

This weekend, Cornwall will begin its celebration of this historic milestone. Over the past 275 years, Cornwall has stayed true to its roots as a small agricultural New England town. Its rich history has endured and remains evident in its rolling farmlands and colonial era architecture.

Though small in size, the town of Cornwall has been making a big impact since it was incorporated in 1740. During the 1800s, Cornwall's rich natural resources made it an ideal location for iron production. Two of Cornwall's iron firms formed part of the nationally recognized Salisbury Iron District. Cornwall is also home to the historic Covered Bridge. Built in 1864, this is one of the last standing covered bridges in Connecticut, and is still functional today. The bridge serves as an enduring symbol of Cornwall's rural New England legacy.

Cornwall exemplifies the type of small agricultural community on which our country was built. As we have grown as a nation, this community has continued to demonstrate its ability to adapt and prosper. I am honored to represent Cornwall in Congress.

Congratulations to Cornwall on its 275th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "END OIL AND GAS TAX SUBSIDIES ACT OF 2015"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "End Oil and Gas Tax Subsidies Act of 2015" that will save American taxpayers more than \$40 billion over the next decade.

American taxpayers are subsidizing some of the largest and most profitable companies in the world with their tax dollars. These subsidies underwrite the costs of oil and gas production, including offsetting intangible drilling costs, the cost of tertiary injectants, and costs associated with domestic production. There are also subsidies that offset foreign taxes, provide tax shelters disguising active income with passive losses, and subsidies that allow major oil companies to discount the value of their inventories.

The "End Oil and Gas Tax Subsidies Act of 2015" would end 10 of the most egregious tax loopholes enjoyed by the oil and gas industry—tax loopholes that have helped companies like Chevron, ExxonMobil and Shell add to the billions in profits they already make every year. The legislation is very similar to President Obama's proposal to eliminate oil and gas tax preferences in his FY 2016 Budget.

Instead of padding the bottom line of oil and gas companies, taxpayer dollars could be better spent renewing and rebuilding our nation's infrastructure and investing in emerging clean resources like wind and solar that will help us combat climate change and transition to a clean energy future.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ELISABETH BUCK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Elisabeth Buck for being named a 2015 Woman of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, the Des Moines Business Record.

Since 2000, the Des Moines Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of female leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities either personally or professionally, forging a path for other women to follow. The women given this prestigious award are individuals who have selflessly dedicated their time and proven their leadership abilities across a variety of professional fields.

Ms. Buck has served in a wide-range of leadership roles throughout her career. At Iowa State University, where she earned a BA in political science, Ms. Buck and her peers realized her leadership abilities when she was elected student body president. That was just the beginning. She went on to serve as Deputy Chief of Staff for Iowa Governors Tom Vilsack and Chet Culver. Following her time in the Governor's Office she took on the role as Director of Iowa Workforce Development (IWD). As Director of IWD, Ms. Buck changed the culture of the state agency, creating a more efficient and effective department through the implementation of new, innovative programs.

After her work in state government, Ms. Buck joined United Way of Central Iowa in 2011 as Senior Vice President of Community Impact. Since then, she has risen through the ranks and now serves as the Chief Community Impact Officer. Her time at United Way has been concentrated on advancing their overall mission of improving lives through the mobilization of the community and rallying around a common goal. As the Chief Community Impact Officer she oversees a sizeable budget, utilizing the resources given to her in a cost-efficient and effective manner.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Ms. Buck in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her abilities to better her community and the State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

HONORING MR. LANCE GROMME, RECIPIENT OF THE 2015 VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Lance

Gromme of Colville, Washington for receiving the 2015 Veteran of the Year Award for the State of Washington Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). I want to recognize Mr. Gromme for his contributions and his tireless effort to improve the lives of our Eastern Washington veterans.

This annual award honors a veteran from Washington State who has committed him or herself to the ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and who shows an undying devotion to bettering the lives of the veterans within their community. Through the years, Mr. Lance Gromme has demonstrated this commitment and is well deserving of this award.

Mr. Gromme's devotion to serving his fellow veterans began forty years ago when he became a life member of the American Legion while still active duty in the United States Army. After his retirement, Lance continued to show his dedication by becoming a life member of the VFW. After joining the Colville, Washington post in 2009, Mr. Gromme quickly became a leader among his peers. After just one year of involvement at the Colville post he assumed the positions of Quarter Master, Service Officer, and Fundraising Coordinator. In addition to meticulously managing finances and running all major fundraising events, Mr. Gromme spends countless hours diligently working for veterans.

In his role, Mr. Gromme was instrumental in encouraging the Stevens County Commissioners to establish a Veterans Resource Phone line to assist veterans with a wide range of needs and issues. Moreover, when it came to his attention that some veterans were not receiving the services they needed, he joined with the Northeast Washington Hunger Coalition to help those veterans in need. Mr. Gromme is a true testament to what an involved and devoted community member looks like and continually goes above and beyond to better the lives of his fellow veterans.

So today I acknowledge these accomplishments and congratulate Mr. Lance Gromme on being a constant leader in his community and on receiving the distinct award of Veteran of the Year for the Washington State Veterans of Foreign Wars. I applaud your work and continued advocacy for the veterans in Northeastern Washington.

RETIREMENT OF COLLEEN KELLEY, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL TREASURY EMPLOYEES UNION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Colleen Kelley who is retiring as President of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU). Her resignation will become effective in August, following NTEU's National Convention in Hollywood, Florida.

