

Rodriguez, age 38, of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. These three brave soldiers were laid to rest entirely too soon. These three soldiers will be remembered for their achievements and their dedication to our country.

Americans are becoming all too familiar with tragedy of this magnitude, but it does not change the immense heartache and pain that comes with the loss of some of our nation's finest. A horrible tragedy such as this highlights the importance of serving our soldiers both while at war and during the difficult transition back into normal life. Worse is that it comes in the wake of another terrible incident at Fort Hood that occurred just five years prior. We must be able to wholly understand the challenges that our soldiers face in a time of such stringent and demanding operational tempos.

I extend my thoughts and prayers to the families of those that were lost on April 2, and offer my deepest condolences and hopes for the sixteen others that were injured in the shooting.

The men and women of Fort Hood are true American heroes. They deserve our greatest honors for the sacrifices they make every single day, within and beyond our borders. It must be our duty to always remember those that we have lost and we must be forever dedicated to preventing tragedies like these from ever happening again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in honor of the three fallen soldiers, Sergeant First Class Ferguson, Sergeant Owens, and Staff Sergeant Lazaney-Rodriguez.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS CARDOZA FOR HIS SERVICE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and former colleague, Dennis Cardoza. Dennis served as the U.S. Congressman for the 18th Congressional District of California. He has truly led a life dedicated to public service, and his efforts deserve to be commended.

Dennis grew up in Atwater, California where he attended Atwater High School followed by California State University, Stanislaus. He later transferred to the University of Maryland College Park where he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1982. He was the first member of his family to graduate college. Dennis' first taste of public service came in 1979 when he spent a summer in college interning on Capitol Hill.

After graduation, Dennis returned to the San Joaquin Valley where he ran a successful small business and served as a city councilman for Merced and Atwater. In 1996, he was elected to the California State Assembly where he served as Chairman of the Rules Committee and cofounder of the Moderate Democratic Caucus.

In 2002, Dennis was elected to his first term in Congress. He had many legislative accomplishments that truly made a difference in his

district. Dennis was an unwavering advocate for issues impacting Valley residents such as water, agriculture, unemployment, and poverty. Dennis lobbied to bring Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar and Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack to the Central Valley. Their visit influenced the decision by the Department of Agriculture to declare Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties as natural disaster areas. Also, Dennis was an active member of the Blue Dog Coalition. He proudly cosponsored H.R. 2166 the "Fiscal Honesty and Accountability Act of 2009" to extend Pay-As-You-Go spending through 2014 in order to strengthen Congress' commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability. In 2007 Dennis joined the House Rules Committee where he assisted the victims of the Valley's home foreclosure crisis by securing language in H.R. 1728, the "Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act", that established a federal database to track foreclosures across the country. In the 110th and 111th Congresses, Dennis served as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, which had a prominent role in the formation of the 2007 Farm Bill.

Dennis believes that one of our greatest responsibilities as a society is to leave our nation a better place for our children and grandchildren. Dennis worked diligently to ensure that the University of California's 10th campus would be in Merced, California. In addition, one of Dennis' proudest legislative accomplishments was the language he introduced in the "Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act", which ensures that children in the foster care system receive necessary medical attention until the age of 21. Dennis has been an advocate on behalf of children and adoption not just as a legislator but also as a parent, raising two adopted children in addition to his one biological daughter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the leadership and public service of Dennis Cardoza. His contributions to the Central Valley, the State of California, and the future generations of this nation ennobled this body of Congress with his presence.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today outraged and baffled that we are in the 21st century and still have to have an Equal Pay Day. Equal Pay Day symbolizes when, more than three months into the year, women's wages finally catch up to what men were paid in the previous year.

Why this is still being debated when the Equal Pay Act was passed 51 years ago is crazy.

How can we as a nation begin to justify unequal pay simply because you are a man and I am a woman? Why does my gender diminish my value to the workforce?

I, and all women, am not asking for any more than what we deserve for being productive, valuable employees.

Today, in 2014, women earn 77 cents for every dollar that a man earns. This is outrageous. It gets even worse for women of color. Black women only earn 64 percent and Hispanic women, even less, just 53 percent of what white men earn. I am appalled by this, and so are the American people. Not only does my gender decrease my pay, but my race does as well.

According to the American Association of University Women, African-American and Hispanic women are paid less than their white peers even when they have the same educational background.

There are a record number of women in the workplace and two-thirds of women are the primary or co-bread winner in their families. Consider the position that the American family, our economy and our nation would be in if we all agreed that women should have equal pay for equal work. Our President said it best, "When women succeed, America succeeds."

Women are losing money every year and every hour due to the pay gap. It is time to close the loopholes in the Equal Pay Act.

I urge Speaker BOEHNER to bring H.R. 377 the Paycheck Fairness Act to the floor.

HONORING CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ISD, GRAPEVINE- COLLEYVILLE ISD, AND HURST- EULESS-BEDFORD ISD FOR THE DISTINCTION OF "BEST COMMU- NITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION"

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of three school districts in the 24th District of Texas, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, and Hurst-Euleless-Bedford ISD, that have recently been designated to receive the prestigious honor of "Best Communities for Music Education" by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation.

The "Best Communities for Music Education" is a program that celebrates communities in America who support access to music education as part of their core curriculum. Each school district involved filled out a survey that answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. This year, with over 2,000 school districts nominated, 376 were awarded this designation, of which I am incredibly honored to have three of those in the 24th District of Texas. This award recognizes the commitment of these school administrations, community leaders, teachers, and parents who believe in music education and are working to ensure that it is part of a complete education for children.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring this recognition from the NAAM Foundation for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Grapevine-Colleyville, and Hurst-Euleless-Bedford Independent School Districts.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDINA
MCCAMMACK

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable Hoosier, Mrs. Claudina McCammack, who passed away on April 18, 2014. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for her friendship and service to our community, state, and country.

