

local communities to raise awareness about the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, from January 6, 2014 through January 17, 2014, I was in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, reporting for mandatory annual National Guard training. I missed rollcall votes Nos. 1–23. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 1: "Present"—On Quorum Call of the House.

Rollcall No. 2: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 724.

Rollcall No. 3: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3527.

Rollcall No. 4: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3628.

Rollcall No. 5: "no"—Ordering the Previous Question.

Rollcall No. 6: "no"—On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 455.

Rollcall No. 7: "yes"—Agreeing to the Sinema Amendment.

Rollcall No. 8: "yes"—Agreeing to the Tonko Amendment.

Rollcall No. 9: "yes"—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions.

Rollcall No. 10: "no"—On Passage of H.R. 2279.

Rollcall No. 11: "yes"—Final Passage of H.R. 3811.

Rollcall No. 12: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1513.

Rollcall No. 13: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 230.

Rollcall No. 14: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2274.

Rollcall No. 15: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 801.

Rollcall No. 16: "yes"—On Approving the Journal.

Rollcall No. 17: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2860.

Rollcall No. 18: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1233.

Rollcall No. 19: "no"—On Ordering the Previous Question.

Rollcall No. 20: "no"—On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 458.

Rollcall No. 21: "yes"—Concurring in the Senate Amendments with an Amendment on H.R. 3547.

Rollcall No. 22: "yes"—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions.

Rollcall No. 23: "no"—On Passage of H.R. 3362.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BANASIAK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mike Banasiak of

Legacy Financial Group for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Mike in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Banasiak for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Mike on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 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 \$17,555,437,713,940.26. We've added \$6,928,560,665,027.18 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.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A RESOURCES STUDY TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF ENTERING INTO PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO OPERATE FEDERALLY OWNED GOLF COURSES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a resources study to determine the suitability and feasibility of entering into public-private partnerships to operate federally owned golf courses in the District of Columbia. The three golf courses—Langston Golf Course, Rock Creek Golf Course and East Potomac Golf Course—are owned by the National Park Service (NPS). The courses have long been in desperate need of capital invest-

ment to reverse decades of deterioration and to maintain and preserve their historic features. From the time Congress created the first of the courses in the 1920s, they have been underfunded. The major reason is that NPS has continued to operate the courses under concession contracts even though concession contracts do not allow for the significant annual capital improvements necessary for golf courses. The concessions approach to operating golf courses has led to an inevitable declining state of repair.

East Potomac Golf Course was built in 1920 and included three courses that accommodated all levels of play, with an 18-hole course and two 9-hole courses. East Potomac was initially segregated, with African Americans permitted to play only on Mondays. The course was desegregated in 1941 by the then-Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, following pressure from an African-American women's golf club, the Wake Robin Golf Club. However, Langston Golf Course opened in 1939 as a segregated course for African-Americans, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Langston was the home course for the Royal Golf Club and the Wake Robin Golf Club, the Nation's first clubs for African American men and women golfers, respectively. Langston, named for John Mercer Langston, the first African-American elected to Congress from Virginia in 1888, was originally a 9-hole course. Langston's expansion to an 18-hole course began in 1955, but was not completed until the mid-1980s. Rock Creek Golf Course opened in 1923 as a 9-hole course and an additional nine holes were added to it in 1926. None of the courses have been modernized, all three have fallen into disrepair, and all lack the amenities necessary to serve the public today.

My bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of NPS, to conduct a special resources study to determine the suitability and feasibility of entering into public-private partnerships with a non-Federal entity or entities to operate the courses. The study would assume that one of the three golf courses will be a world-class, tournament-quality public course, with playing fees commensurate with such courses. The other two courses would be public courses of substantially similar quality to top-ranked courses owned by cities, towns, counties and states. The playing fees for these other two courses would remain the same as they are on the date of enactment of the bill, indexed annually to the Consumer Price Index. The study would also determine which course would be best suitable as the world-class, tournament-quality public course.

The three courses together constitute a magnificent but underutilized public asset that could be renovated and modernized, facilitating affordable recreation, attracting significantly more golfers and generating revenue to maintain the courses. Unlike other NPS facilities, golf courses require significant, continuing capital investment for maintenance. The current fees collected from patrons at the courses, which are established in the concessions contracts, must remain affordable and therefore do not generate sufficient revenue for NPS or the concessioners to properly maintain the courses.

Because the public golf courses in the Nation's capital are in such poor condition and are in need of a different and better means of

operating and funding, I urge support of this bill.

IN HONOR OF EDWIN JEFFREY
"LANCE" WENTZEL

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor fireman Edwin Jeffrey "Lance" Wentzel, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty serving the residents of Youngwood Borough and Southwestern Pennsylvania on Saturday, March 22, 2014.

Lance Wentzel was part a large group of volunteers searching North Versailles for a senior citizen who had been lost for days. Tragically, Lance lost his life during the search. A dedicated public servant, Mr. Wentzel sacrificed many hours away from his family, without pay, to help those in need.

