

brought high praise from the Contra Costa County Grand Jury. He also established a Real Estate Fraud Notification System which has protected the County's property owners.

Steve has earned many awards and distinctions throughout his career, including the 1993 Citizen of the Year Award from the California Transportation Foundation in recognition of his skill in bringing improvements to the Contra Costa and Bay Area's transportation systems and under his watch, the Contra Costa County Clerk's Office was awarded the County Department of the Year Award in 1994. However, we are certain that the distinction Steve and his long-time partner, John Hemm, take most pride in is the fact that their marriage in June of 2008 was the very first same-gender union ever conducted in Contra Costa County.

As Steve trades his desk chair in Martinez for his bicycle seat, we expect to see him quickly surpass the record 5600 miles of roads and trails he logged last year and to easily hit his personal goal of 75 round trip rides to the 3,864 foot summit of Mt. Diablo this coming year.

Mr. Speaker, we invite our colleagues to join us in commending City Clerk-Recorder Steve Weir for his years of outstanding service to the citizens of Contra Costa County. We are pleased to join his husband, John, his family, friends and colleagues, in congratulating Steve on an outstanding career and wishing him the very best as he begins a well-deserved and we imagine, a very active retirement.

HONORING 125 YEARS OF THE EASTMAN MACHINE COMPANY AND THE STEVENSON FAMILY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and honor the Eastman Machine Company for its 125 years of business. Owned by the Stevenson family for the past five generations, Eastman revolutionized the apparel industry. Today, Eastman is undoubtedly the global standard for material handling, spreading, and cutting equipment.

The Eastman Machine Company began in 1888, when Canadian inventor George Eastman developed the first fractional electric motor that could be mounted onto a cutting base. By attaching the motor to a reciprocating knife, he created the Eastman, the first electric fabric-cutting machine.

The Eastman rendered manual cutting obsolete, transforming the apparel industry. Rather than painstakingly cutting materials by hand, the Eastman allowed companies to cut fabric mechanically, which exponentially increased production speeds while drastically lowering production costs.

Ten years later, one of Eastman's first investors, Charles P. Stevenson, took over full ownership of the company. The Stevenson family holds the company to this day and remains intimately involved in all aspects of the business.

C.P. Stevenson's son, Wade, assumed leadership in 1908, when he was just twenty-two years old. A shrewd businessman, Wade greatly expanded Eastman's markets. Initially, he propelled sales to reach across the coun-

try. By 1921, he was selling Eastman products in Europe, South America, and South Africa. To further increase sales, Wade developed numerous patents, each stemming from the original Eastman fabric cutter.

Wade controlled Eastman Machine Company for sixty years, passing the company to his son C.P. "Chuck" Stevenson in 1968. Due to his leadership, Eastman acquired the world's leading producer of cloth spreading machines in 1974, Cutting Room Appliance Corporation. With this purchase Eastman became the unequivocal source for all types of apparel manufacturing and fabric cutting machines.

In 1988, Robert L. Stevenson and Wade Stevenson bought the rapidly growing company from their father. Robert became President, and Wade remained in charge of international operations as Export President. Under their innovative leadership, they sought to make Eastman able to produce the complete set of material cutting and handling equipment. They understood that by controlling each piece of machinery, their customers would have the most efficient, economical solution, a truly revolutionary idea.

To accommodate rapidly expanding and widely variable global markets, Eastman purchased North Technology Systems in 1995. North Technology Systems developed groundbreaking software used in computers that controlled cutting machines, and pioneered the use of materials Kevlar and Mylar, which allowed Eastman to expand into new industries that used composite and industrial fabrics.

The Stevenson brothers continue to be passionate about their company's potential and visionary in their pursuit of it. Abroad, Eastman opened a factory in Ningbo, China, in 2004. In 2008, the company acquired Saber Industries of Nashville, Tennessee, improving spreading capacity.

Today, the Eastman Machine Company has produced over one thousand automated systems located in over twenty countries. Since its humble beginnings in Buffalo, New York, it has become the world's foremost producer of material handling, spreading, and cutting equipment, with innumerable patents, and hundreds of machines, and facilities on five continents.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank you for allowing me to acknowledge the incredible legacy of the Eastman Machine Company and the ingenuity, dedication, and vision of the Stevenson family. I wish all those involved with this institution the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING AUSTIN LEE CABLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Austin Lee Cable. Austin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Austin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Austin has been involved with

scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Austin led his troop as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, became an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Austin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Austin designed and supervised the construction of an outdoor seating area at Harmony Vineyard Church in Kansas City, Missouri, complete with a cedar pergola, two cedar benches and finished with Missouri River Rock landscaping.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Austin Lee Cable for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES ALAN JOHNSON

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, my college debate coach, and my mentor, James Alan Johnson—known to everyone as "Al"—who passed away in late December of last year. Al Johnson's life began in the little farming town of Swink, Colorado, on July 6, 1930. He attended school in nearby La Junta, and when he was old enough he joined the United States Navy and fought in the Korean War. After the war, he earned his bachelor's degree from Colorado College (CC), and went on to receive a Masters in economics from Stanford University.

He returned to his undergraduate alma mater to spend his career, and became a beloved figure on CC's campus. Respected by his colleagues and admired by his students, Al's career spanned many decades, where he was a professor of economics, the college's debate coach, and the college Registrar. As Registrar, he guided the college towards excellence. It was under his leadership that CC's unique approach towards higher education—the Block Plan—became a reality. Because of this visionary plan of study, Colorado College students have the opportunity to focus on one class at a time. Al's steady hand as Registrar made the vision of the Block Plan a reality; one that continues to challenge students today.

