

HONORING DEBRA MALINA, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Debra Malina, CRNA, DNSc, MBA. Ms. Malina will soon complete her year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am very pleased that Ms. Malina was tapped as the 2011–2012 President of this prestigious national organization.

Founded in 1931, the AANA is the professional organization that represents more than 44,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and Student Nurse Anesthetists who will become CRNAs. CRNAs are advanced practice registered nurses who administer approximately 32 million anesthetics to patients each year. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and all types of specialty surgeons. They also provide acute and chronic pain management services to patients in need of such care. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and, in some states, are the sole anesthesia providers in 100% of rural hospitals, ensuring that these facilities can offer their communities obstetrical, surgical, and trauma stabilization services.

The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists is headquartered in my district, and President Malina has served the association extremely well and helped to improve health care for all Americans. A CRNA for 15 years, Ms. Malina received her doctorate in nursing science from the University of Tennessee in Memphis, Tennessee, and her master's degree in business administration from Madison University in Gulfport, Mississippi. Additionally, she earned her master's degree in anesthesiology from Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida and a bachelor's degree in nursing from Florida International University in Miami.

In addition to her current service as AANA President, Ms. Malina has held various leadership positions in the AANA, including President-elect, Treasurer, Region 2 Director, and member of the Finance Committee. Ms. Malina has also served as the AANA Association Management Services director. In addition, she is a former president of the Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists and has served on numerous committees on the state and national levels. She was also an advanced practice nursing member of the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

Adding to her professional accomplishments, Ms. Malina has effectively used her experience in education and CRNA practice to inform the public about the safety, value and cost-effectiveness of CRNA care. During her AANA Presidency, Ms. Malina has played important roles in advocating for the practice of nurse anesthesia and its patients before Medicare and other federal agencies and with members of the Congress of the United States. She has worked tirelessly to promote the facts that CRNAs help make healthcare work better and cost less.

Let me give just two examples of her leadership. The Institute of Medicine reports that 100 million Americans suffer from chronic intractable pain, which costs more than two-thirds of a trillion dollars each year in medical and economic costs. Ms. Malina has demonstrated leadership in urging Medicare to restore direct reimbursement for pain management services provided by CRNAs—a move that will improve care for patients and reduce unnecessary costs. Ms. Malina and her national organization were also crucial in supporting provisions included in the recently-enacted Food and Drug Administration user fee reauthorization to combat critical shortages of anesthesia and other drugs.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the outgoing President of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Ms. Debra Malina, CRNA, DNSc, MBA, for her notable career and outstanding achievements.

SOUTHERN PINES IS AN ALL-AMERICA CITY

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, we are excited to report that a city in the Sixth District of North Carolina has been nationally cited for its efforts to promote literacy. This is a prime example of where hard work pays off for Southern Pines, North Carolina. The plan to improve reading through the resources of a coalition of business, government and civic leaders has resulted in Southern Pines being named as an All-America City.

Due to Southern Pines' development of a sensible and sustainable plan to increase grade-level reading proficiency by the end of the third grade, the National Civic League presented Southern Pines with the prestigious All-America City award on July 2, 2012, during the Grade-Level Reading Communities Network Conference and All-America City Award celebration. Southern Pines Library Director Lynn Thompson and her husband Bob Howell, Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Caroline Eddy, as well as PineStraw Magazine's Cos Barnes, accepted the award while representing Southern Pines during the conference in Denver.

With the efforts of leaders in the community such as The Country Bookshop, Southern Pines Public Library, and Boys and Girls Club expanding their summer reading programs, they have renewed the enthusiasm for elementary literacy. "I think the award recognizes what a great community this is to live in," Mayor David McNeill told *The Pilot*. "I congratulate everyone who has worked so hard on this project, but the kids are the real winners. The efforts that they will put forth to improve their reading skills will benefit them for a lifetime."

Deserving thanks and credit for their hard work and effort towards elementary literacy include Southern Pines Public Library, Boys and Girls Clubs of Sandhills, Moore County Chamber of Commerce, Moore County Literacy Council, Moore County NAACP, Partners for Children and Families, Sandhills Children's Center, and United Way of Moore County.

Also deserving recognition for this prestigious award is Southern Pines Town Manager Reagan Parsons.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Southern Pines for being named as an All-America City. The city called its campaign, "Southern Pines Grows Great Leaders," and we are thrilled that the National Civic League agrees with us that Southern Pines is a great place to learn and live.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 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 \$15,882,491,122,065.69. We've added \$5,255,614,073,152.61 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERIC UPTAGRAFFT PARTICIPATING IN THE 2012 OLYMPICS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Sgt. 1st Class Eric Uptagrafft. Eric will participate in the 2012 Olympics in London.

Uptagrafft, of Phenix City, Alabama, is the rifle instructor for the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. He competed in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics finishing 30th. Uptagrafft spent seven years engineering a new rifle with gunsmiths and through the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's custom firearms unit.

Uptagrafft's wife, Sandra, will also be participating in the 2012 London Olympics. The couple will celebrate their anniversary while in London on August 5th.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Eric and best wishes to him and his wife in the Olympics and a happy anniversary.

DR. JOHN EVANS ATTA MILLS

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Dr. John Evans Atta Mills, President of the Republic of Ghana. I was saddened to hear about the untimely death of President Mills. My thoughts, prayers and condolences go to his wife, family and the people of Ghana. The World has lost a leader, visionary and champion for democracy.

President Mills pledged his life to education and the betterment of his beloved Ghana. He