

He is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, and is active in numerous associations throughout our City, including the Puerto Rican Day Parade Committee, serving as Past Chairman. He is president of his consulting firm of Navarro and Shoub. He and his wife, Donna, have two children, Kaylan and James.

I am proud to join the City of Yonkers in honoring Louis Navarro for his service to his country and his contributions to his fellow veterans and his city.

HONORING EMANUEL D. WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Mr. Emanuel D. Williams.

Emanuel was born August 29, 1995 as the youngest of four children in Jackson, MS to Rev. Calvin Williams and Evg. Dorothy Williams. Though he has always participated in his church, community, and school in some form, he really began to get involved in his school and community during his freshman year. That's when he served as the Chaplain of the Student Government Association, and also the Organizer of daily inspirational services for the students at Weston's 9th Grade Academy in Greenville, MS. That same year he was elected the President of the House of Delta Youth Leadership Initiative, where he tutored a kindergarten student from Ray Brooks Elementary School in Benoit, MS, for two full school terms.

Furthermore, Emanuel was elected the Secretary of the Esquire Art and Civic Club, an organization that promotes and encourages young men to be active in their communities and recognize their civic duties. He continues to serve as Vice President, where he has adopted a local nursing home, thereby visiting and truly enjoying the great personalities of the elderly.

During his sophomore year, Emanuel became a member of the Mayor's Youth Council, a committee of local young people who serve as examples for peers. He participates in different community projects such as the annual clean up that boosts the removal of litter and supports the beautification of Greenville, MS. Emanuel is a member of SOARS (Schools Obtaining Academic Results for Success), a team of community stakeholders who discuss and strategize for the betterment of the school, community, state, and world. He also continues to make his mark in the world by volunteering in his community and local elections where he promotes the exercising of the right to vote. As a graduating senior of the class of 2013, he looks forward to attending college where he can pursue a law career advocating for education, and creating policies and laws as a public servant to make education better and affordable for all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Emanuel D. Williams for his determination and dedication to serving others and giving back to his community.

HONORING MRS. MARY L. HARVEY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Mrs. Mary L. Harvey—who devoted her long career in Baltimore County government to preserving and improving communities—on the occasion of the posthumous dedication of the “Center-Piece Family Arts Center” in her name.

A lifelong resident of Perry Hall, Mrs. Harvey graduated from Perry Hall High School in 1976 and from the Community College of Baltimore County in Dundalk in 1986. She became active in eastern Baltimore County politics and worked as a legislative aide to the Baltimore County Council for eight years.

After witnessing first-hand her tireless drive and passion for helping people, I appointed Mrs. Harvey to the position of Eastern Sector Coordinator within the Office of Community Conservation during my tenure as Baltimore County Executive. Her excellent work twice earned her promotions: first, as manager of revitalization efforts and then director of the office. Mrs. Harvey was reappointed to the position and retained it until 2010.

Mrs. Harvey was a true visionary. Under her leadership, Baltimore County embraced the concept of the “Urban Design Assistance Team,” which encourages input from community members. She also oversaw the construction of three new community centers and developed partnerships with local businesses that lead to safer affordable living communities for thousands of county residents. Her constant goal was to create neighborhoods that were vibrant, attractive and family-friendly. She had a special compassion for the homeless and coordinated a 10-year plan to eradicate it in Baltimore County.

Mrs. Harvey's accolades were many. She was the Baltimore County Commission for Women's “Woman of the Year” in 1995 and received the “Renaissance Milestone Award” from the Dundalk Renaissance Corporation in 2010. She served on the boards of the Essex Community College Foundation, the Essex-Middle River-White Marsh Chamber of Commerce and the Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mrs. Mary L. Harvey, whose legacy of service to the families of Baltimore County continues today. I have many happy memories of working with Mrs. Harvey and wish to thank her family for their support during her years in county government. I could not think of a more appropriate or well-deserved namesake for this beautiful new facility in one of Mrs. Harvey's favorite communities.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 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 \$16,738,281,074,058.77. We've added \$6,111,404,035,145.69 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.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REQUIRE NOTICE OF EXCESS REAL PROPERTY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to make the General Services Administration (GSA) a more transparent federal agency.

This bill would require GSA to provide public notice of excess properties as soon as they are identified by federal agencies as such. Although excess properties will continue to be offered to other federal agencies before going through the normal property disposal process, this early notice to all, including federal agencies, the larger community and Congress, will increase transparency in how the federal government manages its property. The Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management has had difficulty ensuring that GSA acts as soon as possible to dispose of properties it has determined to be excess. GSA's practice of delaying notice of unused properties to the public while it informs federal agencies only further existing delay by GSA in moving either to use or dispose of property for the benefit of taxpayers. Importantly, the early public notice required by this bill also will provide the opportunity for local communities to plan for possible disposal of the property.

Recent hearings held by two different subcommittees documented how delayed notice had resulted in inaction by GSA, which did not move on the problem until the hearings were called. With silence from GSA about a long-vacant but large and valuable property, residents in the burgeoning M Street Southeast area of the District of Columbia went to the trouble of creating a professional proposal for redeveloping the property, as revealed in the hearing.

Both the Administration and the House, where two property disposal bills are pending, have weighed in on GSA's poor asset management and missed market opportunities, which continue to cost taxpayers significant sums of money. There are significant costs associated with GSA's vacant or underperforming assets, including for operation, maintenance and security. For this reason, in 2003, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) placed real property management on its list of “high risk” government activities, where it remains today. GAO conducts biennial reviews of the federal government to highlight specific areas needing added attention and oversight. Programs are identified as “high risk” due to their greater vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement or due to the need for broad-based transformation to address major challenges.

Still, the periodic GAO reviews, executive orders and memoranda issued during this and