As CC's debate coach, Al inspired generations of debaters. He expected nothing less than our best at all times. He urged us to be scholar-debaters, not just debaters; driving us to research a topic thoroughly, yet honestly, looking at the matter from all sides. All these years later, I remember how Al would repeat anything that was particularly important three times. As I now spend my days giving speeches designed to influence and inform, that guidance continues to resonate with me—to repeat that which is important as you make your argument.

Al's commitment to debate ran beyond just our classroom. He held the positions of president and treasurer of the National Collegiate Debate Association, and organized the National Parliamentary Debate Association and various international tournaments. Even in his

retirement, Al continued his active involvement with the debate community, urging the national associations to keep the activity relevant to the training of future generations of leaders.

Throughout his life, Al loved to travel, and in fact, he and his brother Bill visited all 50 states, six continents and 50 different countries. In recent years, Al and Bill made regular trips to Washington, DC to visit their late sister, Shirley, and he always called me when he was in town. A lifelong Coloradan, Al was a scholar of Colorado state history, as well as American and world history, and frequently gave speeches on history in El Paso County and in Denver.

Al was beloved by his many former students and colleagues. During his final illness, the outpouring of love and support from his friends helped ease his days. Al received visits, phone calls, cards, and emails from around the world. A true mark of his influence was how the community rallied around him. I had the honor of seeing Al just a few weeks before his death, and will forever be glad that I had one more opportunity to hear his wisdom.

Al Johnson was a scholar, a teacher, a mentor and a friend to countless students and colleagues throughout his life. His passing is a great loss for Colorado College, for the state of Colorado, and a personal loss for me and all who loved him. He will be sorely missed, but I know his legacy of excellence will endure.

SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL COUGARS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM WINS THE LOUISIANA CLASS 4A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Saint Thomas More Catholic High School Boys basketball team for their recent achievement of winning Louisiana's Class 4A State Championship. This team had a tough season, but it finished strong in the end. This game accounted for the Cougars' third triumph against the Northside High School Vikings this year. The Cougars are proud to claim the state title and bring it home to Lafayette.

With five seniors on the team providing steady leadership, Coach Danny Broussard knew the Vikings would shine during the state playoffs. In a season full of commitment and many practices, the Cougars' efforts proved worthwhile and successful. Because of the team's hard work, the community was blessed to witness those five seniors finish their final game with the reward of a state championship.

Also, I want to commend the team's entire coaching staff on their hard work and dedication. Coach Danny Broussard has led the team for many years with a bench full of capable assistant coaches that are vital to the team. Wesley Cortese and Brad Geoffroy allocate a tremendous amount of time to this team, and that sacrifice does not go unrecognized. I am excited to see the team defend its title next year in its quest for a repeat performance, and I wish the Cougars basketball team much luck and success in the future.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 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 \$16,739,939,855,865.39. We've added \$6,113,062,806,952.31 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO SALLY JOHNSTON

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Mrs. Sally Johnston. Sally is currently the New York Department President of the American Legion Auxiliary and will be finishing her one-year term this upcoming July.

Sally has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for over 25 years. During this period she has worked tirelessly on behalf of veterans and their families throughout New York State, serving as President of the Third District (2000–01) and Fourth District (2006–07), as well as Department Second and Third Vice President (2009–11) before becoming Department President. Sally has received numerous awards including national recognition when she was awarded the Department National Historian award for the best overall entry in the Eastern Division.

Recently, Sally has focused her energy on the Warriors Assistance Program. Under her guidance, the Warriors Assistance Program has steadily grown, raising \$39,000 so far, an amount that is expected to increase overtime.

Sally truly exemplifies the American Legion Auxiliary's motto of "service not self." In addition to her work with the American Legion Auxiliary, Sally is an active member in her community, serving on various educational, church and cultural boards. Her lifelong commitment to improve and support the lives of others, particularly those who have served our great country, reflects the best in our citizenry.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Sally Johnston for her many years of service to the veterans and their families of New York State. I wish Sally all the best in the many years ahead.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE OF THE OFFICERS AND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mrs. Miller of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Margaret

Mitchell of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who has reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives. Margaret began her career in 1987 as a receptionist in the computer center, and she has continued to be an exemplary employee as she has gone on to assume many roles within HIR.

Ms. Mitchell is acknowledged and commended for her hard work, dedication, professionalism, support of House Members, their staffs and constituents, and for her contributions, day-in and day-out, to the overall operations of the House. I am proud to stand before you and the Nation on Ms. Mitchell's behalf to recognize the importance of her public service.

HONORING HUNTER SAMUEL BENTCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hunter Samuel Bentch. Hunter is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hunter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hunter has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Hunter led his troop as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and attended the Colorado and Philmont High Adventure Camps. Hunter has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Hunter designed and constructed a five-foot high, 46-foot long, fence along a section of the Trail of Heroes at the Kansas City Missouri Police Academy where the trail had a sharp drop-off.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Hunter Samuel Bentch for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 83 regarding the "Mulvaney of South Carolina Substitute Amendment No. 1" (H. Con. Res. 25). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

I missed rollcall vote No. 84 regarding the "Scott of Virginia Substitute Amendment No. 2" (H. Con. Res. 25). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

I missed rollcall vote No. 85 regarding the "Grijalva of Arizona Substitute Amendment No. 3" (H. Con. Res. 25). Had I been present, I would have voted "no".