

presence mourn the loss of a great man and unparalleled public servant.

Dr. Thompson, or "Dr. T" as he was fondly known, was born on April 6, 1921, in Hallsboro, North Carolina. Upon receiving his degrees from both Duke University and the Duke University School of Medicine in 1942 and 1947 respectively, he completed his medical training and residency at facilities across the country, including in New Jersey, Texas, Massachusetts, and Arkansas. Dr. T also served proudly in the United States Army for more than ten years in the Army Medical Corps rising to the level of Chief of a Pediatrics Unit.

In 1957, after practicing in Virginia for two years, he moved to Fort Walton Beach, Florida, where he continued practicing pediatrics. It was in Northwest Florida where Dr. T would spend the next decades of his life continuing to serve others in the community. Whether it was through house calls, late night hospital rounds, or nights spent with ailing patients, Dr. T's commitment to bettering the lives of those around him never wavered and was evidenced through his kindness and the unmatched quality of care he provided to his patients.

Dr. T also lent his time and efforts to a myriad of medical associations, including the Florida Medical Association, where he served as both as Chairman and Vice President; Okaloosa County Medical Society, where he served as the organization's first president; and Fort Walton Beach Medical Center, where he served as President and Chief of Pediatrics.

In addition to his dedicated service and passion in the medical field, Dr. T was highly involved in public service. He served not only as the team physician for local junior high and high schools, but also was president of the Chamber of Commerce from 1967 to 1968 and a member of the Okaloosa County School Board from 1984–1989. However, many remember him for his leadership as Mayor of Fort Walton Beach from 1965 to 1966.

Throughout his life, Dr. T served his Nation and community with the utmost integrity and humility. He was truly a man of compassion who possessed a passion for serving others. He will be remembered as a dedicated public official, wonderful physician, and a loving husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather. His contributions to Northwest Florida and our Nation were truly exceptional and his legacy will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the exemplary life of Dr. William Thompson. My wife Vicki joins me in our sincerest condolences and our prayers go out to his wife, Melba; son, Wes; daughters, Emilie, Helga, Kenya, Rhonda, and Karen; nephew, Roger; grandchildren, Robert, Britt, Kyle, Alex, Renee, Michael, Ryan, Kelly, Kaylyn, Avery, and Aspen; great-grandchildren, Katherine, Amber, Alexander, Zachary, Hunter, and Kai; great-great grandson Orion; sister, Hilda, and the entire Thompson family and friends. He will truly be missed by all.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF LICK OBSERVATORY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Lick Observatory.

On January 3, 1888 the Lick Observatory's great refracting telescope saw "first light." Its construction on top of Mt. Hamilton was made possible by a \$700,000 donation from James Lick. By many accounts the wealthiest man in California, Mr. Lick gave almost his entire fortune to advance science and public welfare. When finished, the "Lick Refractor" was the largest, most powerful refracting telescope in the world.

Today, it is assumed that an observatory should be built on a mountain. However, at the time most observatories were built in cities. It is easy to forget that when Mt. Hamilton was chosen as the build site, it was only speculation that the high altitude would reduce atmospheric interference, allowing for a clearer view of the night stars.

Having proven the theory correct, Lick Observatory set the standard for building observatories on top of mountains, at high altitude, and away from potential interfering light sources and pollution.

The Lick Refractor was a premier research telescope for nearly a century. Even now, this telescope is still used to wow visitors, to inspire scientific wonder, and as a teaching tool for local colleges and universities. While many scientific facilities of this age are no longer useful as tools of discovery, the Lick Observatory continues to upgrade its capabilities and produce ground breaking science.

The Adaptive Optics project uses a unique, deformable mirror to cancel out atmospheric interference. It is capable of achieving resolutions comparable to the space-based Hubble Telescope, but at a fraction of the cost.

The Lick Observatory also houses the Automated Planet Finder, with the goal of finding Earth-like planets located within 100 light years. In partnership with NASA, this fully automated telescope makes its own decisions on where to look in the night sky and is capable of determining whether an Earth-like planet has been discovered.

Even the 125 year old Lick Refractor is still occasionally put to use. In the fall of 2000, coupled with an automatic camera, it started photographing the star clusters in our galaxy. These photographs have provided valuable information for mapping these clusters' star members.

I wish to congratulate the Lick Observatory on its 125th anniversary, and commend not only its scientific achievements, but also its work in inspiring others to pursue the wonders of science.

HONORING SERGEANT JORGE DELEON, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we honor Sergeant Jorge DeLeon, a brave soldier

who resides in my congressional district, for his exceptional service to his country, community and fellow veterans.

Sergeant DeLeon joined the U.S. Army in 2001. During his fourth deployment to Afghanistan in April 2004, the Humvee he was driving ran over an anti-tank mine. Sergeant DeLeon lost his right leg and had his left leg severely injured as a result of the blast. He underwent a long recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and now wears a computer-controlled prosthetic leg.

But Sergeant DeLeon's commitment to service did not end as a result of his battlefield injuries. Currently, he is employed by the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes (CSAH) as Director of the Family Support Network and CSAH Liaison to Brooke Army Medical Center. In addition, he serves as the National Spokesperson for CSAH to help to raise awareness for the organization. CSAH is committed to providing wounded veterans and their families support services to help them recover and rebuild their lives.

Sergeant DeLeon's personal bravery and ongoing efforts on behalf of his fellow veterans are commendable. I thank him for his dedicated service to our country.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PECK PIRATES HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM, 8-PLAYER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege today to recognize the Peck Pirates High School 8-Player Football Team. The Pirates had what can only be described as a perfect season. The young men that make up the Pirates 8-Player team displayed remarkable teamwork which drove their memorable season home to Sanilac County, keeping the 8-Player trophy in a Sanilac County School since the inception of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) 8-Player football sport in 2010.

The Pirates won the State Championship on November 22, 2013 with a decisive 67–32 win over Rapid River Rockets High School 8-Player Football Team, capping a perfect 13–0 season.

This championship game showcased the Pirates skills that carried them through the season. Their defense took charge executing key plays with tackles, sacks and a big interception before halftime. Their offense wasted little time getting points on the board, working together to complete drive after drive down the field. Both in defensive battle and offensively, the Pirates kept constant pressure on their opponent and making their claim to the trophy clear.

The Pirates proved they had the skills, teamwork and fortitude to rise to the challenge and accomplish their ultimate goal—a State Championship! I am certain the community and the entire Thumb Region takes great pride in what these young individuals were able to achieve as a team.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the hard work and sportsmanship displayed by all of the members of the Peck Pirates team. I

also wish to take a moment and acknowledge all the efforts and support by the coaches and parents, the cheerleaders, the school band, the teachers and administrators, and all of the students, fans, and community members who came out this season to support the Pirates. Together they made up a winning support system which led to an unforgettable season.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my personal congratulations and best wishes. All the accolades, awards, and trophies are rightfully deserved. Enjoy being State Champions, Go Pirates!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 621, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 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 \$17,227,010,669,351.91. We've added \$6,600,133,620,438.83 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

REGARDING H. RES. 417

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific—which has broad jurisdiction for U.S. foreign policy affecting the region, including India—I rise today to express my concerns about H. Res. 417 which purports to praise India's rich religious diversity and commitment to tolerance and equality while reaffirming the need to protect the rights and freedoms of religious minorities.

While I have the utmost respect for my colleagues who have introduced and co-sponsored this Resolution, I have a difference of opinion regarding the Resolution and its unintended consequences. The Resolution does little to praise India or strengthen U.S.-India relations but rather focuses on the 2002 Gujarat riots some 11 years after the fact.

Thanks, in part, to the efforts of Mr. Sanjay Puri, Chairman of USINPAC, who has mobilized the Indian-American community in opposition to the Resolution, I highly doubt H. Res. 417 will ever see Floor action. However, the timing of the Resolution is unfortunate as it unintentionally invokes the name of the U.S.

House of Representatives for purposes of influencing India's upcoming elections.

For this reason, I feel the need to include my statement in the Congressional Record for historical purposes to clear up the misinformation put forward by H. Res. 417. As I said shortly after the riots and ever since, like every other Member of Congress committed to human rights I see eye to eye with the national and international community that what happened in Gujarat calls for justice and accountability. But India, like the United States, has an independent and transparent Judiciary and, after an investigation that has been ongoing for more than a decade, India's Supreme Court and its Special Investigation Team have not found any evidence against Chief Minister Narendra Modi. And so, just as the U.S. would expect India to accept the findings of the U.S. Supreme Court, I believe it is time for the U.S. to accept the findings of India's Supreme Court.

