

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

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 \$19,052,403,868,282.85. We've added \$8,425,526,819,369.77 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING LIEUTENANT DENNIS  
HOPSON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable law enforcer, Lieutenant Dennis Hopson.

On September 25, 1977, Pink Lee Hopson and Walter Williams gave birth to Dennis Hopson. On December 17, 1980, Pink Hopson married Johnny Gibson, who at that time was a father in his life and raised Dennis. Lieutenant Hopson has resided in Tunica County for 38 years. He is a 1996 graduate of Rosa Fort High School in Tunica, Mississippi.

His first job was with Parker Tractor as a parts delivery person, where he learned how to sell parts. In March 1998, he joined the Tunica Volunteer Fire Department and attended the Mississippi Fire Academy for training. In October of 1999, Dennis began working for the Tunica County Sheriff's Department as a jailer for four years. In September of 2003, he attended the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer Training Academy and received certification in November of that same year. At that time, he became a Deputy Sheriff with the Tunica County Sheriff's Department. Since his employment with Tunica County Sheriff's Office, he has served in many capacities, such as: County Fire Arson Investigator; Warrant Officer; Sex Offenders Registry Officer; Emergency Vehicle Operator Instructor; Field Training Officer, Task Force Team—Homeland Security; Emergency Response Team (ERT); Patrol Supervisor and Crime Stoppers Program of Tunica County. He is a member of the Tunica County Color Guard Team. At the present time, Mr. Hopson still holds these positions. In September 2014, he was assigned to the United States Marshals Task Force in Oxford, Mississippi.

Mr. Hopson is married to Stacy L. Hopson, wife of 16½ years, who works as a teacher at the Institute of Community Services (ICS Head start) for the last year. He is a devoted father of three children. Mr. Hopson's goals are to continue to serve and protect the citizens of Tunica County for many more years to come, through God and determination and will continue to make a difference in his community. Mr. Hopson possesses sound judgment, a great sense of accountability to the citizens of Tunica County and an irreproachable profes-

sionalism. He is a God-fearing individual who seeks to serve the citizens of Tunica County with the utmost respect, dignity and honesty. His reputation as a Deputy Sheriff is very well trusted and dependable.

In 2010 and 2011, he lost both of his parents, but never gave up on life. He kept the faith and allowed God to lead him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lieutenant Dennis Hopson for his dedication in being a respected and outstanding Law Enforcer.

FOOTHILLS CREDIT UNION

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Foothills Credit Union for receiving the Small Business of the Year award from The West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

The Small Business of the Year award is awarded to a business with 50 employees or less and is engaged in improving the business community in Jefferson County.

Offering its members a unique credit builder program, as well as bilingual services and tax refund anticipation loans, Foothills Credit Union has served the community for more than 68 years.

Foothills Credit Union has been the Donation Sponsor for The West Chamber's Celebrate Women event, donating more than \$9,000 to the honorees' non-profits.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Foothills Credit Union for their honor by The West Chamber. I have no doubt Foothills Credit Union will exhibit the same dedication and service to its community in the future.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MR.  
DAN NELSON

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my good friend Dan Nelson, who is retiring after 24 years as the original Executive Director of the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority. Since its inception the Water Authority has been well-served by Dan's brilliance, positive outlook, enormous knowledge and engaging personality.

Dan was educated at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and Fresno State after having grown up in Los Banos, California. Dan brought the experience to the fledgling Water Authority that he gained as General Manager of the San Luis Water District (1987–1991) and the Broadview Water District (1979–1987), as well as experience in the Operations Division of the San Luis Canal Company (1977–1979).

As Executive Director Dan promoted respect, integrity, fairness, creativity, drive and a deep appreciation of family among those that he worked with. To address the complex issues before the Water Authority Dan had the vision to create a three-legged strategy for

both short and long-term issues: administrative engagement, regulatory/legislative engagement, and litigation. This approach fostered a framework for thoughtful decision-making during challenging times.

Dan served the water community outside of his responsibilities with the Water Authority by participating in numerous water-related organizations such as the Land Preservation Association, California Irrigation Institute, Association of California Water Associations, California Water Education Foundation and many other boards, committees, and stakeholder groups.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me, as well as the entire San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority family, in recognizing Dan Nelson's 24 years of service.

IN MEMORIAL RECOGNITION OF  
THOMAS TIGUE FOR A LIFETIME  
OF SERVICE TO THE COMMON-  
WEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Tigue, who passed away Monday, February 1, 2016. As a war veteran, school board member, state representative, father, and grandfather, Tom's life was one dedicated to helping others. Tom will be honored posthumously by the Pittston Sunday Dispatch, receiving the paper's Joseph Saporito Sr. Lifetime of Service Award.

Born and raised in Hughestown, Thomas was a graduate of St. John the Evangelist High School in Pittston in 1964. He received his degree in Government from King's College in Wilkes-Barre while also serving as a reservist in the Marine Corps. Following graduation, Tom married and deployed to Vietnam. While serving as an Infantry Platoon Commander, Thomas earned a Silver Star for gallantry in combat. He remained with the Marine Corps Reserve for 27 years before returning to work as a counselor at Hickory Run State Park in White Haven and as a computer program analyst for Metropolitan Life Insurance, both while taking business classes at King's College. From 1977–1979, Tigue served on the Pittston Area School Board.

In 1980, Tom was elected as a Representative for the 118th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, serving the residents of Luzerne, Lackawanna, and Monroe counties. He remained in the State House for 26 years, retiring in 2006. During his tenure, Thomas served as the Democratic Chair of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, where he helped establish the Military Family Relief Assistance Program which provides assistance to eligible Pennsylvania service members and their family members financially impacted by military service. After his service in the legislature, Thomas worked as Managing Director of the Delaware River Maritime Enterprise Council until his retirement in 2010.

