

the President of the organization. He will also soon accept the organization's 2014 Man of the Year award.

Shawn now resides in Jenkins Township with his wife of 21 years, Michele, and their three children, George, Shawna, and Samantha. Since joining in 1992, Shawn now enjoys yearly banquets and introducing his son, George, to the Friendly Sons to carry on the Casey Tradition.

I proudly offer my congratulations to Dr. Casey for receiving this award from the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. I applaud his commitment to providing dental care to Pennsylvanians, including those with special needs, and his lifetime of service to the Pittston area.

**A TRIBUTE TO BLAIRE LENNANE—
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Blaire Lennane of Elysian Valley.

Since 2011, Ms. Lennane has been an unstoppable force in the Elysian Valley community. Especially dedicated to serving the area's youth, she is the Founding President of Partners of Dorris (POD). POD is a non-profit organization committed to supporting public education programs affected by budget cuts and the advancement of students at Dorris Place Elementary School. POD supports the school's teachers and contributes to the beautification and safety of Elysian Valley through outreach and volunteerism. A consummate organizer, Ms. Lennane has formed partnerships with local businesses, non-profit organizations, community groups, and corporations to generate funds and in-kind donations for the school. She spearheaded the complete makeover and re-opening of the school library, partnered with Home Depot to accomplish the leveling, re-building, and planting of the school garden and worked with Office Depot to provide supplies for the entire school.

Ms. Lennane's greatest achievement through POD is the Instrumental Music Program, where she partnered with the non-profit group Education Through Music-Los Angeles, to bring musical instrument instruction (violin, cello, ukulele, and recorder) to the school, as well as organized afterschool ensemble practice.

Ms. Lennane has founded and organized many events which have become beloved annual traditions highly anticipated by the community. Such events include the Training Day Fitness Fair & Walkathon, the Fine Arts Expo, and the Save the Music Program Fall Festival. Ms. Lennane is also active with the Elysian Valley Arts Collective, the Los Angeles City Parks Advisory Board for the Elysian Valley Recreation Center, and the Los Angeles Unified School District's Parent Community Advisory Committee. She sits on several commit-

tees for Dorris Place Elementary School. Ms. Lennane and her husband, Chad Gordon, have one daughter, Gala Lennane-Gordon.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Blaire Lennane.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on the afternoon of March 13, 2014, I was attending a meeting at the White House to discuss a sensitive constituent issue and was absent for rollcall vote 126. Had I been present for rollcall vote 126, on passage of H. Res. 515, I would have voted "no."

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 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 \$17,491,372,091,598.45. We've added \$6,864,495,042,685.37 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.

**CONGRATULATING CAMBRIA COUN-
TY ON ITS 210TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the residents of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, who celebrate the 210th anniversary of the County's founding on March 26, 2014. Cambria County is nestled in the Laurel Highlands of Western Pennsylvania and is home to many great hard working Americans.

On March 26, 1804, the Pennsylvania Assembly formed a new county from portions of Huntingdon, Somerset, and Bedford Counties. They named it Cambria, an old name for Wales. To determine the location of the county seat, Cambria County held a census. Because Ebensburg had the largest population of 150 to Johnstown's 60, it became the new county seat. Over two centuries later, Ebensburg remains the county seat.

Today, more than 140,000 Pennsylvanians call Cambria County home. It contains more than sixty-three municipalities including thirty-two boroughs, thirty townships, and the city of Johnstown. The county is home to leading hospitals, educational institutions, defense contractors, manufacturers, coal mines, and other businesses.

From Northern Cambria to Nanty Glo to Portage, Cambria County is blessed with

beautiful vistas. Visitors travel from all over to see the breathtaking view from the Johnstown Inclined Plane and the natural beauty of Prince Gallitzin State Forest and Laurel Ridge State Park.

Cambria County is also fortunate to have plentiful natural resources. Our hardworking men and women drove the steel industry that built our Nation and developed its abundant coal and natural gas. Today, many Cambria County residents continue to work in the steel and energy industries.

The county was the location of the Johnstown Flood, one of the worst natural disasters in our Nation's history. In the midst of great challenges, the people of Cambria have overcome and pressed on to build the vibrant community that we celebrate today.

Mr. Speaker, and fellow Members, please join me in congratulating Cambria County on the 210th anniversary of its founding.