Lance Wentzel was a distinguished thirty-five year member of the Youngwood Volunteer Fire Department. Ready and willing to serve his fellow citizens in need, Mr. Wentzel volunteered at Ground Zero in New York City following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. In 2012, he was named the department's "Firefighter of the Year."

Born on October 16, 1956, in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Lance was active in the 14th Quartermaster family support group, attended St. Mark Lutheran Church in New Stanton, and was an accomplished marathon runner.

We offer our prayers and thanks to his family: wife, Judith; two sons, Jeffrey Jeremiah Wentzel, and Christopher William Wentzel; two stepsons, Justin Martin Vestrand, and Jason Mac Vestrand; three grandchildren, Oscar Thomas, Nevaeh and Urijah Wentzel; a brother, Philip A. Wentzel; four sisters, Judith C. Wagner, Connie L. Watson, Bonnie Kucenic, and Doris Santone.

Mr. Wentzel's sacrifice and service to the Youngwood Volunteer Fire Department, the community, and the country will not soon be forgotten. Tonight, as we say our evening prayers, let us thank God for men like Lance who without a second thought to their own well-being, are willing to do whatever is necessary to protect our families and communities.

OBSERVING THE 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SMOLENSK DISASTER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn observation of the 4th anniversary of the Smolensk Disaster.

On the morning of April 10th, 2010 Polish Air Force One crashed at Smolenski North Military Airfield in western Russia, killing all 96 passengers onboard—including Poland's president and first lady, political and military elites, as well as religious leaders and civilian families.

The stunning catastrophe happened as those Poles flew to commemorate the 70th

anniversary of the Katyn Forest Mass Murders perpetrated under the direction of Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union against Polish prisoners of war.

Years later, both tragedies still bring pain and suffering to the Polish people—both abroad and in my home district of Bucks and Montgomery counties.

In recognition of the fourth anniversary of the Smolensk Disaster, members of the Polish community in my region will gather at the American Czeszochowa in Doylestown to pay tribute to those who lost their lives and commemorate this somber anniversary. I join them in marking this important date with reflection and prayer, as well as thanking the organizing committee for preparing this important event.

Poland and America remain strong allies with mutual interests in advancing the causes of freedom and liberty. I support a strong relationship between the two nations, and encourage all Americans to remember the Smolensk Disaster and those lost.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 4, 2014, I was unavoidably detained while questioning the Attorney General in the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee and so I was not present for rollcall vote No. 159.

Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 159 amendment offered by my good friend Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

CONGRATULATING THE NAIA DIVISION II MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, THE INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY WILDCATS

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the Indiana Wesleyan University Men's Basketball team for winning the NAIA Division II national championship. I am proud that the IWU Wildcats hail from Marion, Indiana, in my District. The Wildcats not only crushed the Midland University Warriors on March 18, 2014 and earned their first national championship, but they also ended the season as the No. 1 team in the NAIA poll, the third time the team has held this honor.

The Wildcats had an incredible season, becoming the first team to win all five tournament games by double digits and finishing the season with an outstanding 31-6 record, this season's highest Division II men's basketball win total. Coach Greg Tonagel led the team to victory and was named the NABC/NAIA Division II Coach of the Year. However, Coach Tonagel's award was one of many for the Wildcats this year, as senior Jordan Weidner was the 2014 Championship Most

Outstanding Player, Lane Mahurin won the Championship Hustle Award, and the IWU Wildcats won the Dr. James Naismith/Emil Liston Team Sportsmanship Award. The sportsmanship award speaks to the integrity and hard work exemplified by each and every IWU player throughout this phenomenal season. They set a wonderful example for the entire Marion community and most especially their young fans.

My home state of Indiana has such a rich basketball heritage, and I am joined by Hoosiers across the state in celebrating Indiana's only 2014 Men's Basketball Championship. The Wildcats' unique approach to the game is exemplified by the team's motto of "I Am Third"—God first, your teammates second, and yourself third. This inspiring motto is prominently displayed in the locker room and on the team warm-up shirts which are emblazoned with "Team 3".

Once again, congratulations Indiana Wesleyan University, we are very proud of you and look forward to cheering you on through another great season next year. Go Wildcats!

RECOGNIZING LOUIS SPADACCINO

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, duty, honor, country and responsibility are the core values said to be shared by our "Greatest Generation." Louis Spadaccino of Holland, Bucks County, PA was no exception. Sadly, Lou passed away April 3 at the age of 90.

Lou, along with his six brothers served our country in World War II. In his senior year of high school he took his final exams early and left to join the U.S. Navy. Lou was a gunner's mate on LCI 489 and together with his fellow naval crew mates was active in bringing in the first wave of troops to Normandy at the Battle of Omaha Beach. Lou spent the next three years in the Navy and was honorably discharged in 1946.

About two years ago I had the opportunity to accompany Lou with Honor Flight to visit the National World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. It was a privilege to share this experience with such an extraordinary gentleman, an American hero.

Lou led a full life as a business leader, community servant and loving family man. He will be missed but his remarkable achievements will live on in the hearts and minds of those he touched over the course of his lifetime.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OMEGA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of Omega Christian Church, in White River Township, Hamilton County, Indiana. It is a pleasure to congratulate the church in celebration of this special occasion.