

hushpuppies, but for the special brand of humor and entertainment Gator brought to each and every family that walked through the door.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the life and legacy of William Earl "Gator" Farrington. My wife Vicki and I extend our deepest prayers and condolences to his daughter, Lisa Jeffers; his son, William E. "Bill" Farrington, II; his four grandchildren, Jeffrey Bennett, Brandon Bennett, Zachary Farrington, and Abigail Farrington; two great-grandchildren, Allie Jae Bennett and Troy Bennett; and the entire Farrington family.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COUGARS VICTORY IN THE 2015 CHICK-FIL-A PEACH BOWL

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to commend the University of Houston's Cougars momentous 38–24 victory over the Florida State Seminoles in the 2015 Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl on December 31, 2015 at the GeorgiaDome in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Cougars were coached by Tom Herman and led by star quarterback, Greg Ward Jr., who dazzled a national television audience by running for two touchdowns and throwing for another touchdown.

Greg Ward Jr. also made history by becoming the first player in UH history to run and throw for 1,000 yards in a season.

Florida State trailed 21–3 at halftime, tried to rally with two fourth-quarter touchdowns but it was not enough to overcome the mighty Cougars defense, which held the Seminoles' star running back, Dalvin Cook, to just 33 yards and forced 5 turnovers.

The 38 points scored by the Cougar offense was the most points allowed this season by the mighty Seminole defense.

Mr. Speaker, the impressive victory in the Chick-fil-A Bowl is a wonderful capstone to a season for the ages and establishes the University of Houston as one of the Nation's great athletic and academic institutions.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 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 \$18,922,179,009,420.89. We've added \$8,295,301,960,507.81 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.

NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE FOR SPACE-BASED POSITIONING, NAVIGATION, AND TIMING CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the National Coordination Office for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing which recently celebrated its 10 year anniversary in November 2015.

The National Coordination Office, also known as the NCO, was established by a presidential directive under President George W. Bush. That directive provided guidance to government agencies on the management of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and other space-based Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) systems. It also established the National Executive Committee (EXCOM) for Space-Based PNT, which is chaired jointly by the Deputy Secretaries of Defense and Transportation and includes their equivalents from the Departments of State, the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Homeland Security, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The NCO is a cadre of senior advisors from the EXCOM member agencies and has become a linchpin for national GPS policy information. Earlier this year I worked with the NCO at a Space Power Caucus event on GPS. As chairman of the caucus, I presided over this event and was impressed by the educational information on how GPS works, how it affects our daily lives and critical infrastructure, and ongoing government efforts to maintain GPS as the "gold standard" for PNT around the world. The transparent operations of the NCO keep track of these vital efforts and inform the EXCOM agencies, Congress, and the public on Space-based PNT.

The NCO facilitates the implementation of EXCOM tasks and disseminates information about U.S. space-based PNT programs and policy through the official government GPS website at www.gps.gov.

The Department of Commerce and its Office of Space Commerce have hosted the NCO since 2005. This longstanding relationship was recently codified in law through the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act, signed November 25, 2015.

In ten years, the NCO evolved from an idea into an essential organization with significant impact within the space-based PNT community. NCO efforts ensure the EXCOM is an effective body for assisting national leaders in implementing national Space-based PNT policy.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge this organization on this milestone, and congratulate them on ten years of hard work and wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING MARY C. BLASI

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary C. Blasi, who is being honored

by the Wynmoor Democratic Club for her service to the community of Coconut Creek. Ms. Blasi has worked for the city of Coconut Creek for twenty years, becoming its first female City Manager in 2013.

Ms. Blasi is a graduate of Notre Dame University, and has a distinguished record of outstanding service to her community. After starting as the city of Coconut Creek's Director of Finance and Administrative Services in 1996, she served as Assistant City Manager in 2002 and became Deputy City Manager in 2008.

The Coconut Creek City Commission unanimously elected Ms. Blasi as City Manager in 2013. Since then, she has been responsible for the city's 110 million dollar budget, its 370 full time employees, and its continued day to day operations.

Throughout her career in public service, Mary C. Blasi has shown herself to be an outstanding leader in her community. I am pleased to join the Wynmoor Democratic Club in honoring Ms. Blasi for her ongoing commitment to excellence and distinguished service to our community.

