

the Federal Aviation Administration, to the president of the Senate and speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING VETERANS' VOICES
AWARD RECIPIENT MEGAN ALLEN

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Megan Allen of Ramsey for receiving a Veterans' Voices "On the Rise" Award.

At the age of seventeen, Megan enlisted in the Army National Guard and went on to serve two tours of duty in Iraq. Her twelve years of service in the National Guard has had a huge impact on Megan and inspired her to work to better her community. Megan currently spends an enormous amount of time volunteering for multiple organizations throughout the Twin Cities and metro areas striving to better the lives of the homeless communities and children in the area.

Among many non-profits Megan works with, she is most passionate about Girls on the Run, a program that promotes self-confidence and healthy choices for young girls. But this isn't the only program she helps. Megan also supports the Beyond the Line Yellow Ribbon Network, which lends a helping hand to veterans and members of our military before, during and after deployments.

I thank Megan for everything that she has done and continues to do for her community. Minnesota is a better place because of Megan, and she is truly deserving of this award.

RECOGNIZING ISAIAH CASINTAHAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to congratulate Isaiah Casintahan on his essay, "The Day that Launched a Better Future," published in the 70th Anniversary of the End of World War II program for recognition of the Japanese surrender documents signing on the deck of the USS Missouri, I was honored to be a member of the Bipartisan Congressional Delegation led by Congressman RANDY FORBES and Congressman JOE COURTNEY of Connecticut to Pearl Harbor.

September 2, 2015, commemorates the 70th Anniversary to the end of hostilities between the United States and Japan. Over the past decades, Japan and America have built a strong relationship of trust and continue to work together to ensure a more peaceful world. Congratulations to Isaiah for discussing the history of this important relationship between our two nations.

BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL'S SEPTEMBER 2ND ESSAY CONTEST WINNER: ISAIAH CASINTAHAN, JAMES CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL "THE DAY THAT LAUNCHED A BETTER FUTURE"

On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was taken by surprise as hundreds of Japanese planes attacked the area. "A date which will live in infamy," as said by President Franklin Roosevelt in the wake of the attack. Following the tragedies of Pearl Harbor, the war continued where in August, 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; the first and last instances of nuclear weapons in war. About a month later, the war was brought to an official end when "Japanese officials (had) signed the act of unconditional surrender," aboard the USS Missouri, anchored at Tokyo Bay. The ship now sits moored in Pearl Harbor, facing the USS Arizona, as one of the bookends of that war. This year commemorates the 70th Anniversary to the end of hostilities, and though 70 years have passed, it is still of great relevance today. As peace was made on September 2, 1945, it is indeed "the day that launched a better future" between our nations.

But what exactly does an 'better future' entail for us? What has it meant for our nations? In past times, friction and distrust were present as our countries were at war, or dealing with the traumas thereafter. Both of our nations suffered from a great deal of losses as we endured the consequences of war. The attack on Pearl Harbor took the lives of over 2,500 people and wounded as many as 1,000 others. The bombing of Hiroshima "wiped out 90 percent of the city and immediately killed 80,000 people," thousands later dying of radiation exposure. The 'better future' that we live in today is a world no longer at war, but one enduring the peace between us.

Since the end of World War II, the United States and Japan have relied on each other as allies to recover from the repercussions of war. Over the past decades, we have worked together in order to mend the once frayed relationship between our nations and have built a stronger foundation for peace. For example, after Japan's defeat the United States "led the Allies in the occupation and rehabilitation of the Japanese state. Between 1945 and 1952, the U.S. occupying forces, led by General Douglas A. MacArthur, enacted widespread military, political, economic, and social reforms." These reforms improved economy by setting democratic standards to help those in poverty and implemented a new constitution that would improve the social and political systems by the same standards. Though some changes were reverted back after the Americans left, most are still in effect and support the peace between our nations today.

