

served the Social Security Agency in Whiteville, North Carolina, for forty years. Mrs. Featherson's service began in 1974, when she was hired for a part-time administrative position. Consistent hard work and dedication earned her the position of District Manager, and she has worked every day to provide peace of mind to North Carolinians as they prepare to retire. She has committed herself to bettering her community, and I ask you to Mrs. Featherson's enduring commitment to her community makes her an exemplary public servant, and her accomplishments will continue to benefit North Carolina for many years to come. As her time as District Manager comes to a close, let us honor Mrs. Barbara Featherson's long and honorable career and pray that she may receive God's richest blessings.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2014
FLOOR SPEECH

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the unique history, terrible sacrifices, and remarkable contributions that African Americans have made to build our great nation.

Black History Month calls out to all Americans to join together as we advance the unfinished march towards greater diversity and full equality for all.

151 years ago, the Emancipation Proclamation, an executive order issued by President Abraham Lincoln, freed the slaves in all states that were in rebellion against the Union, and established a broad legal framework for the future.

And just like present day executive orders issued by this administration . . . President Lincoln's action set off a fire storm of criticism from those who hated him, and thought he had acted beyond his constitutional powers.

But President Lincoln was not deterred by the vicious and vile uproar from his political opponents. Like all great leaders at pivotal moments in our Nation's history, President Lincoln ignored the politics of the moment and followed the moral compass of history.

He chose the path of courage, he chose the path not taken, in order to advance the cause of freedom.

51 years ago, hundreds of thousands of Americans, both black and white, joined together for the historic March on Washington. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood in the shadow of the Great Emancipator, he declared in his famous "I Have a Dream" speech—"We have come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now."

Tonight, we should hear those words again. Absorb them. Live them.

As we look back on the accomplishments of the past, let us remember that the fierce urgency of now still calls us to act boldly . . . with courage.

Equality is not to be put on hold. And the hopes of millions who have been left out of the American dream, must not be delayed or denied.

46 years ago, my father, former Congressman Bill Clay, was elected as the first African-American U.S. Representative from Missouri.

He used his experience as a civil rights activist who had been wrongly incarcerated for fighting for his beliefs—to provide a strong voice for his constituents for more than three decades, and he was one of the original 13 cofounders of the Congressional Black Caucus.

One of the St. Louis's first legendary black entrepreneurs, Miss Annie Malone, the daughter of escaped slaves, inspired people around the world as she became a black beauty product millionaire. She was a noted inventor, educator and businesswoman. And she became one of America's first prominent black philanthropists.

As we praise the achievements of these great American heroes, we are reminded of the obligation to honor all of the brave souls who have come before us . . . and to rededicate ourselves to bring honor to their memories by the quality and conduct of our own lives. We learn from and continue to be inspired by our compelling history.

But the past does not limit us. It compels us to continue the long journey towards a most just, more equal society.

That is a Black History Month lesson that everyone across the great country, and in this historic Chamber, should embrace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, I missed one vote in a series of recorded votes. I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 64 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1123, as amended).

HONORING GOOD360

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the organization Good360. Companies like Good360 support philanthropy in a variety of ways—cash grants, marketing consultations, and employee volunteerism, just to name a few.

More than ever before, companies are using their core resources to support community-based partners. Driven by the desire to maximize giving while minimizing waste, the majority of growth in the nonprofit sector has come from the donation of household items that directly impact the needs of American families.

For-profit America plays an important role in addressing poverty, literacy and education, homelessness and many other social issues facing our country. The millions of nonprofit organizations across America rely on the donations of critically needed goods to continue the programs that are essential to helping those with uncertain futures get back on their feet. These programs are integral to strengthening our communities.

Giving is not just restricted to consumer staples. Consumer discretionary companies and

information technology companies also make sizable proportions of their contributions in the form of non-cash donations. Their corporate sustainability efforts maximize giving to American families and minimize the amount of unused or reusable goods going to landfills.

With more than one in six Americans living in poverty and nonprofits struggling to maintain programs following significant federal and state budget cuts, the American business community plays a critical role in supporting the nonprofit programs needed to ensure that people and families in need overcome the challenges they face and are better able to pursue the American Dream.

This month, let us look to a time when more businesses give back by donating goods to support people in need, to strengthen the communities in which they do business, and to reduce the amount of products that go into our landfills.

I call upon all American companies and nonprofit organizations—small and large—to participate in activities that provide donated goods that are essential to strengthening communities across our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Good360's contributions to the betterment of our community and the American people, and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their continued service.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, raising the minimum wage is a critical step in closing the opportunity gap and building an economy that works for everyone. Yesterday, I joined my Democratic colleagues in filing a discharge petition for an immediate vote on H.R. 1010 to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10, generating economic activity, creating jobs, and growing the middle class.

By raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour, we can restore fairness for working men and women across the country. Specifically it would raise wages for nearly 25 million people; increase pay and compensation by \$35 billion for hardworking American families; and lift between 1 and 4.5 million Americans out of poverty.

Americans deserve an economy where a hard day's work earns a decent day's pay. No hard working American should be forced to raise their family in poverty, but the low minimum wage currently allows for just that. An increase in the minimum wage is not only the moral thing to do, but it would also provide a much-needed boost to our economy. Simply put, when one earns more, one tends to spend more. More and more private businesses are voluntarily raising the minimum wage of their workers because they see the long-term economic benefits.

It is my hope that Congress takes immediate and swift action in raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour.

HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL OF
THE LUCERNE INN**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Lucerne Inn as it celebrates its bicentennial.