IN MEMORY OF MARILYN COY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Christmas Day, South Carolina lost one of its most dynamic citizens with the death of Marilyn Coy. Marilyn was symbolic of a political revolution of people moving as transplants from the Midwest and Northeast to the South, developing a two party system with Republicans growing from nonexistence to achieving a super-majority. The following tribute was published in The State newspaper of Columbia on December 27, 2015:

Marilyn Sue Coy, wife of Calvin Coy, left this earth for Heaven while at home on Friday, December 25, 2015, on the day we celebrate our Lord's birthday, Christmas. She was 83. Viewing and family visitation will be on Tuesday, December 29, 2015, from 6 to 8 pm at Caughman-Harman Funeral Home—Chapin Chapel, 123 Columbia Ave, Chapin, SC 29036. Services will be held on Wednesday, December 30, 2015, at 11 am at Chapin United Methodist Church, 415 Lexington Ave, Chapin, SC 29036. Interment to follow at Fort Jackson National Cemetery, 4170 Percival Rd, Columbia, SC 29229.

Born in Lake Cicott, Indiana, on May 11, 1932, to the late Horace and Suzie Julian, Marilyn Coy was preceded by her son Mark, her sister Norma Franzen, and her grandson Gabriel Coy. After 62 years of marriage, Marilyn leaves behind her husband Cal Coy, her daughter Laura Pike of Montauroux, France, and her son Bruce and wife Pamela Coy of Summerville, SC. She also leaves behind five grandchildren Jamie Pike, Alexia Pike and Caroline Pike of France, and Julian Coy and Carra and her husband Jesse Beam of South Carolina, and one great grandson, "baby Jack," son of Alexia Pike and Fabien Scervo of France.

Marilyn was an active member of every community where she lived. Her outspoken personality and drive has had a positive impact on every life she touched from immediate family, to friends, organizations and even the state of South Carolina which she loved so dearly. Marilyn and her husband Cal moved to Irmo, South Carolina in 1969 and

then to the Chapin community, living on Lake Murray since 1972. Long after moving to South Carolina, Marilyn learned that she was a direct descendant of the St. Julian's—French Huguenot settlers who came to the coast of South Carolina in the 1690's, first cousins to the Ravenels. A branch of the St. Julian family moved to Indiana, and dropped the prefix "St." from which Marilyn is directly descendant, her maiden name being "Julian." Although this fact was learned by Marilyn late in her life, it validated her immense love and connection to the state of South Carolina.

Among the many organizations that she freely gave her time and passions to, the following were some of her most cherished activities, in no particular chronology or preference. Marilyn absolutely loved being a Docent at the South Carolina Governor's mansion. She began doing this during the administration of the late Governor Carroll and Iris Campbell and continued this activity under many governors of both parties. Although inactive for several years, Marilyn remained on the Docent rolls until her passing. Marilyn was a member of Clemson University Extension's Town & Country Homemakers. She was a member and former president of the Evergreen Garden Club. She was a life member of the Eastern Star of Ohio, and a very proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. To say Marilyn was an avid reader is an understatement, devouring and collecting books of all sorts. She feasted on knowledge, always fresh with the news and sharp on history. From her early South Carolina years as a member of the Dutch Fork Republican Women's Club, many in the community knew Marilyn as a staunch political operative, with a passion and drive that helped many candidates reach their elected goals. As a testimony to this passion, Marilyn was a founding member of the Joe Wilson for State Senate Committee and a delegate to the State Republican convention for nearly 20 years.

Marilyn and her sharp wit thoroughly enjoyed an active social life as a member of the Chapin Hat Ladies, and as a charter member of the Carolinian Society where she cherished attending the annual ball. As a founding organizational member of the Chapin Community Theatre group, Marilyn also enjoyed nurturing and sharing her artistic talents with her paintings and by helping organize the Chapin Arts & Crafts Club. She loved to cook and to entertain, serving as host to many parties and events, including having her Bridge club at her home on many occasions. Whether for fun, or as a political forum for the candidates that she supported, Marilyn helped organize the first Chapin Labor Day Festival and Parade. Her family believes both reasons to be true. Marilyn was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary at Chapin Post 193, and she loved being a member of the Chapin United Methodist Church and was so thankful for all the ministerial support the Church had extended during her lengthy illness.

