

There is a historic precedent for effective special envoys advancing seemingly intractable issues. Consider former Sudan Special Envoy John Danforth. His laser beam focus on the peace process, high-level access to the White House and undivided attention to his mission was incredibly effective.

I don't pretend to think that a special envoy will single-handedly solve the problem, but it certainly can't hurt to have a high-level person within the State Department bureaucracy who is exclusively focused on the protection and preservation of these ancient communities.

This will send an important message to both our own foreign policy establishment and to suffering communities in the Middle East and elsewhere that religious freedom is a priority—that America will be a voice for the voiceless.

Let me conclude by sharing the quote of a Coptic priest who was recently interviewed about the blasphemy charges facing the young Coptic teacher I mentioned earlier.

He said, "Today, despite this repression, we can live. But tomorrow, what will we do? The coming days will be much worse."

This much is clear: absent strong, principled U.S. leadership on this fundamental human right, the future for religious minorities in the Middle East will indeed be much worse.

In a Constitution Day speech, President Ronald Reagan described the United States Constitution as "a covenant we have made not only with ourselves, but with all of mankind."

We have an obligation to keep that covenant for it is a covenant that transcends time and place—it is a covenant with the beleaguered Coptic Christian in Egypt, the imprisoned Baha'i in Iran, the fearful Chaldean nun in Iraq.

We would do well to remember that repressive governments the world over fear the words of the Constitution and the promise they hold as much as they fear the aspirations of their own people."

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JANET BLAUFUSS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Janet Blaufuss, a woman of vision. She passed from this life in May 2013, in Toledo, Ohio.

Janet was born in Minneapolis on July 6, 1941 to Mary Vonda and George Bernard Boutlinghouse. She graduated from the University of Illinois College of Nursing. During the 1960s, she worked in juvenile and psychiatric nursing, and was instrumental in establishing the first sheltered care homes in central Illinois. She served as president of the Illinois Association of Local Health Department Nursing Administrators.

Janet then moved to Toledo to work for the Visiting Nurse Service. She worked for the agency for eleven years and was its executive director for the last four years. In 1978, Janet Blaufuss teamed with other leaders in the American hospice movement to found Hospice of Northwest Ohio. "She believed strongly in it because it allowed people to remain at home with more dignity and comfort" her son explained.

In 1989, Janet Blaufuss moved to North Carolina to become director of nursing for the

Iredell County Health Department. Fourteen years later, she returned to Toledo and family.

Janet Blaufuss invested her life in caring for people and taking care of others. Her legacy has lifted up countless others and their families in their time of need. We offer our condolences to her family, and hope they may draw strength from Janet Blaufuss' memory and the gift of her life.

RECOGNIZING NEUQUA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, NAPERVILLE, IL- LINOIS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate students from Neuqua Valley High School, in Naperville, Illinois, for placing 2nd in the 10th annual national SIFMA Foundation Stock Market Game or "Capitol Hill Challenge." This marks the 3rd year in a row that students from Neuqua Valley High School have placed either 1st or 2nd, earning them a trip to Washington, D.C.

Under the guidance of Kevin Geers, this year's participating team members, Manas Gosavi, Fahad Khan, Manish Lakkamsani, Colin Pinto and Tyler Rund, produced a portfolio with a value of \$246,823.00, a return of over 138 percent.

During the 14-week competition, students invest a hypothetical \$100,000 in listed stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, with the objective of learning the value of investing and saving. The Capitol Hill Challenge allows students to enhance their understanding of the global economy, while simultaneously strengthening their knowledge of our government.

I am delighted to see students taking an interest in expanding their financial literacy and awareness of the capital markets. As a businessman who understands the value of financial planning, I know how rewarding it can be to discover what you can accomplish if you start with a plan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Neuqua Valley High School, not only on this remarkable feat, but also on their ongoing efforts to generate enthusiasm in the fields of economics and business. They truly embody their mission of "commitment to excellence."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. Speaker, I was in my district participating in the groundbreaking of the downtown crossing of the Ohio River Bridges Project during the series of recorded votes leading up to final passage of H.R. 1797, the so-called Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. Had I been present I would have voted no on H.R. 1791 because this legislation would endanger the health of women and chip away at a woman's right to choose.