In the early 1800s, Nathan Phillips built a family home in Dedham, Maine, overlooking Phillips Lake, on land granted to John Phillips for his service in the Revolutionary War. Conveniently situated as the only stop on the road connecting the Brewer and Bangor area to Ellsworth and other points Down East, by 1814, the home quickly became a popular location for travelers of all stripes to stay and enjoy a meal. This led to the eventual transformation of the home into The Lucerne Inn.

Over the years, The Lucerne Inn has made a number of changes to include modern amenities while also maintaining its 19th century charm. The Inn currently has 31 rooms overlooking Phillips Lake and the scenic Dedham Hills. Each room includes a flat screen television, gas fireplace, and a heated towel bar. The Inn also features several dining areas that offer a diverse menu of progressive American cuisine and an award-winning wine collection. Bordering the Inn is the Lucerne-in-Maine Golf Course, which offers discounted rates and packages to guests of the Inn.

The Inn plays host to numerous weddings each year, as well as its annual October bridal show, which is attended by more than 100 brides. Additionally, many memorial ceremonies, Christmas parties, baby showers and business meetings choose The Lucerne Inn as their venue. Accommodations such as free wifi, LCD projectors and flip charts are available for such events.

To commemorate The Lucerne Inn's bicentennial, the owners, Steve and Rhonda Jones, are planning several special events and deals for guests and patrons of the Inn. These events include a public open house, wine and menu specials priced at \$18.14, and special rates for guests. I am delighted to recognize the accomplishments of this wonderful establishment and look forward to its continued success in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating The Lucerne Inn on its bicentennial.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 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 \$17,419,220,117,766.69. We've added \$6,792,343,068,853.61 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.

HONORING JERRY DENBO

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the death, but more importantly celebrate the life of Jerry L. Denbo, a beloved friend and father. Jerry died at 63 on February 24, 2014.

Jerry Denbo was a genuine Hoosier man. He grew up in Bedford, Indiana where he went to high school. At Indiana University he graduated with a Master's in Education, and worked at two high schools before becoming the State Representative for District 62. Jerry retired from his General Assembly position in 2007 after 17 years of service.

Jerry Denbo was a fierce advocate for the communities he served. For many years Jerry fought to bring casino gaming to French Lick and was ultimately successful, bringing much needed economic assistance and employment to the area. Jerry had a great love for working for the state of Indiana, and brought warmth and humor to his service.

Jerry Denbo exemplified the greatness of the Hoosier spirit. His memory will live on in the prosperity he contributed to the state of Indiana.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JEANNE
A. CONRY**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Jeanne A. Conry, President of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, who made major contributions to the betterment of women's health throughout her long and successful career.

The initiatives she has undertaken guarantee profound improvements in women's health.

Dr. Conry began her tenure as ACOG President by applauding the Affordable Care Act's priority on women's health, asserting that, "By investing in this generation, we have invested in the next." She called on America's 58,000 ob-gyns and partners in women's health to "lead the changes that are before us, because we are truly the leaders in women's healthcare."

Dr. Conry's theme during her Presidency has been "Every Woman, Every Time," a reminder to her profession and to us all that at every contact in our health care system, reproductive health choices and well-woman care are a necessity.

Her work urges recognition that socioeconomic, demographic, biologic and behavioral differences among women can impact reproductive outcomes greatly.

As part of her leadership, Dr. Conry developed the National Maternal Health Initiative, a partnership to bring together leaders in public and private health policy to improve maternal health outcomes. It includes ACOG; the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM); the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses; the American College of

Nurse-Midwives; Merck for Mothers; and the Maternal Child Health Branch of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Conry has pointed to the successful focus on newborn outcomes that show fetal and infant mortality have decreased by almost 30 percent in the past three decades. Her research shows that maternal mortality has actually increased, however, and in some states by almost 50 percent. Her conclusions reveal African-American women have a maternal mortality rate up to four times higher than white women. These significant findings will improve pregnancy outcomes for generations to come.

Dr. Conry's efforts emphasize the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality through access to contraception planning, and ensuring safety in maternity care. Her initiatives have led to better outcomes through life-course planning, obesity and exercise awareness, and redesigning the postpartum visit to optimize future health and pregnancy outcomes.

She has established a process to regionalize care so that women at high risk deliver at hospitals that can meet their needs. The initiative has gone toward identifying and implementing protocols for maternity risk conditions such as hemorrhaging, hypertension, thromboembolism, cardiac disease, and sepsis.

Dr. Conry has called on all leaders in maternity care to guide this change in women's health care. Her career has also been dedicated to better understanding and investigating how the environment impacts reproductive health by proposing a broader analysis of the health effects that pharmaceuticals, diet, drugs, tobacco, alcohol, radiation and chemicals in the environment have on women.

Her leadership and legacy extend to improving women's health by initiating partnerships to facilitate coordination and harmonization of clinical guidelines in Great Britain, Canada, the United States and other ob-gyn societies. These guidelines now provide direction for maternal health programs as well as the practice of obstetrics and gynecology around the world.

And of course, Dr. Conry's advocacy for women's health here in Washington, D.C. is truly exceptional. From stopping legislative interference in medical practice, to ensuring and protecting ACA coverage of contraceptives, to leading ob-gyns as they visit the Hill in March for improved care of gestational diabetes, Dr. Conry's advocacy knows no bounds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Dr. Jeanne Conry, whose devotion and leadership has advanced the improvement of women's health by leaps and bounds here in the United States and abroad.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
REQUIRE THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
TO INSTALL THE D.C.
SEAL IN THE MAIN READING
ROOM OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON
BUILDING**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to require the Library of Congress