

Eight men's teams and four women's teams from across the country competed in the tournament.

In the women's finals, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater team defeated the University of Alabama team 55–41 to become the 2013 Women's National Champions.

In the men's finals, the University of Alabama team came out victorious, defeating the University of Texas-Arlington 71–52 to become the 2013 Men's National Champions.

The wheelchair play on the Lakeshore basketball courts was every bit as intense as you would have seen during the NCAA's "Final Four." The lesson that athletes on each of the participating teams taught us about determination and overcoming obstacles made them all champions. The event brought great pride and honor to the State of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the combined efforts of the achievements of all the players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the championship season and to congratulate Lakeshore Foundation and the University of Alabama for successfully hosting the 2013 National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Association Tournament. Under the leadership of President and Chief Executive Officer Jeff Underwood, the Lakeshore Foundation will continue to change the way we think about physical disabilities and challenge all of us to expand our horizons.

RECOGNIZING CHUCK HERSEY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Southeast Michigan's environmental leaders, Chuck Hersey, on the occasion of his retirement from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments after 35 years of dedicated service.

After graduating with a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Chuck joined SEMCOG in the spring of 1978 as a co-op research assistant. He was promptly hired full time to work on transportation planning, and was promoted to the position of Air Quality Planner in 1980. Since that time, Chuck has been intimately involved in our region's implementation strategy for meeting air quality goals. Over the course of many years, he has also worked tirelessly in the cause of improving water quality in Michigan.

SEMCOG was formed over 40 years ago to fill a vital need—to bring together distinct communities in Southeast Michigan, and provide a forum to help them plan and work together for the common good. The philosophy at the heart of SEMCOG is that the whole is sometimes greater than the sum of its parts, and that our region faces challenges we can only meet by working together.

Chuck's work on air pollution is a good example. Air pollution does not recognize political boundaries. You can't deal with ozone and particulate pollution unless you are able to look at pollution on a regional basis, and then develop strategies that both meet the health-based standards of the Clean Air Act and are achievable and cost-effective. This is precisely

the work that has occupied Chuck during his tenure at SEMCOG, whether it was his efforts behind the formation of a Southeast Michigan Ozone Strategy; his work on air quality attainment strategies; and his development of the Ozone Action! Program, which became a national model on air quality education.

I am also grateful for the work Chuck and SEMCOG have done to advance water quality improvements in Lake St. Clair, and, in particular, his efforts to advance the Lake St. Clair Strategic Implementation Plan.

Among his other accomplishments, Chuck holds a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Michigan. He is the devoted husband of Agnes, and father of Mathew and Angela. Chuck and Agnes have two grandchildren, Cameron and Giovanni.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chuck Hersey for his commitment to the citizens of Michigan as well as our state's precious environment.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. 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 \$16,738,715,835,680.58. We've added \$6,111,838,786,767.50 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 27 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Saturday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful State and country, we welcome these heroes to the nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Albert G. Archer, U.S. Army; Edmund D. Fowler, U.S. Army; Wilbur "Wib" Hart, U.S. Army; Walter E. Koerschner, U.S. Army; Ernest J. Lathrop, U.S. Army; Elmer Lively, U.S. Army; Richard H. Young, U.S. Army; Milton F. Cook, U.S. Army Air Force; Ovie "Bob" Holman, U.S. Army Air Force; Brook "Hap" Lovell, U.S. Army Air Force; Clifford J. Larson, U.S. Air Force; James A. Curran, U.S. Navy; Marvin E. Haynie, U.S. Navy; Raymond Jones, U.S. Navy; Eugene L. Kern, U.S. Navy; Gordon L. Lentz, U.S. Navy; Robert W. Moore, U.S. Navy; Marshall P. Ramsey, U.S. Navy; William G. Rugh, U.S. Navy; Clarence L. Schick, U.S. Navy; Robert K. Schroth, U.S. Navy; Leslie O. Stinnett, U.S. Navy; Ralph L. Sweet, U.S. Navy; Olaf Tomlinson, U.S. Navy; Roy F. Wiese, U.S. Navy;

Anthony J. Kanclier, U.S. Marine; Leo Manus, U.S. Merchant Marine.

These 27 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Gail Yakopatz for her tireless work as president of Honor Flight of Oregon.

PAY YOUR BILLS OR LOSE YOUR PAY ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, right now, all across this country, American families are looking at an average of \$15,000 of credit card debt. The average student loan debt is double that. I'm sure each and every one of those families would like the option of saying, "no thanks, I'm not interested in paying those bills." But they can't.

Americans don't get to skip out on repaying their debt without drastic consequences. Why should Congress get to play by separate rules?

When we talk about the debt ceiling, we're not talking about our spending habits or curbing our expenses; we're talking about fulfilling the promises we've already made. We can't debate our budget after we've received what we bought.

The last time we played chicken with the debt ceiling, we deeply hurt our credit standing in the world. And we don't have to guess why we were downgraded: Standard and Poors directly told us that is was on account of the political circus the debate had become.

Luckily for us, America still enjoys one of the highest credit ratings in the world, but with continued turmoil and unnecessary, partisan wars over this, how long do we expect our lenders to hang on?

And why are we having this same, foolish fight? In the name of a so-called "debt crisis" that even Speaker BOEHNER and Budget Chair RYAN admitted isn't a crisis.

We're threatening vital services and sacrificing the security of our good national credit for a bogus threat, and all the while the real threat to our economy, anemic growth and persistent unemployment, still looms.

Americans are tired of phony disasters. They want real solutions. They are tired of political theatre. They want jobs. They are tired of a Congress that can't do anything but bicker and point fingers. They want their representatives to get to work.

To default on our debts would be more than irresponsible, it would send us down a path to