

and East Bay community, through her service as a Sunday school teacher, youth and science camp counselor, and her work with various local organizations. Ms. Chow has served as the Asian Advisory Committee on Crime's Annual Banquet Chairperson, former President of the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, and the former President of the Oakland Chinatown Lions Club.

Ms. Chow currently serves as the Vice President of the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, Vice President of the Asian Advisory Committee on Crime, Treasurer of the Oakland Police Foundation, the Health Fair Chairperson for the Chinatown Lions Club, and volunteers at the Oakland Children's Hospital Children's Network.

Ms. Chow has also received numerous awards for her community work. She was recognized as the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce's "Volunteer of the Year" in 1998, received the Lions Club's Melvin Jones Award in 2011, and in 2012, was recognized as the Asian Advisory Committee on Crime's "Citizen of the Year" Award and recognized as "Citizen/Member of the Year" by Gateway Bank.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Ms. Frances Chow, I salute her. I thank her for a lifetime of service and congratulate her on her many achievements. I wish her and her loved ones the very best as she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 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 \$18,152,650,688,229.10. We've added \$7,525,773,639,316.02 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.

#### HONORING JOAN MILLMAN

#### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2015*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I extend a heartfelt appreciation of Joan Millman for her tireless work for the residents of the 52nd Assembly District over the last two decades.

"Brownstone Joan" has represented us in Albany as a reformer to challenge the establishment. She has lent her voice to those who too often are neglected or ignored in the political process.

Joan has been a trailblazer like our beloved Eileen Dugan before her, and today our new Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon continues that tradition.

Joan Millman has been a steadfast and dedicated champion of seniors, children and the most vulnerable among us.

Among her many achievements, she has been critical to making the dream of Brooklyn Bridge Park a reality.

She has advocated for affordable housing, street safety and access to quality education and parental engagement.

My friends, Joan has a long public service record that speaks for itself. She is a leader with great integrity who has led our assembly district with distinction and honor.

Not only is Joan a fine public servant, she is also a very good friend.

Joan Millman's tireless efforts over the last 17 years on behalf of all Brooklyn residents are an inspiration to all of us in public service and I salute her.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE METROPOLITAN CLUB

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2015*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th anniversary of a landmark in San Francisco that is beloved as an important gathering place for women and as a historic building. The Metropolitan Club at 640 Sutter Street today serves over 1,000 members and countless non-profits that use the beautiful building for meetings and events.

The Metropolitan Club started in 1912–1914 as a vision of a group of Bay Area women who were determined to build an athletic club for women similar in size, grandeur and services to those available to men. These ladies were active in civic and charitable organizations and the preparations for the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition.

On October 25, 1915 their vision became a reality and the Women's Athletic Club of San Francisco was incorporated as the first women's athletic club west of Chicago. For a century now, the club has been a special place for women of all ages to pursue physical and intellectual fitness.

The historic building was designed by Bliss & Faville, a prominent architectural firm that is responsible for landmarks such as the Bank of California, the Geary Theater, the Masonic Temple, Southern Pacific headquarters, China Basin, the Marines' Memorial Club and the University Club. After a major addition to the clubhouse was finished in 1923, the San Francisco Chronicle lauded the club as "unlike anything in the United States maintained for and by women."

The unique character of the Metropolitan Club has made it a desirable place for historic events. It became the unofficial headquarters for visiting women journalists who covered the signing of the United Nations Charter in San Francisco in 1945. In 1948, it was the only local club represented at the first Western meeting of UNESCO.

In 2004, the Metropolitan Club received one of the most prestigious honors from the U.S. Department of the Interior; it was nominated to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places which is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The Metropolitan Club was described as a "place where the women who formed a club and generations of San Francisco women after them

have met their friends, exercised, dined, played cards, celebrated holidays, attended lectures, entertained others and engaged in all the activities of the club." The same year, the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation was created as a 502(c)(3) with the mission to preserve the club's historic building and important heritage.

Major seismic and life-saving renovations were completed in 2009 to prepare the club for its second century as the "House that Women Built."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join me in saying happy 100th birthday to the Metropolitan Club which has touched the lives of countless San Francisco families and helped shape the history of our beautiful city by the bay.

#### CONGRATULATING OAK TRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

#### HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2015*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Oak Trace Elementary School in Westfield, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that Oak Trace Elementary School is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 335 schools were designated as 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools, making this recognition all the more impressive.

Serving developmental preschool children through fourth grade, Oak Trace Elementary School provides its students with a safe and exciting learning environment. Oak Trace is a C.L.A.S.S. (Connecting Learning Assures Successful Students) school that implements a non-cognitive curriculum focused on doing the right thing and treating people right. They offer a unique learning atmosphere that focuses on building life skills, measures performance by individual student growth, and offers plenty of opportunities to give back to the community. Through differentiated instruction, students achieve well above the national average and consistently place in the top 5 percent of all students in Indiana. I applaud its administrators and teachers for their focus on individual growth and commitment to ensuring its students engage with the Hoosier community.

