

1999, he served as Uzbekistan's Ambassador to India.

Other posts held by His Excellency Nematov include Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Coordinator at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Senior Consultant to the Office of the President.

During his tenure in Washington, D.C., it has been my privilege to work closely with Ambassador Nematov in advancing U.S.-Uzbekistan relations. Uzbekistan is a key partner in supporting international efforts in Afghanistan but our relationship with Uzbekistan extends beyond security. Uzbekistan and the United States also cooperate on economic relations and civil and political issues.

We recognize Uzbekistan's sovereignty, and I am proud of the progress Uzbekistan had made on its march to democracy since gaining independence in 1992. I commend His Excellency Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, for his leadership, and I thank Ambassador Nematov for strengthening relations between our two countries by serving with remarkable distinction.

His Excellency Nematov graduated from Fergana Polytechnic Institute in 1973 and holds a Ph.D. degree in Economics. He is married with four children, and speaks English and German.

I extend to Ambassador Nematov my highest regards and wish him the very best as he returns home to serve his country for and on behalf of President Karimov and the people of Uzbekistan.

CONGRATULATING BLUE DIAMOND GROWERS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Blue Diamond Growers on the opening of its Turlock Plant. This dedicated business is assisting in bringing economic vitality back to the region.

Blue Diamond Growers is a pioneer in almond processing and manufacturing. The company produces snack almonds in various flavors, nut-based crackers, almond milk, and packaged almonds for cooking and baking. Since its founding in 1910, Blue Diamond has grown to become the world's largest almond processing company. It currently consists of more than 3,000 California almond growers that produce more than 80 percent of the world's almond supply.

Blue Diamond Growers has led the development of California's almond industry from a minor domestic specialty crop to the world leader in almond production and marketing. The almond is currently California's largest food export and America's number one specialty crop. In 2013, the almond crop is expected to exceed two billion pounds valued at six billion dollars. To continue to meet the demand for this California crop, Blue Diamond Growers has expanded its production facilities beyond its Sacramento and Salida plants.

As of June 18, 2013, it will open the first phase of a three-phased project to develop a high quality, food-safe processing facility in

Turlock, California. This new facility will bring much-needed jobs and economic growth to the region. Phase one, alone, is expected to create over 300 new jobs in the area. Blue Diamond Growers has continuously shown its commitment to maintain the highest standards of responsible growing and production in the California region.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising Blue Diamond Growers for their diligent work in the almond industry and applauding them in the opening of their Turlock plant.

COMMEMORATING THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, later this month, on June 23, 2013, we will mark the 41st anniversary of the enactment of Title IX amendment. This landmark legislation changed America for the better by mandating equality for women in educational programs and activities. As we continue to move forward in terms of women's equality, I believe that it is important to recognize how far we have already come.

Title IX has resulted in significant advances for women in athletics. Since its enactment, Title IX has promoted equal opportunity for women in athletics and contributed to the athletic and educational achievement of hundreds of thousands of young American women. In 1972, before there was a Title IX, less than 300,000 high school girls participated in intramural sports nationwide. Today, that number has grown ten-fold to more than three million. In similar fashion, the amount of young women participating in college sports has increased by more than 600 percent, from fewer than 30,000 in 1972 to more than 190,000 in 2012.

While recognizing the advances in sports that Title IX has provided, it is important also to acknowledge the progress made outside of athletics. Title IX itself makes no explicit mention of sports or athletics; its reach extends to all areas of education. Title IX has helped make it possible for women to pursue careers in all fields, including the increasingly important fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Title IX has also helped to ensure that as women and girls take advantage of these educational opportunities, they are able to do so in an environment free of gender discrimination, sexual harassment, and violence.

In my state of Texas, for example, young women are making their mark in academics, in athletics, and in standing up for what is right. Just last year, a young high school female in Texas was assaulted at school by a classmate. The school's response to the incident was to send the young woman, and her attacker, to an alternative school for 45 days—where she had to suffer the indignity of seeing him daily. The young woman, assisted by the ACLU of Texas, filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

Title IX granted this young woman the right to an educational experience free from gender discrimination or retaliation. As a result, the

OCR determined that the school had violated her rights when they failed to adequately address her complaint. This decision resulted in clearing the young woman's disciplinary record and required the school district to reevaluate the way it handles sexual assault. A new set of Title IX procedures was developed and staff members were trained to respond accordingly to future incidents.

Through Title IX's legacy, educational environments have changed substantially. Women of all ages have had the opportunity to take advantage of the rights allotted to them through the amendment, and we can only move forward from here in terms of gender equality. Title IX guarantees the civil right to learn free from discrimination, retaliation, and sexual violence. This victory is something that every student, parent, and educator can celebrate today, tomorrow, and for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL AS THE LONGEST-SERVING MEMBER IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, for this West Virginian, the next stroke of midnight will be a bittersweet minute. The torch of longest Congressional service will be passed between two giants of the Congress, Robert C. Byrd and JOHN DINGELL. It will be a bittersweet moment for me because the breaking of even one of the many legislative records Senator Byrd set by serving West Virginians pulls at our State's heartstrings.

And I hesitate in even mentioning that, come tomorrow morning, Senator Byrd's record of the longest Senate tenure in history will still be intact, not because I fear my dearest friend would switch legislative bodies and pursue with gusto that momentous record. No, Mr. Speaker, I am hesitant because this body cannot afford to lose JOHN DINGELL to such an effort.

On the sweeter side of the moment, Mr. Speaker, I believe the history of our future will reveal there are few other than JOHN DINGELL, who could so ably and humbly bear such a significant mantle as the longest serving member in Congressional history.

Since I come from a State that understands tenure is no vice; let me clear up any misunderstandings about this milestone.

The real record we are celebrating today, the real measure of the man, is not about any length of service. Today is a celebration of JOHN DINGELL's depth of service. Here in the People's House, in the glare of the most strict term limits I have ever heard anyone propose, Members either deliver for their people every two years or the people deliver Members back to their homes.

That JOHN DINGELL will have served longer than any other Member is a true testament to his service to the people of Michigan, a badge of respect he has earned in this House, and a lesson for all who will listen today.

Looking at the two of us, the gentleman from Michigan and me, at first blush the casual observer might think Big JOHN and I cannot see eye to eye on much at all. JOHN DINGELL always looks deeper, into the smallest of details. The fact is the two of us have enjoyed over three and a half decades of working together on a number of fronts.

As the youngest member of the 95th Congress, I was outranked by JOHN DINGELL in more ways than one when I came to Congress. But not once in all our years of serving in this body, has he shown me any less courtesy, less attention, or less respect than he would to those with far more seniority than I.

Call it statesmanship, shrewd politics, or simply sheer human decency; it is darn effective, when someone of JOHN DINGELL's stature listens to you.

Members of Congress cannot serve, produce, and deliver for their Districts and States without listening. That includes back home as well as here in the halls and cubby holes of the Congress. Listening is the first chapter in the book of Congressional comity.

In an institution designed to reach consensus through the art of compromise, the entire Congress can take a page from Representative JOHN DINGELL's playbook. The Congress and the entire country would most certainly be well-served.

Godspeed to JOHN DINGELL and his dear wife, Debbie.

IN MEMORY OF RUSSELL JOSEPH MARTINEAU

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a friend and a man beloved by his family, friends and community.

Russell "Russ" Martineau would be described by anyone as a humble and a genuinely decent man who took no acclaim for himself but who worked tirelessly in support of others. Russ dedicated his career as a licensed clinical social worker to serving aging veterans at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas. During his career, he earned many accolades including recognition for Outstanding Social Work Team from the William Hearst Foundation for his work with colleagues in forming the AGIF Consortium promoting and developing Gerontology studies for graduate students. His dedication to our veterans followed his own service to our nation. Russ enlisted in the United States Air Force serving during the Vietnam War with the Pacific Air Forces.

Those that knew Russ would tell you that his most cherished role was that of family man. He met Julie, his wife of 33 years, and someone I am glad to count as a dear friend, while a student at California State University Long Beach. Julie has done so much in her own right for our region through her leadership of the Friendship Center and the Montgomery County United Way. Yet, none of her efforts would have been possible without Russ as her strongest supporter and confidant. Russ

proudly played his part as the father of two wonderful daughters and two delightful grandchildren. To see his warm smile or the gleam in his eye when surrounded by those he loved was proof enough of the great pride he had for his family.

