

in 2008. Councilwoman Sheedy also helped upgrade the bridges and streetlights throughout her district, which were in clear need of repair.

Councilwoman Sheedy represented the City of Sacramento well, serving on the boards of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, the Sacramento Regional Solid Waste Authority, the Sacramento Metropolitan Cable Television Commission and the Sacramento Public Library Authority. As she dedicated her energy to the betterment of the people of Sacramento, Councilwoman Sheedy leaves the City Council with a high level of energy and large possibilities for the continued revitalization of District 2.

Mr. Speaker, as Councilwoman Sandy Sheedy's husband Ted, family, friends and colleagues gather to commemorate her for her service to the people of Sacramento, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting this dedicated public servant for helping make Sacramento a better place for families to live and prosper.

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OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 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 \$16,369,548,799,604.93. We've added \$5,742,671,750,691.85 to our debt in nearly 4 years. This is \$5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

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IN HONOR OF PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY RESTORATION VOLUNTEER

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 2012*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the forty-five volunteers who have dedicated their time to commemorating the 71st anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack.

These volunteers have been working tirelessly throughout the year to prepare for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony held in December in Camden, New Jersey aboard the USS *New Jersey*.

The volunteers who have helped prepare the USS *New Jersey* for this historically-significant event are a necessary element in the production of the ceremony honoring those who were present that fateful day.

Their selfless hard work and devotion to honoring the 71st anniversary of Pearl Harbor should not go unnoticed. I join the citizens of Southern New Jersey, members of our military, as well as friends and family in congratulating these volunteers for a job well done.

HONORING WALT EKARD

**HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 2012*

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Walter F. Ekard, the Chief Administrative Officer for the County of San Diego. As the chief executive for the fifth largest county in the United States, Mr. Ekard manages a workforce of over 16,000 employees and an annual budget of \$5 billion.

Mr. Ekard was appointed to this position by the five-member Board of Supervisors on May 4, 1999. He previously served as the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer and was the Boards' "first and only choice" for the job because of his experience and strong leadership skills.

Since he began working for the County in 1996, Mr. Ekard has been a part of its dramatic transformation, including a creation of a structurally-balance budget and the implementation of a general management system. Working closely with the Board and the County's executive team, Mr. Ekard works to institute private business management practices throughout the County, stressing customer service, fiscal accountability and teamwork. He has overseen the successful implementation of the innovative information technology outsourcing project that begun in late 1998 and is currently working to prepare San Diego County government to manage with significantly less revenue due to the State of California's budget crisis and funding cuts anticipated as a result.

Mr. Ekard brings a unique combination of qualifications and experience to this post. In fact, he served as my Chief of Staff during my time at the Board of Supervisors. He also worked as a senior policy advisor to former County Supervisor Paul Fordem (1981–1984). He also managed the Rancho Santa Fe Association from 1987 to 1996, transforming this 70-year-old organization into a smooth-running, productive and powerful regional influence. During his tenure with the Association, he worked in a capacity much like a city manager, developing linkages between the Association and other community organizations, created a long-term strategic plan to secure needed support from local and regional government agencies, and reduced administrative staff while streamlining the budget process and privatizing certain Association functions.

A native of San Diego County, Mr. Ekard received his Bachelor of Arts degree from San Diego State University and a Allis Doctor degree from the University of San Diego, School of Law. He is a member of the State Bar of California and has served on a number of community boards and commissions. He and his wife, Pam, reside in El Cajon with their family.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the professional achievements of Mr. Walt Ekard. Without question, the community of San Diego has been made better by his contributions and are worthy of recognition by the House of Representatives today.

RECOGNIZING COMMODORE WILLIAM C. VOGEL, JR. FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO METROPOLITAN DETROIT COMMUNITY

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 2012*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William C. Vogel, Jr. on the occasion of his installation as Commodore of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club during its 84th Annual Commodore's Ball. Serving as the club's face to the community and monitor of its policies both present and future, the position of commodore is an esteemed office befitting an individual like Mr. Vogel.

Bill has long been an active member of the Club, serving on its executive board for many years, including multiple terms as the Club's Vice Commodore. Under his leadership, the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club has continued on a path of success and prosperity. Its membership has grown and it has undertaken projects to expand and improve both its facilities and the Grosse Pointe Harbor, one of Michigan's most precious treasures.

Outside of his involvement in the Grosse Point Yacht Club, Bill has been steadfastly engaged in the support of groups and issues that have historically made the Grosse Pointes a thriving group of communities. Through his support as a member and past director of the Detroit Goodfellows, he has taken the initiative to provide Detroit youth with educational scholarships and other necessities which have enhanced their quality of life. Bill has also been instrumental to the Lakeshore District of the Boy Scouts of America, serving as Chair of the Friends of the Scouts Campaign.

Bill's passion for his community is mirrored in his dedication to his profession. With over thirty years of accomplishments in the field of engineering, he has earned the respect and admiration of his peers and coworkers. During his tenure with General Motors as a systems analyst, project planner and marketing planner, Bill received both the Chairman's Award and the GM North American Special Achievement Award. At EDS, he was honored with the prestigious Inner Circle Award, Circle of Excellence, and Diamond Club recognitions for his achievements as Client Delivery Executive and Solutions Delivery Executive. He also received recognition from Wayne State University's College of Engineering in 2006, earning their Outstanding Engineering Alumni Award for Industry Achievement. Finally, in August of 2012, Bill retired from his post as director of EDS's OnStar account for General Motors, leaving behind a legacy of hard work and success. He currently serves on the Board of Visitors for both Wayne State and Western Michigan Universities' Colleges of Engineering.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize William C. Vogel, Jr. on the occasion of his installation as Commodore of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. I join with Bill's wife of 37 years, Susan, as well as his children, William III, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Michael in congratulating him on this joyful occasion.