As an advocate for education and youth, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Oak Trace Elementary School give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Oak Trace Elementary School. I am very proud of you.

HONORING LINDA B. SWADEL,  
CHIEF ASSESSOR FROM WEST-  
BOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2015*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda B. Swadel, Chief Assessor from Westborough, Massachusetts.

Linda is retiring this November after having served as an Assessor in several communities—including Leicester, Northbridge and Westborough—over the last 30 years as well as serving on various committees for the Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers. She is currently serving as the MAAO Legislative Committee Co-Chair.

Like assessors throughout Massachusetts, Linda has helped to provide our cities and towns with the critical financial services essential to supporting strong budgets for our communities' schools, public safety, recreation, and so many other services our families count on every day.

She is currently the Chairman of the Board of Assessors and Chief Assessor in Westborough and she serves on the Massachusetts Farmland Valuation Advisory Subcommittee as well as the Legislative Task Force for the Council on Aging.

She has served on various other MAAO Committees in her tenure, such as the Education Committee and the Telecom Committee. She is a recipient of the MAAO's Wilson Award as well as the MAAO's Past President's Award. Both of which are given to members for their service and dedication to the profession and the Association.

Linda is also a two-time Past President of the Worcester County Assessors Association and I am so grateful for the difference she has made in our community.

Throughout her career, she has shared her passion for her profession by speaking at conferences, inspiring and helping her peers to grow in their own careers.

For all of Linda's hard work and dedication, I am proud to recognize her as she retires from a career dedicated to helping others and keeping our communities strong.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTHA  
BRUCKNER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Mar-

tha Bruckner of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for her selection as Iowa's 2015–16 School Superintendent of the Year. Under Dr. Bruckner's leadership the Council Bluffs Community School District has seen great successes, including improved graduation rates and increased academic achievement.

This award is presented by the School Administrators of Iowa, based on standards that include a shared vision of learning, a presence of school culture, a safe and effective learning environment, engagement with the community, integrity and fairness, and a dedication to addressing the issues facing public education. Dr. Bruckner embodies these criteria with her passion for education and her leadership within the Council Bluffs School District. She has shown that a commitment to improving the learning environment within a school district can and will yield positive results for students.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Bruckner for her dedicated service to the Council Bluffs Community School District, and more importantly, to each and every student she oversees. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dr. Bruckner for receiving this outstanding award and in wishing her and her students nothing but continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE 2016 VIR-  
GINIA TEACHER OF THE YEAR,  
MRS. NATALIE DIFUSCO-FUNK

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to congratulate the 2016 Virginia Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Natalie DiFusco-Funk. She is a fifth-grade teacher at West Salem Elementary School in Salem, Virginia, where my two sons attend school.

According to press reports, DiFusco-Funk earned her Bachelor of Arts in Education and her Master of Education at Boston College, and in 2013, earned her National Board Certification in Literacy. She is a 12-year veteran of the classroom who has been teaching in Salem City Schools for five years. Previously, she taught in Botetourt County as a reading specialist and also taught in schools in Massachusetts.

"Natalie is an exceptional teacher and a consummate professional who positively changes the lives of young people and facilitates the growth and development of her colleagues," said Salem Superintendent H. Alan Seibert.

DiFusco-Funk, who has said she felt called to teach since she was in fifth grade, is the first Salem City Schools teacher to have earned this recognition. She will now compete to be the National Teacher of the Year.

She said, "I told my students—like Spider-Man says, 'With great power comes great responsibility,' and so it is my responsibility to represent the field of education well and to speak on behalf of all the teachers of Virginia, and take it to the White House."

On behalf of many in the district, I thank Mrs. Natalie DiFusco-Funk for all she has done for our area, and congratulate her for this hard-earned recognition and praise. Best wishes for many more years of success.

CONGRATULATING OUR LADY OF  
MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC  
SCHOOL, A BLUE RIBBON  
SCHOOL

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2015*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School in Carmel, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgment of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 335 schools were designated as 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Of the 335 schools, Our Lady of Mount Carmel was 1 of 50 private schools to receive recognition, making this recognition all the more impressive.

Serving children from kindergarten through eighth grade, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School provides its students with an outstanding education in both academics and the Catholic faith. It is a Four Star School, awarded by the state of Indiana. The school achieved this designation by placing in the top 25th percentile of schools in three ISTEP-based categories. Our Lady consistently provides excellence in education by facilitating a Christ-centered educational community that creates a vibrant learning community, provides opportunities to serve others, and prepares students for lifelong learning. As a mother whose children attended Catholic school, I applaud Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School for its work to ensure its students engage in significant acts of community service and remain dedicated to carrying out the mission of Jesus Christ.

As an advocate for education and youth, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School. I am very proud of you.