

agreements have for our nation and our security. However, the costs borne by our local governments for providing social services to Compact migrants are unsustainable, and Congress must act to provide relief for affected jurisdictions who have spent millions of local funds to support the Compacts and migrants. COFA migrants make positive contributions to our communities, but insufficient support from the federal government causes a significant socioeconomic strain on our island communities.

This strain only increases, especially in the face of uncertain economic conditions in the Freely Associated States as well as the impact climate change is having on Pacific island nations. The bill I am introducing, as well as proposals that I have made in the past, will provide relief and empower local jurisdictions with solutions to reduce the burden of Compacts.

The best solution to Compact impact would be an increase in annual mandatory funding from the current \$30 million, divided among each of the affected jurisdictions, to the \$185 million recommended by the GAO. However, the current budget environment makes appropriating this difficult. Nonetheless I am proud to be a cosponsor of a bill introduced by Congressman TAKAI of Hawaii that would increase this annual appropriation, and I hope that we can at least have a debate on this measure.

However, as we work to find long-term solutions to Compact-impact, I believe that there are important fixes we can make that will provide much needed relief to our local governments without significant costs to taxpayers. The ideas that I incorporate into this bill are based on ways to reduce the burden with the in-kind contributions that our local governments have provided to support COFA migrants. This approach is a more budget-friendly way to address this daunting policy challenge. The bill's provisions address four areas where we can reduce the burden.

Firstly, my bill would permit the affected jurisdictions to use the cumulative amount that they have spent to provide social services to COFA migrants, towards the non-federal portion of providing Medicaid to their local residents. The bill proposes a new formula that would increase the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for each of the affected jurisdictions. This would go a long way towards alleviating the burden on affected jurisdictions by increasing the percentage assistance provided by the federal government for Medicaid.

Secondly, the bill would categorize elementary and secondary education-aged COFA students as federally connected students and make them eligible for Impact Aid. I understand the fiscal challenges that the Impact Aid community faces, and I am committed to working with them to address the effect this bill may have on them. The bill attempts to offset this effect by increasing funding authorization and ensures that we are not taking from one group to pay for another.

Thirdly, this legislation would clarify Congress's intent when we extended eligibility for housing assistance programs to COFA migrants. This bill ensures that U.S. citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent residents are not displaced when applying for housing benefits and that they are given priority when applying for these benefits.

Lastly, this bill would commission independent research on the viability of the current Compacts, and make recommendations on

policy alternatives moving forward. I hope this research will provide strategic guidance as we move towards renewal of the Compacts in 2023 and ensure that we are administering these agreements in the best way moving forward.

I am pleased to count my colleague Mr. TAKAI from Hawaii as an original cosponsor. As this Congress discusses solutions for the crisis in Puerto Rico, it is important that we also discuss challenges that the other territories face, especially the challenge of supporting the Compacts of Free Association. While the challenges facing affected jurisdictions are nowhere near as serious as Puerto Rico, doing nothing would only welcome economic and security challenges down the road. I look forward to this bill becoming law and being a tremendous help to jurisdictions affected by Compact impact.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify that on January 11, 2016 I was unable to vote on roll call votes 34 and 35 because I was attending to congressional business in my district.

On Roll Call Vote Number 34, on passage of H.R. 598, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "Aye."

On Roll Call Vote Number 35, on passage of H.R. 3231, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "Aye."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 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 \$18,888,640,000,429.69. We've added \$8,261,762,951,516.61 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH LEMM

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the service and sacrifice of my constituent, New York Police Department (NYPD) Detective and Staff Sergeant Joseph Lemm of West Harrison. A 15-year veteran of the NYPD and member of the Air National Guard, Staff Sergeant Lemm was killed alongside five other Americans in Afghanistan on December 21, 2015.

Staff Sergeant Lemm was a true patriot who dedicated his life to protecting others. To quote New York City Police Commissioner William Bratton, "he chose selflessness; he chose sacrifice; he chose to serve."

Staff Sergeant Lemm is survived by his wife, Christine, and two children, Brooke and Ryan. Tonight, Christine will accompany me to President Obama's final State of the Union Address. I urge my colleagues to honor her sacrifice and remember that each service member who loses his or her life leaves behind a circle of loved ones to whom we are also indebted.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Staff Sergeant Lemm's exceptional service to our country. We offer his family, friends, and community our heartfelt sympathy and will work to ensure that the loss of Staff Sergeant Lemm will serve as a reminder of the heroic sacrifices of our service members. I offer my deepest condolences to Christine, Brooke and Ryan on the passing of their husband and father, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Staff Sergeant Lemm's service and sacrifice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, on roll call nos. 34–35, my absence was attributable to numerous parish, legislative and state-wide inauguration ceremonies in Louisiana. In addition, I met with emergency response officials related to flood waters in the Atchafalaya River system. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On Roll Call Number 34: H.R. 598, Taxpayer Right to Know Act—yea.

On Roll Call Number 35: H.R. 3231, Federal Intern Protection Act of 2015—yea.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following Roll Call votes on January 11, 2016 and would like to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Number 34: YES

Roll Call Number 35: YES

TRIBUTE TO KATHY A. HOLTZMAN

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate from time to time we take the opportunity to recognize contributions that everyday citizens have made to our community and our nation. It is in that spirit that today we remember Kathy A. Holtzman of Richland Township, Cambria County, Pennsylvania.

