

helped form Congregations Building Communities, the PICO affiliate in Modesto. In addition, he assisted in forming a street lighting district to add streetlights to an unincorporated area of Southwest Modesto in 2005.

More recently, he's been involved in calls for immigration reform. His church's congregation has been a mixing pot of Latino, Hmong, Cambodian and Laotian people sharing space and worshipping together. In June, he plans to officially retire as the Senior Pastor of his congregation, but plans to continue as an unpaid volunteer in that role.

Pastor Bridegroom has also served as interviewer for Stanislaus County Sheriff candidates and City of Modesto police captains. He has organized a baseball league in west Modesto and chaired block parties for the National Night Out.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising Pastor Wayne Bridegroom, for his significant contributions as a bridge between evangelicals and Catholics, U.S. citizens and immigrants, and his overall effort to provide a thriving foundation for our community.

HONORING JACKSON MOHR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jackson Mohr. Jackson 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 360, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jackson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jackson 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, Jackson has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jackson built a loafing shed to protect the horses at the Northland Therapeutic Riding Center, a local equine center for youth and adults with special needs.

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

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY D. ROUCH

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Jeffrey D. Rouch, on the occasion of his passing from this life to the next.

Jeff was an avid political and government affairs professional, spending twenty-one years of his career with the Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. Jeff began his professional career in the Pennsylvania Senate in 1982 as the Director of Policy Development and Research, before becoming the Director of Government Affairs for the Insurance Fed-

eration of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in 1985. He later became an integral member of the Nationwide team, and he retired as the Senior Vice President of Corporate Relations and Public Affairs. His more than twenty-five years as an advocate for the insurance industry enhanced the industry's ability to see to the needs of countless individuals affected by unforeseen misfortune.

He was instrumental in providing Nationwide Insurance and its members a voice in Washington, DC by establishing an office in the nation's capital in 1997. I and my colleagues are fortunate to work with dedicated private citizens such as Jeff, who advocate for public policies that address the needs of millions of our friends and neighbors.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I thank Jeffrey Rouch for his contributions and his unrelenting service to his industry. I offer my deepest sympathies to his family. Their sense of loss at this time is shared by many who knew and loved Jeffrey Rouch, and he will be dearly missed.

CELEBRATING RUDY HANLEY'S RETIREMENT

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Rudy Hanley. As a former State Senator and Congressman for the last 30 years, I have met many people along the way who are advocates for one cause or another, resources that I come to rely on for advice, supporters, and a few that become friends. But there are really very few, who become all of those things, and who are trusted confidants, respected advisors, and true friends. Rudy Hanley is all of those things to me.

I've known Rudy since my days as a California State Senator. I wasn't the Chair of any committees, I wasn't in leadership, but Rudy came to talk to me about something that he was passionate about—credit unions, and what they could do for their members, who were often low to middle income, and who sometimes needed a little extra help.

One of my favorite Rudy stories is that of his "Turkey Loan." One year, Rudy noticed that some of his members were having a hard time buying the groceries for their Thanksgiving dinner, because they didn't get paid until the following week. So, Rudy offered them a "Turkey Loan," where they could come into the credit union, sign a piece of paper, and walk out with a hundred dollars in cash to purchase their groceries. It wasn't a formal loan, but you know, Rudy told me that they never had anyone who didn't pay the loan back. And I think that was probably due in large part to the fact that they respected Rudy, and appreciated the fact that he respected them, and cared for them.

I also respect Rudy immensely. He is a man of great integrity, who works hard, studies hard, and who has been very successful in life. But despite that success, he has never forgotten who he works for—and that is his members. And he has continued to go above and beyond his job at the credit union, to ad-

vocate for them in Sacramento and in Washington, DC. He also has been my "go to guy" when it comes to policy questions that affect credit unions. Not only does he understand the issues better than anyone I know, he is honest and I know that he will always give it to me straight.

And so, I am really going to miss having Rudy at the helm of Schools First, and as an official advocate for credit unions in DC. But I also know that Rudy will always be fighting for credit unions, if even in an unofficial capacity.

And as a friend, I am happy for Rudy and for Catherine, who have earned this retirement. And I hope that it means that Marie and I will get to see more of them in the years to come.

God Bless you Rudy! And Congratulations!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 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 \$17,263,040,455,036.20. We've added \$6,636,163,406,123.12 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING DAWSON MOHR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dawson Mohr. Dawson 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 360, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dawson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Dawson 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, Dawson has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Dawson erected a playground at the Northland Therapeutic Riding Center, a local equine center for youth and adults with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dawson Mohr 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 GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on February 3, 2014, I missed two recorded

votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 32 and "yea" on rollcall No. 33.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
KIMBERLY SUZANNE RATHER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a gifted educator and beloved member of the Rockwall community, Kimberly Suzanne Rather, who passed away on November 29, 2013 at the age of 45. Born and raised in Rockwall, Kimberly graduated from Rockwall High School and earned a scholarship to Tyler Junior College where she was selected to be a member of the renowned Apache Belles dance team. She then continued her education at Stephen F. Austin where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's in education. She began her teaching career in the Hurst Euless Bedford School District and later taught in the Garland School District. She then became an Educational Consultant with the Cheryl Cox Consulting Firm, an organization which provides teachers with educational materials to assist their students with required state testing. In 2000, Kimberly retired to stay home with her three children.

We join Kimberly's family—husband Chris and children CJ, Abby and Jacob, parents Ron and Gale, brother, grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins—in remembering her radiant smile and warm heart. Kimberly Rather was a lovely and intelligent young lady and successful at every crossroads she met all of her life. I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to close today's session in honor and remembrance of this talented and loved young lady.

ELEANOR GREMILLION'S 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. VANCE M. McALLISTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. McALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride and pleasure to commemorate Ms. Eleanor Gremillion on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Eleanor was born and raised in Marksville Louisiana. She graduated from Marksville High School in 1940 and laid the groundwork for her career in the finance business with her first job in the office of an attorney. Ms. Gremillion worked as the manager of Gulfco Finance Company in Marksville for thirty-two years and served the company as vice president, operations manager and was on the board of directors. Until the age limit forced her to step down, she served as a director of the Cottonport Bank for fifteen years. As civil service director for the City of Marksville, Eleanor's focus was to secure the best possible employees for the town of Marksville.

A daughter of a World War I veteran, Eleanor has been a lifelong member of the American Legion Auxiliary and today, she continues

to be actively involved with the organization at the state level. She served with great distinction as state president and subsequently served as a national officer for several years. Eleanor's devotion of time and effort to her community is second to none and since its inception in 1974, she served the Marksville Chamber of Commerce in various capacities and currently serves the Chamber with unwavering dedication as secretary-treasurer.

Eleanor also serves as a board member of the Avoyelles Society for the Developmentally Disabled, secretary of the Hypolite Bordelon Home Society and is on the board of directors of the Avoyelles Commission on Tourism. She served as chairwoman of Marksville's birthday celebrations in the years of 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999, Marksville's year of celebration for the bicentennial in 2009 and the Marksville July Fourth parade and activities, which is the longest running event of its kind in the State of Louisiana. She was named Avoyellean of the year in 1969, Citizen of the Year in 1974 and 1989, Woman of Excellence by the Town Talk and the Rapides Foundation in 2005 and received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Louisiana Tourism Promotion Association Summit in 2009.

Ms. Gremillion has earned the respect and admiration of everyone she has met along her journey. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to her years of dedication and achievements.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD BRUNER,
PH.D.

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the career of a distinguished servant of Congress in the field of foreign affairs, defense and trade. Later this month, Edward Bruner, Ph.D., will retire from the Congressional Research Service after 23 years of outstanding service to the legislative branch.

Dr. Bruner joined CRS in 1991 after a 27-year career in the United States Army that was highlighted by service in Vietnam, teaching Geography at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and command of an armor battalion at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. From 1991–94, he was a specialist in national defense at CRS, where he advised on such topics as Army transformation and modernization, peacekeeping operations, and the appropriate size of the U.S. military. In 1994, in recognition of his leadership abilities, he was asked to head the Defense Policy and Arms Control Section of the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division, where he supervised the day-to-day research activities of a team of senior CRS analysts and specialists. In 2004, he was asked to assume a greater leadership role and was named Deputy Assistant Director of the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division, where he has served for the past ten years.

Dr. Bruner's tenure at CRS has been marked by his unparalleled dedication to the U.S. Congress and the men and women of CRS' Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division. Whether as a national defense specialist, Section Head, or, ultimately, as Deputy Assistant Director, Dr. Bruner's high professional

standards ensured that Congress received timely and authoritative policy analysis of the highest order. When he assumed a leadership role at CRS, he focused his efforts on helping to build a world-class team of managers, analysts, and support staff designed to support the rapidly evolving needs of Congress. No matter how demanding his day-to-day schedule, he always found time to be a mentor, counselor and friend to others, whether it was to CRS staff, new congressional staffers, or newly-elected Members of Congress. His ability to frame policy issues and organize research efforts for complex and multi-faceted policy challenges, combined with his deft personal touch, inspired the respect and loyalty of the entire Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division team.

Dr. Edward Bruner leaves behind him not only a distinguished public service career but a legacy of leadership and mentorship that will have a lasting impact on CRS. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to him for his 50 years of service to our nation.

IN CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF
TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, as a Vietnam veteran, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Trade Relations between the United States and Vietnam.

On February 3, 1994, President Bill Clinton lifted the U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam and ushered in a new era of U.S.-Vietnam relations, which led to the establishment of full diplomatic relations in 1995. These achievements were made possible by the support of Senator JOHN MCCAIN, then Senator John Kerry, and many other distinguished Americans.

Today, U.S.-Vietnam relations are deeper and more diverse. In November 2000, President Clinton became the first U.S. President to visit Vietnam since President Nixon's 1969 trip to South Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

On July 25, 2013, President Truong Tan Sang's visit to the United States became only the second by a Vietnamese head of state since the "normalization" in 1995. I was honored to host President Sang on July 24, 2013 in Room S-115 of the U.S. Capitol at an event held one day prior to his visit with President Barack Obama at the White House.

U.S. Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID provided the venue for this historic meeting which included a select, bipartisan group of five U.S. Senators and five Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. In an open and frank conversation with President Sang, we discussed trade, security, the East Sea, human rights, religious freedom, Agent Orange, Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, and many other topics of interest and concern. President Sang and U.S. lawmakers expressed a deep commitment to strengthening our bilateral relations, and I was personally impressed by President Sang's extraordinary vision and leadership. President Sang