Consideration of H.R. 1797 and General Debate of H.R. 1947—Motion on Ordering the

Previous Question on the Rule: roll No. 248; "no";

Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 1797 and General Debate of H.R. 1947—H. Res. 266: roll No. 249; "no";

Passage of Suspension Bill—H.R. 1151: roll No. 250; "yes"; and

Final Passage—H.R. 1797: roll No. 251; "no."

RECOGNIZING RUSSEL EFIRD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Russel Efird as he is honored with the Distinguished Service Award by the Fresno County Farm Bureau (FCFB) for his contributions to agriculture. His decades of service and dedication to the farming community are to be greatly commended.

Russel's passion for farming began at a young age when he would help on his parents' farm in Caruthers, California. The Efird family has run a successful farming operation for over 70 years. They are hard-working and understand what it takes to produce quality crops.

Russel joined the FCFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Program when he was a teenager. Russel has been a member of the FCFB for over 18 years, and has served in various leadership positions within the bureau which ultimately earned him a presidency from 2006–2008. As president of the Farm Bureau, Russel did a great job leading the organization. His focus was on immigration and water which are two issues that affect the agriculture industry daily. Russel's knowledge coupled with his love for agriculture, make him a great advocate for the farming community.

In addition to all of his work at the Farm Bureau, Russel has been a member of various boards including the Western Cotton Growers Association, Fresno County Fire Protection District Board of Directors, Laton Co-op Cotton Gin Board, and the Caruthers Unified School District. Additionally he was a graduate of the Ag Leadership Program's Class X.

Farming is a huge part of Russel's life, but family is most important. He has been married to his wife, Kathleen, for almost 40 years, and they have four grown children: Matthew, John, Adam, and Elizabeth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Russel Efird for the contributions he has made to the Central Valley and the entire State of California. He serves as pillar in the community, and I thank him for his hard work and devotion to maintaining Fresno County's valuable agricultural strength.

CONGRATULATING DANIELLE L. SCOTT, THE RECIPIENT OF THE BEACON FOUNDATION, INC. SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join with

me in congratulating Danielle L. Scott, the recipient of the Beacon Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Award. The scholarship, which is awarded to college students aspiring to become future leaders, was awarded to Ms. Scott based on her exemplary academic performance and extensive community service. I also commend the Beacon Foundation, a relatively new foundation, for its record in education.

Danielle is currently a junior at Howard University studying Political Science with a minor in Community Development. Prior to her enrollment at Howard University, she attended Monticello High School in Charlottesville, Virginia. During her time at Monticello, she held numerous leadership positions and was very involved in her community. She oversaw the school's Peer Mediation Program and Big Brother Big Sister mentoring program, and was class president all four years. Upon her graduation in 2011, she received the \$10,000 Congressional Harry F. Byrd Jr. Leadership Award, the Susan N. Gilkey Award for Leadership, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated Leadership Scholarship.

With her acceptance to Howard University, she was awarded the Legacy Scholarship and was accepted into the College of Arts and Sciences Honors Program. Since her arrival at the University, she has continued her service and is active in the university. She serves as the Chief of Staff for the Howard University Student Association and is also a member of Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated. In addition, she mentors young girls on a weekly basis as a cheerleading coach at the George Ferris Jr. Clubhouse 6 Boys and Girls Club. Maintaining a 3.95 grade point average, she is on the College of Arts and Science's Dean's List. Currently, Ms. Scott holds an internship at the Economic Development Administration in the Department of Commerce.

After Howard, Ms. Scott hopes to continue her education in pursuit of a Master's degree and potentially a PhD. She hopes to help underserved communities in the United States. Specifically, she would like to help urban black communities by reinvigorating the basic infrastructure, function, and atmosphere of these areas. She lives by the words of Mary McLeod Bethune, "Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service, without it nothing is possible, with it, nothing is impossible."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to congratulate Ms. Danielle L. Scott as this year's recipient of the Beacon Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Award.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OREGON CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rich history and successes of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association as they celebrate their 100th anniversary this week in their birthplace: Baker City, Oregon. I commend the Oregon Cattlemen's Association for their century of commitment to producing high quality livestock, managing our natural re-

sources, and being a highly respected voice for Oregon's livestock industry.

