

Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,306,713,138,468.87. We've added \$5,679,836,089,555.79 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$5 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
ELMA TERESA SALINAS ENDER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Honorable Elma Teresa Salinas Ender, an award recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Laredo-Webb County Bar Association for her accomplishments and services in Webb County of South Texas. Judge Ender is currently completing her term in the 341st Judicial District Court in Laredo, Texas.

Judge Ender, a native Laredoan, is a remarkable and highly respected member of the community who has dedicated her life to promoting fairness and justice. She serves the community as Texas Supreme Court Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families. Judge Ender became the youngest woman and first Hispanic female to serve as a district court judge in Texas. She is also the longest serving district court judge in Webb County in recent history, serving one appointed term and seven elected terms consecutively.

Currently, Judge Ender serves as chair for the Board of Judges overseeing the Auditor and on the Indigent Defense Services Oversight Committee for the Webb County Judiciary. She holds a Juris Doctor degree from St. Mary's University School of Law and a B.B.A. from University of Texas in Austin, with a major in accounting. She holds a Certificate in Commercial and International Arbitration from the University of Houston Law School, A. A. White Dispute Resolution Center and certificates in dispute resolution from the National College for the Judiciary, the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution at the University Of Texas School Of Law, and the DRC in Austin, Texas. Appointed in 1995 by then Governor George Bush, as an ad hoc committee member, Judge Ender worked to rewrite the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Appointed by Governor Mark White in 1986, she served on a Task Force charged with drafting professional standards to be used to certify juvenile detention centers. She has served as President, Vice President and 4th Administrative District Representative for the Texas District Judges' Association.

Not only has Judge Ender enjoyed an esteemed and honorable career, she also devotes much of her time to community organizations. She was one of the five Leadership Texas Alumnae who initiated, planned and funded the Leadership Laredo program sponsored by the Laredo Chamber of Commerce. Judge Ender is involved in numerous civic and community activities. Her leadership in organizations includes Leadership Texas, the Laredo Business and Professional Women's Association, and participation in the National Hispana Leadership Institute, which included study at

Harvard University's JFK School of Public Affairs. She has received numerous awards throughout her career, including "Laredoan of the Year" in 2012, Laredo UT Exes Longhorn Legacy Award in 2008, and the 2003 Tejano Achievement Award, to name a few. Additionally, she has been featured in numerous publications due to her influence in Texas. She is married to David Ender and they are the proud parents of two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and pleased to have had this time to recognize The Honorable Elma Teresa Salinas Ender on her career and community involvement. She has contributed her time, knowledge, and efforts to the judiciary and to community outreach.

CONGRATULATING MR. EDWARD
SPAR ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS ON FEDERAL
STATISTICS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Edward Spar on his retirement as Executive Director of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, COPAFS. Since December 1992, Mr. Spar has led COPAFS, a consortium of over 50 organizations and individuals dedicated to increasing knowledge about issues affecting Federal statistical agencies and to encouraging dialogue between its member organizations, federal agencies, Congress, and the public about these issues.

As you may know Mr. Speaker, I am a strong supporter of our nation's federal statistical agencies and the data that they collect, disseminate, and protect. These agencies, which include, for example, the Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, and Bureau of Justice

Statistics, are national treasures. Simply put, federal, state, and local governments and American businesses could not function effectively without these agencies which produce high quality, reliable, and accessible data.

As the COPAFS Executive Director, Mr. Spar has shared my passion for these agencies and successfully raised awareness about their often-overlooked needs. He achieved this goal by conducting quarterly meetings and other colloquia for users and producers of federal statistics where they could share information about current federal statistical policy developments and discuss issues important to governmental and non-governmental data user communities. Mr. Spar was also a constant presence at meetings with federal statistical agencies, Members of Congress, and congressional staff, offering his expertise on federal statistical policy issues and suggesting improvements.

Mr. Spar's achievements include an initiative he led for the Bureau of Labor Statistics to update the Consumer Expenditure Survey, which resulted in crucial changes to the survey's interviewing structure, questionnaire design, and proxy reporting. In addition, he served on the National Academy of Sciences' panel on transportation statistics whose recommenda-

tions guide the current collection of key infrastructure data. Mr. Spar has also worked closely with the Office of Statistical Policy of the United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB), particularly to review and improve geographic classifications, as well as to bring statistical policy and research developments to broader audiences.

His efforts have not been limited, however, to domestic statistical issues. Mr. Spar has also been recognized as a leader regarding international surveys and agencies. Major international agencies, including the United Nations, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Information Agency, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, have consulted with Mr. Spar. In this capacity, Mr. Spar advised these agencies and their international counterparts on a range of issues, including data collection and confidentiality standards, the establishment of statistical policy offices, and the development of strategies for outreach to users of federal statistics.

In addition to all of his achievements, Mr. Spar has been a mentor, teaching courses at Georgetown University and the U.S. Census Bureau, leading workshops at national and international scientific and data user conferences, and encouraging the next generation of statisticians and data users. And, as President of Market Statistics from 1972 to 1992, Mr. Spar was one of the pioneers of private sector applied demography.

I am proud to rise in recognition of Mr. Spar, a native New Yorker and a national leader on federal statistical issues. Although he is leaving COPAFS to enjoy a well-deserved retirement, he leaves behind a legacy of stronger statistical agencies and policies and an appreciative cadre of colleagues who have benefited from his dedicated years of service.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Spar and his family.

A TRIBUTE TO THE UNION
LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Union League of Philadelphia which will commemorate its Sesquicentennial Celebration on December 27, 2012. This occasion will reflect on the great history and traditions that have helped sustain the League, and have made it one of the great civic institutions in Philadelphia.

In late 1862, during some of the darkest and most turbulent days of America's Civil War, a group of patriotic Philadelphians resolved to create an organization to assist President Abraham Lincoln and the North to save the American Union. By early 1863 The Union League of Philadelphia was diligently printing and distributing anti-secession literature, financing military regiments, and devoting its talent and resources to the protection of southern Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia from the menace of invasion. Following the northern victory in April of 1865, the Union League found a new and continuing purpose as it demonstrated its support for Reconstruction legislation and new amendments