It is an honor to recognize an individual who led a truly outstanding life. I am grateful for all of the work Thomas did for his community and for the people of Pennsylvania. His passing,

only six months after his wife Dianne's passing, is deeply saddening, and he will be greatly missed by the many people he helped.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP MILES E.  
FOWLER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Bishop Miles E. Fowler, is celebrating thirty-eight years as pastor of Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, Bishop Fowler under the guidance and calling of God, began preaching the word of God forty-one years ago; and

Whereas, thirty-eight years ago upon becoming pastor at Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist Church, he has transformed the church into a City of Refuge for Saints in DeKalb County; and

Whereas, Bishop Fowler has been a trailblazer, teaching the gospel on a national and international level, motivating us all to live a life that is worthy of imitation of God's grace: humility, love, godliness, integrity and a commitment to prayer; and

Whereas, Bishop Fowler served our nation with honor as a member of the United States Air Force, past opening speaker for the Georgia State Senate and guest Chaplain for opening the United States Congress; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God continues to be a blessing to us as a spiritual leader, an educator and a community leader who not only talks the talk, but walks the walk; and

Whereas, Bishop Fowler is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, an author and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared with his Church, my District and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop Miles E. Fowler, as he celebrates his 38th Pastoral Anniversary; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim October 25, 2015 as: Bishop Miles E. Fowler Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of October, 2015.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REDUCING  
LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Reducing Long-Term Unemployment Act, to address one of the lingering workforce tragedies in today's economy—our long-term unemployed—and to keep the economy growing. Although the overall unemployment rate has fallen below 5 percent, Americans who have remained unemployed for longer than 27 weeks have not enjoyed a similar recovery. In January 2016, the number of long-term unem-

ployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was 2.1 million, which accounted for 26.9 percent of the total unemployed population.

To make matters even worse, the long-term unemployed now face employment discrimination as employers show reluctance to hire job-seekers because of the length of their unemployment. Therefore, my bill provides a necessary incentive to hire the long-term unemployed—a \$5,000 tax credit for employers against their payroll tax liability for each (net) new long-term unemployed person they hire. The tax credit is large enough to give employers an incentive to increase the hiring and wages of those who have been unjustifiably left behind, while ensuring that the economy benefits from their participation. The credit would be available to the broadest base of employers because every employer—government, non-profit, and for-profit—pays payroll taxes, and employers could claim the credit on a quarterly rather than annual basis. According to the independent, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the proposal would "increase both output and employment," through four mechanisms: (1) with lower employment costs, employers would reduce the costs of their products and services, which, in turn, would first boost sales and then hiring and hours worked; (2) employers would pass on some of the tax savings to employees in the form of higher wages or other compensation, which, in turn, would increase employees' purchasing power; (3) higher profits would lead to higher stock prices for public companies, increasing shareholders' wealth and therefore their willingness to spend; and (4) with lower employment costs, employers would increase hiring. The bill has safeguards to prevent employers from gaming the system, including denying a credit to an employer that fires one employee and hires a replacement in order to take advantage of the incentive.

For some time, it has been clear that targeted policies are necessary to address today's stubborn long-term unemployment rates. Without significant targeting, the long-term unemployed are in danger of becoming permanently unemployed. This group of competent and experienced Americans deserves better.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

DUANE PATTERSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Duane Patterson, owner of Body & Sole Connection, for receiving the Ambassador of the Year award from the West Chamber of Jefferson County.

The West Chamber Ambassadors are the hospitality arm of the Chamber. They help members by inviting them to events, introducing them to other members and making new members feel a part of the West Chamber family.

Duane Patterson embodies all the qualities of a great ambassador. His dedication to the West Chamber is evident in his diligent attention to his Ambassador duties. Duane is simply everywhere there is a West Chamber function—whether it's a ribbon cutting registering and greeting guests, or helping to set up for major events.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Duane Patterson for his well-deserved honor by The West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same commitment to the community in the future.

HONORING REV. ROBERT L.  
MILLER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a God-fearing and impressionistic man Rev. Robert L. Miller. Rev. Miller has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to serve God.

Rev. Miller has done many things throughout his life, but inside he has always been a preacher. At 89 years old, he can't see himself ever hanging it up, because it's his calling. Some of the members of the church have said their church will close its doors if he leaves.

He is currently serving five churches on a rotation schedule where he will do two services a Sunday except one Sunday a month, he only does one service.

Forty years ago in July is when he first took the pulpit at New Mount Zion M. B. Church. Eleven years later in June 1986, he began serving his fifth church, Locust Grove M. B. Church.

He also preached at Providence M. B. Church from 1971 until 1986. He has served as vice moderator of the Sharkey County Baptist Association and is currently the moderator of the Warren County Baptist Association.

He was ordained in December 1968 and started serving his first church just weeks later.

The profession is so much a part of his soul; oftentimes he slides into preacher mode mid-conversation. The only job Rev. Miller has ever had besides being a preacher was a letter carrier for 25 years.

At 18, Miller was drafted and left high school to join World War II. He spent time in France, England, Belgium and Germany as a medic. Once the war was over, he returned to Vicksburg to finish his high school degree at Bowman High School.

Rev. Miller married two years later and had eight children with his wife of almost 30 years. She passed away in 1979. He was remarried in August 2013 to Elsie Fisher Miller.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rev. Robert L. Miller for 40 years of service to New Mount Zion M. B. Church.

RECOGNIZING THE TOWN OF  
HAVERSTRAW

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Town of Haverstraw in Rockland County, New York, as it begins the celebration of its 400th anniversary year. I am honored to represent in the Congress this community with