**HONORING THE DIRECTOR OF THE
AIR FORCE SEXUAL ASSAULT
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OF-
FICE, MAJOR GENERAL MAGGIE
H. WOODWARD**

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Major General Maggie H. Woodward, who is retiring after 31 years of faithful and distinguished service to her nation. Throughout her career, and especially as a senior officer, General Woodward has provided invaluable testimony, advice, and service to this body. Specifically and most recently, General Woodward provided updates and insight in relation to sexual assault in the military and on her progress in leading the fight against this scourge as Director of the new Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

Inspired by her grandfather, one of the United States' first military pilots, General Woodward sought to fly aircraft in defense of her nation. She entered the Air Force in 1983 as an ROTC graduate of Arizona State University. Over the course of her distinguished career, she commanded at the squadron, group, wing, and numbered Air Force levels, including Air Forces Africa in Germany and the 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force base, home of Air Force One.

General Woodward flew and commanded in Operations Just Cause, Northern and Southern Watch, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Additionally, General Woodward served as Coalition Forces Air Component Commander during Operation Odyssey Dawn—the first female Component Commander in our nation's history. Her most lasting impact will be the momentum she provided in turning back the tide of sexual assault in our military; her compassion for victims, relentless pursuit of perpetrators, and dedication to reinforcing a climate of dignity and respect within the Air Force has set a new standard for military leaders everywhere. She retires as a command pilot with more than 3,800 flying hours in multiple aircraft, and the respect of both military members and civilians alike.

For 31 years General Woodward has performed her job professionally, honestly, and

passionately. We will miss her leadership, courage, and dedication, and wish her all the best as she retires from active duty service to our great nation.

A TRIBUTE TO DRIAN JUAREZ—
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Drian Juarez of Hollywood.

Born in Juarez, Mexico and raised by her grandmother, a five-year-old Ms. Juarez joined her mother in the United States after her grandmother's passing.

Ms. Juarez's artistic talents were noticed early on by many of her teachers. She entered a Los Angeles Times art contest, won, and was awarded with art lessons throughout middle school. With these art lessons, Ms. Juarez was able to build a portfolio and gain entry into the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. Upon graduation, she was accepted to Otis College of Art and Design, where she attained a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art.

In 2005, Ms. Juarez was shot in the face at a Halloween event and lost sight in her right eye. After this tragic incident, Ms. Juarez decided to make a change in her life. For the first time, she connected with Los Angeles transgender support groups and increased her involvement in local events and activism. She became a member of the West Hollywood Transgender Task Force, which is now known as the West Hollywood Transgender Advisory Board, and also became a member of the Transgender Service Provider Network. In 2009, Ms. Juarez was invited to become a member of the Transgender Law Center's Transgender Leadership Council and the Transgender Economic Development Initiative.

For the past 6 years, Ms. Juarez has served as Program Manager of the Transgender Economic Empowerment Project (TEEP) at the Legal Services Department of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. She has demonstrated remarkable entrepreneurial skills and passion for empowering clients who are struggling with immigration, employment, and race issues due to their gender identity.

TEEP, in conjunction with Trans-Unity Pride, held its first job fair in 2008. Since then, TEEP has collaborated with the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce on a yearly job fair. As part of this job fair, Ms. Juarez has provided Gender and Sexual Diversity in the Workplace trainings to human resources professionals and employers. Ms. Juarez has presented over 400 transgender cultural competency trainings to thousands of people, including at conferences sponsored by the Transgender Service Provider Network and the HIV Drug & Alcohol Task Force, LA Youth at Work, the City of L.A. Career Fair, Women's Resource & Job Fair, Trans Action/Friends Community

Center, among others. In addition to all of her accomplishments, Ms. Juarez designed a plaque with an inscribed poem for the City of West Hollywood, which was dedicated in 2009 during the Transgender Day of Remembrance, a day to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred and prejudice.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Drian Juarez.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 117, I was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE 2014 ACADEMY
NOMINEES OF THE 11TH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW
JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens

from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of six local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed over 40 applicants. The Board's recommendations were then forwarded to the academies by January 31, where recruiters reviewed files and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in Afghanistan or other hot spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2014, 11TH DISTRICT
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Justin M. Blumas, Roseland, West Essex H.S.

Jennifer E. Lam, Boonton, Air Force Academy Prep

Sean M. Lyons, Morristown, Morristown H.S.

Angela E. Martone, Lincoln Park, Trinity Christian H.S.

Michael J. Predojevic, Woodland Park, Passaic Valley H.S.

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Justin C. Corio, Bloomfield, Bloomfield H.S.

Clay C. Dundas, Sparta, Massachusetts Maritime Academy