

day, we remember those who have been killed as a result of anti-transgender violence and take note of the continued violence directed at the transgender community.

Sadly, violence and bullying against the transgender community is common. According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, nearly 80 percent of transgender students have been harassed in the K–12 school setting. That discrimination continues into the professional work environment. Transgender people are twice as likely to be unemployed compared to the general population and 90 percent have been mistreated at work. In September this year Erycka Morgan, a student at Rutgers University and LGBT advocate, was killed in a New Brunswick boarding house. Public reports and press releases identified Erycka as a male and authorities identified her by her birth name and gender, despite being advised of her transgender identity and her preferred name.

As we remember those who have been killed or wounded by hate and violence, we also should commend the transgender community for working hard to educate Americans on the inequality they face. They are making great strides. Two weeks ago the Senate passed a fully inclusive Employee Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). The Senate-passed ENDA would prohibit employers from discriminating against an individual due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill passed by a strong bipartisan vote of 64–32. It is time for Speaker BOEHNER to bring that bill to the House floor.

A few years ago, the House considered a version of ENDA that did not include gender identity. Although I strongly oppose employment discrimination against all people, including gays and lesbians, the fact that the bill did not include gender identity is why I could not support the legislation then. I expect that when we finally achieve an ENDA law, perhaps this year, it will be inclusive.

Finally, I want to commend the LGBT advocates in New Jersey who have worked hard to achieve full equality in New Jersey. I share the excitement and sense of pride felt by my fellow New Jerseyans when the New Jersey Supreme Court refused to prohibit the issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples. We have a way to go towards full equality, but we are on the right path, a path that bends towards justice. In honor of Erycka Morgan and all those whose lives have been cut short due to violence rooted in ignorance, we will get there.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE BEACON GROUP AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the AbilityOne program, which in the last several years has helped more than 48,000 Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment.

The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the federal government to

buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with significant disabilities opportunities to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life. This program provides essential assistance to a segment of the population that has one of the highest levels of unemployment in our country.

I am proud to acknowledge the important work of Beacon Group in Tucson. Since 1952, Beacon has provided quality services by employing people with disabilities. Their services improve the quality of life, alleviate barriers to independence, and help Arizonans of all ages to reach their full potential. With the support of the AbilityOne Program, Beacon provides and serves over 2,100 people with disabilities each year, providing a variety of employment related programs. The direct impact of these services on the lives of Americans with disabilities cannot be overstated. For an individual with a significant disability who has never had the opportunity to work, be independent, participate in community life, or contribute to their society; the AbilityOne Program and agencies like Beacon are invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I strongly support the AbilityOne Program and Beacon Group. I also want to commend the dedication and commitment of Steve King, the President of Beacon and his staff. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of the society. I also commend each AbilityOne employee who works every day to improve their lives and make our country a better place to live.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPACE COAST EARLY INTERVENTION CENTER

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Space Coast Early Intervention Center (SCEIC) and its long running efforts to serve Florida children with and without special needs. For the past 25 years, SCEIC has established a unique inclusive program to ensure equal learning opportunities for all children regardless of ability. Their goal is to provide children with the academic and social skills needed to succeed in life.

The Space Coast Early Intervention Center was founded by Betsy Farmer, who recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award during the SCEIC's 25th Anniversary Celebration for her vision to establish Brevard's premier preschool.

The preschool is renowned for providing a safe, quality and high achieving learning environment for children with developmental delays such as William's syndrome, Rhett's Syndrome, Cerebral palsy, Autism, Pervasive developmental delays and Apert Syndrome, as well as children with visual, speech and hearing delays.

The SCEIC's curriculum is designed around key development indicators—language, literacy and communication; social and emotional development; physical development and

health; mathematics; science and technology; social studies, and creative arts. Through curriculum and play, students are taught social skills necessary to develop successful friendships, appropriate behavior and have daily opportunities to develop and strengthen basic skills necessary to manage themselves, resolve conflict and develop positive social behaviors.

The Space Coast Early Intervention Center enrolls more than 70 students and has a staff of over 25 teachers and nearly 600 volunteers. The Center conducts monthly parent education sessions, as well as community training outreach programs. Additionally, a team of occupational, speech, and physical therapists, and teacher assistants are trained in child care services, First Aid and applied behavioral analysis.

The Space Coast Early Intervention Center provides a tremendously valuable service to families and our community. The Center's dedication to helping children develop the skills they need to succeed in life makes our nation stronger and our future more secure.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 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 \$17,200,725,370,597.56. We've added \$6,573,848,321,684.48 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pharmacy is one of the oldest of the health professions concerned with the health and well-being of all people.

Today, there are more than 300,000 pharmacists licensed in the United States providing services to ensure the safe and effective use of all medications.

The safe and effective use of medication, as a cost-effective alternative and a preventative mechanism to avoid more expensive medical procedures, is a major force in moderating overall health care costs.

It is important that all users of prescription and nonprescription medications, their families or their caregivers, be knowledgeable about and share responsibility for their own drug therapy.

Pharmacists have extensive education and expertise on drugs and medication therapy, which makes them ideally suited to work collaboratively with patients and their health care team members to improve medication use and outcomes.

Pharmacists provide patients with expertise, knowledge and accessibility, all crucial factors to support improvement in our nation's public health.

Pharmacists are best positioned to be the health care professionals to help patients improve their adherence to their medications, and provide patient care services that ensure optimal medication therapy outcomes.

The American Pharmacists Association has declared October as American Pharmacists Month with the theme "Know Your Pharmacist, Know Your Medicine." I rise today to join my colleagues and the American Pharmacists Association in recognizing October as American Pharmacists Month.

