

AmeriCorps and Senior Corps involve over 5,000 individuals at more than 640 locations.

In honor of National Service Recognition Day I encourage citizens to join me in recognizing the positive impact of national service, to thank those that serve, and to find ways to become involved in their cities and communities.

CONGRATULATING JIM THOME ON INDUCTION INTO GREATER PEORIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of baseball player and Peoria native, Jim Thome, who will be inducted into the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame on April 11, 2015.

Mr. Thome's roots in America's pastime run deep in the Illinois community, having played at Limestone High School in Bartonville and at Illinois Central College in East Peoria. He will be joining his father, grandfather, uncle, and aunt in the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame, all of whom are recognized for their contributions to baseball and softball.

His professional achievements on the baseball diamond are highlighted by his 2,328 career hits, 5 time selection to the Major League Baseball All-Star game, and 612 homeruns, placing him as seventh on the all-time home-run list.

As someone who my late brother, Dan Calahan, considered a personal friend, Mr. Thome is as exemplary off the field as his feats are on the field. Jim and his wife, Andrea, are actively involved in a number of causes, which include helping underserved children find adoptive and foster families, improving the quality of care at Illinois Children's Hospital, and aiding tornado victims in Washington, Illinois.

Jim has been recognized twice for his dedication to community service by being awarded Major League Baseball's Marvin Miller Man of the Year Award, which is given to the athlete who best exemplifies success in their community, as well as on the field.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE KEITH C. SORENSEN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and extraordinary work of Keith C. Sorenson. Born on September 4, 1921, in Elsinore, Utah, he died in Redwood City, California, on March 20, 2015, at the age of 93.

Keith Sorenson was born and raised on a farm in Utah, the youngest of four children. He said "There's nothing better than living on a farm. If you ever really work on a farm, anything else you ever do seems easy." He

earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Utah, where he met his wife, Maxine Swinson. The family moved to Redwood City, California, and Keith joined a local law firm.

Keith Sorenson joined the San Mateo County District Attorney's office in 1949, and became District Attorney in 1953. He held the post and that of County Counsel for three decades until his retirement in 1982. During his tenure he hired Sandra Day O'Connor, a Stanford Law School graduate who was unable to obtain employment as an attorney because she was a woman. He helped found the One Hundred Club, an organization that supports the families of slain police officers.

Keith Sorenson was widely known and respected for his integrity and strong work ethic. Current District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe praised him, saying "He instilled in all of us the standard that justice and doing the right thing was the only choice for a prosecutor and that other considerations such as politics were irrelevant."

I am deeply saddened by Keith Sorenson's passing. He was a highly regarded public official, a man of enormous integrity, a trusted friend and mentor, and a source of great inspiration to me and countless others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and contributions of Keith Sorenson, a great and good man, and in extending our most sincere condolences to his son, Thomas. Keith Sorenson made San Mateo County, the state of California and our country stronger and better, and he will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

MATTEO ALOIA'S ESSAY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Matteo Aloia attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

UAV Drones can be defined as any unmanned aerial vehicle controlled from the ground. While drones are often associated with American military use, commercial drones have recently become quite popular. As UAV drones have risen to the forefront of the consumer market, they have began to pose real threats to both security and privacy.

The Washington Post claims that "The Federal Aviation Administration recently

released a report detailing more than 190 safety incidents involving drones and commercial aircraft." The Washington Post also claims that "The US. military is rightfully worried that drones will be weaponized as killing machines and become autonomous flying IEDs (improvised explosive devices)". An example that could have turned to tragedy when, last year, a UAV drone landed on the White House Lawn, unbeknownst to the President's security detail. There was no malicious intent from the drone or its operator. However, if this drone had been intending to do damage, it obviously had the means to do so.

Many UAV drones are also equipped with audio and video capabilities. This begs the question of privacy on American soil. If anyone can fly a drone outside your house and see what you're doing, how can anything be truly private? According to Brookings, an online news source, "unlike some state houses, the U.S. Congress hasn't seriously considered or passed a bill to set general privacy standards or to regulate drones and privacy specifically". While certain state governments have ruled on the nature of privacy in relation to drones, the federal government has yet to reach a decision, and perhaps has not even seriously considered the issue. This could pose a major risk to American's individual freedoms through the invasion of privacy.

In summary, UAV Drones pose several major risks to the American lifestyle. The first risk is one of security, in that drones are difficult to detect and can be easily equipped with IED's. The second risk is one of morality, in that drones can be used to pry into the personal lives of American citizens. Without action from the government, the problem of drones will go unsolved.

HONORING DAVID PLANK

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding achievements and successful career of David Plank from Salem, Missouri. For over fifty years, David Plank has created beautiful watercolor paintings of birds that have been recognized and admired all over the country.

David Plank's talented skills derive from a dedication and passion for the arts, rather than from formal training. All of his drawings are completed in the open air and near the natural habitats of his subjects. David Plank never uses photographs, he captures the posture and attitude of his subjects in his drawings, and then he goes inside and paints. This unique process is what has worked for David for so many years; he estimates he has painted more than 1,400 birds throughout his career.

Among his accomplishments, he has painted eleven covers for Bird Watcher's Digest and been featured in exhibits at the Springfield Art Museum and Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum. David hopes his paintings will continue to reflect the good feelings and thoughts he has for birds to future generations of onlookers.

For his many contributions to the arts and his many successes, it is my pleasure to recognize David Plank before the United States House of Representatives.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 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 \$18,152,054,202,954.52. We've added \$7,525,177,154,041.44 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 TUNICA TEENS IN ACTION, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. (Concerned Citizens for a Better Tunica County) is an African-American, grassroots, community based, and community lead, leadership development organization that is rooted in empowering the African-American low-income communities in Tunica County, MS and the Mississippi Delta since 1993.

Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. was formed in July 1999 when the young members of Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County decided that they wanted more individualized training to help them do better community organizing work with their adult allies. Tunica Teens In Action started out with 17 young people ranging between the ages of 11–20 who were led by Ashley N. McKay. These bright young people realized that they needed to develop their skills to help the community and themselves to succeed in a school system that had been on academic probation for over ten years.

Tunica Teens In Action was formally incorporated in 2011 and fully transitioned from Concerned Citizens FABTC, Inc. as a youth and female led youth of color organization. Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community leadership development organization.

Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County was formed in 1993 when African-American grassroots low-income moms, dads, students, and other community activists came together to fight for education reform and fairness in Tunica County, MS. At that time, Tunica County was one of the poorest counties in the United States and when Rev. Jessie Jackson visited Tunica in 1985 he labeled it "America's Ethiopia" because of the devastating housing, economy, and community needs. Since 1993, Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County had been a leadership development and empowering organization for Education Reform, Youth Leadership Development, Housing and Job Reform, Democracy Organizing, and Environmental Justice. Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County, Inc. formally incorporated in 1997 and was a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County, Inc. (Concerned Citizens) is a rural broad based grassroots community leadership development, education, and training organization working to empower the community by developing new grassroots leaders and organizers in Tunica County, Mississippi. Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County, Inc.'s mission is to empower the disadvantaged and low income community (families) of color by building leadership and organization, involving students and parents using the intergenerational model, (young people and old people working together), in the community of Tunica County, MS.

"Empower" is defined as the effective participation of the community to impact the formation of public policy and effective participation in the decision making process in the educational, economic, political, environmental, and social change systems with a special emphasis on education policy in the Tunica School District that will help to create a first-rate quality public educational opportunity for all families in Tunica County and the country. With roots in the struggle for education justice, Concerned Citizens has evolved into a multi-issue community based organization that is led by low-income people of color.

The TRANSITION to TUNICA TEENS IN ACTION: Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. mission is to develop young leaders, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, who will be able to effectively participate in their community by developing the educational skills, technical skills, and understanding thru community organizing using the intergeneration model since 1993.

Tunica Teens In Action's program of work is rooted in leadership development and local community organizing that uses an inter-generation model to empower the low income communities of color. Most of Tunica Teens In Action work occurs at community trainings/ workshops, at public actions to demonstrate community power, through collaborations and coalitions, social media, and in small one-on-one meetings to help educate ourselves and community.

Major Accomplishments: Prevented the white farmers from re-segregating the Robinsonville and Casino Community (1995).

Prevented the Tunica County Board of Supervisors from Abolishing the County Voter Rolls (1996).

Helped to get the Robinsonville Elementary School built for/near the Black Community (1998).

Helped to get the Tunica County School District to a "Successful" academic rating (2011).

Provided youth leadership and education training to over 25,000 persons (1993–2015).

Non-partisan Democracy Organizing—Accountable Governance trainings that helped to create over 30 new African-American accountable elected officials (2005–2015).

Provided private education college scholarships to over 200 high school graduates (1999–2014).

Provided redistricting training to community to help re-shape policy and power in Tunica County, Tate County, Panola County, Sunflower County, Tallahatchie County, Marshall County, Desoto County, Coahoma County, Lee County, Pontotoc County, and Green County (2002 and 2012).

Established P-16 Community Engagement Councils to help parents and students to have

a voice in the creation of education policies for their children (2011–2015).

The staff includes Ashley N. McKay—Executive Director, Mildred P. Conley—Assistant Director, Marilyn L. Young—Education Director, Melvin Young—Resource Director, 4—Youth Interns, and a host of community and volunteers. TTIA has a 9 member Board of Directors that govern the organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. for their dedication to serving their community and this great state and country.

CONGRATULATING IOWA'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the collegiate basketball teams from the great state of Iowa on their seasons and their 2015 NCAA Tournament success.

The University of Iowa Hawkeyes Women's team finished the regular season 26–8, earning a #3 seed in the NCAA Tournament's Oklahoma City region. The Hawkeyes reached the "Sweet Sixteen" after wins over American University 75–67 and the University of Miami (FL) 88–70.

The Hawkeyes Men's team finished the regular season 22–12, earning a #7 seed in the NCAA Tournament's South region. The Hawkeyes defeated the Davidson Wildcats 83–52 in the second round.

The Iowa State University Cyclones Men's team finished the regular season 25–9. The Cyclones won the Big 12 tournament with a 70–66 victory over the Kansas Jayhawks in the championship game and earned a #3 seed in the NCAA Tournament's South region.

Finally, I am proud to congratulate the University of Northern Iowa Panthers Men's team, from my district, finished the regular season an astonishing 31–4. The Panthers won 16 straight games down the stretch and eventually won the Missouri Valley Tournament Championship, defeating Illinois State University by a score of 69–60 in the championship game. UNI earned a #5 seed in the East region and defeated the University of Wyoming Cowboys 71–54 in the second round.

In week 11 of the regular season, all three Iowan Men's programs were nationally ranked in the AP Top 25 poll with the Hawkeyes at #25, the Panthers at #20, and the Cyclones at #9. As a proud Iowan and devout college basketball fan, I extend my congratulations to coaches, Lisa Bluder and Fran McCaffery from Iowa, Fred Hoiberg from Iowa State, and Ben Jacobson from UNI, and their student athletes on successful seasons and I look forward to cheering them on again next year.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WILLIAM A. NACK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary leader and a valued