

and honoring Lieutenant General Wilson and his thirty-two years of admirable service to the United States.

HONORING MRS. OCEY RICHMOND

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman who made her life's wages from cultivating and harvesting the land on which her family lived, Mrs. Ocey Richmond.

Mrs. Ocey Richmond was a sharecropper in Bolton, Mississippi. Dating back to as early as the 1950s, Mrs. Richmond farmed an area of about 15–20 acres of land, which was located not far from Bolton-Brownsville Road. Mrs. Richmond cultivated a number of crops, such as sweet potatoes, corn, peanuts, numerous other vegetables, and cotton.

As a sharecropper, a portion of her harvest was payment for her land and home, which was leased to her through the white-owned Gaddis & McLauren Seed and Feed Store. Not only were they able to sell their harvested crops, but they were also able to feed their families, making great use of their land.

Mrs. Richmond enlisted the help of other family members in assisting with the daily demands of cultivating and harvesting acres of land. Other members of her family, such as Deanna Hill and Clarence Richmond assisted her, helping to meet the demands and expectations of her sharecropping responsibilities.

By 1973, Mrs. Richmond ceased cultivating the land and moved from her leased property to another area within the Bolton community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Ocey Richmond for her impeccable cultivator talent.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 7 and 8, 2014 I was in New York and was absent for recorded votes on four measures—a quorum call, H.R. 724, H.R. 3527 and H.R. 3628. I would have voted “present” on the quorum call and “yes” on H.R. 724, H.R. 3527 and H.R. 3628 had I been here.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Senate voted to proceed with debate on an extension of long-term unemployment benefits. The ending of these benefits in December affected about 1.3 million people nation-wide, one in six of whom live in California. This extension of unemployment

benefits is needed for the constituents I represent.

Unemployment benefits keep individuals actively looking for work, increasing their chances of finding employment when jobs become available. They prevent families with a reduced income from becoming homeless.

Unemployment benefits allow families to continue spending which can create more opportunities for job growth in the future, and can reduce the need for such benefits once the economy recovers.

I ask that the Speaker work with the Senate and take up this extension.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF TOM D'AMORE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great solemnity to share with you the recent death of Tom D'Amore.

Tom D'Amore was a vibrant fixture in Connecticut politics for over 40 years. Serving as the State Chairman for the Republican Party Connecticut from 1983 to 1987, Tom went on to run a number of successful campaigns for former Connecticut Senator Lowell P. Weicker. Most notably, Tom steered the former Republican Senator to victory as an independent candidate for the Connecticut Governorship in 1990.

Serving as Chief of Staff to Governor Weicker, Tom played a central role in helping the Governor pass the state's first broad-based income tax in 1991. Tom also worked with the Governor during his term to implement legislation for school desegregation, stronger gun laws, and health care reform.

With a vision for the nation and a passion for politics, Tom remained influential in state and federal politics after Governor Weicker left office. Starting a successful consulting business with former Speaker of the Connecticut House Richard Balducci and former colleague John Doyle, Tom advised on a range of candidate campaigns over his 30-year tenure.

As a family man from New Hartford, Connecticut, Tom is survived by his wife, his children, and his grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Tom D'Amore, and sharing our condolences with the family and friends he leaves behind.

HONORING WALTER LEE WARE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Walter L. Ware who is a remarkable public servant, Sunday School Teacher, and laborer for the church.

Mr. Walter L. Ware was born in Carroll County, Mississippi on September 19, 1943 to the late Granville and Myrtle Ruth Ware. To this union ten children were born, four girls and six boys. In 1983, his father passed away. Recently, his mother was honored by her fam-

ily when she turned the young age of 98 on April 21, 2013.

Mr. Ware attended Browning Elementary School. After elementary school, he attended and graduated from Amanda Elzy High School. Upon graduating from Amanda Elzy, Walter spent his summers up North working so that he could make some money to pay for his college education. He attended Coahoma Community College before transferring to Alcorn State University. At Alcorn he obtained his Bachelor's Degree. Later, he would obtain a Master's Degree from Mississippi Valley State University.

Mr. Ware is a very well known respected member of the Browning Community where he grew up and still lives. It is here, where in 1972, he began to raise cattle on over 200 acres of land. In 1999 he began to grow milo and soybeans.

He served as board member from 1983–1984 for the Mississippi Action for Progress.

He has received such awards as Teacher of the Year for the Leflore County School District, where he served as Social Studies teacher for 29 years before retiring. He has continued to drive the bus for the district for over 40 years. In 1984 he received an Outstanding Service to the Community Award. Later in 1998 the United States Department of Agriculture would honor him with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work in agriculture.

He is married to Earlean Maxwell. Together they are the proud parents of three sons and one daughter.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AIR FORCE CAPTAIN DAVID L. LYON

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, United States Air Force Captain David L. Lyon has given the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. He was assigned to the 21st Logistics Readiness Squadron, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, and gave his life for this country at the age of 28.

Capt. Lyon died while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. He was killed in action on December 27, 2013 in Kabul, Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device struck his patrol. Capt. Lyon is survived by his wife, Dana Pounds Lyon of Lexington, Kentucky; his parents, Bob and Jeannie Lyon; and his younger brother, Sean.

There is nothing as noble as the character of a man who so willingly dedicates his life for others. The American warriors serving our military, and their families, understand this better than anybody. They embody what it means to be an American.

Capt. Lyon grew up in Sandpoint, Idaho, with the ambition of graduating from the United States Air Force Academy and answering the call to serve his country. Capt. Lyon was a star athlete, acting as the team captain for the Air Force Falcon's track and field team, and winning a conference title in the shot put at the 2008 Mountain West Conference Indoor Championships. He met the love of his life, Dana Pounds, at the Air Force Academy, and they married shortly after graduating from the Academy.

