

John also served the town as Alderman, Selectman, and was the last mayor of Willimantic and the first mayor of Windham. Among John's signature accomplishments, were helping to secure funding for the town to install lights and a playground at Recreation Park, the Textile Museum, and the iconic "Frog Bridge" downtown.

Beyond his 32 years of service as a public servant, John's reputation for civic engagement was legendary. He was passionate about recreation, and not only played on a softball team himself for over 50 years, but also ran the Elk's "Hoop Shoot" and the Knights of Columbus Free Throw contest for over 40 years, was a member of the Town Recreation Commission, and was involved with Little Pal basketball, Little League baseball, WYO and the intermediate junior high basketball travel team.

No sporting event did John care about more than his children's athletic events—he even created a shortcut on his computer to track his daughter's statistics for the Springfield College basketball and rugby teams. John's hard work to promote civic engagement and youth recreation was recognized when he was honored as the P.O.B.E. Elks Club Elk of the Year in 2003–2004, as president of the Polish Club, and an honorary member of the Franco-American Citizens Club.

The Windham community will miss John deeply. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our condolences to his wife, Pauline, and his family as they mourn the passing of a good man.

**HONORING CLAIRE'S CORNER  
COPIA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS  
40TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, nestled on the corner of Chapel and College Streets in Downtown New Haven is Claire's Corner Copia, a gourmet vegetarian restaurant that is among one of the most popular and beloved restaurants in the City. Founded by Claire and the late Frank Criscuolo, this community treasure is celebrating its 40th Anniversary and I am proud to rise today to join the community in extending my heartfelt congratulations on this remarkable milestone.

A registered nurse by training, Claire decided she really wanted to find a way to work with her husband, Frank. Disappointed with some of the fare she was getting from local restaurants at the time, she and Frank opened Claire's Corner Copia in 1975. Claire was determined to bring the essence of her home-cooked meals to her restaurant and to create what she calls her "own utopia."

Claire's is, in a word, eclectic. Its two walls of windows allow customers to enjoy the bustling crowds on Chapel and Church Streets, the tables and chairs do not match, and the menu is a series of blackboards with your choices written in colorful chalk. You wait in line to place your order, give your name to have it brought to you, you get your own cutlery, and bus your own table. Claire liked the idea of her customers "participating" in their dining experience. Over the course of its 40-

year history, Claire's Corner Copia has built a loyal following not only locally but for travelers as well. A Seattle resident who travels to New Haven on business recently told the local paper, "It's the only restaurant I go to every time I come to New Haven. Everything is fresh and there is a wide assortment of characters." That is Claire's Corner Copia.

What makes Claire's Corner Copia so special—aside from the all-vegetarian menu, the use of fresh ingredients, and its famous baked goods—is the atmosphere that Claire has created. Nearly everything on the menu is made in-house, you can always find Claire buzzing around the restaurant, and her employees, many who have been with her for more than a decade love their work. Instead of relying on tips, her staff is paid a fair wage, provided health benefits, and paid time off. Claire and her staff dedicate themselves to providing their customers with a unique experience. That is the secret of the success of Claire's Corner Copia.

I want to extend a special note of congratulations to Claire Criscuolo. The restaurant business is not easy and her determination, vision, creativity, and entrepreneurial skill have made Claire's Corner Copia an iconic local landmark. Claire is also a dedicated member of our community, supporting a variety of organizations including New Haven Reads, St. Francis and St. Rose of Lima Schools, and Smilow Cancer Hospital. I cannot remember a time when I did not know her and I consider myself fortunate to call her my friend. I am honored to rise today to extend my very best wishes to her and her staff on this very special occasion. Happy 40th Anniversary.

**TRIBUTE TO RONNIE AND SHARON  
FOSTER**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ronnie and Sharon Foster of Clarinda, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Ronnie and Sharon were married on August 8, 1955 at the New Market Methodist Church of New Market, Iowa.

Ronnie and Sharon's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Beth, the late Dan, Don, the late Dusty, and Leesa, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion. I wish them and their family all the best moving forward.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate that I inadvertently voted "Yes" on Roll Call 503. I intended to vote "No."

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 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 \$18,151,038,086,972.10. We've added \$7,524,161,038,059.02 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.

**TRIBUTE TO RICHARD AND  
CAROLYN MILLER**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Richard and Carolyn Miller of Neola, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 28, 1965 at the Grace Evangelical United Brethren Church in Story City.

Richard and Carolyn's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Tami and Jeff, as well as their grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa's values. I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND  
OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOL  
OF NURSING AT THE UNIVER-  
SITY OF MICHIGAN**

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the grand opening of the new academic building at the University of Michigan School of Nursing.

The University of Michigan School of Nursing is a premier institution that is committed to teaching and training the next generation of nurses. Consistently recognized as one of the best nursing schools in the country, they have trained many individuals who have gone on to excel in the field of nursing and give back to their communities. In fact, just this year they were recognized for having six subspecialties ranked in the Top 10 of the U.S. News and World Report's annual rankings. This includes the Nursing Administration program, which is ranked second, and the Family Nurse Practitioner and the Gerontology Primary Care program, which were both ranked third. This strong praise affirms the University's commitment to training the "leaders and the best."

Our nation needs more well-trained nurses who are committed to giving back to their

community. It is great to have a national leader in the field in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This new academic building will further enhance their ability to train the next generation of nurses who will be on the front lines of providing much needed care to those who need it most. It is especially exciting that the modern tools within this facility will teach students to work in contemporary and collaborative environments, which will help them prepare to excel at their jobs. Through this 75,000 square-foot new structure, new nurses will continue to expand upon the University of Michigan's reputation of excellence and high achievement.