Today's health fair is excellent demonstration of the important preventative health services our community pharmacies provide to many in rural towns and cities in Georgia and across the country. I call upon all Americans to acknowledge the valuable services of pharmacists to provide safe, affordable and beneficial patient care services and medications to all citizens.

IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUING
EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION BENEFITS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, unemployment benefits are a critical lifeline for our citizens and our economy. Although our economy is gradually improving from one of the worst economic recessions in its history, the economic crisis remains a daily reality for 11.3 million unemployed workers and for the millions of Americans experiencing record levels of food insecurity, poverty, and foreclosure.

Now is not the time to cut unemployment. Our economy continues to need federal unemployment benefits to support its growth. Jobs still remain hard to get with 2 million fewer jobs now than at the beginning of the recession. We continue to experience historic levels of long-term unemployment with over one-third of unemployed workers having been out of work longer than six months. Further, unemployment remains high in many areas of our country, like in my home state of Illinois where the unemployment rate is 9%. The non-partisan Economic Policy Institute estimates that failing to extend emergency unemployment benefits another year will damage our fragile recovery, reducing economic growth by 0.4 percentage points in the first quarter of 2014 and costing 310,000 much-needed jobs next year.

Now is not the time to cut unemployment. Millions of Americans rely on unemployment assistance to survive. In Illinois, approximately 389,000 people relied on unemployment benefits during 2013. The insistence of the Republican Leadership on slashing federal emergency assistance will impose incredible hardship on approximately 3.2 million Americans, with 1.3 million cruelly stripped of benefits just after Christmas and another 1.9 million losing benefits in the first six months of next year. The failure of the Republican Leadership to extend this critical lifeline would impose incredible hardship on over 153,000 Illinoisans.

These Americans lost their jobs through no fault of their own, they tirelessly try to find work when the jobs are few and far between, and they struggle to cover basic food, housing, and transportation costs for their families on an average of \$290 a week, a pittance which typically replaces only half of the average family's expenses. Failing to help these citizens is unacceptable.

Government leaders have a responsibility to protect our citizens and our country, especially during times of national crisis. Failure to continue emergency unemployment benefits will harm our economic recovery and harm Americans who already are hardest hit by the economic crisis—including older Americans, low-income Americans, Americans from racial and ethnic minority groups, and Americans without a high school diploma. Congress must quickly act to support our citizens and our economic recovery by continuing emergency unemployment benefits.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II
VETERANS OF SOUTH MISSISSIPPI

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an organization that has been serving our Greatest Generation since 2011. I'm referring to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Honor Flight.

Under the leadership of Kimberly Foster Moody and a dedicated team of board members and volunteers, our Mississippi Gulf Coast Honor Flight has taken almost 600 veterans to Washington spread among seven trips and I was proud to be there to meet every single group. They did it all free of charge, using private donations. For many of these veterans, it was their first and only time to visit the nation's capital, or the World War II Memorial. On Tuesday, November 5, 2013, this organization completed its work with a final flight carrying more than 70 veterans to Washington.

These veterans live among us as our friends and neighbors. They made huge sacrifices protecting the very freedoms that we enjoy today. They fought in some of the most hostile environments, and against some of history's most formidable foes, so that the world can be what it is today.

It has been a privilege to be able to join our Mississippi World War II veterans during these flights and see the look on their faces when they see their monument. As a Marine veteran of the Persian Gulf War, I feel a special kinship to these men and women who served so long ago. They also remind me of my own grandfather, who served in the Pacific on Guadalcanal during World War II.

Of the 16 million Americans who left their farms, fields, shops and families to fight evil half way around the world, 400 thousand Americans never returned home. Those who did, asked for nothing in return when they hung up their uniform and returned to their families, jobs, and normal life. I have asked many men and women over the years why they did it and almost all of them have said for God, Family, and Country.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to say thank you to so many in the

South Mississippi community who volunteered for and supported this organization with its service to our veterans. I also want to once again thank all of our nation's World War II veterans. Truly, these veterans are our Greatest Generation.

HONORING THE INAUGURATION OF
THE CONGRESSIONAL MONTE-
NEGRO CAUCUS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Rep. DOUG LAMBORN of Colorado, to recognize the inauguration of the Congressional Montenegro Caucus and welcome the President of the Montenegrin Parliament to Washington, D.C.

Tonight, we will join with many of our colleagues to formally mark our commitment to strengthen an existing friendship with a young friend but vitally important ally in the Balkans.

Together, our nations work to advance peace and prosperity in the region and across the world. Montenegro has demonstrated a strong commitment to regional stability and peacekeeping efforts. Its openness to American businesses and investors make Montenegro an important economic partner.

For eight years, Montenegro has participated in the National Guard's State Partnership Program, partnering with Maine as the Montenegrin military transitions to an all-volunteer force. Now, the partnership between our two nations grows even stronger with the establishment of the Congressional Montenegro Caucus.

We are especially pleased to welcome the President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Ranko Krivokapic, to Washington, D.C. as we celebrate the founding of this important caucus. We look forward to many more years of cooperation and friendship between our countries.

Mr. Speaker, please join us again in celebrating the inauguration of the Congressional Montenegro Caucus.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE MISSISSIPPI NA-
TIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION
AREA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Park Service staff, volunteers and partners of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) on the 25th anniversary of its establishment as a national park. This 72-mile park corridor, winding northwest to southeast through the Saint Paul-Minneapolis metropolitan area, crosses some of the most naturally, culturally, economically and nationally significant areas in the United States. It is the only national park dedicated exclusively to the Mississippi River.

The late Congressman Bruce Vento (D-MN-04) provided the vision and legislative