

1836 Mr. Yount obtained the first land grant from the Mexican government awarded to a United States citizen in Northern California. By 1855, a surveyor had laid out the town's borders and Mr. Yount decided to call this town Sebastopol. Given that there was another town by the name of Sebastopol nearby, the town was renamed Yountville two years after Mr. Yount's death in 1867 in honor of its founder and his invaluable contributions to the town's beginning, which included planting the first grape vines in Napa Valley.

On February 4, 1965, the City of Yountville was officially incorporated and in 1982 changed its name to Town of Yountville. Over the past 50 years the town has grown to almost 3,000 residents. Today the town is home to many award-winning restaurants, such as The French Laundry which boasts a Three-Star Michelin rating, and which contributes to the town's reputation as the "Culinary Capital of the Napa Valley". In addition to the town's rich culinary history, Yountville's wine, retail, and lodging industries attract tourists from around the world to this small town known as the "Heart of Napa Valley"™.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the Town of Yountville, California on the 50th anniversary of its incorporation. Yountville is a treasured part of our Napa Valley and I look forward to seeing the town continue to prosper over the next 50 years.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 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 \$18,099,042,237,253.89. We've added \$7,472,165,188,340.81 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MORRIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2015*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris County Historical Society, located in Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 70th Anniversary.

The Morris County Historical Society, also known as the MCHS, seeks to preserve, exhibit, and actively enhance its collections of historical items relating to Morris County, predominantly during the Victorian period of American history. The MCHS believes in providing Morris County with a place in which its residents may learn about the County's interesting history. Through various exhibits, ranging from Victorian Architecture & Design Dis-

play to the Women's Suffrage Movement in NJ Display, the MCHS offers interactive programs that are both engaging and insightful.

The MCHS is housed in Acorn Hall, named after the two-centuries-old red oak formerly located on the property. Built in 1853, Acorn Hall continues to retain its original interior design characteristics and furnishings. In the Hall, the carpeting, wall covering, and decorative paint techniques mirror the original decorative selections implemented by the Hall's longest tenured owners, Augustus and Mary Crane. These aesthetical aspects of the Hall help visitors understand what exactly life was like during the mid-19th century.

Among the multiple programs and activities that the MCHS offers, its internship and volunteer program offers those individuals interested in maintaining some of Morris County's most prized artifacts is rewarding for a diverse group of people. Ranging from college students to senior citizens, the MCHS welcomes all individuals who care about Morris County's historical significance. The internship opportunity is especially valuable for college students as it often offers college credit to interns for semester-long projects. The MCHS values these volunteers and interns by offering them free admittance to the Acorn Hall and invitations to members-only events.

For members of the public, the MCHS offers guided tours of Acorn Hall. During these tours, MCHS tour guides help depict life during the Victorian era, and offer insightful explanations about the various artifacts housed in Acorn Hall. Though these tours generally last an hour, the experience leaves a long lasting impression. Also, after touring Acorn Hall, viewers can swing by the Oakleaf Gift Shop and browse through various historical books describing the role Morris County played in the Revolutionary War or the development of the Morristown Green.

I commend the members of the MCHS, its officers, and its Board of Directors, especially Director Amy Curry, for their dedication to promoting Morris County's rich history. Our society has consistently demonstrated a dedication and commitment to preserving priceless artifacts for Morris County residents to enjoy for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Morris County Historical Society, as it celebrates its 70th Anniversary.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF EULESS POLICE OFFICER TONY BURNETT

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize retiring Senior Corporal Tony Burnett for his 25 years of public service as a Euless Police Officer.

Tony Burnett began his career in public safety as a North Hills Mall security officer. In 1990, Tony's aspiration to join law enforcement was achieved when Euless Police Department hired him as Public Service Officer in the role as a jailer. Tony worked in that capacity for over three years until he was promoted to Police Officer. Throughout Tony's career,

he continued to strive towards excellence which was acknowledged through the department with a promotion to Corporal in 1996 and Senior Corporal in 2008. In his leadership roles, Tony has supervised Patrol, Criminal Investigations and the Neighborhood Patrol Officers Unit.

