

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 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 \$16,432,619,424,703.06. We've added \$5,804,658,128,772.39 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$5.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDIA LUPPINO

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to southern California are exceptional. Our community has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. Claudia Luppino is one of these individuals. On Friday, January 4, 2013, Claudia ended her tenure as the Area Director for the Inland Area jurisdiction of the Social Security Administration (SSA) after 37 years of service.

Claudia grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania, where she and her future husband Bud were high school sweethearts. After graduating from Erie Business College, the young military wife began her government career with the U.S. Army Computer Systems Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, later transferring to March Air Force Base in Riverside. In 1977, after Bud left the Air Force, she began her career with Social Security as the Administrative Aide in the Riverside District office. Since then, she has held more than a dozen positions with the Agency, including Claims Representative, Operations Analyst and Operations Supervisor.

In 1985 Claudia was selected as the Area Analyst in the Inland Area Director's Office (ADO), and in 1987 she became the District Manager in the Redlands Office, where she served for two years before being selected as the Operations Officer in San Bernardino. In 1993 Claudia rejoined the Inland ADO as the Area Administrative Assistant, and later went on to serve as the Assistant District Manager in Palm Springs, District Manager in North Las Vegas, District Manager in Victorville, Deputy Area Director in the Inland Area Director's Office and the District Manager for the Riverside District. Claudia is a graduate of the Region IX Leadership Development Program and has received numerous awards, including the Regional Commissioner's Citation.

Claudia recently concluded an assignment as the Acting Area Director in the Los Angeles Metro Area. She served for over six months as the Acting Area Director in the Inland Area, where she oversaw 540 employees in 16 offices in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, and all of Nevada. It was a responsibility

she took seriously. According to her, "There is no other government agency that provides the critical services SSA does, providing retirement, survivors and disability benefits as well as Supplemental Security Income benefits to the American public." What she will miss most about her job, she said, "is that very ability to make a difference in the lives of so many people."

In her retirement, Claudia plans to help her husband Bud with his business, Bud's Tire and Wheel, Inc. in Riverside, and a shop in Moreno Valley. They will soon begin construction on a third location in Riverside. She also looks forward to traveling more, learning Italian and spending time with her three grandsons.

In light of all Claudia has done for southern California seniors, it is only fitting that she be honored for her many years of dedicated service. Claudia's tireless passion for public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the Inland Empire and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she retires.

RECOGNITION OF STEVEN GOLDSTEIN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Steven Goldstein as he embarks on a new venture in life. Mr. Goldstein has worked tirelessly on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in New Jersey and it is my honor to celebrate him at Garden State Equality's Inauguration Brunch.

Steven Goldstein founded Garden State Equality in 2004 and has since led it as CEO and Chair. During his tenure, Garden State Equality has seen 213 LGBT civil rights laws enacted in N.J. A proponent of equal rights for all, Garden State Equality, under Mr. Goldstein's leadership, also advocated for anti-bullying laws and created programs aimed at helping N.J.'s youth. As Mr. Goldstein passes on the torch as CEO and Chair of Garden State Equality to pursue a new career as Associate Chancellor for External Affairs at Rutgers University—Newark, he remains committed to the organization and its cause and will serve as its Honorary Chair on the Board and executive committee.

Mr. Goldstein earned a B.A. from Brandeis University, an M.P.P. from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, an M.S. from the Columbia School of Journalism and a J.D. from Columbia Law School. In addition to his time at Garden State Equality, Mr. Goldstein's resume includes working as a senior staff member in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, a co-campaign manager of a U.S. Senate campaign in N.J., a television producer and an educator. He also endeavors to become a rabbi and is working toward that goal.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in thanking Steven Goldstein for his years of service to Garden State Equality and his immeasurable contributions to the State of New

Jersey. Mr. Goldstein's leadership and ongoing accomplishments are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN JO ANN EMERSON ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2013

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American who leaves this body today to return to the private sector, my wonderful friend from Cape Girardeau . . . Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON. Her retirement is a great loss to the citizens of southeast Missouri, to our State, and to our Nation.

As the outgoing dean of Missouri's congressional delegation, she has led our group with fairness, respect, and a spirit of cooperation. As she retires today, I know that every member of the Missouri delegation, as well as her many friends on both sides of the aisle, join me in congratulating her on an exceptional career in the U.S. House. Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON has represented southeast Missouri with honor and integrity and in the face of so much discord, so much distortion, and too often, an inability to compromise,

Jo ANN has always been a voice of calm, reason, and good common sense. There is no doubt that the center aisle caucus will miss her strong, principled leadership. Congresswoman EMERSON is a member who searches for common ground . . .

Both out of instinct and because of her deeply held belief that Congress was sent here to work together to solve problems, not to obstruct the government, not to incite intolerance or rancor, not to set one region of the country against the other, but to seek out, and then support a common agenda that will do the most good for America.

That is how Jo ANN has lived her life, and that is how she has served. Congresswoman EMERSON is a skilled legislator, she is a wonderful colleague, and she is a great friend of mine. Congresswoman EMERSON represents the best of Missouri.

I will miss her wise voice as Democrats and Republicans seek common ground to move the Nation forward. My only consolation on her retirement, is the knowledge that my good friend, her husband, attorney Ron Gladney, and their wonderful children . . . will finally have their wife and mother back. And that is a great family blessing that we should all understand and appreciate. From the dark days immediately after she assumed the congressional seat of her late husband . . . Congressman Bill Emerson.

Jo ANN has brought the Missouri values of common sense, family, community, faith, and freedom to the floor every day.

I shall miss her wisdom, her kindness, and her decency, and I know that our State, this honorable body, and our Nation will be forever grateful for her service.

Congresswoman, I thank you for all your help and friendship, I congratulate you on your retirement. May God bless you and your family.