

While her children attended school in the New Haven Unified School District, Barbara became actively involved as a parent volunteer in the band and color guard programs. In 2002, Barbara was elected to the New Haven School Board. During her time on the board, Barbara assisted in hiring a new school superintendent and successfully negotiated a three-year contract with the school's teachers union.

Five years later, in 2007, Barbara accepted a position as Executive Director of the New Haven Schools Foundation. Barbara has been integral to the foundation's evolution, starting from the very beginning.

Under her direction, the foundation has expanded its scholarship program, reinstated the Annual Scholarship Luncheon, and planned the annual casino night gala. Additionally, she helped bring indispensable funds to support grant programs. These programs allowed the school district to ward off significant cuts to co-curricular programs in recent years.

I thank Barbara for her unparalleled dedication to the New Haven Schools Foundation, which has assisted students, teachers, and the community as a whole. I wish Barbara the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SALADO MAYOR DANNEY McCORT

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the committed public service of Salado Mayor Danney McCort. This proud native Texan is not afraid to roll up his sleeves to improve his community.

Salado is a picturesque, historic village on Salado Creek just east of Interstate Highway 35 between Waco and Austin in southern Bell County. The clear, bubbling springs of the creek, which made it a favorite camping ground for Indians thousands of years before Spanish explorers arrived in Texas, have had much to do with the development of the area. The town is the proud home to the Stagecoach Inn, the oldest continuously running hotel in Texas.

Growing up on a farm cultivated a work ethic in Danney that has served him well both professionally and personally. His career as a builder and engineer with the Veterans Administration, along with his love of home repair and do-it-yourself projects, fostered in Danney a can-do spirit that is a reflection of the Salado Community.

Mayor since 2012, Danney's worked to annex the 1-35 corridor, obtain a sewer system for downtown Salado, and foster music and culture in his thriving city. Along with his engineering knowledge, he knows firsthand the importance of water to Texas communities, farms, and livestock.

Salado deserves great leadership and Mayor Danney McCort is delivering. I look forward to continuing my longstanding and productive relationship with him.

HONORING ANTONIO MACIAS

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Antonio Macias, a World War II veteran and an exceptional El Pasoan. Listening to the story of Antonio and other World War II veterans reminds me why we call theirs the "greatest generation."

In 1943, while still a United States resident, Mr. Macias volunteered for the Second World War. He served in Pacific Theatre in Okinawa as a U.S. Navy Sailor and completed his service as a "Motor Machinist's Mate Third Class." As the war ended, he was honorably discharged in 1945. After completing his service, Mr. Macias returned home to El Paso, Texas, where he worked as a rancher, a sheet metal worker, and at the local Phelps Dodge Refinery for 33 years. He retired in 1978 and became the owner of a small business specializing in landscaping. Now, at the age of 95, Mr. Macias continues to reside in El Paso with his wife of over 65 years and is a tireless advocate for improving services for El Paso's many veterans. Mr. Macias is an exceptional asset to the community, and as one of my staffers put it "he is an inspiration to El Paso."

Like so many other individuals from his generation, Mr. Macias put his life on the line for his country. We are grateful for his service and appreciate that he continues to be a vital part of the El Paso community. Thank you, Antonio Macias, for making El Paso, Texas, and the nation proud.

CENTENNIAL OF FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY AT CASE WESTERN

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kelvin Smith Library at Case Western Reserve University, which celebrates this year 100 years of service as a congressionally-designated Federal Depository Library. As one of the Nation's more than 1,200 Federal Depository Libraries, Case Western Reserve serves students, faculty, and the constituents of Ohio's 11th Congressional District with free access to the publications of all three branches of government.

In its 100 years as a Federal Depository Library, Case Western Reserve has made government information available in a variety of formats, from ink on paper to the latest digital technologies. In the mid-1990s, Case Western Reserve was one of a handful of libraries nationally which pioneered making online government information freely available through a partnership between the Government Printing Office, which administers the Federal Depository Library Program, and the Cleveland Free Net. The University Libraries have maintained an outstanding retrospective collection of government publications, and have provided countless hours of expert assistance to researchers.

