

A TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE AND  
JENNIFER COMPTON

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Catherine and Jennifer Compton of Ames for each receiving a coveted Fullbright award to study and conduct research abroad this academic year.

The Fullbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. This program is known as America's flagship international exchange program. First established by Congress in 1946, the Fullbright Program has served the purpose of building mutual understanding between American citizens and the rest of the world. Appropriations from the United States Congress, participating foreign governments, and private sector contributions fund the Fullbright Program. The program has exchanged over a quarter of a million people in more than 155 countries, since its inception. Catherine's host country for the 2011–2012 academic year is Germany, while Jennifer will be hosted by Jordan.

To receive a Fullbright award is truly a great honor. Recipients of this award must demonstrate significant leadership potential in their chosen field and are selected on the basis of their academic or professional achievement. The experiences provided by this program ensure that tomorrow's leaders are both knowledgeable about the world and well-rounded.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent future leaders like Catherine and Jennifer from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating them for receiving this prestigious award. I wish them the best of luck in their studies and future careers.

RECOGNITION OF BELVA DAVIS,  
NEWS PIONEER

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Belva Davis, an icon of San Francisco Bay Area journalism for nearly half a century. Ms. Davis has announced that she will step down as host of public television's, "This Week in Northern California". Her final broadcast will be November 9, 2012. She is the winner of dozens of journalism awards, including eight local Emmys.

Her retirement will mark the end of her 19-year career as anchor of the program. After her departure, for the first time since 1964, Bay Area television viewers will be without coverage from the journalist who used grace and brains to face down the era's virulent racism and sexism and become the first black woman TV journalist in the Western U.S.

Ms. Davis has covered many high profile historical news events locally, nationally, and internationally. She has interviewed world leaders and U.S. presidents, as well as anchoring news programs on KPIX-TV and

KRON-TV. She has been involved in numerous civic projects and helped shepherd San Francisco's Museum of African Diaspora into existence.

In her 2010 autobiography, *Never In My Wildest Dreams: A Black Woman's Life in Journalism*, Ms. Davis tells of being born into poverty in Depression-era Louisiana and growing up in Oakland and Berkeley.

The book opens in 1964, when Ms. Davis is a young radio reporter covering the Republican National Convention. She describes a menacing crowd screaming racial slurs and chasing her and her news director, Louis Freeman, from San Francisco's Cow Palace.

Many members of the African American community respected Ms. Davis's journalism. Comedian Bill Cosby recalls watching Davis on TV from his houseboat, "We looked forward to seeing her prove the stereotypical ugliness of those days to be wrong," Cosby wrote in the foreword to Davis' memoir.

Today, her program "This Week in Northern California" is a must-watch for local new junkies. John Boland, president of KQED, called Davis a trailblazer "who has opened up so many doors for women and African Americans in television and beyond"

During her years as a journalist, I was fortunate to be interviewed by Ms. Davis and I respect, and treasure, my relationship with her. I am pleased to join Belva Davis's friends, admirers and colleagues in commemorating her distinguished journalism legacy.

A TRIBUTE TO CURT TOMASEVICZ  
AND TEAMMATES

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Nebraskan who has made the record books, Curt Tomasevicz. Curt was part of the USA's bobsledding team which consisted of pilot Steven Holcomb, and pushers Justin Olsen and Steven Langton. Together they won the International Bobsledding and Tobogganing Federation World Championships in Lake Placid, NY over the weekend.

Thanks in no small part to Curt's efforts, the U.S. claimed five medals, including four gold, to mark the most successful World Championship showing in the history of the program. The American team validated its reputation as the fastest push team in the world by dominating off the block and reaching speeds in excess of 80 miles per hour.

Curt is no stranger to success. In 2010, he won a gold medal at the Vancouver Olympic Games and was also a 2003 Academic-All Big XII selection on the University of Nebraska football team.

Curt embodies the Nebraska spirit. He remains committed to working hard, helping his teammates, and never quitting. Curt has made Shelby, Polk County, and the State of Nebraska proud with his character, work ethic, and passion for sport.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Curt and his teammates for their historic achievement.

HONORING THE ARMENIAN  
VICTIMS IN SUMGAIT

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, this week it is important that we not forget the 24th anniversary of the tragic pogroms against Armenians living in Soviet Azerbaijan. Driven by the anti-Armenian movement in the region, mobs committed violent human rights violations against Armenians of all ages living in the town of Sumgait. Today, I stand with the Armenian community around the world to remember all those who were taken from their homes and from their families—simply because of their ethnic background. As we remember those who lost their lives in Sumgait, we must continue to guard against all discrimination, oppression, and targeted violence against ethnic groups around the world.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. 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 \$15,488,891,296,248.02. We've added \$4,862,014,247,334.94 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO LOGAN PEARCE

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Logan Pearce of Mason City for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Logan completed a two-part project by building numerous bat houses to provide a more ecological solution to insect control, in addition to the placement of six fishing line recyclers to assist both the Cerro Gordo County Conservation Department and the Lime Creek Nature Center. The work ethic Logan has shown in this project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates