

speakers and attendees. I would like to give my sincere thanks to Dr. Lawrence Schook, Adam Pollet, Steven Bahls, Tara Barney, Dr. Thomas Baynum, Shannon Duncan, and Jeffrey Kaney, Sr. for their astute analysis of the challenges and opportunities facing our district and their willingness to work together to ensure that the 17th District is one of the best places to live, work, start a business, and raise a family.

Our speakers included three exceptional educational leaders. Dr. Lawrence Schook is the Vice President for Research at the University of Illinois and is well known for his work as an educator, biomedical scientist, and entrepreneur. He also serves on the Illinois Innovation Council as well as the Board of Managers for the Argonne and Fermi National Laboratories. Steven Bahls is the President of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois and a recognized scholar in business law, agricultural law, and education. Dr. Thomas Baynum is President of Black Hawk College with campuses in Moline and Galva, Illinois. Under his leadership, Black Hawk College serves roughly 20,000 students in degree programs, continuing education, and vocational programs.

Our panels also included prominent economic and community development leaders. We were fortunate to have Adam Pollet, the Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity. Mr. Pollet guides and oversees the agency tasked with growing our state economy. Tara Barney is the President and CEO of the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, representing 2,000 businesses and 90,000 employees in the region. Shannon Duncan is a Planning Coordinator with the Western Illinois Regional Council and oversees community development work for many of the rural counties in Western Illinois. Lastly, Jeffrey Kaney, Sr. is the founder and CEO of the Kaney Group, an aerospace company in Rockford, Illinois. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and serves on the board of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council and is Chairman of the Rockford Area Aerospace Network (RAAN).

Mr. Speaker, I want to sincerely thank everyone who participated and helped make our Economic Summit such a success. While there's much work to be done, I have high hopes for our region and look forward to building on the partnerships forged at the event.

MASUD MEHRAN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, last week, our community lost a great civic leader, a true American success story and a pillar of the San Francisco Bay Area: Masud Mehran. He passed away on November 26th, at the age of 93, surrounded, as he always was throughout his long life, by his family, by those he loved, by those he cherished most.

Masud Mehran lived the American Dream. He was an immigrant who came with his wife, Maryam, to the United States from Iran in search of opportunity. He got an education from some of our finest universities and traveled across our country. He made his way to the Bay Area, to the region that would be his

home for more than 60 years, and started a business. And over the ensuing decades, he built Sunset Development Company into one of the largest, most successful real estate developers in California.

For Masud, extraordinary success in business was not enough; his values, his heritage, and his conscience drove him to do more—for our community, for our young people, for our state and nation.

Beyond his extensive leadership roles among associations of home builders and developers in San Francisco and statewide, Masud's generosity could be seen in his support for the health of our youth at Children's Hospital; the development of our children in the Boy Scouts of America; the education of our students at Golden Gate University, Dominican College, UC Berkeley, and elsewhere.

His efforts were recognized with the Good Scout award for outstanding leadership in helping to build a better American community; the Democratic Heritage award from the Anti-Defamation League; and the Award of Excellence from the Urban Land Institute for Large-Scale Office Park Development.

All who knew him will long be inspired by his leadership, his values, his strength, and his willingness to give back to those around him. His legacy can be found in the impact of his philanthropy and the example he set for so many others in the Bay Area and nationwide. Yet no legacy—in business or in community activism—could ever compare to the extraordinary pride he always took in his family.

Devotion to his family was Masud's first priority. Dedication to his loved ones was his defining characteristic. Spending time with his wife, Farideh, his son, Alex, and his grandchildren was his greatest joy. He will certainly be missed by all who knew and loved him.

May it be a comfort to the entire Mehran family that so many share in their grief and mourn along their side at this sad time. May Masud Mehran's life and memory forever be a blessing to us all.

**HONORING THE COLUMBUS EAST
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM**

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the Columbus East High School football team.

The Columbus East football team recently captured the team's second state championship. The Olympians won the Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 4A State Final 28–27 over Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger. With 3:42 left in the game, Columbus East scored a touchdown, giving them the one point lead that won the championship.