Capt. Lyon was serving his first tour of duty in Afghanistan, and earned significant recognition with awards that include the Bronze Star

Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Combat Action Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

We grieve the loss of this great American, but we also celebrate and honor his life and his service. Capt. Lyon embodied the best of the American ideals and values we know are instilled in our fighting Airmen. He served this nation as the fine Airman he always wanted to be. He was willing to fight to bring liberty to people he did not know, in a land where he had never been.

I am forever grateful for Capt. Lyon's service to our country and am both humbled and honored by the sacrifice he made for our freedom. Because of his bravery and that of his fellow men and women in uniform, our American freedoms are protected for future generations. He is truly a hero and an inspiration to us all.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 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 \$17,310,216,315,568.94. We've added \$6,683,339,266,655.86 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 THE SERVICE OF DR. LUAN THUY DUONG, MINISTER COUNSELOR FOR CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS, AT THE EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding service of my dear friend, Dr. Luan Thuy Duong, who has worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam since 1990 and for the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the United States since August 2010. Dr. Duong is currently the Minister Counselor for Congressional Affairs at the Embassy and is completing her term this week.

Dr. Duong received her B.A. in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, her M.A. in International Studies from the University of Sydney, and her Doctorate degree from the Vietnam National University.

Before being posted to the Vietnam Embassy in the United States, Dr. Duong was

Deputy Director General at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and conducted academic research on Southeast Asia, ASEAN and the Asia Pacific region. She made foreign policy recommendations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Vietnamese Government. She also gave lectures on international relations and foreign policies at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam. Dr. Duong is the author and co-author of several books and has published many articles in foreign newspapers and other publications.

In my official capacity as the former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I want to publicly acknowledge Dr. Duong's contributions to strengthening U.S.-Vietnam relations. Her contributions have been invaluable to our bilateral partnership, and she has served the Government of Vietnam with distinction and loyalty.

Dr. Duong is the daughter of Luan Van Uc and Vo Thi Thiet. She is married to Nguyen Van Tri and they have two children, Nguyen Luan Quoc Anh and Nguyen Luan Thuy Anh.

On a personal note, I will miss Minister Counselor Luan Thuy Duong. I extend to her and her family my highest regards and best wishes.

H.R. 3685—PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act, and to thank Representative LOU BARLETTA of Pennsylvania for his sponsorship of this legislation.

Volunteer firefighters, first aid squads, and emergency medical technicians are vital in ensuring safety in my home state of New Jersey and across the nation. Many communities rely exclusively upon such dedicated volunteers for protection and emergency medical services.

The National Volunteer Fire Council reports that there are 783,000 volunteer firefighters in the U.S. comprising 70 percent of the firefighting force, and our nation has over 20,000 volunteer departments.

However, thousands of volunteer groups across the nation could be forced to shut down because the towns cannot afford the high costs of the President's new healthcare law.

Due to the Affordable Care Act's requirements, fire departments, emergency squads and municipalities may have to provide health insurance for volunteers working more than 30 hours a week. The current law stipulates that the 'employer mandate' will apply to organizations that have at least 50 employees, which can include multiple fire departments and EMS houses within one community.

The vast majority of volunteers I speak with do not expect to receive health insurance from their departments or organizations. Volunteer firefighters and EMS responders do not see their work as a career or a part-time job—it's a call to serve the community passed down from one generation of a family to the next.

I know that volunteer fire and EMS departments operate on a shoestring budget, and won't have the resources to pay for health insurance for their personnel. Without this new bureaucratic burden, most departments already have difficulty making ends meet.

I am deeply concerned that subjecting fire departments and municipalities to this provision will result in vital volunteer services being reduced or eliminated in our communities.

This is why I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 3685, the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act, and again thank Congressman LOU BARLETTA for his leadership in addressing this critical public safety issue.

RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM E. INGRAM, JR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Lieutenant General William "Bill" E. Ingram, Jr., who has faithfully and valiantly served the American people for 44 years in the United States Army. General Ingram has had a truly remarkable career and it is on behalf of a grateful nation that I congratulate him on his retirement as Director of the Army National Guard.

In his 44 years of service, Lieutenant General Ingram has commanded at all levels from platoon to battalion. He has commanded United States, United Nations, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces in Croatia, Macedonia, and Kosovo, and was especially effective as the General of the North Carolina National Guard for over nine years—a position his father held from 1977 to 1983. Over the past two years he has served as the Director of the Army National Guard where he oversaw the entirety of the Army National Guard's programs, policies, civilian employees, and over 350,000 Guardsmen in all 50 states.

Throughout his stellar career, Lieutenant General Ingram's dedication to service has been recognized with numerous awards and decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Kosovo Campaign Medal among many others.

I am proud to say that Lieutenant General Ingram is a product of the First Congressional District of North Carolina. He was born and raised in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and was a resident of Williamston, North Carolina. He and his wonderful wife, Lil, have been tremendous assets to National Guard families in North Carolina and across the United States helping them cope with the deployment of family members through several children's programs and family readiness initiatives.

I have had the good fortune to know Lieutenant General Ingram for many years and have watched the progression of his career with admiration. I am honored to call him my friend. He is an inspiration to eastern North Carolina and to all who know him.

I offer my sincere appreciation for his service to the United States of America and the great state of North Carolina. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Lieutenant General William E. Ingram, Jr., on his retirement and wish him many years of enjoyment with his family.