On May 14th, 1913, over 100 ranchers met in Baker City with concerns about the high rate of livestock theft. They sought to create an organization that would represent the livestock industry, guard against theft, and implement a brand inspection program for livestock markets. During that inaugural meeting, 51 attendees joined as charter members of the "Oregon Cattle and Horse Raiser Association," which eventually became the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

In 1913, the new association provided a much-needed voice to an industry facing chronic outbreaks of livestock theft across the range. It was reported that a rancher could turn out 500 horses for the summer, and only gather up 150 before winter. The organization brought its concern to local and state leaders, who worked with them to implement a system of brand laws and a brand inspection program. This effort cemented the Oregon Cattlemen's Association as an indispensable part of the state's livestock industry.

Ranching runs deep in Oregon's history. Way back in 1834, nearly a decade before the first of the famous covered wagons came via the Oregon Trail, Ewing Young drove a herd of cattle from California to Oregon, establishing one of the first large commercial cattle grazing operations in Oregon. Ranchers today continue in many centuries-old traditions like moving cattle horseback, grazing cattle on large tracts of land, and raising prized horses. Much of the work is physically demanding, occurring from "dawn to done".

These communities, and the ranchers that support them, understand that raising livestock takes more than just hard hands and a stubborn will. Today, ranchers must look towards the needs of their customers, the protection of the environment, building collaborative relationships with the government and non-governmental partners, and care for their livestock.

Like many other areas of the West, ranchers in Oregon face many of the same challenges as their counterparts did in 1913—from Mother Nature's inconsistent attitude, loss of livestock to theft and predatory animals, ever changing markets, to burdensome costs and an overabundance of government involvement in the cattle business. Like in the past, ranchers have a horseback view, up close and personal, regarding the effect that management practices have on the land, cattle, and ultimately the consumer. Advances in science including range and meadow management, veterinary medicine, and nutrition offer new avenues for building on tradition.

Additionally, ranchers have something in common with many city dwellers: they have a passion for healthy soils, plants, water, and wildlife, maintaining large open spaces, and ensuring a future place to share with family and friends. The Oregon Cattlemen's Association and its members continue to work towards solutions so they can keep producing the high quality livestock that feeds the world. As the younger generation take over their families' operations, they will continue that legacy well into the next century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Oregon Cattlemen's Association on their century of commitment to livestock producers in Oregon and recognize them for all they have done for livestock pro-

ducers, the state of Oregon, and those across the West that make their living off the land. I am very proud to represent them in the United States Congress, and I wish them the very best for their next 100 years and beyond.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 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 \$16,738,653,639,711.53. We've added \$6,111,776,590,799.45 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.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE'S MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the University of California, Irvine's (UCI) men's volleyball team for winning the 2013 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Men's Volleyball National Championship. This is UCI's fourth Men's Volleyball Championship in the last seven years. They previously won in 2007, 2009 and 2012. UCI is the first school to win back-to-back NCAA Championships since UCLA in 1995 and 1996. This marks the 28th overall NCAA Division I Championship for UC Irvine overall.

UCI, which swept USC in the final a year ago, is the first school to sweep in the NCAA Championship match in back-to-back years since UCLA in 1982 and 1983. UCI joins UCLA, Pepperdine and USC as the only programs to have won four titles. UCI is now 4-0 in NCAA championship matches and 8-1 all-time in the NCAA Tournament.

UCI's Connor Hughes was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. He joined Chris Austin, Michael Brinkley, Collin Mehning and Kevin Tillie on the All-Tournament Team. Hughes, Austin and Tillie were selected for the second consecutive year.

UCI was 25-7 overall, the second most wins in the country this season. They finished second in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) with an 18-6 mark. The Ant-eaters' 25 wins this year are fifth most in a season, while the 18 league wins were third. They began the year ranked No. 1 and end the year ranked No. 1. They were also ranked either No. 1 or No. 2 for 13 of 17 weeks this season.

UCI was 21-0 on the year when producing more kills than its opponent and 25-0 when out-hitting its opponent. They had 17 blocks in the title match, the second most in a match this season. The Anteaters hit .500 against