

was the Crops Club President and in 1996 received the Crops Club's Distinguished Agriculturist Award. Additionally, he served two terms on the California Industrial Welfare Commission's Wage Board #8. He is a past board member of the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association and a past board member of the California Agricultural Education Foundation.

In his various leadership roles, Earl has worked closely with California Governor Gray Davis, and other Democrat and Republican legislators, as well as his colleagues in the agriculture community to pass legislation to assist farmers and agribusinesses in California. Additionally, Earl has been a champion for air pollution and water quality issues facing the San Joaquin Valley of California.

Without a doubt, Earl has been a key player in California's agriculture industry for a number of years. It is with great pride that I recognize Earl P. Williams for his service and leadership and congratulate him on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On rollcall No. 630, "yea," on rollcall No. 631, "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent yesterday due to several flight cancellations and delays due to severe weather. As a result, I missed two votes on Tuesday, December 10, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 630 and 631.

CONGRATULATING JORDAN
MARCUS PATE ON ACHIEVING
THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and congratulate an outstanding constituent of my district, Jordan Marcus Pate of Scout Troop 100 in Oviedo, Florida, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in scouting. To attain this rank, he has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, self-discipline and perseverance while serving his family, friends and community. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The awarding of the Rank of Eagle Scout is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

Jordan Pate has met every test and challenge to pass through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency as a scout, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship, Environment, Fitness, Family Life and much more.

The work ethic Jordan has shown in his Eagle Scout projects, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to assisting his community and serving a cause greater than himself. It is my honor to commend Daniel Moon for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Jordan will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like President Gerald R. Ford, Neil Armstrong and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Jordan's devotion to the Boy Scouts over the past decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to service and know we can expect great things from him in the future. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jordan Marcus Pate on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 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 \$17,234,005,998,603.93. We've added \$6,607,128,949,690.85 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.

COMMENDING VIRAJ PURI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Viraj Puri, a 13-year-old student at Kilmer Middle School in Vienna, Virginia.

Viraj is interested in technology, music, advocacy, and writes a blog about mobile devices. He is also a certified DJ (DJ Droid) and built his own powerful computer which he uses for his DJ performances. Viraj performs in front of kids, adults and seniors.

As an Indian American teenager, Viraj saw the effects of bullying on his older brother and decided to blend advocacy and technology. He built a website which can be accessed at www.bullyvention.com.

Viraj's website calls for teenagers to Write on Washington, to make their voices roar by

contacting their lawmakers and urging them to join the campaign to stop bullying now. Viraj believes that kids who are bullied need to know they are powerful enough to reach out to those in position to make a difference.

Bullyvention is the first site to team up with the U.S. House of Representatives' Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus (CABC). Viraj's website trends from Capitol Hill where he interviews Members of Congress who have a story to share or advice to give victims of bullying.

In support of his vision that the "pen is mightier than the sword," Viraj has been successful in getting Members of Congress involved in a campaign he calls Raise Your Pen. Former Speaker and now Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives NANCY PELOSI has raised her pen to stop bullying now. President Barack Obama also sent a message of praise and a note of encouragement in response to a hand-written letter Viraj sent to him.

I am pleased that Viraj is also interviewing and posting photos of State Attorneys General, School Superintendents, and others who want to join the campaign. He is creating an online interactive map that highlights areas of concern by searching through keywords in social media like Facebook, Instagram, etc., and by school district, state, and county. It is the only interactive map on this subject.

I commend Viraj for taking a public stand against bullying and for putting his technology skills to use in a way that draws all of us together. His work, especially with Members of Congress, on behalf of teens across America is the first of its kind. And so, for historical purposes, I submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to recognize Viraj for his advocacy efforts. Viraj is a remarkable young man with a very bright future. I am proud to know him, and I extend to him and his family my kindest regards and best wishes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, the weather delayed my arrival to Washington DC for the afternoon votes, and I missed rollcall No. 631, or H.R. 1402. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1402.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEFF IRA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jeff Ira for his 16 years of outstanding service on the Redwood City City Council, two terms as mayor. To say that Jeff's enthusiasm and expertise will be missed by his colleagues and all residents would be the understatement of the decade. Jeff has demonstrated superb leadership in setting Redwood City on a stable financial path and in making it a better place to live. I am proud to call Jeff a colleague and

