

The association has a close relationship with the California State Association of Counties and is supportive of advocacy work to develop policies that benefit counties and citizens.

The County Engineers Association of California works on many issues toward improving the state of our water. Specific issues include wastewater, storm water, flood control infrastructure, in addition to matters regarding clean and safe drinking water.

Through much collaboration, the County Engineers Association of California strives to provide, create, and maintain infrastructure that aids in the health, safety, and general welfare for California.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the County Engineers Association of California for their 100 years of outstanding contributions to the community.

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RECOGNIZING THE HEALTH  
WAGON

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I write in recognition of The Health Wagon, a nonprofit health clinic that works to provide mobile health services in Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, Lee, Scott, and Wise Counties as well as the City of Norton. Last year, The Health Wagon helped more than 11,000 patients receive health care valued at over \$1 million, and through partnerships The Health Wagon's Pharmacy Connect program provided patients with approximately \$1.2 million in pharmacy assistance.

For this and its important work with the annual Remote Area Medical event, its community health fairs and outreach programs, its women's health programs, its emphasis on education and prevention, its clinics including dental, eye, and specialty services, and more, I am grateful to The Health Wagon and its staff, supporters, and volunteers for serving the people of Southwest Virginia. There is no doubt that The Health Wagon's hard work and dedication has had an impact on countless lives.

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OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 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 \$17,467,228,205,267.47. We've added \$6,840,351,156,354.39 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

SHANE ROBERT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Shane Robert for receiving the Young Professional of the Year award from the West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

The West Chamber Young Professionals engage and connect young professionals throughout Jefferson County. By building relationships with other local business leaders, West Chamber young professional members advance their careers and become leaders in the community.

Shane is a vital contributing member and leader of the West Chamber Young Professionals. He is instrumental in helping the Young Professionals grow over the past two years with particular emphasis on helping with their marketing, donating brochure designs and social media services.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Shane Robert for his well deserved honor from the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 91, I was not present due to unavoidable air travel delays. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

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IN RECOGNITION OF DARWIN L.  
CURLS FOR HIS DEDICATED CA-  
REER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our own. On Friday, March 7, 2014, Mr. Darwin Lenard Curls is retiring from my office after serving the past nine years for the Fifth Congressional District as the Director of Community Affairs and dedicating nearly half-a-century of public service to our community.

Born on October 17, 1943, to a family of public servants, Darwin learned at an early age the importance of giving back to his community. His parents, Fred and Velma Curls raised Darwin and his five siblings to help those less fortunate. His father was a pioneer for civil and political rights in our community and was one of the original founders of Freedom Incorporated, an African-American political organization, based in Kansas City, Missouri. Darwin observed his father's efforts to better the community, such as with his fight against restrictive covenants in residential neighborhoods in our community. His brother,

Phil Curls, went on to become a State Senator and President of Freedom Inc. Along with Darwin's help, Freedom rose to be known as one of the most potent political organizations in the United States. Darwin remembers well his father's saying "make it happen", and took to heart those words by dedicating his life to making things happen. Make-no-mistake, through his career of action and advocacy in our great state of Missouri, Darwin has been the embodiment of the "Show me State".

As a young man, Darwin attended De La Salle Military Academy, before earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from Park College. He eventually found his calling when he landed a position with the Blue Hills Homes Corporation—a community development corporation focused on improving neighborhoods in the urban core thru creating quality housing opportunities. Darwin spent nearly 23 years with Blue Hills.

In 1994, Darwin chose to run for public office and was elected overwhelmingly for the Kansas City Missouri School Board. During a challenging time for the School District, Darwin brought much-needed, common sense approaches to ensure children were given the best opportunities to succeed. After retiring from the School Board, he accepted a Trustee position with the Kansas City Public School Retirement System where he served for 16 years to ensure the employees of the Kansas City School District were treated fairly thru their retirement.

In 1999, Darwin joined the Congressional staff of my predecessor, Representative Karen McCarthy. He served for five years, handling casework and outreach. After a brief stint with Swope Community Builders, I asked Darwin to join me shortly after my election. He started on February 1, 2005 as my Director of Community Affairs. In that capacity, Darwin has overseen the office's casework, helping constituents with issues dealing with the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, Housing and Urban Development, and much more. He has helped hundreds of individuals traverse the challenges of the federal bureaucracy, helping people to receive back payments, or keep their housing. He was always available to constituents, sometimes just lending a shoulder during their time in need. Equally valuable, he has been an integral part of our outreach efforts, regularly providing remarks at meetings and events on behalf of the office. Over the years, I have relied heavily on his insights and feedback about our community and their concerns, as he has always had his fingers on the pulse of our District.

Darwin has been married for forty-five years to his wife, Sandra, and they are blessed to have three amazing children and seven grandchildren. Their daughter, Shalonn "Kiki" Curls, is continuing the family tradition of public service as a State Senator.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing and honoring Mr. Darwin Curls for a lifetime of dedicated service to our community. While he embraces this next phase of life in retirement, I wish to thank him for his guiding counsel over the years. He has served as a role model to many in our office and in the African-American community. The lives of hundreds of constituents he has helped, our neighbors, community, and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, have been enhanced because he chose to "make it happen."

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE  
HENRY "HANQ" NEAL

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a spiritual leader and an extraordinary musical artist from Houston, Texas, the Honorable Henry "Hanq" Neal.

