

proudly join Dr. Gosney's friends, family, and colleagues in saluting his contributions to the Army and to the Central Texas community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF TIMOTHY BOWEN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the extraordinary career of Timothy Bowen as he prepares for his retirement from E.O. Smith High School at the end of the 2024–2025 school year.

Tim's remarkable 26-year career as a social studies teacher and student mentor at E.O. Smith will be long remembered by his unwavering diligence, inspiring pedagogy, and the profound impact he had on the lives of countless students. Throughout his distinguished tenure Tim did so much more than teach social studies; he embodied the very essence of the subject—he fostered critical thinking, civic engagement, and a deep understanding of the human experience within his students.

Tim's dedication extended far beyond the traditional classroom setting. The innovative and engaging activities he meticulously planned for his students epitomize what it truly means to be an educator in the 21st century. He cultivated a dynamic learning environment where history comes alive, government becomes relevant, and the complexities of society are explored with curiosity and intellectual rigor.

In 2007, Tim initiated the cherished annual tradition of a farewell celebration for students on the last day of school, a heartwarming display of faculty and staff unity that sets a positive tone for the summer ahead. Similarly, his establishment of a welcoming event for students on the first day of classes in 2015 demonstrates his proactive approach to fostering a supportive and inclusive school climate. His thoughtful recognition of the school cafeteria workers underscores his appreciation for the contributions of all members of the E.O. Smith family. Furthermore, his regular participation as a faculty player in the annual Unified Staff vs Student Basketball Game highlights his commitment to student engagement and inclusive activities. Tim's consistent presence as a chaperone for extracurricular events and his enthusiastic attendance at student performances further illustrate his deep investment in the holistic development of E.O. Smith students.

A cornerstone of Tim's impact lies in his tireless efforts to promote civic education. He established an annual Voter Registration Drive in 2010, and coordinated visits from locally elected officials, providing students with invaluable opportunities to engage directly with their government. Tim initiated another annual tradition in 2007 when he invited me as the Congressman for eastern Connecticut for a "Student Town Hall" to engage in a question and answer dialogue on a wide range of issues. Over the many years I participated in their visits, I am still deeply impressed by the thoughtful, well informed comments and questions students posed to me. It was obvious to me, that Tim's teaching plans and skills were instrumental in shaping and forming future citi-

zens, voters and activists in our region. Tim also has been a regular chaperone on field trips to Washington, D.C., where he organized meaningful itineraries in our Nation's capitol for students that brought the principles of American democracy to life. Locally, his coordination of field trips to the Connecticut State Capitol and Rockville Superior Court ensured that all levels and branches of our republic were included in his curriculum, which is essential to a lifetime of healthy citizenship.

Tim's passion for storytelling is evident in the way he empowered students to explore civic issues in-depth in a Civic Documentaries independent study, culminating in notable achievements such as the Quiet Corner Film Festival Award in 2017 and multiple accolades at the same festival since.

Tim's dedication to service extends to the veteran's community. His deep care for those who have served our Nation is evident in the holiday card drives he and his students coordinate at veteran's hospitals and coffeehouses throughout eastern Connecticut. He understands the importance of honoring our troops and made a point to let his students witness the Veteran Stand Down Day at the Rocky Hill Veterans Home and Hospital each year, fostering empathy and a sense of responsibility in them. His impactful work with and for veterans earned him a commendation and thank you from the commissioner of the Connecticut Veterans Affairs in 2024. His coordination of grave cleaning and flag placement on local veterans' graves for Memorial Day further underscores his dedication to connecting students with the veteran community.

Finally, Tim's commitment to student well-being is demonstrated in his coordination of student presentations of weekly Star Card drawings—an initiative to promote positive student behavior. As a member of the faculty Wellness Committee he helped to establish a "Wellness Corner" in classrooms—complete with reminders to help students know they are not alone in their daily struggles.

For his unwavering dedication, innovative spirit, profound impact on students, and exceptional contributions to E.O. Smith High School and the wider community, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the inspirational career of Timothy Bowen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call Vote No. 77 on March 27, 2025. Had I been present, my vote would have been: Nay on Roll Call Vote No. 77.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SUSTAINABLE BUDGET ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to focus attention on one of our most pressing crises: our rapidly deteriorating federal budget, crippled

by unsustainable annual deficits and accelerating overall debt. While most prefer to deny or explain it away, we all recognize it, and we all must address it.

Our federal budget operates on principles no different from those of a business or family budget. Revenues come from taxes and fees, and expenses from government operations. When revenues exceed expenses, the government runs a surplus. When expenses exceed revenues, the government runs a deficit.

