

our junior ranking families. In addition, our USO mails over 15,000 goodie boxes to front line troops and distributes hundreds of calling cards for deployed troops to call home. Here in Jacksonville, the USO operates Internet cyber cafes, assists families and troops with programs like United Through Reading where the deployed member reads a book on a DVD to his or her children back home. Two of the USO's most popular programs are the Welcome Center at our airport and free or reduced cost tickets to local sporting and cultural events.

On February 4, 2016, the Greater Jacksonville Area USO will celebrate 75 years of serving our military and providing help on the home front for those who give their all for the security of this nation. The Greater Jacksonville Area USO is 100 percent self-funded and relies on donations from citizens and corporations like Boeing, Jacksonville Jaguars, W.W. Gay, VyStar Credit Union, Siemens, Northrop Grumman, Florida Blue, Jacksonville International Airport and the PGA Tour among others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House of Representatives to join me in acknowledging the 75th Birthday of the USO and its commitment to our active duty military.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 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 \$19,012,827,698,417.93. We've added \$8,385,950,649,504.85 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.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote number 46 on February 1, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOUG CROFT'S TENURE AS PRESIDENT OF THE THOMASVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Doug Croft for his 28 years of lead-

ership to the city of Thomasville, North Carolina through his work at the Thomasville Area Chamber of Commerce. I have seen firsthand the positive impact Mr. Croft has had on his community, and I know I will not be the last to say how much he will be missed.

Under Mr. Croft's exceptional leadership, the city of Thomasville rebounded from a period of manufacturing and furniture-building job loss during the recent recession. He successfully helped turn the city around and create a business-friendly and job-creating center within the state of North Carolina. In addition to his impact on the local economic recovery, Mr. Croft played a critical role in the City of Thomasville's selection as an "All-American City" for 2013, by the National Civic League.

Mr. Croft has also been instrumental in the development and implementation of two key city-wide initiatives, the "Envision 2020" strategic plan and the "Thomasville on the Move" capital raising campaign. In fact, as a result of his hard work on the "Thomasville on the Move" campaign, Mr. Croft was recognized in 2011 as the Chamber Executive of the Year for North Carolina by the Carolinas Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Doug Croft for his successful tenure as President of the Thomasville Area Chamber of Commerce, and wishing him well as he begins the next chapter of his already distinguished career.

#### HONORING LIEUTENANT DEBBIE PEECOCK

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Lieutenant Debbie Peacock, of the Napa Police Department, who is retiring after 30 years of service to her community.

Debbie Peacock joined the Napa Police Department on September 9, 1985, and eventually became the first woman in Napa police history to earn her current rank of lieutenant. In this role, Lieutenant Peacock oversees the Special Operations Division of the Napa Police Department. She manages the department's Investigations Bureau, Youth Services Bureau and the Homeless Outreach Program, while also heading Napa's Canine and SWAT Units. Lieutenant Peacock further serves as the liaison between the Napa PD and the Napa Valley Unified School District, the Napa County Office of Education, and Napa County Health and Human Services.

It is difficult to overstate the impact Lieutenant Peacock has had on our community. Her consistent leadership and activism have made her a well-known and well-liked figure, one whose advice is often sought out by community members. Her influence extends beyond her work in the Police Department, as Lieutenant Peacock also works with numerous organizations and foundations, including the Continuum of Care, the Napa County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Programs, the Catalyst Coalition and the Napa County DARE

and Safe Schools Foundations. She has a long history of social activism, supporting charity and nonprofit programs like Shop With A Cop, Community Action Napa Valley, and the Napa Valley Education Foundation. Lieutenant Peacock has consistently acted with remarkable dedication and character, and residents of Napa and the surrounding areas have benefitted enormously from her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Debbie Peacock has served her community with admirable integrity and commitment for three decades. It is fitting and proper that I honor her here today. I wish Lieutenant Peacock the best in her retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING THE PALM BEACH TOWN SQUARE PROJECT

#### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the unveiling of the newly renovated Palm Beach Town Square, and to thank those involved in the project for their hard work. On Sunday, January 31st, the Town of Palm Beach dedicated the newly renovated Town Square, a symbol of Palm Beach's rich and unique history.

The Palm Beach Centennial Commission, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Town of Palm Beach's incorporation, spearheaded the effort to renovate the square. Plans for the Town Square were first approved in 1929 by the Garden Club of Palm Beach, an organization which played a role in this recent renovation as well.

The project restored the famous Seahorse Fountain and the surrounding architecture and landscape. The fountain was designed by Addison Mizner in 1929 to honor the two Palm Beach pioneers: Henry Flagler, the founder of Palm Beach, and Elisha Newton Dimick, the town's first Mayor. Funding for the original fountain was a community effort fronted by Harold S. Vanderbilt and other Palm Beach residents. Along with the fountain, this historic square includes a Memorial Park and reflecting pool and Veterans memorial wall.