My friend, Dr. Kathleen Potempa, the Dean of the School of Nursing, deserves our praise for her leadership in spearheading the opening of this new facility and for her dedication to teaching. It is my hope that this grand opening will be the start of a new and continued era of excellence at the University of Michigan School of Nursing. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the opening of the new School of Nursing Academic Building at the University of Michigan. I wish each and every new student the best of luck and much success in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
RICHARD DUDA

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and remember the life of Richard Duda of Griswold, Connecticut who passed away late last week. Dick was a fixture in Griswold, where he lived all his life with his wife Barbara and their two children. He was the quintessential "citizen" who believed giving back to the community was his duty. He served five terms in the Connecticut State Legislature representing the 58th district and as the Town Attorney for Griswold for many years.

Dick was a lifelong Democrat, and served as the Chairman of the Griswold Democratic Town Committee for over 30 years. Outside of government, he was a board member at the local library, a member of St. Mary's Church, and a member of the board of directors for Jewett City Savings Bank. His involvement in local government and advocacy was extensive, and his capacity to help was boundless. Dick saw his local law practice as a way to give back to the Griswold community. He embodied the ideal of the profession, serving as a resource and advocate for his neighbors—often taking cases that others would have passed over or accepting rates far lower than average for the time. His goal was to serve as a resource and as a true community lawyer. The law was his calling, and his passion.

In politics and law, fields that can turn acrimonious, Dick was a true gentleman. He stayed above any bitterness, and his friends recall how he remained polite and deferential. His amiable manner, dedication to his community, and upbeat attitude will be sorely missed in Griswold. I ask my colleagues to please join me in offering our condolences to his wife Barbara, his son Christopher, and grandchildren Cameron, Caitlyn and Gavin.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE WEIL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Charlie Weil of Afton, Iowa, for his retirement from Wellman Dynamics in Creston after 50 years of service.

On August 25th, 2015, Mr. Weil marked 50 years working as a molder for Wellman's, which manufactures aluminum and magnesium sand castings for aerospace applications. He also spent a year serving our country in Vietnam and when he completed his service, he demonstrated great commitment to Wellman's, immediately returning to work there.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie's hard work and dedication to his craft embodies the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on his achievement, and I wish him nothing but continued success and happiness in his retirement.

PERPETUAL POW/MIA STAMP ACT  
OF 2015

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our nation's POWs and MIA service members.

Today is National Prisoner of War, Missing in Action Day. As Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs I am constantly in awe of the sacrifices and efforts that have been made on behalf of our great country by the men and women who have worn the uniform of our Armed Services.

Tragically, according to the Department of Defense, more than 83,000 service members remain missing since World War II. These individuals represent a unique segment of the men and women who serve or have served in the Armed Forces—men and women who are missing or captured, unable to come home.

I am proud to introduce H.R. 3558, legislation to create a forever stamp depicting the National League of Families POW/MIA flag.

This bill will help demonstrate our nation's gratitude to this special segment of heroes, both past and present. I am forever grateful for their service.

H.R. 3504 AND H.R. 3134

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I voted against H.R. 3504, which would limit women's health care choices and interfere in the doctor-patient relationship, and against H.R. 3134, which would defund Planned Parenthood.

It is bizarre to watch the manufactured controversy surrounding ambush-type, heavily-edited journalism used to discredit Planned Parenthood.

It's not just the blatantly manipulative and misleading tactics that are being used, which should be enough for most people to reject the allegations on their face. These attacks do not reflect my experience and knowledge of the amazing, dedicated, civic-minded men and women who have built, supported, and led Planned Parenthood in my community.

For decades, I have admired these pillars of community, leaders in education, religion, business, and other civic affairs that provided the vision, the volunteer effort, and personal contributions to women's health and reproductive freedom. There is no question that because of their efforts, tens of thousands of abortions never occurred in our community and those that did occur, did not result in harm to women.

Because of their efforts, Oregon's 11 Planned Parenthood centers provided care to over 70,000 women in 2013, including over 25,000 breast and cervical cancer screenings. Nationally, Planned Parenthood cares for more than 2.5 million women annually. Planned Parenthood centers serve a greater share of safety-net clients than any other type of safety-net providers. Nearly 80 percent of women using Planned Parenthood have incomes at or below 150 percent of poverty—these clinics offer affordable health care options for women who may have no alternate source of care.

The fact that we are engaged in a concerted assault against the provision of essential services to women, especially women of color and low-income status is appalling. If people would take the time, as I have, to visit these facilities, meet the employees, and most importantly, know these community leaders that have made it possible to protect women's health, to prevent countless abortions, and to promote wellbeing and education, would see the lies behind this heated rhetoric and misguided attacks.

TRIBUTE TO THE CLARINDA  
COMMUNITY THEATRE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Clarinda Community Theatre of Clarinda, Iowa for celebrating their 60th anniversary. The Community Theatre was founded in 1955 by a group of theatre enthusiasts.

The mission of the Clarinda Community Theatre is to encourage and promote an interest in participating, observing, and supporting amateur theatre in the community of Clarinda. Clarinda resident Jolly Ann Davidson has played an important role in the success of the community theater. She felt it was important for Clarinda to have some form of live stage performances in town and has been the driving force in bringing numerous productions to Clarinda for the community to enjoy. Jolly Ann has performed in many of the plays and has seen the theatre grow into a top-notch performing arts facility.