In addition our nations trust has been heavily reinforced since peace was rooted between us 70 years ago. Our trust for one another continues to evidently grow, as in recent news, the United States and Japan have proposed a new military agreement, in which Japan's military will have a more active role in global defense, bringing our nations closer. The proposal would allow Japan, "To defend regional allies that come under attack, a change that means Japanese missile defense systems could be used to intercept any weapons launched toward the United States." In other words, Japan could be taking part in aiding our defense. This is a big jump in Japan's military relations, as their military powers were limited under the new constitution implemented after World War II. It is found in Article 9 of their constitution that, "renounces war and prohibits Japan from maintaining the war potential."

Though changes were already made so that Japan could maintain their defense, the new proposal demonstrates the ample amount of trust that our nations now share and how our nations are moving forward through mutual respect.

In conclusion, since the end of World War II, our nations today have secured a strong relationship that has brought us into better days. The day that has launched us into our future, September 2, 1945, has allowed our nations to endure peace, no longer a World at War. The site of Pearl Harbor where we faced sorrowful losses, and the site of the USS Missouri, where we established peace, remind us why we must safeguard our peace, free from the tragedies of war.

COMMEMORATING THE SMITHSONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center as it celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year.

Since 1965, SERC has been the nation's leading research center for understanding coastal zones and the environmental issues they face. With coastal zones home to more than 70% of the world's people, SERC has been at the forefront of monitoring and studying these zones' unique ecosystems and the different factors that affect their health.

While their main research focuses on the areas of climate change, invasive species, biodiversity, land use, and pollution, SERC personnel are also involved in preparing the next generation of environmental scientists. Over the years, SERC has provided learning opportunities for students from kindergarten all the way through the post-doctoral level, partnering with over 150 colleges and universities to conduct professional training and a variety of hands-on experiences in the field.

Headquartered on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland's Fifth District, SERC encompasses more than 2,650 acres of land and twelve miles of protected shoreline. The scientists at SERC use this shoreline as a natural laboratory and model for long-term ecological research to study the way terrestrial, aquatic, and atmospheric components interact in complex ecosystems.

In 2009, I was a proud cosponsor of legislation that authorized a \$41 million expansion and renovation of SERC's Mathias Laboratory, the Smithsonian's first LEED-Platinum building. This sustainable research lab provides a larger space and more flexibility for scientists to explore cutting edge research in an environmentally responsible way. I had the privilege of attending the ribbon cutting ceremony for the lab's reopening last year.

I am proud to celebrate this anniversary and ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center for its contributions to our understanding of coastal environments and climate change—and saluting those who continue to carry out its important mission.

POLICE SHOOTINGS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, over the last several weeks we've seen a disturbing rash of violence against law enforcement officers around our nation.

Our nation's Blue Line—the first responders, local, state, federal police and law enforcement professionals—often represent the height of both heroism and humility. Each day they leave their families with the possibility that they might not return home—as happened to my great-uncle Philip who was killed in the line of duty in New York City.

Today, each of us can understand that events across our nation have brought about a period of great tension. And, while there is a conversation that we can have as Americans about law enforcement in 2015, the shared objective cannot be realized if we allow hate, demagoguery or violence to dehumanize any person—least of all those officers who serve our communities.

Together, we can address the challenges our nation faces head on—without partisanship, division or hate. But that will take leadership—including leadership from the President who cannot, nor should not, remain silent in the wake of these attacks.

I stand with our nation's Blue Line and we can overcome our challenges together.

TEXAS HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1605

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make it known that the Texas House of Representatives through Robert Haney, the Chief Clerk of the House, has adopted House Resolution No. 1605 by Faircloth. This resolution expresses a commitment to the elimination of illegal fishing and urges Congress to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in our sovereign waters.

