

law to develop policies and legislation that empower tribal nations to protect Native American women from sexual and domestic violence.

Ms. Deer is a nationally recognized activist and expert in the movement to end violence against Native American women, a professor of law, and co-director of the Indian Law Clinic at William Mitchell College of Law. As a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, she works with grassroots and national organizations to protect Native American victims of violence.

Receiving the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship is a testament to Ms. Deer's outstanding work. This includes membership on the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Domestic Violence and the board of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence. In 2007, Ms. Deer led Amnesty International's report, *Maze of Injustice*, which cast domestic violence as an international human rights problem. Her efforts were instrumental in passing the 2013 Violence Against Women Act, giving tribal courts the power to prosecute non-Native Americans who assault Native American spouses or dating partners, or violate a protection order on tribal lands.

Ms. Deer has exhibited exceptional devotion to a worthy cause and continues to improve countless lives. I appreciate all that she has done to serve our nation, and I thank her for her exemplary work. She deserves this honor.

HONORING MS. DOROTHY
JOHNSON-SPEIGHT

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Philadelphia's greatest luminaries, Ms. Dorothy Johnson-Speight, Founder and Executive Director of Mothers In Charge, Inc. She is a respected leader, solid advocate and inspirational speaker against the war to end senseless acts of violent crime. Her work, though rooted in Philadelphia, has led to national appearances and presentations across the United States and abroad.

A licensed family therapist, Dorothy actively engages in championing the rights of children and families. She has a distinguished career in victim advocacy. In 2001, her life was forever changed following the tragic murder of her son Khaaliq Jabbar Johnson over a parking space dispute. That tragic incident left Mrs. Johnson-Speight needing the support of others. She reached out to other grieving mothers and together they founded the non-profit organization Mothers In Charge, Inc., a grassroots organization whose mission is violence prevention through education. Mothers In Charge engages in proactive intervention with children, young adults, families and community organizations.

The work of Mothers In Charge under the direction of Mrs. Johnson-Speight has motivated mothers from around the country who have suffered the indescribable loss of a child. Chapters of this extraordinary organization have been founded in Wilmington, DE, San Francisco, CA, Los Angeles, CA, Kansas City, MO, Atlantic City, NJ, Brooklyn, NY and Harrisburg, PA.

The extraordinary work of Dorothy Johnson-Speight and Mothers In Charge has been appreciated and acknowledged by some of the nation's most influential publications and organizations. Dorothy has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Best Philadelphia Award from the Philadelphia Magazine; the Philadelphia Eagles identified her as one of the 75 Greatest Living Philadelphians; in 2012, the Philadelphia Tribune chose her as one of Philadelphia's Most Influential African American Leaders, and the Philadelphia Inquirer named her Citizen of the Year in 2013. The recognition doesn't stop there as Mothers In Charge has also received numerous organizational awards and recognitions. The organization was the focus of a special feature on the OWN Network's "Our America" with Lisa Ling. Villanova University produced a documentary, *No Greater Pain* which journal's Dorothy's unspeakable loss and her arduous and unexpected journey to victim advocacy.

Organizational awards include the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Director of Community Service Award, the Wells/Fargo/Wachovia Community Service Award, and the School District of Philadelphia Humanitarian Award.

I am pleased to lead the Congress in honoring Dorothy Johnson-Speight—founder of Mothers In Charge—for her unceasing efforts and outstanding progress in victim advocacy. Her legacy in Philadelphia and her mark on the national stage for victim advocacy will leave a legacy on generations to come.

HONORING PASTOR E.L. KING

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor E.L. King, who is a former Educator in the Greenwood Public School District, Extraordinary and public servant.

Mrs. Ethel King was born in Leflore County on June 8, 1959 to Robert and Ethel L. Lawrence. At the age of thirteen, her mother died and she was nurtured by her grandfather, Mr. Willie James Lawrence, along with her seven siblings.

Mrs. King attended Greenwood Public School. She dropped out of school in the twelfth grade in 1976 because she had her first child. She was very independent and determined to make an easier life for her child. She immediately went to work at Rocky Manufactory at the age of eighteen. She remained there 3½ years. She left Rocky Manufactory to work for Irvin Industry Automobile & Parts for 3½ years. After seven years of working in a factory environment, she felt life had more to offer her. She went on to take her GED and attended Mississippi Valley State University in 1986. Before completing college in November, 1989, her daughter fell ill and later died with Leukemia in December, 1990. While at the University Hospital, she volunteered as a coordinator to help parents cope with their children's illness. She later volunteered with a candidate for a supervisor position in the 2nd District in Greenwood.

Mrs. King was called into the Ministry in 1992. She completed her Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice in 1993. After com-

pleting her degree, her health failed. She continued to fight on in 1996. She went to work as a volunteer permanent substitute teacher at Dickerson Elementary School under the leadership of Mrs. Vivian Redmond. Later she was hired as a full-time substitute teacher. Mrs. King was very dedicated to educating children.

In 1998 she was hired at Bankston Elementary School as an assistant teacher until her health failed again. She retired in 2006. After retiring from the school system, Mrs. King worked as a Notary Public of the State of Mississippi under Governor Haley Barbour. She also volunteered with the Fannie Lou Hamer Foundation in Leflore County. Later, she became Pastor of Monument of Grace Church II in Lexington, MS for three years under the leadership of Bishop L.J. Johnson.

Pastor Ethel L. King has made an impact on the lives of many children and adults alike, encouraging them through the scripture, ". . . but seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all things shall be added unto you."

Pastor Ethel L. King is married to Edward E. King and they are the proud parents of two beautiful daughters and eight precious grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Ethel L. King, a Former Educator, a Pastor who is yet inspiring others and often giving of herself to make many lives better.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S
CHARITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is with some degree of frustration that I voted no on H.R. 5806. I strongly support some of the individual provisions; indeed, I am the leading Democratic cosponsor of the provisions relating to charitable contributions from individual retirement accounts.

I have been a leading supporter of land trusts, working closely with them to fix challenges raised by application of the estate tax for instance, and broadly supporting their work across the country to protect and preserve our nation's heritage and open spaces. I have worked hard to improve resources for Oregon's food banks and to end hunger both at home and abroad.

Today, we are abandoning any semblance that this Congress is going to work on major accomplishments before we adjourn.

With this and similar tax extender votes, Congress appears to have given up on deficit reduction, despite my colleagues otherwise voracious appetite for it—an appetite that led to House Republicans attempting to cut nutrition assistance to poor Americans by \$39 billion last year. Section five of this bill, in fact, specifically strikes the Republican's own PAY-GO rules. Budget-busting proposals are roaring through here with no semblance of honoring the Republicans' own budget rules or their budget resolution.

With this and similar tax extender votes, Congress appears also to have given up on tax reform because we are not going to be

able to have meaningful tax reform if we are just willy-nilly going to rush all these provisions through.

My colleague, Chairman CAMP, worked for years to produce a deficit-neutral tax reform, which had much to commend it, and I commend him for his hard work. All of these provisions of tax extenders were addressed in his tax reform, but they were dealt with differently. Not all were extended permanently. Some were modified and some were repealed, as part of a deliberative process to evaluate their impact and to not break the bank. This vote—like similar unpaid for permanent tax extender votes—abandons that effort.

This bill is not going to be enacted into law as the President's veto threat makes clear, and Congress will pick up where it left off—and frankly, where Mr. CAMP left off—as we work with our colleagues in the other body and our constituents to move forward on the things that we are all committed to in a way that is fiscally responsible, is bipartisan and thoughtful, to get the outcomes we all share.

RECOGNIZING 2015 ILLINOIS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR STEVE
ELZA

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Steve Elza, the 2015 Illinois Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Elza is an Applied Technology teacher at William Fremd High School in my district who teaches Automotive Technology classes and is the sponsor of the school Auto Club. He has worked in School District 211 and Fremd High School for over 7 years and strives to create an educational environment where students learn real-world skills they can take with them after graduation.

I think we can all agree that teachers are in a unique position to mold their students, and good teachers can guide and inspire students to achieve. Speaking to his students and peers, it is clear that Mr. Elza is a great teacher. Day in and day out he goes above and beyond to create a classroom environment where students can pursue projects they are passionate about, an approach that energizes his students, expands their skillsets, and reminds them that learning can be fun. Teaching students to explore their interests, and consider their career prospects, Mr. Elza has had an outsized impact on the success of his students as they go out into the workforce as young adults.

Evidence of his unique approach isn't hard to find. Through the Auto Club, students participate in various extracurricular activities like practicing maintenance repairs on cars of faculty members and competing in a national automotive competition held annually in Las Vegas. By engaging students to enjoy and apply what they are learning, Mr. Elza has broken through the bustle of busy young lives to really leave a mark on students. It's proven to be a winning formula.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues please join me in recognizing Mr. Steve Elza for his outstanding service and congratulate him on being named the 2015 Illinois Teacher of the Year.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KELLY
KNOTT

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Katherine "Kelly" Marjory Krauser Knott. Kelly fought a courageous battle against breast cancer, which sadly took her life on December 3.

As demonstrated at a memorial service earlier this week, Kelly touched many lives. The gathering held in her memory overflowed with love and grief shared by her many friends, colleagues, and family members.

Kelly was a graduate of New Canaan High School and St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. She earned a master's degree from George Washington University.

She began her career in the nation's capital as an aide to our former colleague, Rep. Mel Hancock of Missouri. She worked in and around policy with true grace and professionalism. She held various positions throughout her distinguished career and was universally respected and admired.

I met Kelly my first week as a new Member of Congress and was struck by her knowledge of both policy and politics. She had a great understanding of the Hill and worked tirelessly to advance the goals of her members. I not only considered her a colleague but a friend.

As important as her professional achievements were, they do not compare to the success she enjoyed in her personal life. Kelly was a devoted wife to her husband Stewart and beloved mother to Carson, Halle, and Kendall.

I ask the House to join me in offering condolences to the Knott family and keep them in your prayers as they mourn the loss of a remarkable woman.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 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 \$17,997,912,502,715.74. We've added \$7,371,035,453,802.66 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING MARVIS HOOD, JR.

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Marvis Hood, Jr., who, after proudly serving his country, passed away on December 8, 2014, from complications related to pneumonia.

Marvis "Big Daddy" Hood, Jr. was born in Marlin, Texas to Marvis and Jewelene Hood with one sibling, Graham Hood. In 1960, Mr. Hood joined the United States Air Force and later re-enlisted in the United States Army 52nd Sig BN, performing 22 years of military service. He voluntarily served three tours in Vietnam and eventually retired on Oct 6, 1984 as a Staff Sergeant. During his service, he earned five Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal (5 campaigns), the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/Palm, and Expert on Rifle and Pistol awards. He earned the nickname "Big Daddy" playing football during a duty station assignment in Naples, Italy where he earned MVP as an Offensive tackle.

While in the military, he married Vera Mae Touchstone, a childhood friend. They had three sons, Roderick, Marcus, and Marvis III. Mr. Hood remarried on March 18th, 1977, to the love of his life Dora Jean Taylor. Having moved to Modesto for the remainder of his military career, he also served as a Reserve Officer with the Stanislaus County Sheriff Department.

Being a resident of Modesto for 37 years, Mr. Hood was involved in many charitable endeavors that benefited many in and outside the community of Modesto. Because of his appreciation for the opportunities his military career provided, which helped shape the man he became, Mr. Hood was deeply concerned about veteran issues; especially the health and welfare of homeless veterans. He established a yearly "Standown" for homeless veterans, that was modeled after the concept established during the Vietnam War, to help provide health services, winter clothing, food, and a warm safe place for the night.

Wanting to provide service for more than a few days a year, Mr. Hood was looking for a long term solution that led him to establish the Central Valley Homeless Veterans home. He provided a support system to aid many veterans in getting back on their feet. The Stanislaus County chapter of the American Red Cross awarded the Good Samaritan Senior Hero award to Marvis Hood, Jr. for his work helping veterans.

Mr. Marvis Hood Jr. is survived by his wife Dora; his three sons Roderick Hood, Marcus Hood and Marvis Hood III; his brother Graham Hood; and half-brothers Dwight Hood and Mike Wallace. He is loved and remembered by a host of family, friends, and the many he helped.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Marvis "Big Daddy" Hood, Jr. and all of his excellent contributions to veterans and the community. Anyone who knew Marvis saw a gregarious and sometimes larger than life personality which at times hid a teddy bear heart of gold which was always willing to lend a helping hand or timely words of wisdom.

HONORING TRINA GEORGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trina George, who is a Director, Leader and Public Servant.