

recent gala and I wish all of its members continued success in the years to come.

# STOP TARGETING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2014*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I voted on Thursday, April 10, in favor of H. Con. Res. 96, authored by Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN, because it is my belief that Congress has a responsibility to address our nation's fiscal crisis. This proposal is simply a way forward in the budgetary process so we can continue the debate about the financial challenges our country faces.

Like last year's proposal, the House budget plan for FY 2015 calls for significant reductions in discretionary spending, reduced taxes and the full repeal of the President's costly health care reform law. It proposes a balanced budget in the next 10 years and recognizes that we can no longer ignore the trillions of dollars in mandatory spending on entitlement programs that almost completely consume our nation's budget.

This year's plan also asks Members of Congress to again lead by example by cutting their own pay, benefits and office budgets in the quest to reduce our debt and put this nation on sound financial footing.

Further, the Ryan plan protects our nation's defense and security forces. I have repeatedly said that we must get serious about the national security threats that exist in this world and what is required of our forward presence and response forces.

Reality is that we live in a 15 aircraft carrier world. The United States Navy has 10 right now and the law says we have to have 11. We need 11 carriers in our Navy. These are mobile, sea based, warships that can sail around the globe to project power and protect our global trade and commerce.

This budget keeps 11 carriers in the fleet, giving the United States the flexibility and capabilities that are essential to the rebalance of our security posture toward the Asia Pacific, our enduring security commitments in the Middle East, and the need to respond to contingency operations around the globe.

Our nation has no greater asset than the folks who have served and are currently serving our nation, both military and civilian alike. Their dedication and service to our nation is unwavering and it is important that Congress provide the best equipment, training, and compensation so these men and women can meet their duties in full. The Ryan budget plan restores national security spending and helps our defense maintain its current strength.

These are all measures that I have and will continue to support; however, it is disappointing that this proposal, just as in past budget proposals, unfairly targets only one group of Americans for additional sacrifices: the civilian federal workforce. I have serious concerns that this resolution again forces federal employees to contribute more towards their retirement, which is the equivalent of a pay cut, and ends their defined benefit retirement plan for deficit reduction purposes.

America's First District is full of hardworking and dedicated citizens who serve the people

of this nation every day, such as on the front lines of the War on Terror or in support roles for our military. Still others provide invaluable services at places such as VA hospitals, cancer and Alzheimer's research laboratories, and law enforcement agencies such as the FBI and DEA. And yet, federal civilian employees continue to see their pay cut and their benefits reduced on multiple occasions.

Federal employees have endured a pay freeze since 2010; furloughs due to sequestration; and, most recently, were required to not work because of indecision and political gamesmanship that resulted in a government shutdown for 16 days. Enough is enough.

I am fully ready and willing to enact deeper cuts to my own salary, benefits and congressional operations, which are provisions included in this year's Ryan budget, but we must stop singling out federal employees simply because Congress continually fails to address the out-of-control spending.

There is no question that our nation must get its spending in order, and federal employees are certainly willing to do their part to help in this effort. Their daily contributions to their fellow citizens and to the cause of freedom are simply innumerable, and yet during deficit reduction debate over the last few years, federal employees have been asked to contribute much more than their fair share. Our federal civilian employees live a life of selfless service, and they deserve our appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, I voted in support of the Ryan budget because it is Congress' constitutional duty to budget and appropriate. This budget proposal is a means for Congress to further discuss our country's fiscal challenges, but I am hopeful that deficit reduction efforts going forward will focus more realistically on addressing the true drivers of our debt, rather than targeting those who are trying simply to serve their nation every day.

## HONORING THE GREELEY CHORALE

**HON. CORY GARDNER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2014*

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greeley Chorale, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year. The Chorale, which originated in 1964 as a community chorus, performs a variety of choral masterpieces from classical to contemporary and sacred to secular. Since its inception, it has been led by several directors who have each worked diligently to garner international exposure and develop the talents of the group's ninety-four singers.

The Greeley Chorale has conducted eight international tours. In 1985, the Chorale completed a tour of Germany, the Netherlands, England, and Wales. Three years later, the Chorale was invited by the governments of the United States and Australia to sing at the opening ceremony of the World's Fair in Brisbane, Australia. In 1992, Greeley Chorale was selected as one of only three choirs to perform in the Vienna International Choral Festival, and during their 1996 tour of Scotland and England, the chorale performed the inaugural concert for the renovation of the Chapel Royale in Stirling Castle in Scotland. More re-

cently, the Chorale has visited China, Italy, and Ireland. They performed a series of concerts in each country.

At home, the Greeley Chorale works to engage the community by providing citizens with the opportunity to experience the performance of choral masterpieces as both artists and patrons. The continued vision of the Chorale in promoting classical, innovative and educational opportunities is extremely valuable to this region and to all of Colorado. Please join me in congratulating the Chorale for its fifty years of success.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2014*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cancer Support Community for their decade of service to the Greater Lehigh Valley area. Since 2004, this organization has provided support, hope, and a sense of control to 26,400 people struggling with cancer in seven counties, including Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, and Schuylkill Counties in Pennsylvania as well as Warren County in New Jersey.

The Cancer Support Community offers free programs, educational classes, and support groups to patients and their families as they undergo the difficult stages of this terrible disease. Through their works, the Cancer Support Community of the Greater Lehigh Valley ensures no one has to face cancer alone. I extend my personal gratitude to the members of the board of directors, staff, and volunteers for their invaluable service to patients and their families in these communities.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL JERSEY CLUB OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEGRO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2014*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. as its members gather to celebrate its 50th Annual Founders' Day. This milestone is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

The Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC) was established in 1964 by 18 local women in the business community and other professional fields. Since that time, the Central Jersey Club has continued to advance the mission of the NANBPWC to promote the interests of African American business and professional women while striving to improve the quality of life for its fellow citizens.