Colleen Kelley has provided the NTEU and federal employees with skilled leadership over the past 16 years, while always advocating in an honest and forthright manner with Congress. Having served at the IRS and in various NTEU roles, her experience and unique perspective on the impacts of proposals on

federal employees was vital in educating lawmakers and constituents on the important role federal employees play in keeping our nation safe and growing our economy.

During her national presidency, federal employees have contributed \$159 billion toward deficit reduction over 10 years in pay freezes, increased pension retirement contributions, and furloughs. She has relentlessly educated the public on the important contributions made by federal employees and how cutting employee pay and benefits hurts our government's ability to recruit and retain the best workforce possible to serve the American people.

As someone who has the honor of representing over 51,000 federal employees from the 4th Congressional District of Maryland, I have been fortunate to work closely with Colleen for several years. I thank her for her dedication to federal employees and our country, and I look forward to coordinating closely with Colleen's successor to ensure America's federal employees receive the pay and benefits they deserve.

I wish Colleen continued success, happiness, and hopefully some well-earned rest. She leaves behind a legacy of service that others can and should aspire to.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

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 \$18,151,851,139,012.51. We've added \$7,524,974,090,099.43 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL H. CHARLES "CHUCK" HODGES JR.

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Colonel H. Charles "Chuck" Hodges Jr., a decorated and active leader in our Armed Forces.

For the past several years, Chuck has commanded Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) with passion, courage, and dedication. With unparalleled determination to forge stronger ties with the surrounding communities, improve the on-base education system, and assist with the transition from military to civilian life, Chuck has tirelessly worked to improve the lives of those both on and off the base.

During his command, Chuck has been fully aware that his influence and work extends beyond JBLM's fences. He has been recognized on numerous occasions for his work, including with the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber Military Citizen of the Year award, which honored

his tireless efforts to cultivate a stronger bond with the base's host community.

Chuck has also helped to facilitate the renovation and replacement of five aging on-base schools. These schools, modernized with Congressional funding following the efforts of the Military Child Education Initiative, are the foundation for the growth and development of the next generation of leaders, both military and civilian.

Furthermore, Chuck's focus on smoothing the transition from military to civilian life is a major asset to the Puget Sound region and our military veterans. He assisted thousands of service members by helping to facilitate job fairs, training, and career-counseling services on base. His hard work is paying off: between December 2011 and April 2014, the employment rate of service members transitioning from JBLM rose from 18 to 42 percent. While there is still work to be done, Chuck's efforts have undoubtedly left a mark in providing for our past, future and present service members.

It is with great honor that I recognize Chuck as he moves on from his position as Base Commander of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and more importantly for his 30 years of service in the United States Army. I wish him the best and am confident that he will continue to do outstanding work in his civilian life.

HONORING THE STAFF OF THE COLUMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard working and dedicated staff of the Columbia County Department of Social Services.

The good people of Columbia County, New York are well served by this outstanding group of high minded professionals whose sole purpose is to serve the public. Rarely do these fine individuals receive any sort of public acclaim; nonetheless, they remain steadfast in their commitment to providing timely and effective human services. Whether it be providing funding for fuel oil to needy families each winter, finding shelter for families during hard times, protecting children from the horrors of child abuse, or reuniting a family torn apart by the ravages of substance abuse, Commissioner Jablonka and his staff are relentless in their pursuit of the public welfare.

Commissioner Jablonka, who began his illustrious career in public service as a DSS caseworker more than forty years ago, is blessed to have an outstanding staff assisting him. Deputy Commissioner Michelle Ublacker has made a tremendous contribution to the agency in the few short months since coming on board. She brings with her a strong background in human services, years of experience as a DSS caseworker and a tenacious work ethic. Her commitment to excellence is apparent to all who serve with her. Under Michelle is an exemplary group of Directors who oversee the day to day operations of the agency: Lynn Kutski, Judy Richards, Deborah Amerling and Valerie Caruso make up this exceptional team and together they have worked hard to help move the agency forward into the

twenty-first century. With leadership such as this, it is easy to see how the Department continues to excel in its efforts to serve our community.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the most important group of individuals who contribute to the success of Columbia County's Department of Social Services—the caseworkers, investigators and the clerical and legal staffs who are the backbone of the agency. They lead the way in the ongoing struggle to end poverty, child abuse, substance abuse, and domestic violence. They protect the young and the old alike, and they do so without fanfare. But today we acknowledge our caseworkers and thank them for all that they do.

May God bless each member of this team.

HONORING EDWARD "SANDY" MOTON DAVIS III ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. VAN HOLLEN of Maryland, and I would like to recognize the career and retirement of Sandy Davis, the associate director for legislative affairs for the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] and thank him for his distinguished service to the Budget Committee and the Congress.

Sandy is retiring after 36 years of dedicated service to the federal government. Sandy first joined CBO in 1996 as a senior analyst focusing on Congressional budget procedures and practices. Since 2003, he has served as the associate director for legislative affairs. In this role, Sandy has diligently served as CBO's chief liaison to the Congress and has worked closely with the Budget Committee. He has been invaluable in assisting committee members and staff in fulfilling our responsibilities under the Congressional Budget Act. During his time at CBO, Sandy has served under six Directors and in both Republican and Democratic Congresses. Prior to joining CBO, he served as an analyst and senior budget process specialist at the Congressional Research Service.

As the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Budget Committee, we greatly appreciate Sandy's exceptional service to the Budget Committee and the Congress. Sandy exemplifies CBO's high standard of professionalism, expertise, and nonpartisanship. We wish him all the best in his retirement and future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF THE JUSTICE FOR CONGO VICTIMS AND CONGO REFORMS PEACE CONVENTION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit the following