

themselves to serving the west side of Aurora. From humble beginnings, the church has grown into a local institution with over 250 members, nine deacons, 10 associate ministers, and almost 30 ministries offering services including the children's choir, Sunday school classes, and youth bible study. Members are also dedicated to service outside of the church, volunteering at local charities, providing transitional counseling for incarcerated men and women, raising money for scholarship programs to help area youth, and answering many more calls for assistance from Aurorans.

I would like to thank the Reverend George Marshall and the congregation of Gayles Memorial Missionary Baptist Church for their continuing stewardship of our community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 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 \$18,151,143,313,299.53. We've added \$7,524,266,264,386.45 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.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST.
JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, Connecticut.

The history of St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington dates to before the Revolutionary War when missionaries celebrated Anglican rites with local residents. A handful of families bound by the mission of faithful service founded St. John's Episcopal Church and built their first wood frame church in Davies Hollow in 1794. In 1815, the wooden structure was moved by wagon to the parish's current home on the Green.

As the church's membership continued to grow, the congregation raised funds to build a new church. In 1915, renowned architect Ehrick Rossiter designed the stone structure that is still in use today. Over the decades, the church flourished. The ministries expanded to include a choir, Sunday school, and many community outreach activities. In 2012, Rev. Susan McCone was installed as the thirteenth Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, the congregation's first female head.

Over the past 200 years, the Town of Washington grew around the church. Today, St. John's stands as an architectural landmark and spiritual beacon on Green Hill welcoming 200 families in fellowship. St. John's inclusive hospitality and dedication to promoting inter-

faith dialogue through educational programs and spiritual events builds the sense of community for parishioners and neighbors alike. The congregation supports the town through programs like the St. John's Emergency Fund, which helps Washington residents who experience urgent and unforeseen hardship with monetary assistance for food, medicine, and other necessities.

On August 29, 2015, St. John's Episcopal Church celebrated its 200th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of the historic stone church. Congratulations to Rev. McCone and all the parishioners of St. John's Episcopal Church. I wish you many more successful years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent due to illness and was not present for roll call votes on Tuesday, September 8, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner:

Roll Call Vote #490—S. 1359, E-Warranty Act of 2015—yes.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN
JAMES ALAN "TRUCK" HICKS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James Alan "Truck" Hicks, who was a Captain in the N.C. Air National Guard.

Captain Hicks died unexpectedly on Monday, July 27, 2015 after helping fight a house fire in Stanly County. He is the first member of the N.C. Air National Guard's fire service to die in the line of duty. On Sunday, Captain Hicks' unit was assigned to bring more water to the fire. However, more firefighters were needed on the interior of the home and Captain Hicks joined the attack.

Throughout his life, Captain Hicks was dedicated to his community and to helping others. In 1986, he began working with the Harrisburg Volunteer Fire Department. As time passed, he also worked with the Flowes Store Volunteer Fire Department as well as the Jackson Park Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as Chief for two years.

In addition, he worked for Concord Fire and Rescue for 10 years and was also with the Badin Volunteer Fire Department. Afterwards, he joined the North Carolina Air National Guard Fire Department for five years and served as Captain for two years.

Captain Hicks was a man of faith and served as a deacon at the Independence Square Baptist Church in Kannapolis. Despite his full schedule, he also served as a fire instructor at the Cleveland Community College in Shelby, N.C.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Captain Hicks' service and dedication to our local communities and I join them now in grieving his passing.

TRIBUTE TO ALISON PARKER AND
ADAM WARD

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alison Parker and Adam Ward, the young Virginia TV news reporter and cameraman who were tragically killed during a live broadcast on August 26th, 2015. In the face of such horrific evil, words fall short. But the lives of Alison and Adam will be remembered with great love. The thoughts and prayers of the nation remain with the families and loved ones of Alison and Adam, as well as the whole WDBJ news team and community of Franklin County, Virginia.

HONORING AND WELCOMING
CZECH AMBASSADOR PETR
GANDALOVIC AND SLOVAK AM-
BASSADOR PETER KMEC TO MIS-
SOURI'S FIFTH DISTRICT

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovic and Slovak Ambassador Peter Kmec to Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, which I proudly represent. The Ambassadors were invited by Kansas City based honorary consuls, Sharon Valášek (Czech Republic) and Ross Marine (Slovak Republic) for a "Celebration of Czechs & Slovaks Collaboration." The celebration includes meetings with local business leaders, a tour of The National World War I Museum and Memorial, a commemorative wreath-laying ceremony at the Truman Presidential Library and Museum and a special musical performance by world renowned Slovak violinist, Filip Pogády, sponsored by the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

This is an especially notable visit because of the Midwest's strong relationship with their two home countries, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Thousands of immigrants from these central European countries have come to the heartland since the early history of our country. They farmed, worked hard labor jobs, became teachers and took great pride in being Americans. While the numbers are smaller than in the past, Czech and Slovak people continue to come to the Midwest and assimilate into our economy and our way of life.

The Czech Republic and Slovak Republic have been allies and friends of the United States, dating back to the formation of Czechoslovakia on Oct. 28, 1918, as witnessed by the close relationship of the two presidents, Woodrow Wilson of the United States and Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk of Czechoslovakia.

The United States encouraged political and economic transformation in Czechoslovakia after its liberation from communism in 1989, and established diplomatic relations with the Czech Republic in 1993 after the country split into two republics (Czech Republic and Slovak