

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 EASTERN
IOWA HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today, over eighty-five Iowa World War II and Korean War veterans will travel to our nation's capital. Accompanied by volunteer guardians, they will visit the monuments that were built in their honor.

For many, today will be the first time they will see the National World War II Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank these heroes for their service to our nation and pay tribute to the incredible sacrifice that they made for our country.

This trip was made possible by the dedicated workforce at Quaker Oats' Cedar Rapids facility who raised all of the funds necessary to send these heroes to the nation's capital. The generosity of the Quaker Oats' workforce and those who donated to this effort demonstrates Iowans' commitment to honoring those who have served our nation in uniform.

Iowans know that we owe our veterans a debt of gratitude. As a reminder of the service and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation, I am proud to have a piece of marble in my office from the quarry that was used to build the World War II Memorial. Our World War II and Korean War veterans rose to defend not just our nation, but the freedoms, democracy, and values that make our country the greatest nation on earth. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

The sheer magnitude of what the Greatest Generation accomplished, not just in war but in the peace that followed, continues to inspire us today. Their generation and our country did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, the Greatest Generation defended and then rebuilt our nation to make it even stronger. Their patriotism, service, and sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our nation and the American people. Their legacy endures today.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight and Iowa's veterans of the Second World War and the Korean War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 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 \$16,738,567,425,782.46. We've added \$6,111,690,376,869.38 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOUG
VERBOON

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Doug Verboon, an important figure in California's Central Valley who was recently named the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce's 2013 Agriculturalist and Ag Supporter of the Year.

Doug is a lifelong resident of Hanford, California and a fellow graduate of Hanford High School. Born into a farming family, agriculture is more than just his vocation; it is his way of life. He began his agricultural career alongside his father and grandfather as a third generation farmer on the Gold Top Ranch, located in Hanford.

Doug has been an active member of his local community for many years. He has been a trustee of the Pioneer School District for 16 years where he played an important role in establishing the Pioneer School District as the first charter school district in the State of California.

Doug is also a member of the Kings County Board of Supervisors, representing District 3. Additionally, he is a member of the Kings County Farm Bureau, the District Advisory Council for Sequoia Walnut, and the Future Leaders Board for Diamond Walnuts.

The Lemoore Chamber of Commerce's Agriculturalist and Ag Supporter of the Year Award is given to a local community member who has made immeasurable contributions to the agricultural community in Lemoore. I appreciate the time and effort Doug has enthusiastically devoted to the communities within the Central Valley. I am pleased that his service and commitment to agriculture, and his community as a whole, is being recognized with this prestigious award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IRS ABUSE
PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my bill, the IRS Abuse Protection Act of 2013, which requires the IRS to notify taxpayers when their records are accessed. Taxpayer information is the private information of the taxpayer and they have a right to know when, who, why, and what that information is used for.

Mr. Speaker, by introducing this bill we hope to ensure people will not be threatened or intimidated by the federal government. This bill presses forth transparency and accountability. Despite what the President has said, the targeting of conservative organizations for extra scrutiny is a real scandal and is simply rep-

rehensible. The thin line of trust between the individual and their government has been broken and we must work to rebuild it. I am strongly urging Congress to continue its investigation into the IRS and to make sure those responsibly are held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. I am also joining other Members of Congress calling on Treasury Secretary Jack Lew to investigate the actions of the IRS.

I am committed to making sure the IRS is never again used as a political weapon against any group, conservative or otherwise and my bill will ensure that those responsible for using private information to quiet individuals and organizations that disagree with the President can no longer hide behind the wall of Washington secrecy and are held accountable for their actions.

Simply put, I believe when personal information is accessed; taxpayers have a right to know who accessed the information, why it was accessed, and what the information is used for as well as having access to the information and any reports generated from it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the IRS Abuse Protection Act of 2013 in order to ensure American families and taxpayers have trust in their government.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2013 ELLIS ISLAND
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2013 recipients of the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition or Organizations (NECO), the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage. We honor these outstanding individuals because they create a better world for all of us in the future by the work they do today. Since the Medal's founding in 1986, more than 2,000 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including six American Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders.

This medal is not about money, but about people who seized the opportunities this great country has to offer and who used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in the lives of those around them. As we all know, citizens of the United States can trace their ancestry to many nations. The richness and diversity of American life makes us unique among the Nations of the world and is in many ways the key to why America is the most innovative country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our ancestors to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life.