

but by conditions or illnesses, such as cancer or back injuries, according to the Council for Disability Awareness.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 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 \$16,738,188,365,630.03. We've added \$6,111,311,316,716.95 to our debt in 4.5 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING ERNEST J. GAINES FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Ernest J. Gaines for receiving the National Medal of Arts from the President of the United States for his achievements as an author and teacher in the state of Louisiana.

When presenting this award, President Barack Obama praised Dr. Gaines for rising above early childhood adversities in the segregated rural south to make unique contributions to American literature. The President also thanked Gaines for spending "more than 20 years teaching college students to find their own voices and reclaiming some of the stories of their own families and their own lives."

Describing his journey as a novelist, Gaines once said, it was "only when I tried to write about Louisiana, that I really put everything I had—my soul—and everything I had into it." Gaines said he traveled swamps, bayous, restaurants and bars throughout South Louisiana to prepare to write his classic novel, *A Lesson Before Dying*. Following its publication, he received a Pulitzer Prize nomination and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Screen play adaptations of three of his novels have also broadcast on CBS and HBO.

As writer-in-residence emeritus at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Dr. Gaines holds numerous honors, including the National Humanities Medal and recognition by the Academy of Achievement, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Order of Art and Letters in France.

Louisiana is blessed to have this world-famous author among us. As a national treasure, his books will continue to inspire future generations of Americans.

HONORING DR. F. JOE CROSSWHITE

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. F. Joe

Crosswhite, a lifelong teacher and mentor from Springfield, Missouri. As a boy, Joe grew up during the Great Depression taking any job he could find to help his family pay the bills. After marrying his high school sweetheart, Dorothy Berry, he enrolled at the University of Missouri, Columbia, and earned his B.S. in Education with dual majors in Mathematics and English Literature. He taught high school mathematics in Salem, Missouri where he was chosen as the faculty sponsor for the Class of 1957. As a testament to his character, he not only mentored that class for the next four years of high school, but maintained a 60 year relationship with his students, attending class reunions and other events.

Dr. Crosswhite earned his M.Ed. in Secondary Education and Ph.D. in Mathematics education before retiring from The Ohio State University with the title of Professor Emeritus and accepting a full time position as President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Dr. Crosswhite was the President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) from 1984–1986 when the national mathematics standards were first being developed. This was the first attempt by an organization to develop national standards and guidelines for the teaching and learning of any subject. He finished his career at Northern Arizona University as a professor of Mathematics.

Joe has shown his incredible ability to transform lives and encourage students to strive toward their dreams. There are two separate scholarships given in his name to students who demonstrate excellence in mathematics. Joe's many accolades do not outshine his love of teaching or his unparalleled devotion to his students, for which he will always be remembered. He is well respected and loved by all who know him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall vote No. 343. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CELEBRATING TLC PROPERTIES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 25th Anniversary of TLC Properties.

TLC Properties was founded 25 years ago by Sam and Carol Coryell. The Coryells were college music teachers who had a desire to establish a real-estate business to supplement their income and retirement and to fulfill a dream of owning their own business. Over the last 25 years, Sam and Carol have grown their business from just a handful of units to approximately 3,000 units in the Springfield area.

In 1999, Sam and Carol welcomed their three sons Sam M., Daniel, and David to the family business. The elder Coryells were sure to pass on to their sons the two leading values of TLC Properties: strong character and serv-

ice. These two values, coupled with the entrepreneurial spirit, compassionate care, and friendly service, promise that TLC Properties will continue to grow, succeed, and serve the Springfield area for years to come.

However, the business success of TLC Properties over the last 25 years does not outshine their contributions to the community; they have donated time and money to various worthy causes. Over the years, TLC Properties has been honored with many prestigious awards including the W. Curtis Strube Small Business of the Year Award in 2009 and the Springfield News-Leader Best Property Management Company Award for the years 2009–2012.

I am honored to recognize TLC Properties, Sam, Carol, their sons, and their outstanding staff for the service they have given to the Springfield area for the past 25 years.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF BELLE GROVE PLANTATION DIRECTOR, ELIZABETH MCCLUNG

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Elizabeth McClung, the executive director of Belle Grove Plantation in Middletown, Virginia, who will retire at the end of this month.

Elizabeth has led Belle Grove for 17 years and I have had the privilege of working with her many times over the years. We both worked to establish Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Park, which would not have been successful without her hard work and dedication. She has also made extraordinary improvements to the manor through her passion for restoration and historic preservation.

I want to commend Elizabeth on an outstanding job. I wish her all the best in her retirement in Highland County.

I submit a recent news article from the Winchester Star on Elizabeth's remarkable career.

[From the Winchester Star, July 9, 2013]

EXITING BELLE GROVE DIRECTOR RECEIVES PRAISE

(By Laura McFarland)

MIDDLETOWN.—Belle Grove Plantation Executive Director Elizabeth McClung is going out on a high note. With the house in good shape, visitation up, and a "great board in place," she said she is leaving Belle Grove in good hands.

She will retire July 31 after almost 17 years with the historic house in Middletown.

Although there are plenty of new milestones ahead for the historic manor, McClung said she doesn't have any regrets in leaving them to her successor. She is proud of what she accomplished at Belle Grove during her time and will remain an "enthusiastic supporter and continue cheering from the grandstands."

"I wanted to leave on an upswing, and I also didn't want to stay long enough to become an antique," she said with a laugh. McClung gave her notice to Belle Grove's board of directors in March and a search committee was formed to fill the position, said John Adamson, chairman of the board.