The 50 members of the Central Jersey Club represent and serve both Monmouth and Ocean Counties of New Jersey. They work to improve the social conditions of the community through volunteerism and community involvement. The Central Jersey Club provides resources to promote opportunities for local youth, through academic scholarships, mentoring and tutoring. In this endeavor, its members work closely with area schools, the Sisters Academy in Asbury Park and the Asbury Park location of the Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County. The Central Jersey Club also serves as a member of Meridian Health's Partners in Health advisory committee for minority health and diversity issues.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating the Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. on its 50th Anniversary. The Central Jersey Club has paved a successful path for its members and future generations of women in business and continues to provide outstanding service to its community.

#### HONORING JAY SHEETS

#### HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jay Sheets of Farmington, Missouri. Jay recently was a contestant on the NBC reality show, "The Biggest Loser." Over the course of the four month competition, he lost an astonishing 114 pounds.

Jay was chosen out of more than 250,000 applicants for a spot on The Biggest Loser television series. He certainly made the most of his opportunity. By following a rigorous diet and workout plan, Jay went from 297 pounds to weighing a lean 183 pounds. Jay, the father of two, said his biggest goal was to show his kids to reach for every goal and dream. Undoubtedly, he accomplished this goal.

After finishing "The Biggest Loser", Jay teamed up with The Farmington Civic Center to sponsor a weight loss program called, "Spring into Fitness with Jay Sheets." The program has 113 registrants and focuses on promoting fitness in the community. Jay serves as a tremendous example of what hard work, dedication and a healthy lifestyle can accomplish. It is my privilege to recognize his accomplishments today before the House of Representatives.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2014*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the terrible tragedies that began on April 7, 1994, and endured for 100 days after, in which Hutu militias ordered the country's Hutu majority to exterminate the Tutsi ethnic group. Neighbors attacked neighbors, teachers killed

students, and in mixed-ethnicity marriages, husbands handed over wives to be killed.

In total, 800,000 people, mostly ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus, died at the hands of Hutu extremists during a 100-day period. 10,000 victims were killed each day—7 per minute on average. To make matters even worse, hundreds of thousands of victims were infected with HIV as Hutu extremists used rape as a tool of violence. The terrible violence only ended when Tutsi rebel forces attacked and retook the country. Even now, the international tribunal created in the wake of these atrocities has delivered only 49 total convictions out of 95 indictments since 1995.

We must remember the victims of this horrific event in world history, honor those that survived the tragedy, and vow to never allow something like this to ever happen again.

We must look to the progress that Rwanda has made 20 years later. Life expectancy has almost doubled and economic growth continues to flourish and improve every year.

We can see hope in Rwanda now where before there was torment. To keep on this path of prosperity, we must dedicate ourselves to peace and work to actively eliminate violent extremism. This event will forever stand as a testament to the horror that can result when human beings give in to the dark side of their nature, and we must learn from this very tragic lesson in history so that it never happens again.

#### HONORING DALLAS AREA NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2014*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize several of the best and brightest students in the Dallas area who have recently received National Merit Scholarships. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year. Less than 8,000 students are selected as finalists for this prestigious award.

I want to commend these students for their efforts. I also want to comment on the high quality education the students in these school districts and other schools like it are receiving, they can have the opportunity to live the American dream, to do anything they want to do, to go on to a great college or university of their choice, and to pursue any career path that sparks their interest.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to invest in education to help us out-educate, out-innovate, and out-build the rest of the world. We must identify ways to help improve schools like these that provide educational excellence to my community. We must not waver in our commitment to our children, their children, and the future of this country. With encouragement and support from their principals and teachers, the following students are achieving remarkable success:

#### ARLINGTON

Timberview High School—Justice I. Njoku, National Achievement NMSC Scholarship.

Summit High School—Ireoluwamiwa Olagbami, National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship.

Oakridge School—Olubunmi A. Solano, National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship.

#### CARROLLTON

Hebron High School—Catherine D. Leigh, National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship.

#### DALLAS

Richardson High School—Melody Iro, National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship.

Talented and Gifted Magnet School at Townview—Miranda N. McClellan, National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship.

#### DESOTO

Science and Engineering Magnet School at Townview—Wesley J. Rannels, Honorary Achievement Scholarship.

#### FORT WORTH

Paschal High School—Ihoma C. Ow'honda, National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship.

#### FRISCO

Hockaday School—Dominique Danielle Cooper, National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship.

Heritage High School—Ivie Imhonde, National Achievement Walgreen Co. Scholarship.

Centennial High School—Devon Olivia Lewis, National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship.

#### GARLAND

Garland High School—Keshawn M. Ivory, National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship.

#### PLANO

Plano West Senior High—Bradley George Hamilton, National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship.

Plano East Senior High—Michael O. Oluwole, National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship.

#### RICHARDSON

Richardson High School—Nanette N. Elufa, National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship.

#### ROWLETT

North Garland High School—Olatunde A. Badejo, National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF TONY COELHO

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2014*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Tony Coelho. Tony, a former U.S. Congressman, has led a life devoted to public service, and he deserves to be commended for all of his efforts in making the Central Valley as well as our nation a better place.

Tony was born and raised in Merced County. He grew up in a Portuguese immigrant family and learned the value of hard work helping on his family's dairy farm. Obtaining a college education was a priority for Tony, so he moved to Southern California to attend Loyola University of Los Angeles. In 1964, he graduated with a Bachelors of Arts degree. He hoped to study for the priesthood, but his plans were interrupted when he was diagnosed with epilepsy, and canon law in the Catholic Church precluded anyone with epilepsy from entering the priesthood. He ultimately found a new ministry—public service—and it took him to Washington, DC.