

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

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 \$17,756,856,045,819.45. We've added \$7,129,978,996,906.37 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING GLEN R. BORTELL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Glen R. Bortell's one hundredth birthday.

It is with great pride that I stand to honor Mr. Bortell, not only for his long life but his great contributions to the health and well-being of his fellow citizens. Mr. Bortell has not let life pass him by without many accomplishments for the good of his community and those around him. The dedication and effort of people like Mr. Bortell allow our communities to thrive and reach their utmost potential.

For nearly 10 years, Mr. Bortell has volunteered at Citrus Memorial Hospital in the diagnostic imaging department. At an age when most hope for a quiet and restful retirement, he has dedicated an amazing 5,000-plus hours of his time to the hospital and its patients. Still having so much to give, to this day Mr. Bortell continues transporting patients in wheelchairs and beds to various departments throughout the hospital.

The selflessness Mr. Bortell has demonstrated throughout his life as well as his constant "can do" attitude have inspired many members of his community, especially his fellow volunteers and hospital employees. I am extremely proud to be Mr. Bortell's congressman and I invite everyone to join me in wishing Mr. Bortell a Happy 100th Birthday, and congratulating him on his long, rich, and active life.

IN RECOGNITION OF MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR (RET.) BENNIE G. ADKINS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Bennie G. Adkins, of Opelika, Alabama, for being awarded the Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama on September 15, 2014. In his

honor, I am submitting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following summary of his service and heroism as written and prepared by the United States Army:

"Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins was drafted into the Army Dec. 5, 1956, at the age of 22, from Waurika, Oklahoma. Upon completion of initial training at Fort Bliss, Texas, he was assigned as an Administrative Clerk-Typist to a garrison unit in Giessen, Germany, with a follow-on assignment to the 2nd Infantry Division, at Fort Benning, Georgia. After attending Airborne School, he volunteered for Special Forces, in 1961. He served with the Special Forces for more than 13 years with the 7th, 3rd, 6th and 5th Special Forces Groups (Airborne).

While in the Special Forces, he deployed to the Republic of Vietnam for three non-consecutive tours. His first tour in the Republic of Vietnam lasted from February 1963 to August 1963. His second tour of duty in Vietnam lasted from September 1965 to September 1966. His final Vietnam tour lasted from January 1971 through December 1971.

Command Sergeant Major Bennie G. Adkins distinguished himself during 38 hours of close-combat fighting against enemy forces, March 9–12, 1966. At that time, then-Sergeant First Class Adkins was serving as an Intelligence Sergeant with Detachment A-102, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces at Camp A Shau, in the Republic of Vietnam.

When Camp A Shau was attacked by a large North Vietnamese and Viet Cong force in the early morning hours of March 9, then-Sergeant First Class Adkins rushed through intense enemy fire and manned a mortar position defending the camp. He continued to mount a defense even while incurring wounds from several direct hits from enemy mortars. Upon learning that several Soldiers were wounded near the center of camp, he temporarily turned the mortar over to another Soldier, ran through exploding mortar rounds and dragged several comrades to safety. As the hostile fire subsided, Adkins repeatedly exposed himself to sniper and mortar fire, while moving casualties to the camp dispensary.

Adkins exposed himself to enemy fire transporting a casualty to an airstrip for evacuation. He and his group then came under heavy small-arms fire from members of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group, which had defected to fight with the North Vietnamese. Despite this overwhelming force, Adkins maneuvered outside the camp to evacuate a seriously wounded American and draw fire away from the aircraft, all the while successfully covering the rescue. Later, when a resupply air drop landed outside of the camp perimeter, Adkins again moved outside of the camp walls to retrieve the much-needed supplies.

During the early morning hours of March 10, enemy forces launched their main assault. Within two hours, Adkins was the only defender firing a mortar. When all mortar rounds were expended, Adkins began placing effective recoilless rifle fire upon the enemy, as they infiltrated the camp perimeter and assaulted his position. Despite receiving additional wounds from enemy rounds exploding on his position, Adkins fought off relentless waves of attacking Viet Cong.

