

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".

I missed rollcall vote No. 86 regarding the "Woodall of Georgia Substitute Amendment No. 4" (H. Con. Res. 25). Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

FIREARMS RISK PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce an important piece of legislation: the Firearms Risk Protection Act (FRPA). This bill will require gun owners to purchase liability coverage and to show proof of that coverage when they purchase a firearm. This is an idea whose time has come. In fact, lawmakers in several states including Massachusetts and Illinois have introduced similar legislative proposals.

In the wake of horrific tragedies like those at Newtown, Aurora, and Tucson, we as a society and we as lawmakers must provide answers. We must respect Americans' rights to own guns but limit gun violence and gun death. We must continue to enable guns to be used in a lawful and safe manner by responsible citizens and we must keep guns out of the hands of others. We must make sure the atrocities we have witnessed never happen again.

This federal requirement would serve as a market-based solution to holding gun owners liable for the weapons they own. As with car insurance premiums, higher risk gun owners will face higher premiums. Actuarial determinations will be made by insurance companies, as those experts are in the best position to make those determinations based on sound data analysis.

Under the Firearms Risk Protection Act (FRPA), state regulated insurance companies would be able to extend coverage to their customers—this is not a federal insurance program. Additionally, this bill poses no specific requirements on insurance companies themselves, but instead, imposes a fine of \$10,000 if during the sale of a weapon the seller does not confirm coverage or the buyer has not purchased it.

As lawmakers, we must stand ready to work on solutions to curtail our nation's gun violence and requiring liability coverage for gun owners should be part of the solution. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this important piece of legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, April 10 marks a significant date for the relationship between the United States and the Republic of China, our dear friends in Southeast Asia. This is the 34th anniversary of the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act that codified the bond that we share with Taiwan.

Even though we have been friends and allies for much longer, it was the Taiwan Relations Act that officially outlined the importance that both nations place in each other. We are strong partners in trade, peace and democracy.

When it comes to trade, Taiwan imported \$25.9 billion from the United States in 2011. This is an incredible 40% increase over 2009. It shows the focus Taiwan is placing on buying American goods which translates to jobs here in the United States.

In New York alone, exports to Taiwan were over \$1 billion. We also appreciate the many Taiwanese companies, such as Young Stuff Apparel Group and China Airlines that have invested in New York.

We look forward to our continued friendship and partnership with Taiwan for many years to come.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, as a proud member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, CPC, I rise in strong support of the CPC's alternative to H. Con. Res. 25. This alternative budget, more appropriately known as the "Budget for All" Substitute invests in America, reforms corporate and individual taxes in a balanced manner, and adopts sensible, modern defense spending. Simply put: the CPC is an egalitarian and effective budget for all of America.

The CPC's "Budget for All" wisely invests the hard earned peace dividend resulting from the successful end to the war in Iraq and the winding down of the war in Afghanistan to promote economic growth and a healthier and cleaner environment.

In addition, this budget puts Americans back to work, charts a path to responsible deficit reduction, enhances our economic competitiveness, rebuilds the middle class and invests in our future. The CPC budget makes no cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security benefits, and asks those who have benefited most from our economy to pay a sensible share. It is only fair.

The CPC budget addresses America's persistently high unemployment levels with more than \$2.9 trillion in additional job-creating investments, which frankly will help depressed economies in inner-city communities across America, including those in my hometown of Houston, Texas. This plan utilizes every tool at the government's disposal to get our economy moving again, including:

Direct hire programs that create a School Improvement Corps, a Park Improvement Corps, and a Student Jobs Corps, among others.

Targeted tax incentives that spur clean energy, manufacturing, and cutting-edge technological investments in the private sector.

Widespread domestic investments including an infrastructure bank, a \$556 billion surface transportation bill, and approximately \$2.1 trillion in widespread domestic investment.

The Budget for All achieves \$6.8 trillion in deficit reduction, hits the same debt to GDP ratio as the Republican budget with lower deficits in the last five years; and does so in a responsible way that does not eviscerate vital services Americans want preserved.

These benchmarks are achieved by focusing on the true drivers of our deficit: unsustainable tax policies, the wars overseas, and policies that helped cause the recent recession—rather than irresponsibly putting the middle class's social safety net on the chopping block.

The budget also taxes fairly, because it:

Ends tax cuts for the top 2% of Americans on schedule at year's end.

Extends tax relief for middle class households and the vast majority of Americans.

Creates new tax brackets for millionaires and billionaires.

Eliminates the tax code's preferential treatment of capital gains and dividends.

Abolishes corporate welfare for oil, gas, and coal companies.

Eliminates loopholes that allow businesses to dodge their true tax liability.

Calls for the adoption of the "Buffett Rule".

Creates a publicly funded federal election system that gets corporate money out of politics for good.

The CPC budget demonstrates that we have been listening to the American people because we responsibly and sensibly end our military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan, leaving America more secure at home and abroad; and modernizes our military to address 21st century threats and stop contributing to our deficit problems. This is the peace dividend. With this dividend, the CPC budget:

Provides a Making Work Pay tax credit for families struggling with high gas and food cost's 2013–2015.

Extends Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Child and Dependent Care Credit.

Invests in programs to stave off further foreclosures to keep families in their homes.

Invests in our children's education by increasing Education, Training, and Social Services.

Mr. Chair, the federal budget is a moral document, with meaning, fiber, and a unique texture. Sometimes we lose sight of this fact given the preoccupation by many with, I could wax on and on today on the Floor about the "baselines," "benchmarks," and "extrapolations and projections of future budget conditions," based on the assumptions that may or may not turn out to be accurate.

But real people living, struggling with real problems in the real world are not interested in such esoteric discussion. They want us to focus on their lives and their problems. They want to know that we understand the necessity of making taxes fairer, simpler, and economically reasonable.

Most economists agree, Mr. Speaker, that entitlement policy must be evaluated and progressively modified to achieve sustainability. Unlike discretionary spending, mandatory spending grew rapidly from 5% of GDP in 1962 to a range of 9% to 10.5% of GDP from