

Despite her having left the field, Dr. Brodie's dedication to education has never ceased. She has hired, financially supported, tutored, counseled, and graduated hundreds of residents from Robbins and the surrounding communities. Additionally, under her tutelage, the Mayor's Scholarship Fund has funded tuition costs for hundreds of students through the years and her individual efforts have produced teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, and educators around the world. Her contributions to education were recognized when Moraine Valley named the "Dr. Irene H. Brodie Academic Skills Center" in her honor. This center serves as a critical area of academic enrichment for Moraine Valley students.

During her tenure at Moraine Valley, Brodie also served as Village Clerk for the Village of Robbins for 12 years. Her service there led her to be recognized as a leader by a group of constituents who asked her to lead Robbins as its Mayor. Her election as Mayor marked her retirement from Moraine Valley and a shift in her career from educator to elected leader.

Mr. Speaker, throughout her career Dr. Brodie has served in such leadership positions as Vice-President of the Illinois Municipal League, Executive Board Member and Assistant Secretary of the National Conference of Black Mayors, and Chair of the Education and Scholarship Committee for the National Conference of Black Mayors. Additionally she has served as a member of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, numerous Gubernatorial Transition Teams, various state and federal advisory boards, and as a member of President Clinton's Environmental Think Tank Group.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again thank Mayor Brodie for her decades of service and congratulate her on her retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO IOWA'S CIVIL WAR HEROES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the invaluable contribution of Iowa's servicemembers during the United States Civil War as the Kinsman Monument in Council Bluffs, Iowa is rededicated on May 18, 2013. This event will mark the 150th anniversary of the passing of Colonel William H. Kinsman of Council Bluffs, for whom the monument is named.

Born in Canada in 1832, William Kinsman studied in New York and Cleveland before setting off for Iowa in 1858. After travelling across the entire state by foot, Colonel Kinsman settled in Council Bluffs, where he was admitted to the bar, taught school and wrote for the local press. He volunteered at the outbreak of the war and was elected a lieutenant under famed Iowa war hero General Grenville Dodge in Iowa's 4th Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Kinsman was ultimately promoted to the colonelcy of the 23rd Iowa Infantry following a stretch of valiant service, and in 1863 he and his troops joined General Grant's campaign to capture Vicksburg, Mississippi. On May 17 of that year, Colonel Kinsman fought and was mortally wounded in a pivotal battle at Big Black River Bridge that helped isolate the

Confederates, leading to their eventual surrender in Vicksburg weeks later. Although Colonel Kinsman passed the following morning, he gave his life for our state, our country, and the cause of freedom.

Kinsman was interred on the battlefield, but nearly 40 years later in 1904, General Dodge, by then a former U.S. Congressman, secured the necessary financial resources to bring his remains home to Council Bluffs to be permanently laid to rest. Today, the Kinsman Monument reminds us of the sacrifice of Iowa's veterans during the Civil War and the strength of our nation's resolve.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to represent the people of Iowa, the city of Council Bluffs, and the legacies of Colonel Kinsman and General Dodge in the United States Congress. Their stories represent just a fragment of Iowa's extensive contributions to this great country made by our selfless veterans and their family members. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking the Iowa Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for this historic ceremony, and I humbly express my unending gratitude to all of our nation's veterans, servicemembers, and their families for their service and sacrifice.

HONORING ANDREW GOTZON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Gotzon. Andrew 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 1260, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew 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, Andrew contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Andrew cleaned and renovated 13 playgrounds, sanding off the old paint, applying a fresh coat of paint and cleaning up the playground area.

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

THE LEGACY OF SRI LANKA'S CIVIL WAR

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, four years ago this week, the Sri Lankan military declared victory over the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) after more than 25 years of conflict. Thus ended one of the most devastating civil wars of the century, offering hope of a brighter future for the Sri Lankan people characterized by peace, reconciliation, and economic prosperity.

Unfortunately, four years later this brighter future remains elusive for much of Sri Lanka's population. The Sri Lankan military's final offensive against the LTTE left hundreds of thousands of civilians—most of them Tamils—in a situation of forced relocation, humanitarian disaster, and precarious political rights. We have also learned that the government likely committed serious abuses during the fighting itself, leading to the death, torture, or disappearance of tens of thousands of Tamil civilians. A recent report by Human Rights Watch sheds a startling light on these abuses, documenting widespread and potentially systematic incidences of rape, torture, and sexual assault of Tamil detainees by Sri Lankan forces.

Since the end of the conflict, the Sri Lankan government has blatantly and repeatedly defied the demands of the international community and commonly accepted norms of justice and human rights by failing to reintegrate large numbers of Tamil citizens in a timely manner, denying access by journalists and humanitarian organizations to conflict-affected areas, and detaining former combatants indefinitely without access to legal recourse. The government has also persistently rejected calls by a growing number of governments, international bodies, and human rights organizations for an independent investigation into potential war crimes. If the government truly has nothing to hide, why resist even this basic measure of accountability?

On this anniversary of the end of the 2009 conflict, I call on the government of Sri Lanka to act expeditiously to reintegrate Tamil civilians into their communities, provide ex-combatants with appropriate legal recourse and a path toward reintegration, and open its doors to a truly independent international investigation. I also call on our own government to redouble its efforts to pursue accountability for atrocities committed by all sides of this tragic conflict. In the meantime, I urge Congress to expand current conditions on aid to the Sri Lankan government to cover all forms of military assistance.

It is past time for the international community to finally bring an end to this dark chapter in Sri Lanka's history so that the Sri Lankan people can realize the future they so badly deserve.

RECOGNIZING IGANCIO "NASH" CANTU FOR HIS DEDICATION TO BETTERING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Igancio "Nash" Cantu and his devotion to enriching the lives of people with disabilities in my district. Nash, a resident of Carrollton, TX who works as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) at Mosaic in Dallas, was recently named by the American Network for Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) as Texas' Direct Support Professional of the Year for 2013.

DSPs across the nation are vital in helping people with significant disabilities lead a healthier and more meaningful life. This award

honors only those DSPs who have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to bettering the lives of the individuals they serve. Thanks to Nash's incredible work, the people he supports have a greater opportunity to participate and contribute in their community. I am extremely grateful to have Nash as a constituent and am very proud to recognize his devoted service to the people of my district and the state of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the amazing work of Igancio "Nash" Cantu. We must always honor those who devote themselves to enriching the lives of others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed roll No. 149. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING MIKALA JOHOKU JOHN JEFFERSON ZUBER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mikala Johoku John Jefferson Zuber. Mikala 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 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mikala has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Mikala 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, Mikala has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and the Four Star Religious Award. Mikala has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Mikala constructed book shelves for Gracemor Elementary School in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mikala Johoku John Jefferson Zuber 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. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes #144, #145, and #146 on Tuesday, May 14, 2013. I was at-

tending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three votes.

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE P. CLARKE

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Mrs. Maxine P. Clarke has answered that call by giving of herself as an educator at Dunaire Elementary School, and as a beloved wife, mother and friend; and

Whereas, Mrs. Clarke has been chosen as the 2013 Teacher of the Year, representing Dunaire Elementary School; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her tireless works, motivational speeches and words of wisdom; and

Whereas, Mrs. Clarke is a virtuous woman, a courageous woman and a fearless leader who has shared her vision, talents and passion to help ensure that our children receive an education that is relevant not only for today, but well into the future, as she truly understands that our children are the future; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Maxine P. Clarke for her leadership and service for our District and in recognition of this singular honor as 2013 Teacher of the Year at Dunaire Elementary School; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim May 2, 2013 as Mrs. Maxine P. Clarke Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 2nd day of May, 2013.

STATEMENT ON AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC DAY

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 95th anniversary of Republic Day on May 28th. Later this year, Azerbaijan will also celebrate the 22nd anniversary of its freedom from the Soviet Union and the beginning of diplomatic relations with the United States.

Located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe, Azerbaijan was established in 1918 becoming the first democratic and secular republic in the Muslim world before being incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1920. The country regained its independence in 1991.

The U.S. and Azerbaijan have developed a strong relationship through the opening of Caspian energy sources for development by American companies, which has also allowed the country to emerge as an essential player

in global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project has become a vital part of delivering Caspian Sea resources to world markets and serves as a prime example of the development of the South Caucasus region.

Azerbaijan has continually assisted the United States on matters of international security, supporting and participating in operations in both Kosovo and Iraq as well as being actively engaged in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan has regularly facilitated landing and refueling operations for U.S. and NATO forces in the region. Furthermore, Azerbaijan offered strong and immediate aid to the United States directly following the devastating events of 9/11.

Again, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 95th anniversary of Republic Day, and to recognize the valuable bilateral relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan.

HONORING JAMES DOUGLAS HOOTEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Douglas Hooten. James 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 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years James 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, James has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and the Four Star Religious Award. James has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. James designed and planted landscaping for an outdoor classroom at Davidson Elementary School in Kansas City, Missouri.

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

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 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 \$16,765,040,725,133.72. We've added \$6,138,163,676,220.64 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.