

coaching them, the UNM team has taken upon themselves to manage, train, and govern their own team. Founded four years ago, the students have worked diligently over that time, as they have improved their skills and turned their vision into a successful and accomplished team.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the UNM Undergraduate Mock Trial Team—Laura Worden, Cris Romero, Nicolas Cordova, Daniel Whiteley, Valeria Garcia, Danielle Harrier, Sarah Peterson, and Seth Barany—and wish them the best at the national competition.

**NORWOOD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
BASKETBALL TEAM**

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Norwood High School Mavericks girls' basketball team and their coach, Greg King, for winning this year's 1A State basketball championship title.

Their thrilling 38 to 34 victory over the Caliche High School Buffaloes marks only the second time in the school's history winning this prestigious athletic title. According to Coach King, this is a team that fights hard for every victory on the court and in the classroom. These talented young women exemplify the versatility and passion of our amazing student athletes, and will no doubt have bright futures.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to offer my sincere congratulations to Norwood for this year's exciting victory, and I commend Coach King and each member of the team for their sportsmanship and competitive spirit as they continue their bright academic and athletic careers.

**IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION
REGULATION**

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today, April 1st, marks the 30th anniversary of the effective date of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). The FAR replaced the Armed Services Procurement Regulation and the Federal Procurement Regulations. The principles of the FAR system have remained constant, providing a consistent government-wide approach to the rules and processes of contracting with the U.S. Government. The FAR has helped facilitate our ability to tap into the vast resources of the private sector in those instances when the work of the government can best be performed by outside entities.

The United States Federal government is one of the world's largest consumers of goods and services, with total procurement spending of approximately a half trillion dollars each year. We need to ensure that the government acquires goods and services in an efficient and streamlined fashion, while getting the best value for the American taxpayer.

Many have criticized the fashion in which the government acquires goods and services, particularly information technology, as cumbersome and inefficient. The FAR has evolved to provide broad flexibility to the government, while balancing the need to conduct business with integrity, fairness, and openness. Under the FAR, small businesses have grown into a critical business partner for the Federal government.

The FAR is the Federal regulation that most reflects a collaborative process. Unlike other Federal regulations, the FAR is not signed by one agency, but by three agencies—the General Services Administration, the Department of Defense, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—under the overall direction of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (in the Office of Management and Budget). They are supported by seventeen other civilian agencies and the small agency council. Together they continuously improve Federal acquisition, incorporating best practices from private industry while protecting taxpayer dollars from waste and abuse.

The FAR has its own authority for rule-making which streamlines the process but provides the opportunity for participation in the rulemaking process by both government users and the public. There have been notable collaborative rulemakings in the past, such as the implementation of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994, and I support the continued use of the FAR rulemaking process to provide robust exchanges between government and the public.

From the shortest FAR clause which reads “United States law will apply to resolve any claim of breach of this contract” to the longest one, the Government Property clause, which is over 5000 words long, the FAR is a flexible instrument designed to do the job.

More than 30 percent of the government's discretionary budget is dedicated to procurement—the grunt work of the government. It may not be glamorous, but it is what makes the government work. We acknowledge and support the FAR on its anniversary, but remain committed to streamlining and improving its operation and ensuring that acquisition professionals across the government have the tools, training, and support they need to properly use this critical tool.

While the FAR is by no means a perfect document, most countries in the world, whether developed or developing, study the FAR and borrow from it for their procurement system. More importantly, the hard working men and women of the acquisition workforce play a vital role in the policy that is developed for the FAR, and in making that policy work on a daily basis they strive to ensure that the taxpayers, in the end, get best value.

On behalf of those taxpayers, I direct my thanks to the acquisition workforce community for all you do to make our federal acquisition system work. Our system, while not perfect, is better than any alternative out there and something for you to be proud of—you make it work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 147, I was unable to attend.

Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

**HONORING CHAPLAIN BENJAMIN
VEGORS ON HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chaplain Benjamin Vegors, who is retiring after giving over 145 years of service to our nation's veterans. A dedicated servant, Chaplain Vegors spent countless hours counseling and caring for our veterans throughout the Pacific Northwest at the Jonathan N. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington.

A World War II veteran, Chaplain Vegors served in the Army Air Corp from 1942–1945, assigned to Europe as a tail gunner in B24 Liberator bombers flying 30 missions over Germany and Austria. When asked what called him to the ministry, Ben tells about one particular mission over Germany when two of the plane's outboard engines were shot out. With the plane out of formation and slowly losing altitude, the pilot had to make an emergency landing. With enemy soldiers in pursuit, Chaplain Vegors felt certain that they were all going to die—if they bailed out of the plane, they would be shot in the air but if they stayed in the plane, they were sure to go down. While sitting in his usual landing position, Chaplain Vegors made a midair commitment that if he survived, he would serve God for the rest of his life.

Following discharge from the military, Chaplain Vegors went back to school and then to Seminary at Multnomah Bible College in Portland, Oregon. His pastoral career began in Astoria, Oregon, followed by a ten-year post in Junction City, Oregon. Afterwards, he went to Walla Walla, where he met Jim Dennis, the Chaplain at the VA Hospital. Chaplain Dennis invited Ben to accompany him on his night calls to veterans. This led to an intermittent chaplaincy appointment with the VA and eventually to a part-time chaplaincy position.

In 1972, he was appointed as a full-time chaplain. After 42 years of service as Chaplain of the Jonathan N. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington, Chaplain Vegors is retiring. Knowing that he has made a difference in countless veterans' lives, Ben once said that he would serve 1,000 years if he could. As it is, he is the oldest Chaplain in the United States. A man of integrity and high principle, his humility and his impact on Eastern Washington's veterans and on his country will long be remembered.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chaplain Vegors for a lifetime of dedicated service.

PUEBLO EAST HIGH SCHOOL
MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pueblo East High School men's basketball team and their coach, Dave Ryder. In their third time in the State finals, the Pueblo East Eagles claimed their first Class 4A State basketball title. This was Coach Ryder's final year with the Eagles after teaching for 29 years and 10 years as head coach.

After an exciting and challenging game, the Eagles production in the half court helped them beat Denver South 58 to 51. In a thrilling back and forth between these two teams, Pueblo East's defense made the difference, allowing their opponent to only score two points in the final 2:41 of the game.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Pueblo East men's basketball team and their extraordinary coach, Dave Ryder. Under Coach Ryder's expert guidance, the team captured their first men's basketball championship in school history, and built a base that I have no doubt will win many more State titles to continue their legacy of success.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 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 \$17,554,275,708,064.70. We've added \$6,927,398,659,151.62 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING LLOYD MITCHELL

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lloyd Mitchell for his many years of exemplary service to the state of Missouri. Lloyd retired on February 11, 2014 after more than 46 years of service to the Texas County Sheriff's department.

In 1968, at age 43, Lloyd began his career in law enforcement as Deputy Sheriff of Texas County. In 1994, he became a bailiff in Texas County and held this position up until his retirement. Over the course of his career, Lloyd developed a reputation for conducting his job with the utmost integrity. His professionalism has set a high standard of work ethics that will serve as an example for future generations of law enforcement professionals.

In addition to his many years of service to the sheriffs' department, Lloyd is a published

author and has served as a Deacon for his local Church. His dedication to serving Texas County has helped countless residents and it is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

HONORING MITCHELL LIBMAN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mitchell Libman of Hollywood, Florida, who for more than five decades worked to ensure a dear friend received the recognition he deserved for his heroism and sacrifice during the Korean War.

In 1951, Mr. Libman learned that his childhood friend, Private First Class Leonard Kravitz, lost his life during combat and received the Distinguished Service Cross for his service. After hearing about Private Kravitz's heroics from some of the soldiers who fought by his side in Korea, he was inspired to dig deeper into the circumstances of his death.

Mr. Libman found that his friend's service was indeed extraordinary. During an ambush of Communist forces, Private First Class Leonard Kravitz sacrificed his own life when he took over a machine gun so that his platoon could retreat to safety. It became clear that Private Kravitz's heroism qualified him for the Medal of Honor and yet he never received one. During his years of research, Mr. Libman began to suspect that Private Kravitz could have been bypassed for the Medal of Honor due to possible prejudice in the military against his Jewish heritage. He decided to take the issue to Washington.

As a result of Mr. Libman's heartfelt advocacy, Congress passed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2002 requiring the Pentagon to undergo a review and determine if Jewish and Hispanic Americans serving in our Armed Forces could have been overlooked for the Medal of Honor due to bias in the military.

The Pentagon's review did more than confirm that Private First Class Leonard Kravitz indeed fit the criteria for the Medal of Honor. It also revealed 23 additional cases of soldiers who went above and beyond the call of duty and yet never received the Medal of Honor for their extraordinary service. Last fall, I was pleased to pass H.R. 3304, an amended version of the National Defense Authorization Act ensuring that every soldier discovered during this review to be worthy of the Medal of Honor would finally be recognized.

On March 18, 2014, Mr. Libman's decades of work culminated in President Barack Obama awarding all 24 soldiers with the Medal of Honor. Seeing the President finally issue these long overdue awards should remind us all of the power every American citizen has to make a difference, and I am profoundly grateful for Mitchell Libman's years of determination and love of country.

RICHARD GOTTLIEB

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Richard Gottlieb, a World War II Veteran, who served his county as a B-24 gunner with the 15th Air Force, 55th Bomb Wing, of the 465th Bomb Group, 780th squadron stationed at Pantanella Air Base in Italy.

The 465th Bomb Group served as a strategic bombardment group on two different missions, bombing strategic points near Vienna, Austria, on July 8, 1944, and two steel plants at Friedrichshafen, Germany, on August 3, 1944. His group was given a Distinguished Unit Citation for carrying out their missions despite enemy anti-aircraft and fighter pilot fire.

Mr. Gottlieb was born in 1925, and spent most of his life in Brooklyn, New York. As a troop leader for the Boy Scouts of America, Mr. Gottlieb travelled by train through the State of Colorado to the Philmont Scout Ranch in Northern New Mexico, where he first saw and fell in love with the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, vowing to one day live there. In 1990, he moved to Ft. Garland, Colorado, and has been residing at the Colorado State Veterans Center at Homelake since 2006.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Richard Gottlieb for his service to our country during WWII and for the contributions he made to preserve our freedom.

RECOGNIZING PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT
OF COMMUNITY AWARD RECIPIENT
JESSIE SWOFFORD FOR HER
COMMITMENT AND SERVICE TO
WASHINGTON STATE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Ms. Jessie Swofford of Tacoma has just been named one of the top honorees in Washington by the 2014 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers across the country.

Jessie is being recognized for helping improve the lives of children with autism and their families through volunteering with Families for Effective Autism Treatment (FEAT). Each month Jessie volunteers at FEAT's "Super Saturdays", where she organizes games and activities for children with autism. Jessie also mentors teenagers with autism and spends her summers volunteering with an intensive intervention program for youth with autism.

Jessie herself battled a digestive disorder and a botched surgery as an infant, and dyslexia growing up, all of which she has overcome. Today she is enrolled in advanced placement and honors courses, and she is discovering her passion to become a speech pathologist.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind