

(AVID), a program to improve study skills and college-readiness. He is also a founder of Teachers United, a network of teachers working with local unions to advance education policy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Gibbs-Bowling for winning the esteemed Milken Educator Award, and I would like to express how grateful I am to have him as a teacher in Washington State. It is an honor to recognize him for the passion and excellence he brings to the classroom.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. AGSHIN MEHDIYEV, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Agshin Mehdiyev, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations since November 30, 2006, who also served with distinction on the United Nations Security Council from 2012 to 2013. While at the United Nations, he also was Azerbaijan's non-resident Ambassador to Cuba (since February 2007), Nicaragua (since June 2008), Jamaica (since September 2008), and Venezuela (since October 2008).

Ambassador Mehdiyev will shortly conclude his term at the United Nations and return to Azerbaijan. His dedication to his diplomatic craft and his contributions to the United Nations and to U.S.-Azerbaijan relations richly deserve to be recognized. In particular, he brought leadership and wisdom to his position in the United Nations and to the United Nations Security Council during a period of considerable turmoil and significant challenges.

Furthermore, Ambassador Mehdiyev has a long and distinguished record of serving his country. He first worked overseas at the USSR Embassies in Egypt (from 1971 to 1975) and in Yemen (from 1977 to 1982), and also in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan SSR in several capacities, including as chief of the Ministry's Information and Media Office (from 1975 to 1977). He returned to Yemen from 1987 until 1991, and from 1991 to 1992 was Azerbaijan's official Representative to the Republic of Yemen. Between 1993 and 2001, he was the Director of Europe, USA and Canada Department of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. And prior to his current position at the United Nations, he was Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe from 2001 to 2006.

Ambassador Mehdiyev graduated from Azerbaijan State University in 1971 (from the faculty on oriental studies). Between 1969 and 1970, he studied at the Cairo University, and from 1985 to 1987, he studied at the Diplomatic Academy of the Foreign Ministry of the former USSR. Ambassador Mehdiyev holds a PhD degree in the history of international relations (1987) and is Honorary Professor of the Baku Eurasian University Academic Council since 2007. He also is the author of the book,

"Azerbaijan in the Council of Europe," published in 2011, as well as of many articles and other publications focusing on international affairs and political studies.

For his distinguished career and contributions to Azerbaijan, Ambassador Mehdiyev was awarded a medal on the occasion of the "90th anniversary of Azerbaijan's diplomatic service," at which time he also received the Foreign Ministry's "Honor Award" and an order for "Service to the Fatherland." Ambassador Mehdiyev was born in 1949. He and his wife Sevda have three children.

Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 2014, I attended a farewell reception and dinner in New York in honor of Ambassador Mehdiyev and Sevda. The event was hosted by my friends Ranju Batra, Chair of the Diwali Stamp Project and former president of the Association of Indians in America NY, and Ravi Batra, an accomplished attorney who is the Chairman and CEO of Greenstar Global Energy Corporation and Chair of the National Advisory Council on South Asian Affairs. Their son Neal Batra also was there. The gathering also was attended by numerous UN Ambassadors with spouses, including by U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative Rosemary DiCarlo and the Permanent Representatives from Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Honduras, South Korea, Finland, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, and inter alia, Somalia. Also attending were senior members of the UN Secretariat, including Won-soo Kim and Ion Botnaru, and members of the judiciary, local elected officials, Rabbi Yitzchok Waldman, who is the Director of the Laniado Hospital in Israel, Martin and Grace Riskin, and my dear friend and colleague Representative CAROLYN B. MALONEY, in whose district the event was held. Numerous other officials and prominent individuals sent their greetings and good wishes.

I mention this not only to thank the Batras for their incredible warmth and hospitality, but also to demonstrate the great respect and affection with which Ambassador Mehdiyev is held by his colleagues and acquaintances. Diplomacy at its most basic level is about building connections between people, and the attendance of so many prominent individuals, from all walks of life, is a testament to Ambassador Mehdiyev's character and skills. He is a true professional in every sense of the word and I am pleased to pay tribute to him today.

