

This efficiency will better serve program beneficiaries and taxpayers at the same time.

I thank my colleagues for co-sponsoring this important legislation, starting with Mr. DOGETT, the Ranking Member on the Human Resources Subcommittee, Mr. REICHERT, Chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee, as well as Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Dr. BOUSTANY, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. GRIFFIN, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. DANNY DAVIS of Illinois.

I invite all Members to join us in supporting this important legislation designed to improve the integrity of the benefit programs millions of Americans access today, and ensure that taxpayer funds are properly spent.

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TRIBUTE TO ERICA AXIOTIS

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**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Erica Axiotis for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Erica Axiotis resides in Des Moines, Iowa with her husband Christopher and is currently serving as the Director of Development for the Mercy Foundation, where she works with businesses interested in providing donations to assist the healthcare work done by Mercy Medical Center. Also a board member of the Junior League of Des Moines, the Iowa Shakespeare Experience, and Young Variety, Mrs. Axiotis' commitment and passion for assisting her community and beyond are outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Erica in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Axiotis for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Erica on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

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COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

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**HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2013*

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, last month marked 25 years since the people of the

Nagorno Karabakh region took a brave and bold first step in asserting their right to political freedom and national independence. Since the early 20th century the Nagorno Karabakh region and its people have been subject to the territorial squabbling and political gamesmanship of a number of foreign powers. In spite of this fact, the proud people of the Nagorno Karabakh have steadfastly asserted their desire for political autonomy, overwhelmingly approving a popular referendum declaring independence from Azerbaijan in 1991 and thereby affirming a distinct national identity driven by deep ethnic, cultural, and religious bonds. The Nagorno Karabakh Republic's steady advances in the industries of banking, agriculture, and telecommunications, provide further testament to their promise as a viable independent partner in the international community. Coupling this with the United States' longstanding and unambiguous role as a defender of free people's right to self-determination across the globe, I hope that my colleagues will join me in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh liberation movement as part of the promotion of peace, stability, and prosperity in the South Caucasus.

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OPPOSITION TO BUDGET SEQUESTRATION

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**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2013*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves in the midst of yet another manufactured crisis that threatens our economic recovery. Last Friday marked the beginning of \$85 billion in arbitrary, across-the-board cuts to key domestic priorities and defense programs.

How did we get here? The Budget Control Act of 2011 created an automatic sequestration plan that was designed to be so senseless and so painful that Democrats and Republicans would be left with no choice but to come together to craft an alternative. Yet, the sequestration that was never supposed to happen has begun.

The impact of these cuts will be real. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that sequestration will reduce GDP by .6% and cost about 750,000 jobs by the fourth quarter of this year. These alarming figures don't even take into account the impact cuts will have on federal protections and services for American families.

They include:

Reductions in FDA funding that will result in fewer scheduled food safety inspections and delays in new drug approvals.

Reductions in substance abuse and mental health programs that will result in nearly 400,000 adults and children with serious mental illnesses going without treatment.

Reductions in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF), resulting in delayed or halted scientific and medical research. Reductions in funding for the Aids Drug Assistance Program, resulting in thousands fewer patients having access to HIV medications, and reductions in funding for Centers for Disease Control (CDC), resulting in over 400,000 fewer AIDS tests being conducted this year.

Reductions in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), resulting in cuts in public health and environmental protections, including reductions in safe drinking water and wastewater treatment projects, water quality permitting, air quality monitoring, and hazardous waste cleanups.

Nearly 4 million individuals receiving federally funded unemployment benefits will face an 11% cut in their weekly payments. The WIC nutrition program for low-income pregnant women, infants, and young children could be forced to turn away over 700,000 women and children by the end of the year and 100,000 families could lose their housing vouchers.

California will be particularly hard hit by the deep cuts to defense spending. Billions of dollars and an estimated 225,464 jobs related to aerospace and defense are at risk.

We have an obligation to put partisanship aside and make budget decisions that reflect the priorities of the American people. President Obama has offered to work with Congress on a comprehensive plan to reduce the debt, create a fairer tax system, and rebuild the middle class, all of which are necessary to strengthen the economy and maintain our ability to compete. Democrats have introduced legislation that takes such a balanced approach, and I urge the Republican leadership to allow it to come to the floor for a vote.

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TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN BRENDEMUEHL

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**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jonathan Brendemuehl for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Originally from Illinois, Jonathan Brendemuehl is a Drake University alumnus who now resides in Des Moines home with his partner Christopher Diebel. Mr. Brendemuehl, 26, serves as the Marketing Events Coordinator for Bankers Trust Co. In this role, Jonathan manages Bankers Trust's involvement in more than 125 annual events. Outside of his career, Mr. Brendemuehl serves as president of the Downtown Neighborhood Association and is actively involved in the Des Moines Symphony and Des Moines Community Playhouse. Jonathan's passion for his career and his community sets an example that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jonathan in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that

I recognize and applaud Mr. Brendemuehl for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jonathan on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF  
CLARENCE ATWELL, JR.**

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2013*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Mr. COSTA, to pay tribute to the life of Clarence Atwell, Jr., who passed away on February 28, 2013 at the age of 67. Clarence served as Chief of the Tachi Yokut Tribe for 42 years. His leadership, guidance, and compassion will be greatly missed.