Adkins then withdrew to regroup with a smaller element of Soldiers at the communications bunker. While there, he single-handedly eliminated numerous insurgents with small-

arms fire, almost completely exhausting his supply of ammunition. Braving intense enemy fire, he returned to the mortar pit, gathered vital ammunition and evaded fire while returning to the bunker. After the order was given to evacuate the camp, Adkins and a small group of Soldiers destroyed all signal equipment and classified documents, dug their way out of the rear of the bunker, and fought their way out of the camp.

Because of his efforts to carry a wounded Soldier to an extraction point and leave no one behind, Adkins and his group were unable to reach the last evacuation helicopter. Adkins then rallied the remaining survivors and led the group into the jungle, where they evaded the enemy for 48 hours, until they were rescued by helicopter, March 12. During the 38-hour battle and 48 hours of escape and evasion, Adkins fought with mortars, machine guns, recoilless rifles, small arms, and hand grenades, killing an estimated 135–175 of the enemy and sustaining 18 different wounds. Adkins' extraordinary heroism and selflessness, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, Detachment A-102, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces and the United States Army.

After Vietnam, Adkins served as First Sergeant for the Army Garrison Communications Command in Fort Huachuca, Arizona. He then joined Class #3 of the Army Sergeants Major Academy in El Paso, Texas. After graduation, Adkins served with the Special Forces at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and then led training at Fort Sherman's Jungle School in the Panama Canal Zone. He retired from the Army in 1978.

Adkins earned his bachelor's degree from Troy State University, in 1979. He earned his Master's Degree in Education, in 1982, and then, a second Master's Degree in Management, in 1988, all from Troy State University. Simultaneous to pursuing his degree programs, he established the Adkins Accounting Service, Inc., in Auburn, Alabama, serving as its CEO for 22 years. He also taught night classes at Alabama's Southern Union Junior College, for 10 years, and at Auburn University, for six years. Adkins has been married to his wife, Mary, for 59 years, and together they have raised five children.

Adkins' previous awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster and "V" Device, the Purple Heart with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal with Bronze Clasp and Five Loops, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with one Silver Service Star, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "60" Device, the Republic of Vietnam Bravery Medal with Brass Star, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm Device, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Special Forces Tab, the U.S. Army Master Parachutist Badge, the Vietnamese Parachutist Badge—Two Awards, the Expert Badge with Rifle and Pistol Bars, the Sharpshooter Badge with Carbine Bar, and the Marksman Badge with Machinegun Bar."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Command Sgt. Maj. Adkins for his service and

congratulating him on receiving such a well-deserved honor. He is a true American hero.

H.R. 5272, H.R. 5230, AND H.J. RES. 76

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my strong opposition to two pieces of legislation that were brought before the House on August 1st, 2014. H.R. 5272 and H.R. 5230 are partisan bills that do nothing to fix our broken immigration system. Rather than effectively addressing the situation at the border or the larger failures of our immigration system, the House majority has chosen to penalize children by removing trafficking protections for child refugees from Central America, and preventing the administration from deferring the deportation of DREAMers.

Deporting hardworking, law-abiding people who were brought here as children will not make our country safer or more prosperous. Our resources are limited, and the administration must have the ability to prioritize the deportation of those who are a threat to our country. Furthermore, we will not solve the crisis at our border without seriously investing in our immigration courts and addressing the violence and poverty in Central America that are causing these children to flee. H.R. 5272 and H.R. 5230 are not sincere attempts to address these issues, and although I was not able to vote on these bills, had I been present I would have voted "no" on both.

I would also like to express my strong support for H.J. Res. 76 to provide \$225 million in emergency funding for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system. The Obama Administration requested the additional funds to help Israel replenish the scores of missiles it is using to defend its civilian population from Hamas rocket attacks. As the author of the Iron Dome Support Act, which authorizes further assistance to Israel for Iron Dome, I support emergency spending to provide additional resources for the missile defense system, which has saved countless civilian lives. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H.J. Res. 76.

**HONORING THE SERVICE OF
WARREN P. ROGERS**

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lexington, Kentucky native and businessman Warren P. Rogers for his efforts to find creative solutions to public infrastructure financing as a champion of "P3" public-private partnerships in Kentucky.

