

the occasion of their 50th anniversary. This outstanding organization was founded in 1963 with the mission of empowering people around the world to take advantage of economic opportunities and improve quality of life for their families and communities. To this date, ACDI/VOCA continues to fulfill this mission, as they help millions of individuals and families fight their way out of poverty. Their notable accomplishments include contributing to the launch of the Green Revolution in India, strengthening Ethiopian co-ops to bring their coffee into global prominence, and pioneering grassroots financial services across the former Soviet Union. With a staff comprised of 90 percent locally-hired employees, and working through a network of over 3,000 local partner organizations, ACDI/VOCA combines the best in international development expertise with powerful grassroots capacities to implement effective programming that has a real and sustained impact. Congratulations to ACDI/VOCA President and CEO Carl H. Leonard, as well as to the esteemed members of the Board of Directors: Mortimer Neufville (Chairman), Honorable Timothy J. Penny (Vice Chairman), Deborah Atwood, Dr. G.N. Saxena, Charles F. Conner, Kurt M. Ely, Jerry Fenner, Patricia Wilkinson Garamendi, William Harris, James. K. Hoyt, R. Bruce Johnson, and David Cobb. I commend ACDI/VOCA on their history of outstanding service and am confident that they will continue to make a difference in people's lives around the world long into the future.

CONGRATULATING THE TOWN OF
NEWLAND ON THEIR CENTENNIAL

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial of Newland, the highest county seat in the Eastern United States, nestled along the border of Western North Carolina.

In 1911, Newland was named after North Carolina Lieutenant Governor William C. Newland, and simultaneously became the county seat for Avery County.

By March 1913, small businesses were growing and the town began to quickly develop commercially and residentially.

The town of Newland continues to be an important representative of the small-town family values and mountain culture so important to all of us in the western part of the state.

Mr. Speaker, the town of Newland is a beacon for American small business and the free enterprise system. America is a country that rewards earned success, and Newland is an example of that inspiration.

Therefore, I rise today as a Representative for the 11th District of North Carolina to congratulate the town of Newland for its overall steadfastness and perseverance displayed by its citizens.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAM
KENNARD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of Ambassador William Kennard and recognize his vital role in reinvigorating the deep relationship between the United States and the European Union.

As the first U.S. Ambassador to the European Union to work with the institutions created by the Lisbon treaty, Mr. Kennard was instrumental in strengthening relations between the United States and a rapidly changing European Union. Ambassador Kennard has worked tirelessly to expand the economic dialogue and minimize the regulatory divide between the United States and the European Union, and his efforts were a driving force behind the decision to begin negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership that will ignite economic growth and create jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. For his work on behalf of United States business interests in Europe, Ambassador Kennard received the prestigious Transatlantic Business Award from the American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union.

Prior to his nomination as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Ambassador Kennard served as the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission from 1997 to 2001 where policies he shaped brought the Internet to a majority of U.S. households for the first time. In his time at the FCC, Ambassador Kennard championed programs to bridge the digital divide, such as the e-rate program which brought Internet service to 95 percent of K-12 schools and 58,000 libraries in the United States. Ambassador Kennard's commitment to expanding digital access earned him many accolades, and U.S. News and World Report called him "a consumer champion for the digital age."

Mr. Speaker, as Ambassador Kennard prepares to step down as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his exemplary public service and wishing him well as he writes the next chapter of his life. His dedication to encouraging dialogue and expanding trade will have a lasting impact on our transatlantic relations.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 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 \$16,738,602,543,527.17. We've added \$6,111,725,494,550.09 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.

CONGRATULATING THE MAR-
GARET R. PARDEE HOSPITAL ON
THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate The Margaret R. Pardee Hospital for reaching their 60th Anniversary.

Pardee Hospital has shown outstanding and ongoing contributions and service to the health and well-being of the citizens of Henderson County since 1953.

This is a tremendous milestone for our community hospital. Pardee has served area residents with an outstanding health care facility that is recognized by the nation and throughout North Carolina. Pardee is the second largest employer in Henderson County and is the only hospital in the Carolinas to earn the ISO 9001-2008 certification for quality.

Mr. Speaker, as a Representative for the 11th District of North Carolina, I am grateful for the steadfast commitment to healing and saving the lives of our citizens in Western North Carolina.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAULA
RAPOSA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Ms. Paula Raposa on the occasion of her retirement.

Ms. Raposa has been a vibrant fixture in her local community for over fifty years. After arriving in Fall River from the island of Sao Miguel in 1960, Ms. Raposa got her start at a factory on Water Street. Six years later, her gift for helping others led her to a job as a teacher's aide with Fall River Public Schools. For the next 12 years, she would serve as a secretary and parental liaison for the school district's bilingual program. Ms. Raposa played a key role in guiding the next generation of Portuguese-speaking immigrants as they became acclimated to life in the United States. She later supported the Women's Center at Bristol Community College as their outreach coordinator.

In 1978, Ms. Raposa began her career with SER—Jobs for Progress as a consultant. She was soon named as the first executive director for SER's Fall River affiliate. Under Ms. Raposa's leadership, the organization proved indispensable in training residents for jobs in the local garment industry and beyond. In 1984, her efforts were recognized by President Reagan through an appointment to the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship, a federal body devoted to economic development and the advancement of workforce trainees. At that time she was the first woman in over fifty years to be appointed to this prestigious position. SER continues to provide a range of vital services to the community, including business classes, adult English instruction, computer training, and job placement. Alumni of SER's programs have gone on to succeed in a variety of professions.