

Catholic High School for its extraordinary victory. My wife Vicki joins me in offering our best wishes to the school and its talented athletes for their continued success.

HONORING LONDON BONNIEPAUL  
VERNON

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2013*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Mr. Landon Bonniepaul Vernon. A loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and friend, Mr. Vernon was exemplary in his familial devotion, entrepreneurial spirit and community pride. With his passing on March 5, 2013 we are reminded of his life's journey and the joyful legacy he inspired.

Born in Franklinton, Louisiana on August 26, 1936, Landon was the third of six boys born to Sherman Vernon and Sara Crawford. The family relocated to California in the early 1940s, settling in Oakland, where Landon attended local schools and played high school and college basketball.

Mr. Vernon married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Barbara McKellar-Vernon, and together they raised three children, Landon Carl, Wayne and Darlene. An avid businessman and entrepreneur, Mr. Vernon started a janitorial service as early as high school. Over the years, he also worked in a variety of roles at stalwart Bay Area businesses like Aerojet, Wonder Bread, The National Association of Home Builders and Oakland's Outreach Development Program.

Yet, Mr. Vernon also continued to achieve his dream of entrepreneurial success while becoming co-owner and co-manager of several Bay Area clubs, including Celebrity Club, Consultants Lounge, Bird Kage, Dock of the Bay, Old Golden, Bosn's Locker and Nick's Lounge. Many of these locales were African American cultural institutions that contributed to the important legacy of Black- and minority-owned small businesses in the East Bay. Mr. Vernon was also the owner of the vending machine company LV Rentals.

In addition to Mr. Vernon's commitment to his business ventures, he was an avid sports buff who supported East Bay athletic organizations and cofounded the Bird Kage Golf Tournament. As a member of the "Sportsmen Club All Stars" basketball team, Mr. Vernon played with the likes of Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain, Charlie Hardy, Don Barksdale, Richard Whitehurst and Harold Theus. His enthusiasm in supporting athletic and business communities of color undoubtedly helped to pave the way for more organizations to follow.

In addition to this community activity, Mr. Vernon loved to travel. He was especially fond of visiting extended family and friends back in Louisiana and making sure that the bonds of family and friendship were always strong. Fishing was also one of his favorite pastimes for relaxation, and he often noted that if all mankind could fish, the world would recognize and want that kind of peace every day. His life was truly one that was "well-lived and well-loved," and his memory is a testament to the benefits of forming and sustaining meaningful

relationships with others. Furthermore, Landon was a personal friend who I met in the early 1970s. He was fun, smart and extremely kind to my family. We are deeply grateful for his friendship.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors Mr. Landon Bonniepaul Vernon. His vibrant spirit and sense of fellowship will continue to guide others to connect with their communities and loved ones for years to come. I offer my sincerest condolences to Landon's surviving family and to the many friends and associates whose lives he touched over the course of his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF SRIRAM  
HATHWAR

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2013*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sriram Hathwar, a resident of Painted Post, New York. Sriram, a seventh-grader at the Corning Alternative School for Math and Science, placed third in this year's Scripps National Spelling Bee. This thirteen-year-old stands as a representative of the bright young minds of the 23rd Congressional District of New York.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the nation's largest and longest-running educational promotion, with the purpose of helping students build the foundations for English language skills they will use all their lives. Only 281 spellers out of 11 million won regional bees to advance to the national level, and Sriram rose up through the ranks to place in the top three. He has competed at the national level four times, and his performance this year has placed him at his highest ranking thus far. Sriram has not taken his eye off the prize, though, as he plans to compete in the bee again next year, his final year of eligibility.

I am proud to have students like Sriram in my district. His accomplishments show the brilliance set to come forth from this district in the future, and I am honored to recognize him today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF LOAVES AND  
FISHES

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2013*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sacramento's Loaves and Fishes homeless shelter, and congratulate them as they celebrate their 30th anniversary. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring this organization.

Founded in 1983, Loaves and Fishes has been serving the Sacramento area by providing food, shelter, and social services for the area's homeless. They are a haven of safety, sustenance, and shelter for the men, women and children that seek their assistance. Today's "30 Years of Food, Warmth, and a Path Home" celebration has been dedicated to the

hard work of Loaves and Fishes' countless volunteers.

