

GDP and tax revenues represented 15.7 percent. Clearly, these two extremes cannot continue if we are to balance the budget and provide for a sound economy for future generations. While we do not currently have Congressional Budget Office estimates on how this law will effect spending and revenue as a percent of GDP for FY 2013, we do know that it will increase spending by over \$332 billion, pushing us even farther in the opposite direction of where we need to go. Additionally, while I do recognize the law will increase tax revenue by \$620 billion over ten years—not an insubstantial amount—the effort was done with little apparent regard to the limited impact this decision will have on the trillion dollar deficits we face. I urge my colleagues to have the intestinal fortitude to make tough decisions regarding federal spending and taxes, and to take our cue from the 1990s in order to truly put this country on the right path.

Beyond spending and tax issues, I am further frustrated that the agreement is incomplete, kicking the can down the road on a number of issues. For example, it only extends Farm Bill provisions for an additional nine months. Additionally, while I am pleased that the law prevents a 27 percent cut in the Medicare reimbursement rate for doctors, the provision expires in one year. I have been working to find a permanent solution to the current formula used to determine doctor reimbursements under the Medicare program for over a decade. I am abjectly disappointed that Congress has again missed an opportunity to permanently address this important issue.

Another failure is the law's inability to permanently address the indiscriminate automatic spending cuts known as sequestration by making discrete value judgments on the cuts that need to be made. The law only delays sequestration for an additional two months, and partially pays for this delay by requiring Congress to find an additional \$12 billion in unspecified discretionary cuts. Specifically, the law lowers the discretionary cap Congress previously agreed to by \$4 billion in FY 2013 and by \$8 billion in FY 2014. We are now three months into FY 2013 and this is the third change we have made to our spending allocations. As an appropriator, I am dismayed.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed in the Congress for agreeing to a woefully inadequate measure that fails to meaningfully address our structural deficit. As in the past, I am committed to working to ensure a balanced, thoughtful approach, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in being actively engaged to ensure such legislation is all-encompassing. It is paramount that we come together as a country to make the substantive and difficult decisions that are necessary to provide for a strong nation, a robust economy, and a bright future for the next generation.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 14, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2009, the day I took office, the national debt was \$10,627,961,295,930.67.

Today, it is \$16,432,680,097,613.85. We've added \$5,804,718,801,683.18 to our debt in 4 years. This is a \$5.8 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. I have advocated for a Balanced Budget Amendment since I was sworn in for this very reason.

I will be once more forming the Balanced Budget Amendment Caucus to fight for a return to fiscal responsibility. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ELAINE ROSCELLA LEHMAN

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 14, 2013*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Elaine Roscella Lehman. Her character exemplified the very best of what our Nation has to offer—she was thoughtful, generous, and possessed a strong work ethic.

Elaine's long-time commitment to service began early in her life when she joined the United States Navy and served in the WAVES (Women Accepted to Volunteer Emergency Service) division during World War II. Elaine began her service in Philadelphia as a medical operating room assistant, and she was later stationed at Pearl Harbor Navy Hospital. She served our country proudly during a time in history that forever changed our Nation and the world.

After the war ended, Elaine moved to Central California with her brothers. Shortly after arriving in the Golden State, she met her life-long partner, Henry Lehman, and married him in 1947. Elaine and Henry had four children: Rick, Janet, David, and Charles. Together, they maintained and operated a successful family farm.

Elaine's service was not exclusive to times of war. She was also deeply involved in her community and became a well-known figure in Sanger, California and surrounding cities. She was president of Wilson Elementary School PTA, served as a Cub Scout Den Mother, and also volunteered as a Room Mother. In 1979, Elaine's work and dedication was recognized when she was honored as Sanger's Mother of the Year.

After an unfortunate automobile accident that resulted in the tragic death of her child Charlie, Elaine decided that she would go back to school for her nursing degree. She worked as an LVN at Valley Medical Center and at the Sanger Convalescent Hospital. Elaine genuinely cared for the well-being of others, so being a nurse suited her well. Elaine consistently went above and beyond for her patients. For years, she drove cancer patients to their treatments as a member of Angels on Wheels, using her own vehicle and gas. Elaine's legacy will undoubtedly live on through her kind and generous acts.

Elaine supported her family members whole-heartedly in times of distress and in times when they were working to fulfill their goals. When Henry was diagnosed with cancer, Elaine retired to stay with him and provide full-time care. When Rick ran for election in 1976, she was with him every step of the way

until the end of his political career. Rick served with distinction in the California State Legislature and as a member of the House of Representatives from 1983 to 1994. Her daughter Janet served as a teacher, while her son David works as a structural engineer.

In addition to her family, Elaine's faith was also extremely important to her, and she taught Sunday school for over 20 years. She leaves behind her three children and two grandchildren: Carrie Beedle and Stephanie Lehman.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of an amazing woman, Elaine Roscella Lehman. Her positive attitude and overwhelming love for others will be greatly missed.

#### HONORING REVEREND R.T. MITCHELL

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 14, 2013*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Reverend R.T. Mitchell on his 35th anniversary as Pastor of New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana. For his many years of selfless and compassionate public service, Reverend Mitchell will be honored at a celebratory banquet on Friday, January 18, 2013 at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana.

Reverend Mitchell has dedicated his life to God and to serving his congregation and the people of his community. He completed his higher education at Moody Bible Institute and the Indiana Christian Bible College, earning a degree in External Bible Study. Reverend Mitchell has also completed many other Evangelical courses, and holds a Bachelor of Theology degree.

On January 22, 1978, Reverend Mitchell became Pastor of New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church. Under his leadership, New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church has become a beacon for the community, especially for those most in need. Through their mission ministry, the church holds a monthly soup kitchen and provides support to many community organizations, including Crisis Center, Incorporated, Brother's Keeper homeless shelter, and Every Child Ministries.

Reverend Mitchell has also served as president of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Gary and Vicinity, president of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist State Convention of Indiana, and president of the Interfaith Federation Clergy Caucus. In addition, Reverend Mitchell has served on various boards and committees for community organizations throughout Gary and Northwest Indiana, including the Northwest Indiana Food Bank, the Thelma Marshall Children's Home, the Second Chance Foundation of Gary, and the Calumet Project. Reverend R.T. Mitchell also ministers to the incarcerated within the community. For his complete devotion to helping others in need of spiritual guidance, he is worthy of the highest commendation.

Reverend Mitchell's exceptional dedication to the church and to his community is exceeded only by his devotion to his wonderful family. He and his beloved wife, Irene, recently