Kathy served her community, her church, and her family with dedication and joy. When

she died at age 75 on December 6, 2015, she was survived by her husband, Robert, her daughter, Brenda, her grandchildren, Devin and Lea, her sister, Margery, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son, Brian.

Mrs. Holtzman was a devoted member of her parish, St. Benedict Catholic Church in Geistown, where she served as an usher.

A model citizen and public servant, she served as a Cambria County Commissioner for twelve years, four of those years as President Commissioner.

Before serving in this capacity, she fulfilled a variety of other important roles in her community: Co-Founder, along with Bill Stewart, of Penn Highlands Community College; Richland Township School Director; Republican State Committee Women; President of Cambria County Senior Citizens and Turner Apartments in Ebensburg; board member of the Salvation Army, Peniel Drug and Alcohol Program, and Johnstown Sportsmen's Club; and member of the Geistown-Richland Lions Club.

Mrs. Holtzman's family can be very proud of her legacy in the community where she without a doubt left a positive, lasting impact. Likewise, the citizens of Cambria County will continue to reap the benefits of Kathy's community engagements for years to come. Kathy Holtzman's life was a well-lived one in the service of others. It is an honor to recognize her today.

A TRIBUTE TO ROGER MAXWELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Roger Maxwell. Roger has been chosen for induction into the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) School of Music "Jazz Hall of Fame". He will be inducted on April 8, 2016 in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Roger was a graduate of the Iowa State Teachers' College, now known as the University of Northern Iowa. His years as an advocate for music and higher education, his talents as a composer of music educational materials, and his hard work as a founding member of the jazz program at UNI are all examples of his dedication to the art of music. It is a great honor to be chosen as a member of the "Jazz Hall of Fame" at UNI.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Roger for this award and for sharing his musical talents and knowledge. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Roger and wishing him nothing but continue success.

SIX-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HAITI EARTHQUAKE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, every year on January 12th we pause to remember the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010

and the 200,000 Haitians' lives claimed by the disaster. The United States has stood firmly with the people of Haiti as they have endeavored to recover and rebuild.

As the Ranking Member of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, I remain deeply committed to the close relationship between our two countries and to economic development, democratic governance, and the promotion of human rights on the island.

For these objectives to be achieved, the people of Haiti must have their voices heard through free, fair, and transparent elections. The current political impasse serves no one. Haiti's leaders and its people must work together to complete the electoral process and ensure a peaceful transfer of power next month.

I am proud to represent many Haitian Americans in Rockland and Westchester Counties, and I will continue to work with my constituents on our shared goals of democracy, prosperity, and success for the Haitian people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, on January 8, 2016, I was detained in my district attending a memorial service for Loyd Lewis Matthews who was killed while on active duty with the Air Force in 1952. His remains were only recently discovered.

On roll call numbers 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32, had I been present, I would have voted NO. On roll call number 33, I would have voted YES.

IN HONOR OF NICHOLAS A. TOUMPAS, COMMISSIONER OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the significant contributions Nicholas A. Toumpas has made to the State of New Hampshire during his tenure as the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services is the states' largest department, and, as the agency responsible for many of the States' vulnerable citizens, one of its most important. During Nick's time as the commissioner, the Department faced many challenges, from shrinking budgets to growing demand for the Department's services. In true Granite State fashion, he saw these challenges as opportunities and tackled them straight on. Nick played a leading role in the implementation of Medicaid expansion, helping to increase access to health insurance for thousands of Granite Staters. New Hampshire is a healthier state because of Nick's time as commissioner.

Commissioner Toumpas' commitment to the Granite State has made it a better place for all of its residents. As one of New Hampshire's representatives in Congress, I am honored to commend him for his distinguished service, and wish him the best of luck in the next chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING MR. GABRIEL CAMARILLO

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Gabriel "Gabe" Camarillo, as he transitions to a new role as the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. In his new role, Mr. Camarillo will be responsible for a four-division department that develops policy and provides oversight of manpower, military and civilian personnel, Reserve component affairs, and readiness support for the Department of the Air Force.

Mr. Camarillo has served in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology) since 2010, as a Special Assistant to the Honorable Heidi Shyu, and later as her Principal Deputy. In this role, he has been responsible for assisting the Assistant Secretary in overseeing the Army's 5,000-person acquisition workforce, managing over 600 Army programs, and overseeing contracts in excess of \$125 billion.

In addition to working for Assistant Secretary Shyu, Mr. Camarillo is also an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute where his classes focus on political participation.

Mr. Camarillo is a proud native of El Paso, Texas' Vista Hills neighborhood on El Paso's East side. He attended J.M. Hanks High School, where he was a debate champion.

As Mr. Camarillo transitions to his new role with the Department of the Air Force, I know that he will provide our nation's Airmen with the same quality support that he has provided to our Soldiers for the last six years. I am thankful for the service of this effective and capable leader and wish him the best of luck during his upcoming transition and in all future endeavors.

HONORING MR. TOM DEBLASS

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tom DeBlass of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, and to express my sincerest commendation as to all of his accomplishments.

Mr. DeBlass has been named to the New Jersey Martial Arts Hall of Fame as a Grappler. He has won titles such as the Pan American and World Championships. Beyond his personal feats on the mat, Mr. DeBlass has devoted his time to giving back to his community by opening his own Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy.