

space for senior citizens at the recently renovated T.E. Harman Center and opened the first phase of the Sugar Land Memorial Park. These are just a few of the accomplishments Browne has achieved during his 35 year career in parks and recreation management.

On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, it's an honor to recognize Browne's commitment to the Sugar Land community. Congratulations Mr. Browne, on earning this recognition for your valued work and thank you for helping to create a community that the Sugar Land residents are proud to call home.

240 UNION

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud 240 Union for achieving 25 years of outstanding membership in the West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

Membership in a Chamber of Commerce comes with commitment, dedication and contribution to community. Chamber members are leaders in the community mentoring other businesses, creating positive environments for business to thrive. The West Chamber serving Jefferson County is a strong and vibrant organization today due to members like 240 Union.

I extend my deepest congratulations to 240 Union for 25 years of leadership and inspiration you provide in our community. I look forward to many more years of your service.

### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

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 \$17,411,178,036,656.28. We've added \$6,784,300,987,743.20 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.7 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

### REGARDING THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

### HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, since declaring its independence from the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan has been a reliable friend and valuable ally of the United States. For this reason, it seems appropriate for Congress to commemorate the victims of the Khojaly tragedy as the Azerbaijani people mark the anniversary of this event.

Since the early 1990s, Azerbaijan has been involved in a conflict with its neighbor to the West, Armenia. The Khojaly tragedy was the single worst day in this conflict, resulting in hundreds of lives lost, families devastated, and the town destroyed. Given our deepening ties with Azerbaijan, it is important for Americans to remember this event.

A cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, but the conflict remains unresolved. I remain confident a resolution will be found. The United States is serving as a co-chair to the Minsk Group, along with France and Russia. Together these three nations are working to facilitate a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

The anniversary of this horrible tragedy is an appropriate time to honor the victims of these atrocities and reflect on the need for all parties to work together to bring a swift end to this conflict. I urge my colleagues to join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

### CONGRATULATING PASTOR H. LEE JORDAN, JR. ON HIS FOURTH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY AND HONORING HIM FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

### HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, Pastor H. Lee Jordan, Jr. on the occasion of his fourth Pastoral Anniversary with Greater Faith Church—Baptist (GFC) in Waukegan, Illinois, part of the district I represent.

Pastor Jordan assumed leadership of the GFC in January 2010, and since then, he has built upon the church's already outstanding legacy. Pastor Jordan's dedication and passion fill the community with joy, spreading a message of faith, integrity and community action.

In words and deeds, Pastor Jordan encourages his congregation to give back and enrich the community. Throughout his four years in Waukegan, Pastor Jordan has become a central figure in the community and an important voice of hope.

A spirited and inquisitive soul, Pastor Jordan consistently stresses the importance of never settling, of constantly seeking spiritual and personal growth. Anything is possible with the right attitude, and Pastor Jordan demonstrates to all the power of this message.

Pastor Jordan's example reaches far beyond his stirring sermons and moving songs. A husband, father, community leader and musician, he sets a daily example for his congregation and community.

In my visits to GFC, I have been moved by Pastor Jordan's passion, care and joy. His vision and discipline to follow that vision are rare and remarkably valuable to his congregation and community.

Pastor Jordan's commitment to his congregation and to Waukegan inspires everyone around him. Our communities are stronger with passionate, dedicated and visionary leaders like Pastor Jordan. I congratulate him on four years with GFC and thank him for his outstanding work.

### HONORING 2013 "MR. AMIGO" MARIANA SEOANE GARCIA

### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Charro Days Fiesta and commend the 2013 "Mr. Amigo," recently chosen by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico.

Mariana Seoane Garcia has been selected as the 2013 "Mr. Amigo." A multi-talented Mexican actress, model, and singer, her style and charisma have won the hearts and minds of audiences across the world. In addition to her work as a performer, Ms. Seoane Garcia has given back to her community, for example by participating in Univision's Teletón USA (USA Telethon) to raise money for children's healthcare. She is a wonderful choice to represent the spirit of friendship.

Beginning in 1964, the "Mr. Amigo" award is an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen who has made a lasting contribution during the previous year to international solidarity and goodwill. "Mr. Amigo" acts as an ambassador between the United States and Mexico and presides over the annual Charro Days Fiesta.

Charro Days dates back to 1937, when the citizens of Brownsville organized the event in the midst of the Great Depression to celebrate the cultural heritage shared between Brownsville and its sister city, Matamoros, Tamaulipas, across the border in Mexico. The first Charro Days celebration featured a parade with horse-drawn floats and participants dressed in traditional Mexican costumes reminiscent of charros, or Mexican cowboys.

From these humble beginnings, Charro Days has evolved into a multi-day event which includes dances, fiestas, a children's parade, and the Grand International Parade drawing an estimated 50,000 participants annually from Texas and Mexico.

The 77th annual Charro Days celebration commenced on February 23rd, with a grito, or celebratory yell. Later this week, the Mayor of Brownsville and the Mayor of Matamoros will meet at the Gateway International Bridge and extend their hands across the border to symbolize the friendship between the two cities.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to honor the Charro Days Fiesta and for joining me in recognizing the importance of this annual celebration which continues to strengthen the relationship between Brownsville and Matamoros, as well as the United States and Mexico.

### THE WORLDWIDE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I chaired a subcommittee hearing on the persecution of Christians worldwide, a topic which has been neglected by our media and world leaders—including those in the United States.