

in the area again, even if the government succeeds in pushing out the rebels.

One farmer, who sold his car in Latakia to afford the journey to Lebanon, said his grandmother survived a notorious death march from the village to the city of Horns during the genocide but still returned to Kassab.

This time, he's not sure his family will make it back.

"Our roots are there, everything is there," his wife said, "but we can't."

HONORING THE BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE ALUMNI CHAPTER OF KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of men who established the Brentwood Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. These men have shown that positive outcomes can be made across the board through hard work, dedication, and a desire to serve their community.

This alumni chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi has served as a lightning rod for other members; wherein, these members collectively seek to indoctrinate and instruct fraternity members in brotherhood, reclamation, community service, history, and protocol; to unite in a fraternal bond college men of culture, vision and honor who possess a high degree of commitment to serving mankind; to encourage through fraternal brotherhood honorable achievement in every field of human endeavor; to mentor young men through the chapter's Guide Right students; to sponsor community service to support local schools, youth and provide charitable services to low-income residents and seniors; and to promote the social intellectual, and moral welfare of brothers and service in the public interest.

The Brentwood (TN) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. was organized in the home of Vincent Abernathy, and on October 2, 2010, the Brentwood Alumni Chapter was established. Under the leadership of the chapter's first Polemarch, Dewayne Collier, and current Polemarch, Jeff Wilson, The Brentwood Alumni Chapter has become the second largest chapter in the Middle Tennessee area.

The Brentwood Alumni Chapter's Guide Right Program has adopted New Hope Academy School, the Boys & Girls Club of Franklin and Ravenwood High School as partners in its initiative to support young men 9th–12th who show academic potential and a desire for leadership.

The Brentwood Alumni Chapter has charted The Brentwood Leadership Foundation and awards scholarships to seniors and juniors further promoting the educational advancement of young people.

Other event that The Brentwood Alumni Chapter participates in include: St. Jude Sunday of Hope, Kappa Choir, the Pepsi Refresh Project, Piney Woods, Kappa on the Hill, Student of the Year, Kappa Foundation, United Way of Williamson County, and Mercy Children Clinic Christmas Party.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Brentwood Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, I was not present for 3 votes. I wish to submit my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 152, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 153, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 154, I would have voted "nay."

RECOGNIZING JAMES BERGERON

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Education and Human Services Policy Director James Bergeron for his years of service to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce—and the American people.

James Bergeron, who joined the Committee nearly a decade ago under then-Chairman HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON, will soon depart the Committee for a new endeavor. He leaves an indelible mark not only on this institution, but also on the landscape of education policy.

During his tenure with the Committee, James worked tirelessly on legislation to improve workforce development, revamp K–12 education, support students with disabilities, enhance early childhood care and development, and strengthen the nation's higher education system. Many of the policies James championed have become key provisions in federal law, helping improve the lives of countless workers, students, teachers, and children.

James is a consummate professional, a skilled negotiator, and a trusted advisor who will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Committee and the whole House, I thank James for his dedication, and wish him the very best in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF THE ARSENAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM, 2014 STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the boy's basketball team at Arsenal Technical High School which is part of Indianapolis Public School district. The Titans were crowned the Division 4A Indiana State Boys Basketball Champions on March 30,

2014 after capturing the state title with a 63–59 victory in front of a sold out crowd at Indianapolis Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

As a graduate of Arsenal Tech, I am proud of this team's achievements. The Titans made their first appearance in the state finals in 1929, and 85 years later they earned their first state championship. Their accomplishment is also significant because it has been 34 years since an Indianapolis Public School program has won this title. Additionally, all the Tech fans, in particular the energetic student body should be recognized for their enthusiasm and pride in their team.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Arsenal Technical High School Titans, coaches, school officials, teachers and the greater Indianapolis community on their accomplishments this season.

IN RECOGNITION OF LPL FINANCIAL'S NEW, SUSTAINABLE OFFICE TOWER

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the leadership, employees and partners of LPL Financial—the nation's largest independent broker-dealer and a RIA custodian—for their dedication to sustainability and social responsibility, demonstrated by the opening of the firm's new San Diego headquarters, Tower II at La Jolla Commons, on April 2, 2014. La Jolla Commons II was designed to be the largest net-zero energy commercial office building in the United States.

The focus of this project was to build an environmentally friendly workplace that would be reflective of LPL's values and work styles. With that in mind, the building design was guided by four pillars: sustainability, health and wellness, connectivity and flexibility. This design is currently under consideration for LEED Platinum certification, the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) highest standard for environmental design.

Among other sustainability features, the 13-story, 416,000-square-foot office tower will result in an estimated \$300,000 annual savings in electricity costs due to the incorporation of fuel cell technology, and nearly 2.5 million gallons—about 88 percent of the water used in the building—will be reclaimed and reused. Additionally, the building boasts a number of health and wellness-related amenities including a state-of-the-art gym for employees.

I ask all Members to join me in applauding this incredible effort that demonstrates LPL's commitment to its employees, the city of San Diego, and to our environment.

H.R. 2824

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2824, which would roll back a Reagan-era rule to protect Appalachian

streams and communities from mining waste contamination.