long time friend. When Jeff became mayor in 2009, he opened his two-year term with a "Call to Action" to inspire residents to get engaged in their community and help it recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression. He recommended volunteering at schools, libraries and non-profits and youth sports groups because he knew first-hand that all were suffering during the economic downturn. Under his leadership, and despite tough economic challenges, the city completed a new General Plan and the Downtown Precise Plan, attained a garbage collection agreement, accomplished a partnership with the San Carlos Fire Department to share services and save money, and passed a budget under enormous financial constraints. On his own time, Jeff worked hard to get ballot measures passed to bring more revenue to Redwood City. While mayor, he served on the city's Audit, Finance and Revenue, Jail, Economic Development/Downtown and Fox Theatre committees. He was also the council's liaison for Neighborhood Association co-chairs, and chair of the South Bayside System Authority. Jeff's vision and persistence were instrumental in creating the beautiful downtown of Redwood City. Courthouse Square and the Fox Theater would not be the sparkling jewels they are today without his hard and strategic work. Additionally, he made recycled water a reality for the community. Jeff showed the same creativity, integrity and commitment during his entire tenure on the city council. He will always be known for is the 2004 Great Toilet Giveaway when thousands of residents received low-flow toilets. He saved countless trees by having the city council move to a paperless system for staff reports and digital delivery of agenda packets. You can also thank him for the photo gallery on the city website showing off the beauty of Redwood City. His in-depth understanding of finances and fiscal constraints, and his contribution to creating controls over spiraling costs, helped steer the city through the economic downturn and towards financial stability. As a member of the South Bayside Systems Authority for 13 years, Jeff created the blue ribbon task force to analyze the governing structure of SBSA which resulted in a change on the board to include elected officials and a technical advisory committee. He oversaw the restructuring of the board's commission and committees to make them more effective and to meet the needs of the community. Jeff is passionate about public schools. As a parent, he was deeply involved in Clifford Elementary School in the Redwood City School District, and he worked tirelessly to raise funds for the district. He is committed to equal opportunity for all through quality public education. Jeff also serves as Treasurer of the Sequoia Awards which offers college scholarships to outstanding young people in Redwood City. Jeff has been a major fiscal and spiritual steward of this all-volunteer program for many years. In short, no matter what Jeff takes on, the results are always lasting. Jeff was born and raised in Redwood City and attended Saint Pius School and Saint Francis High School. He graduated from Humboldt State University with a B.S. in Accounting. Jeff is the proud father of Josh, Julie, Jessica and Joseph. While I am sure that he will enjoy more time hiking, kayaking, gardening and traveling after he retires from the council today, I have no doubt he will find ways to stay engaged and to give back to our commu-

nity. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Jeff Ira, one of the finest mayors and public servants San Mateo County has seen. His tireless commitment and contributions to the city and residents of Redwood City will be felt for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE DAVENPORT

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, our Ranking Minority Member, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Christine Davenport who is leaving the House at the end of this year after serving in the Office of the General Counsel for more than ten years, first as an Assistant Counsel and then as a Senior Assistant Counsel. We will miss her.

Ms. Davenport provided frequent and invaluable legal advice and representation to the Committee on House Administration, as well as to Members, officers and other committees of the House more generally. Our staff came to rely on her expertise and guidance, particularly in connection with their internal oversight activities. Over the years, Ms. Davenport played a significant role in safeguarding the legal and institutional interests of the House of Representatives.

Ms. Davenport served the House with great distinction. On behalf of the Committee on House Administration, we thank Ms. Davenport for her devoted service, and extend to her our very best wishes for her continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE PARKSIDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Buffalo's Parkside Community Association (PCA) for celebrating its 50th anniversary in association with the organization's years of dedicated community service. The PCA will celebrate this impressive landmark on Friday, December 6th at the greatbatch pavilion on the Darwin D. Martin House Complex of Buffalo.

Throughout its storied and active past, the PCA has continually sought to meet the challenges that older urban neighborhoods often present. Some of these hurdles include absentee landlords, zoning and code issues, infrastructure deterioration and cutbacks in city services.

The organization is governed by a Board of Directors which comprises 20 members who all serve on a volunteer basis. Each Board member is elected annually by a neighborhood membership of more than 500 individuals, families, and business owners. It is more

than appropriate that the PCA's leadership consists of volunteers, as they are truly the backbone of the organization. Eight or more standing and ad-hoc committees consisting of neighborhood volunteers regularly contribute an impressive average of 130 volunteer hours per month.

The PCA provides countless services to local homeowners and the surrounding community. In addition to providing referral and crime prevention services for neighborhood residents as well as assisting in the formation of block clubs and community meetings, the PCA also stages neighborhood tours, hosts programs including the Summer Arts Camp and Little Library Program, and manages committees on crime and safety, housing, and traffic. The PCA was instrumental with the opening of the Parkside COPS Satellite station which addresses quality of life issues, and helped to restore two vacant buildings along the major commercial boundaries. The organization has even assisted some homeowners with property improvements through low-interest loans.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to commend the Parkside Community Association of Buffalo on their 50 years of devoted service to their community. It is the admirable hard work and dedication from organizations like the PCA that maintains the strength and integrity of our neighborhoods. I wish the Parkside Community Association the absolute best in all their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB OF SAVANNAH

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rotary Club of Savannah, which will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this January. This club has been instrumental in providing a network for Savannah's business leaders and serving our community.

The Rotary Club of Savannah is the oldest club in Georgia outside of Atlanta and has over 240 members. It was founded on January 12, 1914. The club's first major project was to buy and promote the sale of bonds to build a road to Tybee Island. The Rotary Club of Savannah was very active in World Wars I and II, helping our service men abroad and aiding relief efforts in Europe.

The Rotary Club of Savannah has been one of the largest supporters of the Bethesda Home for Boys, providing funding, clothing, Christmas gifts, banquets, Boy Scout activities, and volunteer services. They have sponsored the formation of eight new Rotary clubs in our state. They have also been instrumental in establishing the Georgia Rotary Student Program, an international scholarship program which invites students from around the world to study in Georgia.

From organizing youth sports programs to constructing water fountains, the Rotary Club has been a force for good in our community for the past century. I am proud to support the Rotary Club of Savannah as they celebrate this historic milestone. My thoughts are with them during this special time.