The team embodied the best of Hoosier sportsmanship with their dedication, grit, and execution shown not only in the championship game but throughout the season. For the leadership and support of this championship team, congratulations and accolades go to the Athletic Director and Coach, Bob Gattis, Superintendent John Quick, Principal Mark Newell and the assistant coaches.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating the Columbus East

Olympians for their impressive victory. I look forward to seeing what each of these talented young athletes will achieve in the future.

**RECOGNIZING ST. ROSE OF LIMA
ACADEMY**

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Rose of Lima Academy of Short Hills, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. St. Rose of Lima Academy is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I congratulate the students, faculty and community on this high honor. This is a prestigious award to receive and St. Rose of Lima Academy is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF SHEILA LEIGH STEWART**

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Sheila Leigh Stewart, a former resident of Laurel in the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland. She died unexpectedly and tragically on October 24, 2013. A memorial service for Sheila will be held on Friday, December 6, 2013, at First Baptist Church of Glenarden in Landover, Maryland. I want to remember the legacy Ms. Stewart leaves behind.

Ms. Sheila Stewart had a long and distinguished career of more than 25 years in the broadcasting industry. She epitomized the traits of a good citizen, serving our communities as an organizer of engagement and charitable giving. I join all of the metropolitan Washington area in mourning the loss of a great woman and unparalleled public citizen.

Ms. Stewart was born in Fairfield County, South Carolina, on February 28, 1969. She graduated from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism, and also worked as an adjunct Professor of Journalism at several colleges.

Known by radio listeners as "Ms. Community," Ms. Stewart worked for years in Charlotte at Power98, WPEG-FM, where she served as on-air-personality and news and public affairs director. When she relocated to the Washington, DC, area, Sheila worked as the news and community affairs director for Radio One. She was at the helm of news programming at WKYS, Radio One's DC station, and the company's other affiliates, including Praise 104.1, WPRS-FM.

At Radio One, Ms. Stewart was instrumental in advocating on behalf of community issues,

nonprofit organizations, and events that helped improve neighborhoods throughout our region. She was guided in every way by her faith. Her energy and passion to make change will be missed.

With her passing, it is my hope that Sheila Leigh Stewart has found the peace earned from such a wonderful life. Ms. Stewart made a difference in our community with everything she did, and I am grateful for her life and service to Prince George's County, Maryland, and our country.

On behalf of this House, I extend our condolences to her entire family, especially her precious young son, Jonathan Henry Russell; her mother, Dorothy Stewart; her four sisters; her three brothers; and Radio One, and the thanks of a grateful nation. I will miss her tremendously.

HONORING TELLIS B. ELLIS III

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Dr. Tellis B. Ellis III, who was born in Jackson, Mississippi one of four children born to Tellis B. Ellis, Jr. and his wife Lucinda. Dr. Ellis.

Dr. Ellis attended Jim Hill High School where he excelled at both football and basketball. He completed his undergraduate studies in 1965 at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi with a B.S. Degree in Science. While attending Jackson State Dr. Ellis was honored as a member of Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. He was an outstanding football player for Jackson State and was recruited by the NFL to play professional football for the Green Bay Packers in Green Bay Wisconsin. After sustaining a knee injury, which ended his hopes for a career as a professional athlete, he made the decision to pursue a career in Medicine.

Dr. Ellis was accepted into medical school at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee and received his Medical Doctorate in 1970. He completed both his Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine at Meharry Medical College in 1974. Dr. Ellis then returned to Jackson, Mississippi where he completed his Cardiology Fellowship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1977. Dr. Ellis is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiology.

Dr. Ellis is active at the local and national levels in the following professional societies and organizations: American Medical Association, Mississippi Medical Association, Jackson Medical Society, National Monitoring Board Member Jackson Heart Study, American College of Cardiology, National Medical Association, Association of Black Cardiologists, Jackson Medical Association, and Mississippi Medical and Surgical Association where he served as President. Dr. Ellis is an active member of the Jackson State University Alumni Association and was honored in 1975 with the First and Only Black Board Certified Internist in Mississippi Award.