I will forever remember the quiet courageousness with which Russ valiantly faced his battle with Multiple Myeloma for the last six years. Russ Martineau was a devout man who gained peace from the grace of his Lord and fortitude from those he dearly loved. Today, the friends and loved ones who stood in faith and encouragement will celebrate his life at Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in The Woodlands, Texas.

To Julie, his daughters Adria and Brittany, grandchildren Brice and Delaney, his stepmother Elizabeth Hypes Martineau, sister Barbara Moore and his brothers Don, Bill and Jeff Martineau, I offer the words of Thomas Campbell, "To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die."

REMEMBERING THE USS
"SCORPION"

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, The USS *Scorpion* went down May 22, 1968, killing 99 men and was consequently buried 11,220 feet underwater in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. There are more questions than answers for those familiar with the *Scorpion* but today let the record show, we will never forget.

The crisis exploded without warning across the sprawling U.S. Navy community in Norfolk, Virginia. A nuclear submarine and its crew had vanished in the Atlantic. The *Scorpion* and its 99-man crew had left Norfolk on February 15 for a three-month Mediterranean deployment. The crew participated in several naval exercises with the U.S. Sixth Fleet and NATO, and conducted ongoing reconnaissance of Soviet naval units, with stops in Italy and Sicily before reentering the Atlantic for the homeward voyage on May 17. *Scorpion's* skipper, Commander Francis A. Slaterry, had radioed Atlantic Submarine Force headquarters early on May 22 that the sub would arrive in Norfolk at 1 p.m. the following Monday, Memorial Day. The 1 p.m. arrival time came and went with no sign of *Scorpion*.

Later a Navy admiral involved in the *Scorpion* incident would describe it as "one of the greatest unsolved sea mysteries of our era." The 251-foot-long submarine and its crew had inexplicably disappeared somewhere in the trackless Atlantic Ocean.

On June 5, 1968 the *Scorpion* was declared "presumed lost." Yesterday, we marked the 45th Anniversary of the sub being presumed lost; and we honor the sacrifice of the USS *Scorpion* and its entire crew. The reason for this tragedy remains a mystery, but the honor and valor of the 99 men lost that day is no mystery. Our Nation owes them an unfaltering debt of gratitude for their service and commitment to freedom.

Not only are we forever indebted to the crew of the USS *Scorpion*, but we are forever

indebted to their families who have lived these 45 years with uncertainty and without closure.

I applaud the mission, the memory, and the memorial of the USS *Scorpion* and its crew of 99.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2013
SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES
FROM THE 21ST CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2013 Service Academy appointees from the 21st Congressional District of Texas.

The following individuals have accepted academy appointments: Liam Thomas Catoe, Greystone Preparatory School at Schreiner University, United States Naval Academy; Lucas Adrian Fumagalli, New Braunfels High School, United States Air Force Academy; Nathaniel Robert Guney, Greystone Preparatory School at Schreiner University, United States Naval Academy; Dillon Mitchell Launius, Vandegrift High School, United States Air Force Academy; Adam S. Lee, East Central High School, United States Air Force Academy; Kevin Michael McGinty, MacArthur High School, United States Naval Academy; Joshua Andrew McMillen, International School of the Americas, United States Air Force Academy; John Edward Monday, Jr., Boerne—Samuel V. Champion High School, United States Military Academy; Clara Elizabeth Navarro, Rice University, United States Naval Academy; James Lyn Pazdral, Greystone Preparatory School at Schreiner University, United States Military Academy; Albert Dixon Patillo III, Heritage School, United States Military Academy; Rafael David Ramos-Michael, Brackenridge High School, United States Military Academy; and Kirsten S. Redmon, United States Military Preparatory School/Sam Houston High School, United States Military Academy.

Again, congratulations to these outstanding students. I know they will serve our country well and I trust success will follow them in all their endeavors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 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 \$16,738,767,256,596.67. We've added \$6,111,890,207,683.59 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.