

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

friend of many years, William A. Nack. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, raised in San Francisco and has been a resident of San Mateo County, California for more than half a century. For the past 16 years he has been the able and highly regarded Business Manager and Executive Officer of the Building and Construction Trades Council of San Mateo County, AFL-CIO, and retired on March 1, 2015.

Bill Nack demonstrated his leadership qualities at a young age when he attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1962. He earned an Associate Degree in Aeronautics, served in the U.S. Naval Reserves, and served as a Journeyman Mechanic with United Airlines where he began his close association with the union movement. He served as a union shop steward for 15 years, challenging management and championing workers. He served on union boards and committees and was a founding member of a coalition between the unions of machinists, pilots and flight attendants. Bill Nack was also a delegate to the San Mateo County Central Labor Council and chaired its Legislative Committee.

From 1987 to 1989, Bill Nack was the Assistant Business Manager for the Central Labor Council of Santa Clara and San Benito Counties, and from 1989 to 1999 served as the Deputy Executive Officer of the Santa Clara and San Benito Building and Trades Council. In 1999, Bill became the Business Manager and Executive Officer of the San Mateo Building and Trades Council, leading 14,000 union construction crafts men and women. During his time as Executive Officer he negotiated 45 Project Labor Agreements and Letters of Commitment, representing more than \$16 billion in projects that employed union members. He ensured that all of the projects were environmentally responsible and respectful of union members, their wages and working conditions. Bill has served with great distinction on many state and local boards and commissions, and is the devoted husband of Rayna Lehman and the proud father of their twin sons, Patrick and Benjamin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in honoring the extraordinary work of Bill Nack, a great and good man, and a person of enormous integrity, and wish him every blessing in the years to come. He has strengthened and bettered our community and our country with the work of his life and I will always be grateful to have worked with him and to call him my friend.

IN HONOR OF THE 57TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. MELVIN AND MRS. FRIEDA DOW

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Melvin and Mrs. Frieda Dow on their 57th Wedding Anniversary, which occurred on March 23, 2015.

Marriage is one of the most sacred and intimate covenants that two people may enter into, and the Dows' attainment of 57 years of matrimony is worthy of commendation. May their union continue to be richly blessed as they work collectively to nurture each other, their lovely family, and their community. I am

certain that the love and care that they have for one another will continue to grow and flourish in years to come.

As we celebrate the matrimony of the Dows, we also honor their large family which currently includes five sons and twelve grandchildren. I salute the Dows on their wedding anniversary, and I know that their love will continue to be an inspiration to us all.

TAYLOR NGUYEN'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.

Taylor Nguyen attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: select an important event that has occurred in the past 15 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

During the past 15 years, America has experienced dramatic occurrences such as Hurricane Katrina and the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster. Technology such as the iPhone, has immensely improved our means of communication. However, the greatest impact on the United States was the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001. On this day the deaths of over 3,400 people, including police officers and firefighters, transformed the United States forever. Since 9/11, airports have been reconstructed to operate with thorough security measures, amidst the oversight of the government instituted Department of Homeland Security. Advanced searches on people and luggage have successfully prevented another hijacking on American soil. Unfortunately, the terrorists claimed devotion to Islam have ram shacked some American's views of the Muslim community.

This tragic affair became a catalyst for protection from future catastrophes. On November 25th, 2002, Homeland security was established. Not only do they inhibit terrorist strikes, but they also monitor cyberspace and oversee our borders. The department's border security techniques have been scrutinized. Yet terrorists have been detained, and eradicated (i.e. Osama Bin Laden) as a result of the department's hard work and commitment to the American people.

The sector of Homeland Security that Americans encounter most often in the Transportation Security Administration, or TSA. This department was designed to take further precautionary measures prior to boarding an aircraft. The American people have complained that TSA is time consuming, and violates an individual's civil liberties. There have even been claims of racial profiling. TSA has received negative commentary; however the overall actions are necessary for the safety of the American people.

The Muslim Community has been dramatically affected. A poll taken one month after

the 9/11 attacks by ABC news, announced that 47 percent of Americans appreciated the lives of Muslim Americans. On the most recent anniversary of the disaster, the poll was recalculated and the response was a devastating 27 percent.

Due to the terrorists claiming to be devout Islamists and Al Qaeda participants, a negative stigmatism has spread rampantly throughout the United States in the reflection of the Islamic community. Hopefully through education and understanding, Americans can welcome our Islamic community with open arms.

September 11th was a great loss for the victims' families, whose lives were forever broken, and a travesty for all of America. In the years following the attacks, America has taken a no tolerance stance against terrorism within our country and all over the world. With pride and justice, the lives lost will not have been taken in vain. They have paved a road of stronger security, and saved lives in the process. Although we have a long road ahead, we will remember, and we will build from the rubble a stronger, more valorous United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ISMAIL KADARE, ALBANIAN POLITICAL EXILE FROM FRANCE AND WINNER OF THE JERUSALEM PRIZE FOR 2015

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ismail Kadare, the Albanian political exile from France, distinguished Albanian author and winner of the Jerusalem Prize for 2015. Kadare is a novelist and poet who has written about Albanian history people and while delving deeply into the universal themes of freedom and human rights. He is one of Albania's most highly-regarded authors, having written about its previous totalitarian regime and Albanian culture and society. According to the panel that selected him as the Jerusalem Prize winner, Mr. Kadare "is a teller of fascinating stories who uses implied, indirect writing. He writes about collective guilt, and especially about the truth's failure to penetrate. He seeks to expose, while hiding his tracks in layers of myth and metaphor, questions for which there are no answers and crimes for which there is no atonement. Even though his subject matter and his protagonists are generally local, their significance and importance are beyond doubt universal."

Mr. Kadare's literary career is marked by several laudable achievements, such as the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences of France lifetime membership, Prix mondial Cino Del Duca award in 1992, the United Kingdom's Man Booker International award in 2005, and both the Prince Asturias Award for Literature and the Honorary Degree of Science in Social and Institutional Communication by the University of Palermo in Sicily in 2009. As a testament to the universal acceptance of his literature, Mr. Kadare's novels have also been translated into many different languages which now reach broad audiences across the globe. Such accolades and recognition only scratch the surface of Mr. Kadare's admirable commitment to exercising the sacred values of democracy regardless of the circumstances he faces.