

year, he started in all 12 games and recorded 49 tackles and 5 interceptions; the following year he had 45 tackles, 2 interceptions, and a blocked field goal. His seasons were so remarkable that he was named All-Gulf South Conference both years.

Despite such success at West Alabama, Butler went undrafted. Fortunately, he was invited to attend a tryout for the New England Patriots to make their roster going into training camp. With odds that were not in his favor, Butler managed to be a standout player at that tryout, and he ultimately made the team.

Butler had a solid season this year on the Patriots team, playing 52 snaps on special teams and 182 on defense. Though he didn't play in the playoffs versus the Ravens and only 15 snaps against the Colts, Butler made a name for himself in this year's Super Bowl. After the Patriots struggled against Seahawks wide receiver Chris Matthews throughout the first half, the Patriots made adjustments and substituted Butler in the game.

New England was able to contain Matthews, and they held the lead 24–20 with two minutes left in the game. Butler came through in two crucial plays in the home stretch. In the first, after swatting the ball into the air, Butler manages to force receiver Jermaine Kearse out of bounds after Kearse caught it. Two plays later, Butler made a game-winning interception, the first of his NFL career.

Butler's example is proof that one's mistakes do not define him. His persistence, combined with his shrewd football acumen, has cemented his role in NFL history. Malcolm Butler is yet another example of Mississippi's tradition of producing fine athletes that are also honorable human beings.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

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 \$18,132,368,938,938.98. We've added \$7,505,491,821,025.90 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

BUFFALO STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize five outstanding members of the senior class at Buffalo State College, Roderick Epps, Justin Best, Chris Thompson, Larry Rivers, and Chris Cartwright. As members of the Buffalo State men's basketball team, these students are known as leaders among their peers and teammates. I commend these young men for their dedication to academics

and athletics and congratulate them on the completion of their college careers.

Roderick Epps studied Health and wellbeing while at Buffalo State and comes from Uniondale, New York where he attended Uniondale High School. Roderick played the position of Guard during his time on the basketball team.

While at Buffalo State Justin Best majored in Economics & Finance and also played the position of Guard. Justin's hometown is Sleepy Hollow, New York, and he graduated from Sleepy Hollow High School. An economics major, Chris Thompson played for Buffalo State as a Forward. He hails from Far Rockaway, New York where he attended Channel View High School.

A fellow Forward, Larry Rivers studied Criminal Justice during his time at Buffalo State. A native of Syracuse, New York Larry attended Fowler High School.

Chris Cartwright comes from Binghamton, New York and is a graduate of Binghamton High School. He is a communications major and played at Guard for Buffalo State.

Balancing the responsibilities demanded of student athletes is a true challenge, and each of these students handled the test with dignity and grace. As an alumnus of Buffalo State, I will be proud to call them fellow alumni.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing my colleagues to join me in recognizing these extraordinary Buffalo State Bengals and in congratulating them as they obtain their undergraduate degrees. Their dedication and drive will propel them to success, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

H.R. 596, A BILL TO REPEAL THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, House Republicans are wasting America's time with another pointless vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act. If this bill were to become law, it would rip away affordable health insurance coverage from millions of Americans, allow insurance companies to once again deny coverage based on pre-existing health conditions, and increase costs for seniors with Medicare.

We could spend our time debating and voting on legislation to promote economic growth and ensure that American workers share in the economic gains that they help produce. We could debate and vote on ways to boost middle-class take-home pay through targeted tax reforms, paid for by reducing tax giveaways to special interests and the wealthy. We could have a vote in the House—at long last—on bipartisan immigration reform legislation, or on a plan to replace meat-ax sequestration spending cuts with a smarter deficit-reduction plan.

Instead, we vote for the 56th time on whether to repeal or undermine a law that has already done so much to make insurance companies more accountable, hold down the growth of health spending, and improve American families' economic security by making sure they all have access to affordable health insurance. The Affordable Care Act is not perfect. Like Medicare and Social Security before

it, the law will benefit from adjustments over time. If Republicans were serious about improving the United States' health care system, we would sit down and hammer out real improvements to the Affordable Care Act based on what we have learned as the law has taken effect. Instead, we are voting on a bill that basically says we can pretend that more than four years' worth of public- and private-sector actions implementing the Affordable Care Act to make affordable health care in this country a reality can simply be swept aside. This is nothing more than a Tea Party talking-point fantasy masquerading as a piece of legislation. And after four years, we are still waiting for the Republican majority to fulfill their promise to develop a replacement for the Affordable Care Act.

Finally, I am very curious to see how Congressional Republicans will square this vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act with their much-vaunted promise to develop a balanced budget. The Republican budgets for the last two years would not have come anywhere close to balancing without the revenues and health care savings generated by the Affordable Care Act. There is a glaring inconsistency here.

Enough is enough. It is time for our Republican colleagues to get over their fixation on bashing the Affordable Care Act and instead get on with the real work of rebuilding a prosperous American middle class.

TRIBUTE TO DAN ATWOOD

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Temecula, California are exceptional. Temecula has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated people who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Dan Atwood is one of these individuals. On February 21, 2015, Dan will be honored at the Temecula Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Gala where he will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award.

After moving to California in the 1970s, Dan quickly immersed himself into the automotive industry, eventually purchasing his first dealership in 1987. Launching forward from there, Dan opened a second dealership, Temecula Toyota. Dan's business has been a staple of the community which continually keeps pace with the ever-expanding region. In the twenty-five year span that the dealership has been operating, it has always been under the watchful eyes of the Atwood family, even as the dealership has grown to employ over two hundred employees.

Dan has given his time to the community not only as a businessman, but as a dedicated citizen committed to improving and strengthening the Temecula region. He has continually served numerous organizations in order to give back to the community that has always supported his endeavors. The groups that Dan is involved in span from nationally recognized non-profits, such as Habitat for Humanity, to locally started organizations such as the Balloon and Wine Festival. For over ten years,

Dan has also opened his doors to Safe Alternative for Everyone and their highly successful Denim and Diamonds fundraiser, bringing in hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit victims of domestic abuse. Additionally, the gates of the Atwood Estate Winery, another Atwood venture, are often opened on multiple occasions during the year to host fundraisers benefiting the community. As a firm believer in the future of tomorrow, Dan has worked to never miss a chance to participate in events that benefit the youth of the community. From sponsoring events to providing full-ride college scholarships, to serving as a mentor at the Boys & Girls Club, Dan has invested himself in the future generations of community leaders.

In light of all Dan Atwood has done for the community of Temecula, the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce announced Dan to be their Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. Dan's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of Temecula, California. He has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many local citizens are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

A TRIBUTE TO SYDNEY GIBSON
KING

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as the nation celebrates Black History Month, I rise to celebrate a Philadelphia treasure, Mrs. Sydney G. King. Because of her love and dedication to dance and her desire to train Black ballerinas, Mrs. King opened the Sydney School of Dance in the 1940s for aspiring African American dancers who were not allowed to attend white dance studios in post war segregated Philadelphia.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1919, King came to Philadelphia with her family when she was just two years old and at an early age began studying ballet under the tutelage of dance pioneer Essie Marie Dorsey.

For more than six decades the Sydney School of Dance trained hundreds of Black children and many went on to receive national and international recognition in the dance world.

Those students include dance professionals such as: Joan Meyers Brown, the founder and director of the much acclaimed Philadanco; Billy Wilson, famed director/choreographer and soloist with the National Ballet of Holland; Broadway performer Betsy Ann Dickerson; singer/actress Lola Falana; Carol Johnson, a former principal dancer with the Eleo Pomare Dance Company and founder of an aboriginal dance company in Australia; and Arthur Hall, founder of the Afro American Dance Ensemble.

These dance greats in no way diminish the accomplishments of hundreds of her other students who did not choose careers in dance but because of the empowering and esteem building training at the Sydney School of Dance they are today proud and successful professionals in a variety of fields.

Mrs. King, the mother of three children, is a widow and now at the age of 95 sums her life's dedication to dance by saying simply she wanted to, "train and create Black ballerinas."

WELCOME HOME COLONEL SAM
JOHNSON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, flying in his F-4 Phantom over North Vietnamese was Air Force pilot Colonel SAM JOHNSON. On his second tour of duty in Vietnam, Colonel JOHNSON was flying with the fighter squadron called Satan's Angels, when his plane was shot down by ground fire. It was April, 16, 1966 and Colonel JOHNSON became a POW.

Colonel JOHNSON was a career pilot who had already flown 62 combat missions during the Korean War and was on his 25th in Vietnam in his F-4. On that fateful day in April, a foreign land claimed him captive. He was in the Vietnam prisoner of war camp for 7 years, but Colonel JOHNSON never wavered.

He was put through serious torment for those 7 years; one can't even imagine the hell he lived.

Because of the way he would not give in to torture and interrogation, the enemy moved him to the famous Hanoi Hilton, or "Alcatraz," as it was appropriately coined. It was as bad a POW camp that ever existed. Alcatraz was where they put the most obstinate men. The POWs, calling themselves the "Alcatraz gang," were so hard-nosed they had to be segregated. The North Vietnamese even had a name for Colonel SAM JOHNSON, "Die Hard."

For 7 years, Colonel JOHNSON was beaten and tortured, but they got no information out of him. He was a pillar of patriotism and strength. He never broke. All of his patriotic stubbornness landed him in solitary confinement, where he remained for 4 years. He was subjected to a cell that was 3- by 9-feet. During those 4 years, all that was in the cell was a light bulb above his head that the enemy kept on for 24 hours a day. During the nighttime, they put him in leg irons, and during those 4 years, he never saw or talked to another American. It was brutal, it was harsh, it was cruel, it was mean.

While he was in the POW camp, he and other POWs communicated with each other using a code by tapping on the wall. It was then, that Colonel JOHNSON memorized the names of the other POWs in captivity. He kept this memory close so that when he escaped or was released, he would be able to tell their loved ones who they were and where they were.

The enemy laughed at Colonel JOHNSON. They made fun of him. And his response "Is that the best you can do?" He entered the prisoner of war camp a strong and sturdy 200 pounds. On a diet of weeds, pig fat and rice, he lost 80 pounds, but never let it get to him.

After 7 years of confinement, captivity and nightmare, he was released, 42 years ago, on February 12, 1973. Today we proudly celebrate his "returniversary."

After his release, Colonel JOHNSON continued to serve in the United States Air Force, serving for a total of 29 years. After he left the

Air Force, he served in the Texas State House. He had his own business and in 1991, he came to the United States House of Representatives, where he still serves and represents the folks from the great state of Texas.

He is tenacious, unyielding and more than anything he is patriotic. He was willing to risk his own life in a foreign land for people just like you and me. Not only is the Texas Delegation lucky to have such a man serving alongside them, but so is the House of Representatives.

Just simply saying thank you could never suffice. I am honored to know such a man and call him my friend.

To Colonel SAM JOHNSON and all who served in Vietnam: welcome home, welcome home, welcome home.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING GARY MICHAEL
BRUNER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Gary Michael Bruner. Gary is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Gary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Gary has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Gary has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Gary Michael Bruner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING NAACP'S 106TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Founder's Day (February 12) and recognize the 106th Anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the largest and the oldest, the baddest and the boldest, and the only premier civil rights organization in the world dedicated to fighting for the social justice and equality of Blacks in America, and for people of color everywhere. Over the years, the NAACP has played pivotal roles in efforts ranging from universal suffrage to wrongful death investigations. Their continued contributions to the pursuit of equality are a testament to the organization's leadership and its hard-working members.

I commend the New York State Conference and our leader, Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, and the