Claudina was a dedicated Republican Precinct Committeewoman, county voter registration officer, and secretary to the Delaware County Commissioners and U.S. Congressman David Dennis. Claudina also served on the March of Dimes Board, the Muncie Housing Authority Board, and in many other community organizations.

Claudina was one of the first elected convention delegates in Delaware County to fully support my candidacy for Indiana Secretary of State. Throughout my service, I received no less than a dozen handwritten letters of encouragement, congratulations and recognition from her. I frequently sought her wisdom, both personally and professionally. More than anything, she always helped me keep things in perspective. She was a constant reminder to me and others in public service, like Governor Mike Pence, that we should draw on our faith in God. In fact, such reliance was the only way we could truly serve the people of Indiana.

Known in Delaware County simply as "Claudina", she was a frequent stop when I traveled to Muncie. My family always enjoyed our visits with her, as recently as last December. I often ate, prayed, laughed and cried in her home—all in one visit. In casual conversation at her home, Claudina would confide that she paid for her neighbor's roof, even though she was a woman of modest means. She would tell me how she assisted the elderly in the community, even though she was 92 herself. Claudina personified selflessness and humility.

Mr. Speaker, you know I speak often here of American Exceptionalism. I describe it in terms of our unique history and how we are blessed to have as a primary source of that Exceptionalism our founding documents: The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, as amended by the Bill of Rights. What I don't do enough is provide examples of people who embody American Exceptionalism. Claudina, like many of her generation, was a product and a shining example of what Americans ought to be. I hope we never forget Claudina's unwavering commitment to our national heritage and responsibility to future generations. She would expect nothing less from her community, her friends, and her country. If, for no other reason, I can hear her say: 'God demands it of us.'

Claudina leaves her three children, seven grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren behind to remember her love and kindness. She also leaves her extended Republican family to celebrate her life and legacy. She will be remembered and honored by those who knew and loved her as a woman of faith, conviction and compassion. Rest in peace Claudina, and thank you for having such a meaningful impact on my life.

HONORING THE BRUDERHOF COMMUNITIES IN NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, WEST VIRGINIA, AND FLORIDA

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bruderhof communities in New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Florida. This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of Woodcrest, the first Bruderhof community in the United States.

Founded in 1920 in Germany, the Bruderhof is a Christian church community known for its exemplary contributions in education, care for the needy, excellence in business, and interfaith cooperation. Expelled from Germany by the Nazi regime in 1937, Bruderhof members initially found refuge in England and South America before settling in 1954 in Rifton, New York.

In celebration of this anniversary, it's my honor to quote from Foundations of Our Faith and Calling, the Bruderhof community's constitution:

Our life together is founded on Jesus, the Christ and son of God. We desire to love him, to follow him, to obey his commandments, and to testify in word and deed to the coming of his kingdom here on earth.

Our faith is grounded in the Bible, the authoritative witness to the living Word of God. Through the Holy Spirit, we seek to be guided in all things by the New and Old Testaments.

We hold to the teaching and example of the early Christians and affirm the apostolic rule of faith in the triune God as stated in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

We stem from the Anabaptist tradition, but feel akin to all who are pledged to full discipleship of Jesus. We recognize his power to work in all people, regardless of their creed or walk of life.

Our calling is to Jesus, who calls all people to himself. Jesus sums up the nature of his kingdom in two great commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength," and "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus asks us to live as citizens of his coming kingdom. We must prove our love to him in deeds, putting into practice his words in the Gospels, especially the Sermon on the Mount. His commands are practical: to forgive unconditionally; to renounce all violence; to stay faithful in lifelong marriage; to live free from wealth; to serve as the least and lowest; and to give up all power over others.

To live for the kingdom of God leads to church community. God wants to gather a people on earth who belong to his new creation. Such a people came into being in Jerusalem at the first Pentecost. As described in Acts 2 and 4, the Holy Spirit descended on the believers who had gathered after Jesus' resurrection, and the first communal church was born.

We are a fellowship of brothers and sisters, both single and married, who are called by Christ to follow him together in a common life in the spirit of the first church in Jerusalem. Our vocation is a life of service to God and humankind, freely giving our whole working strength and all that we have and are.

If asked whether we are the one true church, we reply, "No"—we are merely ob-

jects of God's mercy like everybody else. But if asked whether we experience the church as a reality in our daily lives, then we must affirm that we do, through the grace of God.

We give all honor to God, knowing that our life together is nothing unless it is filled with his love and continually renewed by his mercy.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY
OF PRAYER

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Day of Prayer.

Since 1952, the first Thursday of May in this great Nation has been dedicated to prayer. As in years passed, on May 1, 2014, millions of people of all faiths across the United States will gather together and humbly bow their heads asking God to bless our country. With great pride I can say that many of my friends and neighbors across Florida's 11th Congressional District will be joining me in participating in this annual observance of prayer for our Nation.

This day of prayer is reflective of the faith our Founding Fathers had that the United States of America would one day be a great nation. These men with deep religious and spiritual convictions built our country from the ground up and our continued faith and prayer will keep it moving forward.

Therefore, I, RICHARD B. NUGENT, Member of Congress representing the Eleventh District of Florida, do hereby recognize the district's observance of the 63rd National Day of Prayer.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 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 \$17,437,874,260,412.18. We've added \$6,810,997,211,499.10 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF INDEPENDENCE
MAYOR DON REIMAL FOR
HIS YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Don Reimal, Mayor of Independence, Missouri. Mayor Reimal will be retiring from office leaving a rich legacy of quiet determination that slowly and methodically lifted his