Tony Burnett's commitment to public safety encouraged him to undergo extensive training as a patrol officer, criminal investigator, and department police trainer. His training earned him the following certifications: Basic Police Certification in 1993, Intermediate Police Certification in 1997, Advanced Police Certification in 1999, and Master Police Certification in 2004. In 1995, Tony received his Police Officer Instructor License and his DARE Officer Certification. In total, Tony received over 1,700 hours of in-service training. Tony has also taught over 1,200 hours of police training in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and he is highly recognized by the region's law enforcement community as an outstanding instructor.

Aside from his police training, Tony Burnett has also earned a Bachelor's Degree from Columbia College and a Master's Degree in Criminology from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Tony Burnett has led a distinguished career in the Euless Police Department where he received over 80 police commendations for professionalism and service to the community. He has also been nominated for numerous department awards which include Rookie of the Year Award in 1993, Civic Achievement Award in 1998, Distinguished Service Award in 2005, and Police Officer of the Year in 2006.

Tony Burnett and his wife Melissa of 20 years have two children, Jacob and Andrew. Tony graduated from Richland High School in North Richland Hills, Texas, in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Tony Burnett for his years of public service as a Euless Police Officer.

#### PROTECTING WITH INTEGRITY

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Victor Peschke of the Sugar Land Fire Department for being selected by the department and the Sugar Land Citizen's Fire Academy Alumni Association for the Firefighter of the Year Award. This award recognizes his exemplary character and actions in protecting our communities.

Peschke's firefighting career now spans six years. Since he joined the service of the Sugar Land Fire Department in 2011, he has honorably safeguarded the community and strengthened our public safety system. Peschke is not just a leader whose hard work and attitude others admire; he is a leader who inspires those who serve with him. Our communities are safer because of folks like Victor.

I commend Victor Peschke for his exemplary service to his community. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Victor for being honored with Sugar Land's Firefighter of the Year Award.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Paperwork Reduction Act, to eliminate the wasteful congressional review process for legislation passed by the District of Columbia Council and to align longtime congressional practice and the law. The congressional review process for D.C. bills is ignored by Congress providing it no benefit, but imposes substantial costs (in time and money) on the District. Congress has almost always used the appropriations process rather than the disapproval process and entirely abandoned the congressional review process as its mechanism for overturning D.C. legislation twenty-three years ago, and only used it three times before that, preferring riders on D.C. appropriation bills instead. Yet Congress still requires the D.C. Council to use Kafkaesque make-work procedures to comply with the abandoned congressional review process established by the Home Rule Act of 1973.

Our bill would eliminate the congressional review process for legislation passed by the D.C. Council. However, Congress would lose no authority it currently exercises because, even upon enactment of this bill, Congress would retain its authority under clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the U.S. Constitution to amend or overturn any D.C. legislation at any time.

The congressional review process (30 days for civil bills and 60 days for criminal bills) includes those days when either house of Congress is in session, delaying D.C. bills from becoming law, often for many months. The delay forces the D.C. Council to pass most bills several times, using a cumbersome and complicated process to ensure that the operations of this large and rapidly changing city continue uninterrupted, avoiding a lapse of the bill before it becomes final. The review period, based on legislative, not calendar, days means, for example, that a 30-day period usually lasts three calendar months and often much longer because of congressional recesses. The congressional review period for a bill that changed the word "handicap" to "disability" lasted nine months. The Council estimates that 50–65 percent of the bills the Council passes could be eliminated if the review period did not exist. To ensure that a bill becomes law, the Council often must pass the same legislation in three forms—emergency (in effect for 90 days), temporary (in effect for 225 days) and permanent. Moreover, the Council has to carefully track the days the House and Senate are in session for each D.C. bill it passes to avoid gaps and to determine when the bills have taken effect. The Council estimates that it could save 5,000 employee-hours and 160,000 sheets of paper per two-year legislative Council period if the review period were eliminated. House Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY addressed the issue of saving such resources by eliminating the amount of paperwork sent to Congress when he proposed a cut in the number of reports that federal agencies are required to submit to

Congress. Our bill is a perfect candidate because it eliminates a paperwork process that repeats itself without interruption.