The federal budget operates on a fiscal year, meaning surpluses and deficits are calculated annually. When the government runs a deficit in any given year, it must borrow money to cover the shortfall. This is done primarily through issuing government bonds. Additionally, we borrow from intragovernmental sources such as the Social Security Trust Fund, which must eventually be repaid in order to fund Social Security benefits.

We also pay interest on the money we borrow. The total amount borrowed, largely to cover accumulated net deficits over time, constitutes our national debt.

Much like a family or business, it is ideal to avoid deficits and debt. However, some level of debt can be acceptable so long as it is not chronic, not an excuse for irresponsible spending, and remains proportionate to our overall budget and our gross domestic product (GDP).

Sadly, none of these sound budgetary principles has been followed for a full generation now. The last time the United States had a balanced budget was in 2001. Since then, we have run deficits every year, and our total debt and annual interest on that debt have ballooned.

The highest recorded annual deficit was in 2020 during the COVID–19 pandemic, reaching \$3.1 trillion. Since then, the deficit has remained high, with the current year's deficit at approximately \$1.9 trillion. If we continue on this path, the annual deficit is projected to reach \$2.9 trillion by 2034.

Our national debt has reached unprecedented levels as well. In 2004, the total debt was \$7 trillion. By 2014, it had increased to \$18 trillion. In 2019, it stood at \$23 trillion. Today, our total debt has surpassed \$36 trillion.

Our gross debt-to-GDP ratio is now 124 percent, the highest it has been since the final years of World War II, when it peaked at 126 percent. If left unaddressed, this ratio is projected to reach 134 percent of GDP by 2034, with total debt climbing to \$57 trillion.

Additionally, we are now spending more on interest payments on our national debt than any other federal program except for Social Security, so including even defense or Medicare. Interest will rise from \$881 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 to \$1 trillion by FY 2026.

Failing to address our mounting debt and deficits has severe implications. It crowds out other critical spending in both defense and non-defense areas; reduces fiscal flexibility especially in times of crisis; contributes to inflationary pressures; slows economic growth; increases pressure to raise interest rates; creates national security risks, particularly as adversaries hold significant portions of our debt; discourages responsible budgeting practices on an international scale; and fuels arguments made by our adversaries in particular the People's Republic of China for replacing the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency.

In a Congress where we often repeat the platitude that our budget reflects our values, it is disturbing that the main common value reflected is fiscal unsustainability ranging to irresponsibility. We need look no further than a mirror for the root cause: our collective inability to face the music of fiscal responsibility and sustainability. It is clear that we need additional help to focus our Nation on the specific issues and collective decision-making required to stabilize our budget.

To set us on some path to righting our fiscal ship, I have introduced the Sustainable Budget Act with my colleagues Congressmen Steve Womack, Scott Peters and Zachary Nunn. Our bill will create a National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, similar to other such commissions past, to serve this function.

The commission would consist of eighteen members split between Democrats and Republicans, and would be charged with proposing recommendations designed to achieve a balanced annual federal budget within ten years and meaningfully improve the long-term federal fiscal outlook. This commission would also include recommendations to address the growth in entitlement spending, which we all, regardless of our views on the issue, know is a key fiscal concern on its current track.

The commission's final recommendations would be due to Congress by no later than one year after the Commissioners are appointed. If the proposal is supported by at least twelve members of the committee, including at least four members of each party, it would receive expedited consideration in the House and Senate, which would have to vote on the proposal.

A commission process has been utilized in other times of fiscal uncertainty and has facilitated some tough, but necessary, discussion. It has been attempted before in the federal fiscal context through various commissions such as Simpson-Bowles, which came close to succeeding in restoring some fiscal discipline in Washington. There is no reason to conclude that it would not work here, and every reason to conclude that absent such an approach we will be in far worse shape far faster than followed previous attempts.

We clearly need help with our collective inability to confront this reality. My Sustainable Budget Act is at least a start toward a solution.

I urge this bill's prompt consideration and passage.

HONORING DIETRICH D. JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dietrich D. Johnson.

Dietrich D. Johnson was born on October 26, 1963, in Como, Mississippi. He is the fifth child of Minnie B. Boyd and Moses L. Frazier, having one brother and three sisters.

He attended West Crenshaw Elementary School, West Crenshaw Junior High School, and North Panola High School in Sardis, Mississippi. He later pursued higher education at Mississippi State University, where he studied Industrial Psychology and Computer Science.