HONORING THE MISSOURI ARBORETUM AT NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Missouri Arboretum at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri, on their 20th anniversary of being recognized as the official Missouri Arboretum by the Missouri State Legislature.

Northwest Missouri State University's tradition of tree management extends back towards the earliest days of the school. Groundskeepers brought a mixture of beauty and shade to the campus by mixing tree spe-

cies, which continues to this day with over 125 different species and more than 1,300 trees on campus. This commitment to biodiversity and care for the trees earned the Arboretum the 2000 Communitree Award from the Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The City of Maryville has also maintained an active Community Forestry program and earned the designation as a Tree City USA in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, along with the great State of Missouri, in recognizing the Missouri Arboretum at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri, on their 20th anniversary.

BOB'S ATOMIC BURGERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bob's Atomic Burgers (BABS), for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Ethics in Business award was established by the Golden Rotary to honor for profit and non-profit businesses. The recipients of this award must maintain integrity, conviction and demonstrate high ethical standards, demonstrated by treatment of customers, employees, community, and the environment.

Bob's Atomic Burgers' treatment of their employees, customers, the environment, and the greater community is exemplary. BABS believes paying employees a livable wage helps them lead healthy and stable lives, which results in no turnover and their ability to deliver a consistent product and service to their customers.

Environmental sensitivity is a core value at Bob's Atomic Burgers. Recycling, composting, and creating as little waste as possible is a constant effort. You can even see the upcycling in the décor of the shop where local relics are on display from the Colorado School of Mines Science department. Bob's Atomic Burgers is very active in the community, fundraising for several schools, the Golden and West Metro Fire Departments, the Golden VFW, the Golden rescue fund, and the Golden backpacks program. Additionally, Bob's participates in numerous community events.

Bob's Atomic Burgers is a model for outstanding ethics in business. It is an example for all businesses in America to emulate. Congratulations on receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award, and thank you to all the individuals who make Bob's Atomic Burgers the success it is today.

HONORING MR. RICHARD G. HADLEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rich Hadley, who is retiring after over twenty years of service in Washington State. As the President and Chief

Executive Officer of Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI), the Inland Northwest's largest chamber of commerce, Rich has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to growing jobs and business opportunities not only in Spokane but all across Eastern Washington and the Inland Northwest region.

When Rich arrived at the Spokane Chamber of Commerce in 1993, the organization looked and functioned very differently than the GSI the community knows today. Under Rich's leadership, GSI has been intentional in consolidating business promotion efforts, thereby presenting a strong, unified voice for the Inland Northwest. Specifically in 2007, Rich brought together the Chamber and the Spokane Area Economic Development Council, thereby creating Greater Spokane Incorporated. More recently, three groups, the International Trade Alliance, the Spokane STEM Network, and Connect Northwest, have integrated with GSI. These recent integrations serve as a testament to GSI's credibility as the groups know that GSI will be able to fulfill each of their missions.

From tirelessly advocating for Fairchild Air Force Base, an integral part of Spokane's community since 1942 when the City of Spokane and local residents purchased the land and donated it to the War Department, to supporting the start of the North Spokane Corridor, Eastern Washington's top transportation priority, Rich's legacies are numerous. However, his greatest legacy is his tireless commitment to bringing a medical school to Spokane.

Several years ago, Rich saw a need in Eastern Washington for a medical school as it would bring additional doctors to the region and open up new economic opportunities. Working with the University of Washington (UW) and Washington State University (WSU), in 2008, WSU accepted its first group of first-year medical students at its Spokane campus. Last fall, it added 19 second-year students as part of the UW School of Medicine's second-year curriculum. Now, the University District is the center of a new bioscience complex that will be a major contributor to Spokane's future economic vitality.

A man of integrity and high principle, his humility and his impact on Eastern Washington and on his country will long be remembered. So, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Hadley for a lifetime of dedicated service.

HONORING DAVID J. CRAWFORD

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary constituent of mine, David J. Crawford, who throughout his lifetime in Columbia County, NY has contributed significantly to economic growth and our sense of community in my home county.