In 1983, in order to protect ground and surface water, the Reagan Administration implemented a rule that said mountaintop mining operations could not dump their waste too close to streams. Today's bill would require states to replace those existing protections with a 2008 rewrite of the rule that would weaken standards and fail to safeguard water resources from the impacts of mining waste. States would not be permitted to enact stronger standards to shield their drinking water from contamination. I offered an amendment with my colleagues Representatives CARTWRIGHT and LOWENTHAL to ensure States have the right to take additional action if they find it necessary, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

This legislation is particularly egregious because just last month, the DC Circuit Court vacated the 2008 rule because the Bush Administration failed to consider the impact of waste dumping on threatened and endangered species. Not only would this bill write that illegally-drafted rule into statute, it would set a five-year moratorium on any new rules to protect streams from coal mining waste.

The Interior Department is currently in the process of developing new rules to reflect advances in mining practices and mitigate environmental and health impacts from mining operations. Rather than forcing implementation of a rule so flawed that it's been tossed out by the courts, we should allow this process to go forward to safeguard Appalachian communities. I urge a no vote on the bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 149, 150, 151, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Tuesday, April 1, 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 149, "yea" on rollcall vote 150, and "yea" on rollcall vote 151.

I was also absent for the following votes on Friday, April 4, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 157, "nay" on roll call vote 158, "yea" on rollcall vote 159, and "yea" on rollcall vote 160, "yea" on roll call vote 161, "yea" on rollcall vote 162, "yea" on rollcall vote 163, and "nay" on rollcall vote 164.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. ALBERT L. NELLUM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Albert L. Nellum. Al transitioned peacefully on March 1, 2014. His impact on this city and our country may not be as well known, but it is indelible. Al was a pioneer consultant, businessman, and activist in his own way.

Al was born in the heart of the Deep South: Greenville, Mississippi and later grew up in Chicago, Illinois as well. He, like a number of us, arrived to a Washington that now barely resembles its former self. And yet, he set out to change it for the better. Opportunities were scarce for African Americans, and Al paved the way for the presence of future black consultants in the District. During the height of the Civil Rights Movement in 1964, he established A.L. Nellum and Associates Inc., the oldest black-owned management consultant firm in the United States.

He also supported and worked with us in forming what would become the Congressional Black Caucus. We relied on Al's expertise and advice over the years, and welcomed his input at various stages. He helped to organize the first CBC Foundation dinner as well as the scholarship program, which he and fellow business leaders spearheaded. Al also worked with Rep. Parren Mitchell on the first CBCF Braintrust on Black Business.

Al's activism was not limited to the U.S., but his impact can be felt internationally. His efforts against anti-black racism in Japan are a testament to his commitment to making the world a better place. He organized a full page ad to oppose Japanese racism and advocated for the fair depiction of blacks. He even traveled to Japan and met with its leaders at his own expense, to protest these offensive products and derisive images. Al's ties to Japan stretched back to the 1950s when he was a serviceman in the U.S. Army there.

I salute Al Nellum, and extend my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. May the memories of him sustain all of us at this time.

RECOGNIZING JAKE CRAIN AND THE PEARLAND OILERS BASEBALL TEAM

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jake Crain of Pearland High School. This young man pitched an impressive no-hitter on Tuesday, March 25 when the Pearland Oilers defeated the Pasadena Memorial Mavericks. Crain led the Oilers to an 8-1 victory, improving their overall record to 5-0 in district play.

Professional pitchers play their entire careers without pitching a no-hitter, and Jake achieved this as a senior in high school. The contributions of his teammates were also inte-

gral to Jake's achievement. He relied on his defense to back him up and the Oilers offense to put runs on the board. This was a team effort. Great athletes are an extension of great teams.

The Pearland Oilers baseball team is full of great teammates. I wish the Pearland Oilers the best of luck this season. On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Jake Crain and all of his Oiler teammates on recording a no-hitter.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 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 \$17,585,625,829,197.83. We've added \$6,958,748,780,284.75 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.

CHAIRMAN JIMMY R. NEWTON, JR. TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Chairman Jimmy R. Newton, Jr., of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in Colorado. Chairman Newton, after over 10 years of service to his tribe, passed away on April 1, 2014, at the age of 37.

Beginning his service in politics at the age of 26, Chairman Newton served as a Tribal Council member, Vice Chairman, and Acting Chairman before becoming permanent Chairman in 2012. Though he spent much of his life in public service, he earned a degree in Visual Graphic Design from Al Collins Graphic Design School in Arizona, after which he worked as a reporter & photographer for the tribal newspaper, the Southern Ute Drum. Chairman Newton frequently sang at tribal ceremonies, exemplifying the love of his culture. He also used his voice as a dedicated servant of the Southern Ute people, working to ensure his tribe's wellbeing in every level of government.

Chairman Newton's commitment to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the State of Colorado has been a blessing to many communities, families, and individuals, and he will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife, Flora Murphy-Newton and daughter, Maylon K. Newton. I extend my deepest sympathies and prayers to his family and friends during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, though his life was tragically short, Chairman Newton maximized his time leading with strength and an exemplary heart. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize Chairman Jimmy R. Newton, Jr. for his many accomplishments and distinguished service.