Throughout its 100 year history as a Federal Depository Library, Case Western Reserve

has been recognized by the Government Printing Office for providing outstanding expert service to its primary clientele and to the residents of my Congressional district. I would like to recognize the library staff and Associate Provost and University Librarian Arnold Hirshon as they mark the 100th anniversary of depository designation. I wish them much success as they enter their second century of Keeping America Informed.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 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 \$17,081,509,219,228.50. We've added \$6,454,632,170,315.42 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.

HONORING RICHARD W. "DICK" ABBEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Richard W. "Dick" Abbey, who, along with his law partners at Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery, is a recipient of the Sonoma County Bar Association's 2013 Career of Distinction Award. This is the highest honor presented by the Association and it is, indeed, well deserved.

Mr. Abbey has been a member of the law firm of Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery since 1973. Over the course of those 40 years, he has specialized in real estate, commercial and corporate law as well as in financial institution litigation and transactions. In recent years he has focused on representing businesses within the wine industry.

As a mediator, he has successfully achieved a number of simple and multi-party mediations that have involved a wide range of business and real estate matters.

Mr. Abbey has consistently been recognized as a Northern California Super Lawyer. Super Lawyers is a rating service that selects outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process is multi-phased and includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations.

Mr. Abbey has also been a member of the County Bar Association for 40 years and served a term as president of the organization. He has also been a Professor of Law at Empire College of Law in Santa Rosa, a member of both the State Bar of California and the American Bar Association, President and Member of the Board of the Sonoma County Family YMCA and a Member of the Board of the Redwood Empire Food Bank.

Mr. Speaker, Richard "Dick" Abbey has been an outstanding attorney in Sonoma County for 40 years. He is respected and held in high esteem by his peers, which is reflected in this honor he has received from the Sonoma County Bar Association. It is therefore appropriate that we honor him today.

ON THE PASSING OF
CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, my sincere condolences go out to the family and loved ones of my dear friend and colleague, Congressman Ike Skelton, a man whose contributions to this country reflected his devotion to service and his love for this nation.

Ike's passing is one that hits close to home as I reflect on the 34 years he spent in Congress, representing the state of Missouri, and building his reputation as an expert in military defense. As Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Ike showed a great concern for those who fought to defend, and was recognized by the U S Navy Memorial Foundation for his support of the navy and military during his years in Congress. Offering words of advice, and showing a genuine sense of care for humanity, Ike was a mentor and a friend, advocating for those who dedicated their lives to serve their community and this country.

To lose yet another leader who embodied the spirit of selflessness and compassion towards his work and the people he served, is deeply saddening. Although words cannot help to ease the loss we bear, may we all take comfort in knowing that Congressman Skelton lived a life that will forever be remembered in our hearts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIPARTISAN STUDENT AND FAMILY TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, education is key to the economic well-being of our citizens and our democracy. Today, I am pleased to join my colleague, DIANE BLACK from Tennessee, in introducing the Student and Family Tax Simplification Act. This bipartisan bill simplifies our tax code and dramatically strengthens our investment in students and their families, expanding aid for the lowest-income students.

Tax-based aid represents more than half of all non-loan federal aid, playing an important role in promoting college affordability, access, and completion. As partners in the Ways and Means Education and Family Benefits Tax Working Group, Congressman BLACK and I heard from dozens of experts about the need to improve education tax benefits. There was surprising agreement among politically-diverse stakeholders about the problems of and promising reforms to tax-based education benefits. The Student and Family Tax Simplification Act

is a bipartisan effort to implement stakeholder recommendations for reform.

Education tax experts described current education tax benefits as complex and poorly targeted. The greatest agreement centered on creating one credit for current education costs to improve the simplicity, awareness, and use of tax benefits. Stakeholders highlighted that the complexity of multiple benefits makes it difficult for taxpayers to understand whether they qualify for a benefit and which benefit best meets their needs. Indeed, a study by the Government Accountability Office showed that 1.5 million tax filers who qualified for either the Tuition and Fees Deduction or the Lifetime Learning Credit in 2009 did not claim the credit or deduction; another 237,000 did not claim optimal benefits. To improve the effectiveness of the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), both conservative and progressive stakeholders urged policymakers to target benefits to low- and moderate-income taxpayers whose college enrollment and persistence decisions are more sensitive to cost.

The Student and Family Tax Simplification Act simplifies education benefits by consolidating the Hope Tax Credit, the Tuition and Fees Deduction, and the Lifetime Learning Credit into the AOTC, creating a single credit for current educational expenses. The bill also extends the AOTC permanently rather than allowing it to expire in 2017 and preserves the value of the credit over time by adjusting for inflation starting in 2018, an important provision given that college expenses have risen much quicker than inflation for many years.

In addition, the bill creates an improved, more robust education tax benefit for low-income students in multiple ways. It adopts the upper phase-out limits for the Hope tax credit adjusted for inflation, which focuses aid on families whose incomes are in the bottom 80% of income distribution. The bill also doubles the current phase-out range for single and joint filers to create a more gradual phase-out of the benefit and to reduce the effective marginal tax rate associated with the phase-out. These changes phase-out the credit for single tax filers between \$43,000 to \$63,000 (\$86,000 to \$126,000 for joint tax filers).

The bill expands aid to low-income students by increasing the amount of credit available and removing obstacles to claiming the credit. This bill increases the maximum refundable credit from \$1,000 to \$1,500. It also changes the process of awarding the credit from covering a proportion of total eligible expenses to covering the first qualified expenses. Currently, a family would have to have \$4,000 in expenses to claim the \$1,000 refundable credit; under the new bill, low-income families could claim the full \$1,500 refundable credit after only \$1,500 in eligible expenses, greatly enhancing the effectiveness of the credit for low-income families.

The bill also allows students to combine Pell grants and AOTC to address unmet financial need. Due to poor coordination between Pell grants and the tax code, an estimated 1 million college students with unmet financial need do not receive any benefit from the AOTC, with the vast majority of these students attending low-cost institutions such as community colleges. The bill improves coordination between the AOTC and Pell without double counting the same expenses as well as excludes Pell grants from taxation to simplify compliance.

In closing, the Student and Family Tax Simplification Act will help streamline education tax benefits, making it easier for students and families to understand and take advantage of education tax benefits. Further, it will substantially increase federal assistance for education for the lowest-income students and families, improving the affordability of higher education.

HONORING JO ANN GORA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ball State University President Jo Ann Gora. After serving as President of Ball State for 10 years, President Gora announced she will be retiring from the position in June of 2014.

After serving as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Old Dominion University and then as Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, Jo Ann Gora became the fourteenth President of Ball State in 2004. She is the first woman to serve as president of a public university in the history of the state of Indiana.

President Gora's dynamic leadership brought transformative improvements to the Ball State community. During her tenure as president, Ball State University undertook massive renovation and construction projects dramatically transforming the campus. The University raised more philanthropic funds than in the history of the institution. President Gora also oversaw the raising of admissions standards, and numerous academic programs achieved national rankings and recognition under her leadership.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in honoring President Jo Ann Gora for her service as the president of Ball State University. I am confident she will bring the same tenacity and leadership to the next chapter of her life.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF
TEMPLE MAYOR DANNY DUNN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work of Temple Mayor Danny Dunn. This eighth generation Texan honors his home state's illustrious past yet looks forward to its even brighter future.

Founded as a railroad construction camp in the 1880s, Temple quickly became home to hospitals, industry, and higher education. Over the years, the Temple area became an ideal place for military personnel to move to for their retirement.

A native son of Temple, Danny got his love of public service as a young boy attending civic events when others were playing flag football. His dreams of becoming Temple's Mayor came true in 2012 and he's made the most of his time in office. He's focused his energies on building and improving his hometown through strategic growth and development, while maintaining Temple's current infrastructure.