Dietrich served in the United States Air Force and is now a disabled veteran. He was employed with Bridgestone Tire Company for 15 years, during which he served as Chief Steward for United Steelworkers Union Local 1055. He also held the position of Vice President of the Nashville Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute. He is a graduate of the AFL-CIO Leadership Institute and served as a Trustee on the Nashville/Middle Tennessee Central Council Executive Board, as well as Supervisor of the Mississippi Delta Services Corporation. He is a member of the Community Census Redistricting Institute and the Southern Coalition for Social Justice. Mr. Johnson has participated as a panelist at the Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference and the "Fighting Climate Change and Building the Clean Economy from the Bottom Up" conference.

At the request of Julius Harris, Dietrich returned to Mississippi to contribute to his community. Upon returning, he joined the Panola County Democratic Party and was elected as a voting delegate to the 2012 National Democratic Convention and to the Mississippi Democratic Party Executive Board. Previously, he served as the Election Commissioner for District 2 and collaborated with the USDA and Alcorn State University to provide technical assistance for sustainable farming practices. Dietrich established a family farm and later transitioned it into a sustainable farming operation.

Dietrich is an active member of Shiloh C.M.E. Church, where he serves as both a Trustee and Treasurer.

Dietrich is a seasoned public servant with 15 years of dedicated service to labor advocacy and community engagement. A skilled strategist and organizer, he possesses a unique ability to build strong relationships, foster collaborative solutions, and mobilize teams toward shared goals.

Dietrich's commitment to public service is further evidenced by his involvement in initiatives such as the Community Census and Redistricting Institute and the Tennessee Immigration and Refugee Rights Coalition. He has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of community needs and a strong desire to empower individuals and create positive change.

Dietrich has a strong passion for making a difference in the Panola County community. His ability to articulate a compelling vision and motivate others to action has made him an invaluable asset to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Dietrich D. Johnson for his dedication in serving his community.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEFF DAVISON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lt. Col. Jeff Davison, U.S. Air Force, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Over his two-decade long career in the Air Force, he embodied the courage, honor and commitment that make our military the world's premier fighting force.

Lt. Col. Davison had a distinguished career specializing in the F-111 aircraft, serving as a Fighter Pilot, Flight Examiner, Instructor, Test Pilot, and Air Force Exchange Officer to Australia. His leadership extended across various levels of the Air Force, including roles as Flight Commander of the 54th Fighter Training Squadron at Reese Air Force Base, Chief of Airspace at Randolph Air Force Base, and Air Force Reserve Commander at Reese Air Force Base. In 2004, Lt. Col. Davison took on the role of Director of Combat Operations for the NORAD Continental Region, where he managed all U.S. alert fighters and oversaw Presidential support. He earned numerous accolades, including three Top Gun awards and a Meritorious Service Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters.

After retiring from the Air Force, Lt. Col. Davison has continued to serve his community. He is an active member of the Central Texas Chapter of the Military Officers' Association of America since 2015 and served as president in 2022. Lt. Col. Davison volunteers for the Alzheimer's Association and continues to contribute to the Longest Day fundraiser. Guided by his faith, Lt. Col. Davison is an active member of First Baptist Church in Temple, and in 2019 became Chairman of the Committee on Committees.

Lt. Col. Davison leads with strength, integrity, and drive in each community he joins. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation, and I am proud to honor his outstanding achievements.

RECOGNIZING COLLIN MILLER FOR EXEMPLARY WORK AND DEDICATION

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Collin Miller for his exemplary work and dedication to the people of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District.

Roughly four years ago, Collin joined my staff as a Military Legislative Assistant, where he handled armed services and worked in Congress to support our troops. Utilizing his experience from the Department of Defense, Collin helped me introduce and push forward key bills, including the General Thaddeus Kosciuszko Memorial Exchange Program For Polish-American Defense Cooperation Act, the Special Relationship Military Improvement Act to strengthen arms-sharing with the United Kingdom, and a congressional resolution and NDAA amendment to protect servicemembers from COVID vaccine mandates. Collin was a master of legislative strategy, adept at crafting impactful speeches and shepherding my bills through committee.

Within just a year, Collin's hard work and strategic expertise earned him a promotion to Legislative Director. He was instrumental in getting my Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act signed into law, a version of my SCREEN Act passed in the FY24 NDAA, and five of my bills included in the FY25 NDAA.

Collin's accomplishments will have lasting impacts on our Nation, and he did it all without asking for recognition. From his support for our farmers to his dedication to our nation's