding achievements and look forward to her future work in the Cape Girardeau community.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE MARINE BARRACKS IN BEIRUT, LEBANON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 30th anniversary of the terrorist attack on the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, which took the lives of 241 American servicemen, as well as 58 French servicemen in a separate building. It was the deadliest attack on the Marine Corps since Iwo Jima during World War II.

This attack against our country by Hezbollah, which was coordinated with the Iranian regime, marked the first major terrorist attack targeting the U.S. This is the same Iranian regime that continues to sponsor terrorism, develop nuclear weapons and threatens the U.S. and our allies in the Middle East still today.

In some respects it was an opening shot fired in a battle that continues to this day against radical Islamists and terrorist elements bent on the destruction of this country and all that it represents.

I have visited the site of the barracks near the airport. Today, there's nothing left but a parking lot—not even a memorial or plaque to recognize the lives that were lost. In a cruel twist of history, the airport itself, which the Marines were guarding in 1983, is now controlled by Hezbollah.

However, there are now memorials to the servicemen at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut as well as at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. This morning, the 30th Beirut Observance Ceremony was held at the memorial at Camp Lejeune.

Today we pause to remember those lost in the attack—to honor them and their family members. We remember their sacrifice and reaffirm our commitment to learn the lessons of the past to prevent such tragedies in the future.

As President Reagan said in a televised address from the Oval Office following the attack, the Americans serving in Beirut, "were not afraid to stand up for their country or, no matter how difficult and slow the journey might be, to give to others that last, best hope of a better future. We cannot and will not dishonor them now and the sacrifices they've made by failing to remain as faithful to the cause of freedom and the pursuit of peace as they have been."