And that's just the way it is.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing is a problem with serious economic, environmental, and security implications; and

Whereas, Illegal fishing accounts for economic losses of billions of dollars per year globally, and millions of those lost dollars result from poaching in the Gulf of Mexico; such activity is largely conducted by foreign fleets at the expense of United States fishermen, coastal communities, and the sustainability of global fish stocks; and

Whereas, Illegal fishing is of particular consequence in Texas, where the Gulf Coast waters supply seafood for the American public and support the hospitality industry, tourism-related businesses, and the vibrant recreational and commercial fishing industry; not only does illegal fishing result in economic losses to the Texas fishing industry and other coastal businesses, but it also is a threat to the sustainability of our fisheries and to the Texas Gulf Coast ecosystem; and

Whereas, The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the United States Coast Guard are to be commended for their partnership in investigating and apprehending foreign vessels engaged in illegal activity along the Texas-Mexico border; and

Whereas, Foreign nationals fishing illegally in U.S. waters compete for local stock, and they disregard state and federal laws on catch limits; when they sell their fish in the United States, they can flood the market with a cheaper product; moreover, they often use banned longline netting that imperils marine mammals and sea turtles; and

Whereas, Vessels involved with illegal fishing are also associated with other crimes, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal immigration, and the incursion by these foreign fishing vessels into U.S. waters constitutes a violation of our sovereignty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas Legislature hereby express its commitment to the elimination of illegal fishing, to the long-term conservation of Texas marine resources, and to the protection of the Texas Gulf Coast fishing and coastal communities; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas House of Representatives hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to take action to protect our coastal borders and to end illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in our sovereign waters; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 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 \$18,151,085,083,623.06. We've added \$7,524,208,034,709.98 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 VETERANS' VOICES AWARD RECIPIENT SCOTT GLEW

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott Glew of Elk River for receiving a Veterans' Voices "On the Rise" Award.

Scott spent eight years in the Minnesota Army National Guard and was deployed to Iraq. Scott strongly believes that if we encourage students across the country to become more informed and active citizens, we can im-

prove the future of our country. To act on this, Scott decided to begin his career as a social studies teacher following his service to our country.

Scott has not let his passion for education stop at the classroom door. He is an active leader within his school district and serves on the Board of Directors for both the Minnesota Council for History Education and the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies. Additionally, Scott is currently in graduate school at the University of Minnesota researching citizenship and peace.

I admire Scott for everything that he has done to better this country and his community. He is the exact type of person who should be teaching because he is the epitome of an excellent role model. I thank him for his service and for helping educate Minnesota's children. Scott—well done and keep up the amazing work.

LT. CALVIN SPANN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Calvin Spann, who passed away this last Sunday, September 6, 2015 at his home in Allen, Texas.

Lt. Spann was born on November 28, 1924 and grew up in Rutherford, NJ. While growing up near the local Teterboro Airport, he was inspired to fly. He learned about the physics of flying while a student at Rutherford High School, and at eighteen he volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Corps in the heat of World War II to pursue his dream of flying.

It was in 1943 at Tuskegee, Alabama that Lt. Spann started his aviation cadet training. Not only did he withstand a brutal and rigorous training program, he overcame a selective quota system at a time when all branches of the U.S. Armed Services were segregated. He was determined and focused to earn his wings. Soon after, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

He was sent to Italy as a replacement combat pilot and joined hundreds of other black men that would comprise the famed Tuskegee Airmen. Created in 1940, the all-black flying unit was a result of Public Law 18, which established civilian pilot training programs at 166 colleges and universities across the country. This law eventually led to the expansion of the Army Air Corps.

Lt. Spann was a member of the elite 100th Fighter Squadron, part of the 332nd Fighter Group and piloted the powerful P-51 Mustang. His service as a fighter pilot included 26 combat missions over Nazi controlled Germany. He participated in the longest bomber escort mission in the 15th Air Force history: a 1,600-mile, round trip mission, from Ramitelli, Italy, to Berlin with the objective of destroying the Daimler-Benz manufacturing plant.

As public opinion toward the Tuskegee Airmen changed, Lt. Spann's accomplishments finally came to light. The discrimination he faced during training contrasted greatly with the praise he received from the bombers, whom he escorted. Through his service and