Loaves and Fishes, led by Sister Libby Fernandez and a committed Board of Directors, has shown compassion and devotion to meeting the needs of the homeless and indigent in the greater Sacramento area. They place the dignity of each person that they serve at the forefront of their efforts and strive to meet the needs of each person that walks in their doors. To fulfill its mission of compassion, Loaves and Fishes relies on financial support from a number of private donations and church groups.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby recognize Loaves and Fishes for their continued service to the homeless men, women, and children of the Greater Sacramento area. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this organization and wishing them continued success as they endeavor to serve Sacramento's homeless.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LAKE-  
WOOD FOUNDATION AND THE  
2013 NATIONAL INTERCOLLE-  
GIATE WHEELCHAIR BASKET-  
BALL ASSOCIATION TOUR-  
NAMENT

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2013*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, it is the privilege of the State of Alabama and the City of Homewood to be the site of the renowned Lakeshore Foundation, a center whose focus on personal fitness and competitive athletics has benefited countless individuals with physical disabilities throughout my state, our country, and the world.

Lakeshore started as a hospital dedicated to treating the national scourge of tuberculosis in the 1920s. In 1984, it became fully focused on its current mission: to provide rehabilitative recreational and sports programs to improve the lives of people with disabilities. At Lakeshore, the connection between physical activity, from basic fitness to competitive athletics, and emotional restoration is understood and nurtured.

The world-class athletic facilities at Lakeshore Foundation are used by individuals of all ages, from young children to senior citizens. It is a training location for the U.S. Paralympic Team. After 9/11, it created a special program called "Lima Foxtrot" to help courageous wounded warriors recover their physical skills after severe injury.

Most recently, Lakeshore Foundation and the University of Alabama at Birmingham have formed the UAB/Lakeshore Research Collaborative. The joint effort between Lakeshore and UAB is a world-class research program in rehabilitative science. The collaborative links Lakeshore's extraordinary programs for people with physically disabling conditions with UAB's research expertise.

A special event took place from March 7 through March 9 of this year when Lakeshore Foundation teamed with the University of Alabama and the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) to successfully host the National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Association Tournament. The University of Alabama is known for having one of the top adaptive athletic programs in the nation.

Eight men's teams and four women's teams from across the country competed in the tournament.

In the women's finals, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater team defeated the University of Alabama team 55–41 to become the 2013 Women's National Champions.

In the men's finals, the University of Alabama team came out victorious, defeating the University of Texas-Arlington 71–52 to become the 2013 Men's National Champions.

The wheelchair play on the Lakeshore basketball courts was every bit as intense as you would have seen during the NCAA's "Final Four." The lesson that athletes on each of the participating teams taught us about determination and overcoming obstacles made them all champions. The event brought great pride and honor to the State of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the combined efforts of the achievements of all the players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the championship season and to congratulate Lakeshore Foundation and the University of Alabama for successfully hosting the 2013 National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Association Tournament. Under the leadership of President and Chief Executive Officer Jeff Underwood, the Lakeshore Foundation will continue to change the way we think about physical disabilities and challenge all of us to expand our horizons.

#### RECOGNIZING CHUCK HERSEY

#### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2013*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Southeast Michigan's environmental leaders, Chuck Hersey, on the occasion of his retirement from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments after 35 years of dedicated service.

After graduating with a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Chuck joined SEMCOG in the spring of 1978 as a co-op research assistant. He was promptly hired full time to work on transportation planning, and was promoted to the position of Air Quality Planner in 1980. Since that time, Chuck has been intimately involved in our region's implementation strategy for meeting air quality goals. Over the course of many years, he has also worked tirelessly in the cause of improving water quality in Michigan.

SEMCOG was formed over 40 years ago to fill a vital need—to bring together distinct communities in Southeast Michigan, and provide a forum to help them plan and work together for the common good. The philosophy at the heart of SEMCOG is that the whole is sometimes greater than the sum of its parts, and that our region faces challenges we can only meet by working together.

Chuck's work on air pollution is a good example. Air pollution does not recognize political boundaries. You can't deal with ozone and particulate pollution unless you are able to look at pollution on a regional basis, and then develop strategies that both meet the health-based standards of the Clean Air Act and are achievable and cost-effective. This is precisely

the work that has occupied Chuck during his tenure at SEMCOG, whether it was his efforts behind the formation of a Southeast Michigan Ozone Strategy; his work on air quality attainment strategies; and his development of the Ozone Action! Program, which became a national model on air quality education.

I am also grateful for the work Chuck and SEMCOG have done to advance water quality improvements in Lake St. Clair, and, in particular, his efforts to advance the Lake St. Clair Strategic Implementation Plan.

Among his other accomplishments, Chuck holds a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Michigan. He is the devoted husband of Agnes, and father of Mathew and Angela. Chuck and Agnes have two grandchildren, Cameron and Giovanni.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chuck Hersey for his commitment to the citizens of Michigan as well as our state's precious environment.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 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 \$16,738,715,835,680.58. We've added \$6,111,838,786,767.50 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.

#### TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

#### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2013*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 27 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Saturday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful State and country, we welcome these heroes to the nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Albert G. Archer, U.S. Army; Edmund D. Fowler, U.S. Army; Wilbur "Wib" Hart, U.S. Army; Walter E. Koerschner, U.S. Army; Ernest J. Lathrop, U.S. Army; Elmer Lively, U.S. Army; Richard H. Young, U.S. Army; Milton F. Cook, U.S. Army Air Force; Ovie "Bob" Holman, U.S. Army Air Force; Brook "Hap" Lovell, U.S. Army Air Force; Clifford J. Larson, U.S. Air Force; James A. Curran, U.S. Navy; Marvin E. Haynie, U.S. Navy; Raymond Jones, U.S. Navy; Eugene L. Kern, U.S. Navy; Gordon L. Lentz, U.S. Navy; Robert W. Moore, U.S. Navy; Marshall P. Ramsey, U.S. Navy; William G. Rugh, U.S. Navy; Clarence L. Schick, U.S. Navy; Robert K. Schroth, U.S. Navy; Leslie O. Stinnett, U.S. Navy; Ralph L. Sweet, U.S. Navy; Olaf Tomlinson, U.S. Navy; Roy F. Wiese, U.S. Navy;

Anthony J. Kanclier, U.S. Marine; Leo Manus, U.S. Merchant Marine.

These 27 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Gail Yakopatz for her tireless work as president of Honor Flight of Oregon.

#### PAY YOUR BILLS OR LOSE YOUR PAY ACT

#### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2013*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, right now, all across this country, American families are looking at an average of \$15,000 of credit card debt. The average student loan debt is double that. I'm sure each and every one of those families would like the option of saying, "no thanks, I'm not interested in paying those bills." But they can't.

Americans don't get to skip out on repaying their debt without drastic consequences. Why should Congress get to play by separate rules?

When we talk about the debt ceiling, we're not talking about our spending habits or curbing our expenses; we're talking about fulfilling the promises we've already made. We can't debate our budget after we've received what we bought.

The last time we played chicken with the debt ceiling, we deeply hurt our credit standing in the world. And we don't have to guess why we were downgraded: Standard and Poors directly told us that was on account of the political circus the debate had become.

Luckily for us, America still enjoys one of the highest credit ratings in the world, but with continued turmoil and unnecessary, partisan wars over this, how long do we expect our lenders to hang on?

And why are we having this same, foolish fight? In the name of a so-called "debt crisis" that even Speaker BOEHNER and Budget Chair RYAN admitted isn't a crisis.

We're threatening vital services and sacrificing the security of our good national credit for a bogus threat, and all the while the real threat to our economy, anemic growth and persistent unemployment, still looms.

Americans are tired of phony disasters. They want real solutions. They are tired of political theatre. They want jobs. They are tired of a Congress that can't do anything but bicker and point fingers. They want their representatives to get to work.

To default on our debts would be more than irresponsible, it would send us down a path to