

congratulating them on being honored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Associations. Civic engagement is the root of a community and Fairfax County residents enjoy an excellent quality of life due in part to the efforts of these individuals. The contributions and leadership of these honorees have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 2014*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the First African Baptist Church of Philadelphia, the oldest African American founded Baptist congregation in Pennsylvania.

The First African Baptist Church of Philadelphia was established in 1809. Since then, it has helped establish many other churches and institutions, including the Downingtown Industrial School. The First African Baptist Church of Philadelphia has also played an integral role in helping to promote equality in Pennsylvania by establishing the first African American savings and loans bank and the first mortgage company for African Americans.

Throughout its rich history, thirteen pastors have held the honor of leading its distinguished congregation. Currently, The Reverend Terrence D. Griffith serves as the church's pastor. At its centennial celebration in 1909, the church welcomed Booker T. Washington as its keynote speaker. In 2009, both Ed Rendell and Arlen Specter joined the church to celebrate its bicentennial anniversary. This year, the church will be celebrating its 205th anniversary, which I am personally attending.

I invite you and all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating The First African Baptist Church of Philadelphia's 205th anniversary. May its success and commitment to helping the City of Philadelphia be an inspiration to all of us in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 2014*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 194, H.R. 4292—"To amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 195, H.R. 3584—"To amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank, and for other purposes." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 196, Journal—On Approving the Journal. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 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 \$17,473,168,572,574.12. We've added \$6,846,291,523,661.04 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT PITTENGER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 2014*

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote Nos. 194–196, I am not recorded because I was absent from the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

On rollcall No. 194. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 195. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 196. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE BROOK HILL LADY GUARD 2014 STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONS

**HON. LOUIE GOHMERT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 2014*

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I recognize and congratulate the Brook Hill Lady Guard on a stellar 2013–2014 soccer season in which they once again captured the TAPPS Division III state championship.

The Brook Hill Lady Guard triumphed over the Austin Veritas Lady Defenders with a final score of 1–0, and finished a magnificent season with a perfect 19–0 record.

The defending champion Lady Guard boasted 17 consecutive shutouts, and the entire season only saw them giving up two goals.

The Brook Hill Lady Guard's championship success is a tribute to the coach who brought his team back for another chance at victory, as well as a tribute to the players and all who assisted them along the way.

This recognition of their accomplishment is extended to all of the athletic staff including the outstanding Head Coach David Collins, Assistant Coaches Jordan Roquemore and Neal McGowan, and Trainer Tristan Trevino, all under the outstanding leadership of Athletic Director Wally Dawkins, as well as the stellar school administration headed by Rod Fletcher.

The team members responsible for bringing the second championship title home to east Texas include Hayden Langemeier, Kennedy

Rose, Lily Cool, Katherine Stair, Tito Babatunde, Maria Moore, Ari Assad, Elise Hawkins, Danielle Adams, Janet Nwachukwu, Hope Cooper, Kendall Wells, Hayley Dumesnil, Li Ming, Morgan Moss, Penny End, Katie Smith, and Julia Troxell.

The Brook Hill staff and the entire community of Bullard have devoted countless hours to support and encourage these young ladies in the pursuit of their dream.

It is my most esteemed honor to congratulate everyone involved with this endeavor. May God continue to bless these young women, their families and friends, and all those individuals who call Bullard, Texas their home.

Congratulations to the 2014 TAPPS Division III State Soccer Champions, the Brook Hill Lady Guard, as their back to back championship legacy is now recorded in the Congressional Record that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

RECOGNIZING 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF FAIRBURN, GEORGIA

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 2014*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 160th anniversary of the City of Fairburn, Georgia, situated within Georgia's Thirteenth District. Since its early beginnings in 1830, Fairburn has continued to grow, evolving into a thriving community of historic homes, businesses, and places of worship. Originally named Cartersville, Fairburn's first charter was issued in 1854 which established the city's jurisdiction as a mere 600-yard radius from the central railroad depot. As time progressed, Fairburn steadily expanded, ultimately achieving "city" status in 1925. Throughout these years of development, the city gradually cultivated a bustling downtown area comprised of railroad infrastructure, public schools, and vibrant businesses which is now recognized in the National Register of Historic Places. With a population of nearly 14,000 residents, Fairburn still maintains the small town atmosphere that has remained a hallmark of the city's charm.

While remembering its past, Fairburn embraces the opportunities and challenges facing its citizens in the 21st century. In recent years, local voters approved a referendum to fund improvements for Duncan Park, downtown areas damaged by fire, infrastructure projects, and a new fire station. Further, Fairburn's Education Campus continues to expand, housing satellite locations of the Georgia Military College and Brenau University. This award-winning four acre campus, now boasting two 18,400 square-foot class room buildings and an 11,400 square-foot administrative building, is the result of a \$10 million project funded through the Development Authority of Fairburn. Continuing with the spirit of growth, Fairburn recently received a \$3.1 million grant for an innovative transportation project which is slotted to make the historic downtown area more pedestrian friendly. It is the city's hope that with an increased aim on a pedestrian-focused community, citizens will enjoy an improved connectivity between homes, shops, offices, and the campus.