Born in the early morning hours under a lone tree on the Rice Ranch, Clarence Atwell would grow to lead an extraordinary life. Raised by his grandmother on the reservation, Clarence spoke his native language of Tachi. It was only when he started grade school that he learned English. During his adolescent years, Clarence developed a strong passion for caring for the tribal elders. He would spend days hunting for food, sometimes walking several miles to bring home rabbit, deer, and fish for the elders. His love of the land grew as he became a young man, and Clarence worked in the fields from sunup to well beyond sundown each day.

Strongly connected to his tribe, Chief Atwell was first elected Tribal Chairman in his early 20s and would go on to hold the position for over 40 years. The Tachi Yokut Tribe prospered under the powerful and wise Tribal Leadership of Chief Atwell. For many years, the members worked hard to achieve self-sufficiency by expanding Tachi Palace in Lemoore from a small gaming facility into one of the San Joaquin Valley's top destinations. Partially due to his efforts, tribal members now have access to secure housing, the elders receive lunch each day, and the members have dental and medical care.

Acknowledged by Kings County, California as an official Spiritual Leader, Chief Atwell was renowned for his spiritual guidance and performed countless life-changing ceremonies, including weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Chief Atwell was a Bear Clan Leader for California, one of the highest native spiritual honors afforded to individuals. The Bears were part of the official inauguration ceremony of then-California Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante where they performed in full regalia at the State's Capitol.

Chief Atwell advised many political leaders, having had the distinction of meeting Vice President Al Gore and President Bill Clinton. Chief Atwell was known for his candor and forthrightness, though always in a quiet and polite manner. Tribes across the country could count on Chief Atwell for his political savvy, keen knowledge, and intense wisdom.

Clarence leaves behind his wife, Jeanette, and children: Kimberly, Cheryl, Curtis, Aubrey, and Rufus; as well as many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. COSTA and I ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life and service of Clarence Atwell, Jr. His advice and leadership will be missed by many, but his spirit will surely live on in the Tachi Yokut Tribe.

**TRIBUTE TO JOHN MICKELSON**

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize John Mickelson for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

John Mickelson is the Associate Managing Director at the PrivateBank and Trust Co. and also serves as a City Councilman for the City of West Des Moines. He has previously started, owned, and operated three small businesses. John received three degrees from the University of Iowa, where he was also a letter-winner on the football team. Outside of work, John serves as Vice-Chair for the State Historical Society of Iowa and a Board Member for the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. Mr. Mickelson resides in West Des Moines with his wife Brooke and their three sons. In both facets of his life, John is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like John in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Mickelson for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating John on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

**NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES  
AWARENESS WEEK**

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2013*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize this week as National Invasive Species Awareness Week.

The National Invasive Species Awareness Week is an opportunity to learn about invasive species in our communities and the risk they pose to our environments, economy, and na-

tive wildlife. These non-native plants, animals, and other microorganisms are costing our local communities, states, and the federal government millions of dollars each year. One species of concern for my district is Asian Carp.

If left unchecked, Asian Carp will destroy local ecosystems and potentially risk thousands of jobs in my home state of Minnesota. Since the 1970s, this environmental-invader has overwhelmed the Mississippi watershed. Asian Carp now threatens an estimated 10,000 lakes and 92,000 miles of rivers and streams in Minnesota. Jumping almost ten feet in the air, they pose a real hazard to boaters and fishermen. Our state is not alone in the devastating effects of this invasive species. Communities in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Iowa, Kentucky, Ohio, and Wisconsin have all been affected by Asian Carp.

Earlier this year, I re-introduced the Strategic Response to Asian Carp Invasion Act (H.R. 358) along with Congressman MIKE KELLY (R-PA). Effectively combatting this serious problem requires the federal government to be an equal partner, engaged with our states and local communities. Senators SHERROD BROWN (D-OH) and PAT TOOMEY (R-PA) have introduced an identical version—S. 125.

Our legislation will hold federal agencies accountable and improve their coordination with local authorities to slow the spread of Asian Carp. The bill would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to lead a new multi-agency effort that includes the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey to develop a coordinated strategy that supports on-going state and regional efforts as well as provide high-level technical assistance, best practices, and other resources.

Ongoing work by the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Commission, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, non-governmental organizations, our Canadian partners, and regional efforts demonstrate a broad recognition of the scope of this threat. However, no federal strategy currently exists to protect the Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins and tributaries from this destructive, invasive species.

The Strategic Response to Asian Carp Invasion Act has the endorsement of several national wide organizations such as Trout Unlimited, National Wildlife Federation, National Parks Conservation Association, and B.A.S.S.

Last year, taxpayers paid an estimated \$100 million for the control of Asian Carp. We will continue to waste taxpayer dollars without a national strategy that targets our resources, invests in new solutions, and coordinates ongoing, effective efforts to slow the spread of Asian Carp.

**TRIBUTE TO TINA GRAY  
CARSTENSEN**

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Tina Gray Carstensen for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.