My bill would do no more than align the Home Rule Act with congressional practice over the last twenty-three years. Of the more than 5,000 legislative acts transmitted to Congress since the Home Rule Act, only three resolutions disapproving D.C. legislation have been enacted—in 1979, 1981, and 1991—and two of those mistakenly involved federal interests in the Height Act and the location of chanceries. Placing a congressional hold on 5,000 D.C. bills has not only proven unnecessary, but has imposed fruitless costs on the D.C. government, residents and businesses. District residents and businesses are also placed on hold because they have no certainty when D.C. bills, from taxes to regulations, will take effect, making it difficult to plan. Instead of using the congressional review process to overturn D.C. legislation, Congress has preferred to use appropriation riders. Therefore, it is particularly unfair to require the D.C. Council to engage in a labor-intensive and costly process that Congress has itself long abandoned. My bill would only eliminate the automatic hold placed on D.C. legislation and the need for the D.C. Council to use a process initially passed for the convenience of Congress, but that Congress has since eliminated in all but law. This bill would promote efficiency and cost savings for Congress, the District, its residents, and businesses without reducing congressional oversight, and would carry out a policy stressed by Congress of eliminating needless paperwork and make-work redundancy.

I urge my colleagues to support this good-government measure.

HONORING DOMINICAN HERITAGE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2015*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the rich culture and heritage of Dominicans, during the month of Carnival, the most important period of religious celebration in the Dominican Republic. Dominicans are dedicated members of our communities and have contributed so much to our country. This month, we take the opportunity to acknowledge and applaud their service to our nation and their many great achievements.

Dominicans in our nation have been motivated by the value of hard work and the bonds of family—the same pillars that have formed the foundation of our society for over 230 years. From Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez, the first Dominican-American to serve in the Cabinet, to Pedro Martinez, a former pitcher for the New York Mets who was recently elected to the Hall of Fame, Dominicans are trailblazers who strengthen America's diverse cultural heritage.

Dominicans are one of the fastest growing Hispanic groups in America. 1.5 million people of Dominican descent currently live in the United States. With over 700,000 people, Dominicans are the largest Hispanic group in New York City. I am honored to serve a congressional district with a significant Dominican population. They bring vibrant and rich cultural

and economic contributions to every neighborhood in my district, from Washington Heights to Inwood.

I am fortunate to have many excellent organizations, in my district, that promote Dominican culture and empower Dominicans living in Manhattan and the Bronx. The Dominican Women's Development Center, New York Dominican Officers' Organization, Dominican Medical Association, National Dominican Women's Caucus, Community Association of Progressive Dominicans, Alianza Dominicana, Dominican Bar Association, Association of Dominican Classical Artists, Dominican Cultural Civic Center, Mirabal Sisters Cultural and Community Center all help strengthen their communities and improve the lives of Dominicans in New York.

Like so many generations of immigrants, Dominicans have fought tirelessly to achieve the American Dream. They come to this great nation seeking a home, a place to raise their families, and a community that will nurture their dreams. From the initial wave of Dominican migration in the 1960s to the most recent arrivals of today, Dominicans have graced our nation with their culture and traditions. Their contributions are integral to the success of our great nation and to strengthening the American fabric.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2015*

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 51; 52; 53 H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act; H.R. 623, the Social Media Working Group Act; H.R. 615, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act.

Due to inclement weather, I was not present for the vote series on Monday, February 2, 2015.

Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD  
(RFS) REFORM ACT

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2015*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues Representatives PETER WELCH, STEVE WOMACK and JIM COSTA as we introduce the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Reform Act, a common sense solution to ensure that renewable fuels compete fairly in the marketplace and avoid causing unintended and negative consequences for American consumers.

The federal government's creation of an artificial market for the ethanol industry has quite frankly triggered a domino effect that is hurting our nation's consumers, energy users, livestock producers, food manufacturers, retailers, and natural resources. Renewable fuels play an important role in our all-of-the-above energy policy, but should compete fairly in the marketplace and not be the beneficiary of an anti-competitive government mandate.