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 service. 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.

An announcement about her replacement could be made as early as this week.

During McClung's time at Belle Grove, she demonstrated that running the house was as much about helping it become part of the community as ''preserving limestone walls and beautiful grounds,'' Adamson said. He praised her for doing the latter as well.

TRIPLED HOLDINGS

Under McClung, Belle Grove has tripled its property holdings with the acquisition of 183 adjacent acres and of Bowman's Fort near Strasburg, Adamson said.

Both of these historic sites are within the boundaries of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, he said.

McClung championed the need for the park, was part of the team that wrote the original legislation to establish it, and helped create a general management plan to act as a road map for its future.

Adamson says the ''active partnerships'' McClung built with a number of organizations in the community are a big part of what made the park possible.

''I think Elizabeth has been the glue that pulled all of these together and made Belle Grove something personal to each of these organizations,'' said Adamson, of Strasburg.

MANOR HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

That energy was also focused on Belle Grove, whether it was creating or putting together an event or working to improve the house itself, said Nancy Lee Corner, lead volunteer. McClung approached the projects with a passion and organization that simply makes people ''feel at ease as soon as they meet her.''

The 1797 Manor House's interior was restored to its historically accurate appearance and the structure and its outbuildings were repaired using historic preservation practices, she said.

''All the things she has done to bring that about on the decorative part of the house—the carpet, the painting, the furniture—all of that has contributed greatly to the house and interpreting it,'' said Comer, of Stephens City.

Those kind of changes take money, so McClung constantly was looking for new fundraising ideas, ways to improve upon existing ones, or grant writing opportunities, said Sandy Dunkle, chair-elect of the board. She is a ''forward thinking person'' who is cheerful and knows how to handle herself regardless of the situation, she said.

Dunkle praised the Hite of Excellence Dinner Series—now in its 16th year—that McClung created as a fundraiser.

''It has been one of our biggest sources of income and that is all because Elizabeth McClung brought that to us. Still today, it is a strong part of our financial picture,'' said Dunkle, of Frederick County.

MAKING CHANGES

McClung had a tough road ahead of her when she took over Belle Grove in 1997, said Fred Andreae, who has been chairman of the board twice and served on the search committee when she was hired as well as the current one that will seek her successor.

Before she came, Belle Grove was run in a ''more casual way, a little less businesslike way,'' Andreae said. When McClung was hired, she put a more professional atmosphere in place and didn't balk when it became apparent that the manor house's finances were not as good as originally believed, he said.

The first three years were the most challenging for her because they were all about bringing the house into the 21st century ''while still keeping the important historic structures true to their period,'' McClung said.

''There were no computers. There were no financial systems in place. We were the mule train on the information highway,'' she said. ''We had no Internet or hadn't dreamed of getting email because we didn't have any computers.''

In more recent years, she faced the same problem as other nonprofit groups in struggling to fund operating costs, she said.

There were cuts in funding from the state and federal levels and private foundations, who were no longer providing unrestricted funds, she said. They began focusing instead on fundraising for special projects.

''When you have a house that was built in 1797 and a lot of property with cattle, fences and other structures, there is always something falling apart that you have to manage,'' she said.

Over the years, McClung has maintained a small, capable staff and an active and energetic group of volunteers that run the house's day-to-day operations and special events, Andreae said.

''When we go through tough economic times, it is a difficult operation to run,'' he said. ''You have to be on your toes and be out raising money and keeping your staff and volunteers happy. They are the people the public sees.''

Other highlights from her time at Belle Grove that McClung looks back on proudly are restoring the historic landscape around the house and gardens, beginning a junior docent program to engage young people to ''maintain and preserve important touchstones,'' and creating the Belle Grove 1797 Whiskey and Belle Grove 1797 Whiskey Chocolates.

FUTURE PLANS

After working at Belle Grove for almost 17 years and in the nonprofit sector overall for more than 40 years, McClung, who declined to share her age, said she is eager for unstructured time.

She earned a bachelor's degree in 1969 at the Tyler School of Art of Temple University in Philadelphia.

Before coming to Belle Grove, she was the director of development for four years at the Museum of American Frontier Culture in Staunton.

McClung and her husband, Kent, will move to their home in Highland County, which they have owned for more than 30 years. The move will allow her to spend time on her artwork, which she hasn't had time to pursue in recent years.

''When you are the director of a nonprofit of any kind, it is fairly strenuous. It involves a lot of weekends, evenings and holidays,'' McClung said. ''It will be wonderful to have time off.''

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF BOB TRIMBORN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the distinguished career of Bob Trimborn, who retired on July 1 after seventeen years as Director of the Santa Monica Airport. Over the years, Bob has been a critically important advocate for airport neighbors and airport users and he will be greatly missed.

Bob discovered his love of aviation early in life. He got his first real taste of flying at the Hawthorne Municipal Airport, where he flew his first plane at the age of fourteen. He later became a private pilot, a commercial pilot and in 1983 was hired as the Airport Manager in Hawthorne, where he worked for 10 years. He spent three years in Reno, Nevada serving as the Airport Manager at the Reno Stead Airport before the City of Santa Monica hired him as Airport Director for SMO in 1996.

Bob took real pride in telling the story of the rich history of the airport and delighted in sharing a photo presentation about the evolution of SMO. The airport opened in 1917, gave flight to aviation adventurers like Amelia Earhart and Bessie Coleman, and was once home to Douglass Aircraft, which produced the celebrated DC–3.

But Bob's lasting legacy will be his impassioned advocacy, which made a real difference in the lives of airport neighbors and users. He worked tirelessly with elected officials, the commissioners, and the surrounding community to promote transparency and seek solutions to the challenges facing the airport. I congratulate Bob on his many years of service to the City of Santa Monica and wish him all the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING LEE GOLDMAN FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN JOURNALISM

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Lee Goldman of Flat Rock, North Carolina, on having three of his columns featured on the Supreme Court's SCOTUSblog within the past month.

For three separate articles on controversial legal issues to gain the attention of the highest court of the land is a tremendous achievement that deserves to be commended.

Mr. Goldman has shared his writing talents with the 11th District of North Carolina for years. From 2009–2012, Mr. Goldman wrote an op-ed column on national politics for the Asheville Citizen-Times in Asheville, NC. Now, as he did in 2008, he writes his column for the Hendersonville Times-News in Hendersonville, NC.

Mr. Goldman devoted a large part of his life to serving in the federal government from 1964–2001. He worked as Staff Director of the United States Senate Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research and also as an Associate Director at the National Institutes of Health. Mr. Goldman was a member of the Senior Executive Service, Director of Federal Liaison for the Association of American Medical Colleges and a Senior Policy Advisor for the National Alliance Against Mental Illness.

Mr. Speaker, as a Representative for the 11th District of North Carolina, I commend Mr. Goldman for his talents and thank him for his contributions to our district and nation.