David was born and raised in Germantown, where he played soccer, basketball, and the trumpet while working as a construction laborer in high school. After high school, he first began studying engineering at Columbia-Greene Community College, where he also was the 1st Trumpet in the College's first mu-

sical, "The Music Man." He then continued his undergraduate studies at Clarkson University and began his Master of Business Administration at Pace University, before setting off to work as a land surveyor and engineer for firms in Missouri, Michigan, and Indiana.

David returned to New York permanently in 1978 and founded Crawford & Associates Engineering & Land Surveying, P.C. in 1992. He is the current board President of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation, past president and treasurer of Friends of Clermont, board member of the Columbia County Historical Society and Columbia County Board of Supervisors' Airport Committee, and past president of the Columbia County Association in the City of New York. Beyond his significant business and charitable contributions to Columbia County and surrounding areas, David has made an indelible mark on our region through his character and personal relationships.

I would like to again thank David for his life of service and business acumen that have immeasurably helped Upstate New York and beyond. It is no surprise to me, nor anyone else who knows him, that he continues to be recognized in a variety of ways, including winning the Columbia County Association in the City of New York 2013 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award. Thank you David, and keep up the incredible work.

APRIL IS IBS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as IBS Awareness Month. Irritable bowel syndrome, or IBS, is a functional gastrointestinal disorder. It is characterized by recurring abdominal pain or discomfort related to changes in intestinal function. Other GI symptoms, such as nausea or bloating, and non-GI symptoms, such as sleep disturbances or headache, may often occur. IBS affects up to 15 percent of the U.S. population and accounts for roughly 40 percent of all referrals to gastroenterologists.

There is no cure and there are few treatments options for IBS, many of which are only marginally effective. Individuals with moderate to severe IBS struggle with symptoms that significantly limit their physical, emotional, economic, and social well-being. For example, a recent study found that employees with IBS had higher average total healthcare costs, and significantly higher medically related work absenteeism.

People of all ages are affected by IBS. One study found that 14 percent of high school students and six percent of middle school students have IBS. Children with IBS are also more likely to experience anxiety and depression and a disruption of normal activities and social interactions. In addition, veterans and active military personnel are disproportionately represented by those suffering from IBS and other functional gastrointestinal disorders due to their exposure to increased risk factors.

I am encouraged by efforts by non-profits to provide education, support, and advancing research. Recently, the International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders

(IFFGD) developed a smart-phone app that allows patients to access information on IBS, including treatment options. These are the kind of new initiatives that need advancing so that the millions of Americans with IBS can be treated more effectively.

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to support research efforts and to raise awareness for IBS. As an institution, let's agree to lessen the stigma for IBS patients and urge those who may be affected by IBS to find out more and get the help they need.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 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 \$17,436,444,226,130.22. We've added \$6,809,567,177,217.14 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 THE CELEBRATION OF MAY 3RD POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important national holiday that will be celebrated this week by our friends in Poland, May 3rd, Polish Constitution Day. On May 3, 1791, Poland adopted the first constitution of its kind in Europe and second in the world following what had occurred here in America only a few years before.

This new constitution in Poland sought to supplant the prevailing anarchy fostered by some of the country's magnates with a more democratic constitutional monarchy. It introduced elements of political equality between townspeople and nobility and placed people of all classes under the protection of the government, thus mitigating the worst abuses of serfdom. It banned pernicious parliamentary institutions such as the liberum veto, which had put the Sejm (Polish Assembly) at the mercy of any deputy who could revoke all the legislation that had been passed by that Sejm.

The citizens of Poland knew this constitution was special and May 3rd was declared an official Polish holiday, Constitution Day, two days later on May 5, 1791. As with all new efforts toward freedom and greater democracy, the Polish Constitution met resistance and was banned during the partitions of Poland but eventually reinstated in April 1919 under the Second Polish Republic—the first holiday officially introduced in the newly independent country. The holiday was again outlawed during World War II by both Nazi and Soviet occupiers, only to be celebrated in Polish cities in May 1945 in a mostly spontaneous manner.