Just as the original fountain was made possible by Palm Beach residents in 1929, this renovation was a community effort. I would like to thank the local clubs and organizations, town officials, and those in the community who donated their time and funds to this endeavor for their commitment to the Town of Palm Beach.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 46 and 47, I was unable to cast my vote in person due to a previously scheduled engagement. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

A TRIBUTE: NATIONAL FREEDOM  
DAY ASSOCIATION

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate National Freedom Day 2016, a holiday established to recognize the day President Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment freeing enslaved Blacks. On February 1, 1941, Major Richard Robert Wright, Sr. invited national and local leaders to meet in Philadelphia to formulate plans to set aside February 1st each year to memorialize the signing of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution by President Lincoln on February 1, 1865. One year after Major Wright's death in 1947, a bill passed both U.S. Houses of Congress making February 1st National Freedom Day.

Major Wright is recognized as a post reconstruction pioneer and trailblazer who dedicated his life to establishing this national day of commemoration of freedom. Each year on the first day of Black History Month, National Freedom Day Associations in cities and states across the nation come together for this annual observance to promote goodwill, harmony and equal opportunity and to rededicate the nation to these ideals.

And, as we look back at the life of Major Wright, we discover a true American story of resilience, foresight and faith. He was born into slavery in 1855. And, as a child he encountered retired Union Civil War General Oliver Otis Howard, in an Atlanta classroom. Summoning up unbelievable courage he said, "Sir, tell them we are rising," as a way to help northerners understand the hope of newly freed Blacks. These words came to be Major Wright's lifelong mantra.

His personal "rising" included: serving as a major in the Spanish-American War, founding and leading Savannah State College; attending the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania at the age of 67; and, founding the Citizens and Southern Bank and Trust Company, in Philadelphia, the only northern Black-owned bank at the time.

Therefore, I am proud to honor the life and contributions of Major Wright, a great American visionary and trailblazer and the National Freedom Day Association as it stands as an historic reminder of our nation's promise of freedom and justice.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOANN  
GONYEA'S SERVICE TO THE CITY  
OF TRENTON

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joann Gonyea for her 31 years of service in the Parks and Recreation Department of Trenton, Michigan.

Joann began her career with the City of Trenton Parks and Recreation Department as a Program Coordinator in 1985. She became the Assistant Director in 1990 and served in that role for 20 years before being appointed Director in 2011.

Many of the events and activities for which Trenton has become known started with Joann. During an internship with Wayne County Parks 31 years ago, she designed the "Somewhere in Time" event which captures the spirit of the iconic Elizabeth Park in the early 1900's and engages residents with the history of their city. Joann has also been the driving force behind the "Community Builds" program and the "Healthy Trenton Initiative" which both promote healthy and active lifestyles by emphasizing teamwork.

Joann is instrumental in the success of community events in Trenton and is well known for her ability to organize and inspire volunteers. Many projects, including the recent addition of a playground to Affholter Park, are finished in record time due to the groundswell of community support Joann encourages. It's because she practices what she preaches, and generously dedicates her time to organizations throughout the Downriver community, such as the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance where she serves as a board member.

Joann is part of the heart and soul of Trenton, Michigan and the Downrivers. Tonight, we recognize Joann with the Duane Brannick award for outstanding service to the city, an award which is annually given to leaders in the city that go above and beyond. I know that Joann is the perfect recipient of this prestigious award and I am proud to call her a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Joann Gonyea for her 31 years of service to the city of Trenton. I thank her for her leadership, and wish her many years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENNIS  
HOLLOWAY'S SELECTION AS THE  
RICHMOND COUNTY CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE 2015 CITIZEN OF THE  
YEAR

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dennis Holloway for his selection as the Richmond County Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Citizen of the Year. Mr. Holloway represents the best our area has to offer, and this selection illustrates the profound impact he has had on our community.

Mr. Holloway decided early in life to dedicate himself to helping others in need, and he has not stopped that mission since. Mr. Holloway served in the United States Army as a member of the 82nd Airborne until he was honorably discharged in 1967 after serious injuries he sustained during a training exercise hindered his deployment. After surviving this harrowing ordeal, Mr. Holloway worked in the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for 30 years.

The list of charitable acts Mr. Holloway has carried out and the number of leadership positions within several community service organizations he holds demonstrates the commitment he has made to serving those in his community, and beyond. As a recovery team leader for the North Carolina Baptist Men, a nondenominational organization dedicated to providing relief to those in need, Mr. Holloway

and his team have done everything from traveling down to South Carolina to assist families recovering from the historic flooding that took place last year to building wheelchair ramps at the homes of disabled community residents. Mr. Holloway is an inspiration to all the Richmond County community and this award is truly a testament to the appreciation he has so rightfully earned.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Dennis Holloway for receiving this prestigious distinction, and wishing him well as he continues to serve the people of Richmond County, North Carolina.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote number 47 on February 1, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DIANE BLACK**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 46 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during roll call vote number 45 on January 13, 2016. I would like to reflect that on roll call vote number 45 I would have voted No.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 2016, I was unavoidably detained and missed recorded votes Number 46 through 47. Had I been present, on Roll Call Number 46, H.R. 2187—Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act, I would have voted YEA, and on Roll Call Number 47, H.R. 4168—Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act, I would have voted YEA.