As the federal budget faces continued challenges with autopilot spending programs and a massive federal debt crowding out other spending priorities, we must continue to look for creative solutions to fund public projects. In Kentucky, Warren Rogers has worked with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the Associa-

ated General Contractors of Kentucky, the League of Cities and several other organizations to champion H.B. 407, a bill that would clarify the rules to allow for private-public partnerships—often referred to as P3s—by the state and local governments in Kentucky.

These partnerships are already a tool used by 30 other states, creating greater private-sector involvement and investment in public works, leading to better predictability, less risk and less cost for taxpayers.

Mr. Rogers helped organize and co-chaired the Kentucky Chamber's P3 coalition and testified on behalf of the legislation before committees to encourage its passage. Ultimately, the legislation passed both houses of the Kentucky General Assembly with large bipartisan majorities—27–9 in the Senate and 86–9 in the House. While the Governor found cause to veto this legislation, the broad bipartisan support it enjoys will no doubt lead to its passage once again in 2015.

On behalf of Kentucky's Sixth Congressional District, I would like to thank Warren Rogers for his work to protect and improve Kentucky's public infrastructure.

**IN RECOGNITION OF REV. AND
MRS. WILLIE FRANK SMITH, SR.**

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Rev. and Mrs. Willie Frank Smith, Sr. who have been married 50 years and serve as clergy in Lee County, Alabama.

Rev. and Mrs. Smith met in Selma, Alabama and were married on July 28, 1964 at New Canaan Baptist Church in Camp Hill, Alabama.

Rev. Smith has served as the pastor at churches in Camp Hill, Valley and Notasulga.

The Smiths have three children including: Willie F. Smith Jr., a minister, medical transcriptionist and Christian education consultant; Monique Smith Gadson, a professional counselor and mother of two daughters Nia and Imani; and Patrick T. Smith, Assistant Professor of Theology and Philosophy at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and father of Gabrielle and Caleb.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Rev. and Mrs. Smith for their tireless service in the Lee County community.

**HONORING DENNIS C. BLESS,
CRNA, MS, PRESIDENT OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS**

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dennis C. Bless, CRNA, MS, of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Bless will soon complete his year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) whose headquarters are located in my Congressional district. I am proud that Mr.

Bless was elected as the 2013–2014 president of this prestigious national organization.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses who administer approximately 34 million anesthetics to patients each year. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including hospital surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and specialty surgeons. They also provide acute and chronic pain management services to patients in need of such care. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia providers in many rural hospitals.

As a CRNA for nearly 20 years, Mr. Bless has contributed greatly to the health care community in Minnesota and nationwide, serving as a clinical nurse anesthetist at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, Minnesota. Mr. Bless also serves as an adjunct instructor for St. Mary's University of Minnesota and clinical/didactic instructor for the Minneapolis School of Anesthesia. He has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to his professional education and development. Mr. Bless was awarded his Master of Science degree in nurse anesthesia from St. Mary's University of Minnesota, a certificate in nurse anesthesia from the Minneapolis School of Anesthesia, a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Minnesota and his Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural business from Iowa State University.

In addition to his service as AANA President, Mr. Bless has held various leadership positions in the AANA, including President-elect, Treasurer, Director Region 4, and as a member of numerous AANA committees. Mr. Bless also serves on the Board of Directors for the AANA Associations Management Services and is a distinguished speaker on anesthesia topics, lecturing nationwide on the safety, value and cost-effectiveness of CRNA care.

During his AANA Presidency, Mr. Bless has been a prominent advocate for patients and for the practice of nurse anesthetists before federal agencies and members of Congress. He has worked tirelessly to promote anesthesia patient safety and the value of CRNAs to our healthcare system: recognition of CRNAs as Full Practice Providers in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), proper implementation of provider non-discrimination requirements, and appropriate recognition of the full scope of CRNA practice, including pain management and related services in the Medicare system.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Bless today on a job well done. His service to the AANA, his patients and his commitment to high quality health care nationwide are truly commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his notable career and outstanding achievements.

HONORING DR. ROBERT C. KEEN

HON. LUKE MESSE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. MESSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of Bobby C. Keen, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Hancock Regional Hospital, in my congressional district.