Dr. Ellis is a founding partner of Jackson Cardiology Associates in Jackson, Mississippi where he practices with four other Cardiol-

gists. He is Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and an active staff physician at St. Dominic-Jackson Memorial Hospital, River Oaks Hospital and Central Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Dr. Ellis is widowed and has one son; Tellis B. Ellis IV. He is the proud grandfather of Brian Ellis.

Dr. Ellis is a member of Pearl Street AME Church in Jackson, Mississippi. His medical special interest is Congestive Heart Failure and in his leisure time he enjoys fly fishing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Tellis B. Ellis III for his dedication to serving others.

IN HONOR OF MARGARET "PEGGY" McMAHON

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret "Peggy" McMahon for her years as a nurse and as an advocate for those with whom she worked.

For over forty-six years, Ms. McMahon has dedicated her life to nursing. In 1965, she joined the Army Student Nurse program while attending the Philadelphia General Hospital School of Nursing. Three years later, Ms. McMahon was dispatched to Vietnam as an emergency and trauma nurse in the 85th Evacuation Unit in Qui Nhon and the 95th Evacuation Hospital in DeNang. While in Vietnam, Ms. McMahon was a fearless first-responder, providing emergency care to injured soldiers before they could see a doctor.

After her tour in Vietnam, Ms. McMahon returned to Williamstown, NJ to further her education. She received a bachelor's degree and master's degree, a Family Nurse Practitioner's certificate, and she also served as president of the Emergency Nurses Association. Since then, she has worked adamantly to make sure her fellow emergency nurses are recognized for their service and sacrifice. Ms. McMahon became an influential voice in the efforts to create the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, DC. This past Veterans Day, Ms. McMahon and other wartime nurses were honored at the Memorial.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. McMahon's selflessness should be an example to all. I join all of South Jersey in thanking Ms. McMahon for her years of service to her country and community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 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 \$17,223,254,862,815.39. We've added \$6,596,377,813,902.31 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 CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE COALITION TO SALUTE AMERICA'S HEROES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, a Virginia-based 501(c)(3), non-profit, non-partisan organization, established in 2004 to provide severely wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families, with emergency financial assistance and other support services to help them recover from their injuries and rebuild their lives. CSAH is headquartered in Leesburg, which in my Congressional district in Loudoun County, and serves military veterans and their families living in the Commonwealth as well as nationally. All funds needed to develop and manage programs that advance its mission come from contributions to CSAH by individual citizens, corporate donors and foundations.

The mission of the Coalition is to ensure that our war-weary nation should not lose sight of its obligations to those who are protecting our freedoms. These true American heroes often receive little or no support from the nation for which they sacrificed so much. Because of a shortage of funding and an interminable bureaucratic backlog at the Veterans Administration, they wait for roughly a year, on average, to receive disability pay and benefits. Thousands do not get proper care for PTSD because it is largely misunderstood.

Under the leadership of David Walker, who serves as President and CEO, the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes helps severely wounded veterans and families of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom living in the Commonwealth of Virginia and across the country recover from their injuries and illnesses by providing emergency financial aid and other support services, in hopes that the veterans are able to transition successfully into civilian life. Additionally, the Coalition's emergency aid services responds to trends associated with suicide among veterans (24 per day), a sky-rocking divorce rate (60 percent among actives), and growing domestic abuse.

Last year as one of his first acts, Walker restructured The Coalition's budget so that it could give more directly to veterans and organizations that support them, with programs that include: emergency financial aid to help through crisis situations (evictions, car reposessions, etc.); training seminars; a call center program to provide veterans and spouses the opportunity to work on a part-time basis (some of the program's participants have moved on to part-time or full-time employment in the private sector); equine-therapy programs and more.

In 2013 alone, the Coalition will have donated nearly \$1 million in direct aid to veterans, in addition to managing the many other CSAH programs that are available to wounded veterans (conferences, holiday gift checks, education and training, etc.).

The Coalition has made eight grants totaling over \$80,000 to organizations based in Virginia and Washington, D.C., including: Horses Helping Heroes Project, which provides no-cost, equine-assisted activities and therapies