Mr. Neal was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana on September 4, 1956. He had a lifelong love of music, especially gospel music, singing in his youth choir at church. Mr. Neal went on to become a legendary gospel singer, musical artist, and minister of music. Throughout his career, he performed with several different gospel acts and was nominated for a Grammy for his rendition of "If You Move Yourself" with the legendary gospel group Donald Vails Choraleers in 1980.

He also inspired his community with his work as a minister of music at Windsor Village United Methodist Church and then Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston. Both churches credit Mr. Neal with expanding and revolutionizing their choirs. Throughout Mr. Neal's career, he was consistently in demand for his musical talents, performing at mayoral inaugurations, for Queen Elizabeth II in 1991, and Congressman Mickey Leland's memorial service in 1989.

As we bid farewell to an exceptional talent and man of God, we acknowledge that our community has lost a resounding voice for faith. Although this is a significant loss, we must find consolation in knowing that many of our lives have been forever changed by the God-given talent of the Honorable Henry "Hanq" Neal.

IN HONOR OF IRA LOOMIS  
FLOWERS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and close friend, Mr. Ira Loomis Flowers. Sadly, Mr. Flowers passed away on Friday, February 28, 2014. A service celebrating his life will be held on Saturday March 8, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at First Missionary Baptist Church in Thomasville, Georgia.

Mr. Flowers was born on January 4, 1953, in Washington, DC, to Bessie Lee Flowers Moore and the late Guyte Smith, Sr. After obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in English at Stillman College, Mr. Flowers dedicated much of his life to youth development. He served in the Boys and Girls Club of Houston, Texas, before serving as a director at the YMCA in Columbus and Thomasville, Georgia, as well as the director of the Thomasville Resource Center. He worked for the Colquitt County Board of Education before retiring. He was steadfastly dedicated to furthering the success of men and women in his church, workplace, and community. He worked tirelessly to open doors and to level the playing field for at-risk youth in Southwest Georgia.

Mr. Flowers was an influential member of society and a local civil rights legend. He organized and was president of the Malcom X Liberation Front. My Brother in the Bond, Mr. Flowers was also devoted to our beloved Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and was heavily involved in fraternity activities.

Most important to Mr. Flowers was his sturdy and enduring relationship with the Lord. He was a longtime member of First Missionary Baptist Church.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." We are all so blessed that Mr. Flowers passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long. He leaves behind a great legacy in service to all the children, families, and members of the community whose lives he touched.

The race of life isn't given to the swift or to the strong, but to those who endure until the end. Mr. Flowers has run the race of life with grace and dignity and God has blessed him over his lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife, Vivian, in saluting Mr. Ira Loomis Flowers for his outstanding service to his community. We pray that Mr. Flowers' family, friends and loved ones will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

ANAJELY AGUILAR

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anajely Aguilar for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Anajely Aguilar is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anajely Aguilar is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anajely Aguilar for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE SUMGAI  
POGROMS

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the Sumgait pogroms. The Sumgait pogroms consisted of the murder of hundreds of Armenians, making it a particularly atrocious event in a long history of hostility against the Armenian people. I would like to recognize the anniversary of the Sumgait pogroms and

remind all of us that it is our duty to act when a people are targeted with violence. Our commitment to remembering this injustice strengthens our determination to obtain peace.

In 1988, hundreds of Armenians were brutally murdered, some of them burned alive and thrown from windows. Women and children were raped and maimed by Azerbaijani rioters. Apartments were robbed, shops demolished, and thousands of people became refugees. Despite Sumgait's proximity to Baku, police turned a blind eye to this dire situation, allowing the pogroms to go on for three days. And since that time, authorities in Azerbaijan have sought to erase all traces of these crimes. Yet, the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus is resolutely committed to ensure that those Armenians who lost their lives are not forgotten.

I ask my colleagues to solemnly condemn all intimidations and acts of aggression against the Armenian people. The Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus will do its very best to ensure that basic rights to life, liberty and security are not violated. I also ask my colleagues to join me in calling upon the Azerbaijani government to acknowledge Ramil Safarov as a convicted murderer and immediately take action to bring him to justice for the murder that he committed against an innocent Armenian man.

As co-chair and founder of the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus, I will continue to promote peace and security throughout the Caucasus region. I look forward to the day when the Armenian people never have to fear such attacks.

IN HONOR OF OSCAR VILLEGAS

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Oscar Villegas to recognize his numerous contributions and years of service to the people of West Sacramento. Oscar has served on the West Sacramento City Council for 14 years and was recently appointed by California Governor Jerry Brown to serve on the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

Oscar is a homegrown public servant from the Bryte neighborhood and has proudly served his community in different capacities. He was first elected to the City Council in 2000 and then reelected in 2004 and 2008, during which time he served as Mayor Pro Tern on five occasions. Prior to his election, Oscar served on the West Sacramento Planning Commission from 1997-2000. Oscar has served on many boards and commissions, including the Sacramento-Yolo Port District Commission, the Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District Board, the Yolo County Transportation District, and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Board. He is also Chairman of the City's Up for West Sacramento Executive Board, an early learning program.

Oscar has been a strong advocate for a number of programs that have transformed the City of West Sacramento. He played an important role in advocating for the development of Raley Field, the riverfront Bridge District, the new Arthur F. Turner Community Library, the revitalized West Capitol Avenue, the City's park system and the bicycle master plan. His