Some 8 years after the fact, H. Res. 417 also commends the U.S. government for exercising its authority in 2005 under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to deny a U.S. visa to Chief Minister Narendra Modi on the grounds of religious freedom violations. However, technically speaking, no travel ban is in place. Chief Minister Modi was denied one visa in 2005. In September 2013, in response to a letter I sent to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, I was informed by the State Department that visa eligibility is determined by standards in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) based on information provided by the applicant or otherwise available at the time of application, and that "any future visa application put forward by Chief Minister Modi will be carefully considered and adjudicated in accordance with U.S. law." While I believe such a response by the State Department is grossly inadequate and an affront to U.S.-India relations because of its failure to unequivocally put this matter to rest, the underlying message is clear. No travel ban is in place.

Shri Narendra Modi may very well be India's next Prime Minister, and Resolutions like H. Res. 417 do little to help strengthen U.S.-India relations or protect and promote U.S. interests abroad, especially in the Asia Pacific region. For the record, Chief Minister Modi is a democratically elected leader. He has been elected three times by the majority of some 60 million constituents.

In India's upcoming 2014 elections, every voter should have the continued right to choose the candidate which emerges as the man of destiny, without undue influence from the United States or any other government. This is why I commend USINPAC for working with key leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives to set the record straight about Shri Narendra Modi, and for encouraging Members of Congress to open immediate dialogue with the Chief Minister.

I thank Chairman Ed Royce of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for also voicing his objections to H. Res. 417. India is a multi-cultural and multi-religious Democracy, where the Leader of the Ruling party is of Italian heritage, the Prime Minister is a Sikh, and the Vice President is a Muslim in an 80 percent Hindu nation. As the world's largest and oldest democracies, our inherent values and substance bind India and the United States together. Therefore, it is my sincere hope that

the U.S. House of Representatives will oppose any effort that seeks to tear us apart.

HONORING VOLUNTEERS FROM OREGON VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to convey my deepest appreciation to the team members of both the Klamath County and the Marion County Veterans Treatment Courts on visiting the Nation's capital this week. These Oregonians are here to attend the inaugural "Vet Con," or Veterans Treatment Court Conference, the first ever gathering of veterans court team members from across the Nation. The conference is being put on by Justice for Vets, a professional service division of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, with the goal of providing in-depth training to the nearly 200 veterans treatment courts across the Nation.

Key to the operation of a veterans treatment court is the collaborative partnership of the judicial system, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the county Veterans Service Office, veterans service organizations, community agencies and volunteers. These community members partner in a treatment team which convenes before each court session to review cases and develop problem solving recommendations. This coordinated response addresses an array of issues from community protection and restitution to offender rehabilitation. Weekly court appearances afford close judicial supervision of the veteran defendant's progress. The court hands out encouragement and sanctions as warranted.

I have had the honor of working with the Klamath County Veterans Treatment Court since it was started by Judge Marci Atkinson in November 2010. The development of the Klamath County Veterans Treatment Court began with discussions between Klamath County District Attorney Ed Caleb and Klamath County Veterans Service Officer Kathy Pierce. They formed an exceptional team to attend one of the first veterans court training seminars. Since then, Judge Atkinson and her team have built a very effective court utilizing best treatment practices to address the needs of veteran defendants in the criminal justice system.

Only two members of the Klamath County Veterans Treatment Court were able to attend this week's "Vet Con" conference. Kathy Pierce, as I mentioned before, is the Klamath County Veterans Service Officer. Kathy has been such an important part of ensuring that veterans in Klamath County are linked up with the benefits they have earned. Kathy works very closely with my office to help veterans resolve issues with their claims and appeals.

Steve Tillson serves as the Klamath County Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator. Steve has a great deal of responsibility in keeping the court well run and organized.

Steve is here this week not only for the training, but is serving as a trainer for other coordinators. We are proud of the work that Steve and Kathy have accomplished over the last four years and we are grateful for their