Marilyn loved and supported her husband, family and friends fiercely and selflessly, as an encouraging force behind others, never taking the spotlight for herself. Her compassion for others and charitable sacrifices will never be forgotten, and her faith in Jesus Christ places her in the Glory of Heaven with those that went before her, and with those who will follow. For all of those who knew Marilyn, the birthday party for our Lord Jesus in Heaven must have been a little livelier with Marilyn arriving on the day that we celebrate His birth, Christmas. A gift for Heaven for eternity, and a remembrance of the gift that she was to all of us who knew her here on this earth.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests for donations to made in her honor to the

Chapin United Methodist Church building fund, or the American Legion post 193 building fund, or the charity of their choice.

MOURNING THE LOSS AND HONORING THE UNFORGETTABLE LIFE OF NATALIE COLE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sadness and a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Natalie Cole, a woman who touched the hearts of millions of Americans.

Natalie Cole passed away, December 31, 2015 in Los Angeles, California; she was only 65 years old.

Natalie Cole's musical career began in 1975 when her debut album, *Inseparable*, was released and she became an instant star in the music industry.

With hit songs such as "This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)," Natalie Cole exploded onto the music scene, earning the young starlet her first two Grammy Awards—for best new artist and best female R&B performance.

In 1976 not long after *Inseparable* was released Cole married producer Marvin Yancy, with whom she welcomed her son Robert Adam Yancy into the world.

Natalie Cole's career began to climb to new heights throughout the 1970's, releasing four gold and two platinum records.

In 1979, Natalie Cole was honored on the Hollywood walk of fame, with a star of her very own.

Although this strong woman struggled with her own personal demons, she was able to face and overcome them and in the mid-1980's was back on top of the musical charts with the megahit, "Pink Cadillac."

In 1991, Natalie Cole released her career-defining *Unforgettable . . . with Love*, which paid tribute to her beloved father, the legendary and inimitable Nat King Cole.

Unforgettable sold more than 7 million copies and garnered several honors, including the coveted Grammy for Album of the Year.

Natalie Cole continued to release many other popular albums, including *Snowfall* on the Sahara and *The Magic of Christmas*, an album of holiday standards recorded with the London Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Speaker, truer words were never spoken than when Natalie Cole's family said that "Natalie fought a fierce, courageous battle, dying how she lived . . . with dignity, strength and honor."

Natalie Cole leaves behind a legacy as one of the most celebrated recording artists in history.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Natalie Cole who will forever remain *Unforgettable* in the hearts of her legions of fans around the world.

HONORING LORI FLORES

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Lori Flores, a native of the Rio

Grande Valley and a leading researcher in the fields of Latino and labor history.

Lori attended Yale University, and she was the first woman in her family to earn a college degree. At Yale, she realized her passion to study Mexican American history, ultimately leading her to earn a PhD from Stanford University. Lori's dissertation explored the political development of Mexican Americans and immigrants in California's Salinas Valley during the mid-1900s. Her research on the Latino civil rights movement culminated in the publication of a book which will be released this year.

Lori now teaches at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she nurtures the thinkers and dreamers of tomorrow. Dr. Flores has received numerous awards, and she continues to be a role model for young people in her community.

REITERATING THE NEED TO RESTORE THE VOTE IN 2016

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on the first Restoration Tuesday of the session to reiterate the ongoing and urgent need to protect the voting rights of all Americans. On behalf of the constituents we were sent here to represent, we must leave our inaction on voting rights behind in 2015! Now is the time to Restore the Vote!

It is completely unacceptable that this upcoming election in November will be our first presidential election in 50 years without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This Congress has had over two years to answer the Supreme Court's call to develop a modern day formula for preclearance. We should be embarrassed by our inaction. It is past time for this body to Restore the Vote!

Far too many of our constituents will face new barriers to voting this year. From African American communities in my home state of Alabama, to Native American communities in Alaska, to Asian American communities in California and Latino communities in Texas, thousands of minority communities across America will be met with modern-day barriers to the ballot box due to our inaction. Any attempt to restrict a certain portion of our electorate is a threat to our democracy, whether that is through voter ID laws, the closure of driver's license offices, or the scaling back of early voting. While these don't appear as egregious as literacy tests and poll taxes, they represent modern-day attempts to achieve the same goal—to restrict the vote of a portion of the electorate. This is a very old strategy used by individuals in our democracy who wish to silence the voices of entire groups of people.

Because of the Voting Rights Act, approximately 3,000 discriminatory voting changes were blocked from occurring from 1965 to 2013. In 1970, when the law was expanded to abolish literacy tests and lower the voting age to 18, the impact was significant as 9 million new voters were added to the roles.

As caretakers of our democracy, it is our shared responsibility to restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and renew our commitment towards voter equality. We must pass the Voting