

Close to 700 volunteers come together to facilitate the bazaar, which funds scholarships, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and the Dharma School supported by the church. The Sacramento Buddhist Church's Annual Bazaar has been invaluable to Sacramento in its promotion of cross-cultural understanding and unity in Sacramento's diverse community.

Mr. Speaker, as the community of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento Hongwanji Betsuin gathers to celebrate the 70th anniversary of their Annual Bazaar, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring their commitment to preserving and sharing the rich traditions of Japanese culture with the wider community.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH  
BIRTHDAY OF GARY BROGAN

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 70th birthday of Gary Brogan. A proud veteran and devoted family man, Gary is a pillar of the Round Rock, TX community.

A son of the American heartland, Gary was born September 8, 1946 in Winfield, Kansas. It was there he learned the values of hard work and integrity that made him the man he is and that he has used in service to others.

Gary felt the call to serve and joined the U.S. Navy in 1966. He soon volunteered for combat duty and spent a year in Vietnam, earning a Vietnam Campaign Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and an Honorable Discharge. Like many of those brave warriors who served, Gary was never given a proper welcome upon his safe return to our shores. He was even advised not to wear his uniform in public to avoid the scorn of protestors.

Following his move to Round Rock in 2007, Gary has become a beloved citizen of my home town. He and wife Vicki have been supporters of the Heart to Heart Gala, which benefits the Sacred Heart Community Clinic as well as supporting local high school booster clubs and numerous charities in Round Rock. Both are proud and devoted members of St. Williams Catholic Church.

Gary's family and friends are making sure he gets a celebration befitting a hero. On August 6, the Legion Hall in Round Rock will be packed with well-wishers saluting a great man who has both served his nation and positively impacted his community.

Gary Brogan's commitments to freedom, community, and family reflect the best values of Central Texas. I join all lucky enough to know him in wishing him a happy birthday and best wishes for the years ahead.

HONORING MS. DANA SIMON

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dana Simon, who is

being honored today by the Napa County Office of Education as a 2017 Napa County Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Simon grew up in Lafayette, California and completed her Bachelor of Arts in English at the University of Southern California. After completing her English teaching credential at San Francisco State University, Ms. Simon began teaching at Pleasanton Middle School in 1996, and has worked with middle schoolers ever since. She completed her Master of Science in Education focusing on Curriculum and Instruction in 2007, and has been working with students at Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School in St. Helena, California since 2010.

Ms. Simon makes her classroom a creative and fun environment to inspire students to become engaged learners. She sets high expectations for her students and provides them with the support and encouragement they need to achieve great results. Outside the classroom, Ms. Simon is a member of the school's Technology Committee and the Advancement Via Individual Determination Site Team, ensuring all students have access to the resources they need to succeed.

Even with her busy teaching schedule, Ms. Simon has found time to engage with important civic causes. She serves as a member of the Napa Family Law Justice Center's Strategic Planning Committee, and she previously sat on the board of Congregation Beth Shalom.

Mr. Speaker, Dana Simon has dedicated two decades of her career to inspiring students in our community to learn and strive for excellence, both through her engaging work in the classroom and as a community leader. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2016*

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 \$19,481,571,141,221.67. We've added \$8,854,694,092,308.59 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.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOE  
HOCKEY, THE AUSTRALIAN AM-  
BASSADOR TO THE UNITED  
STATES

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2016*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Honorable Joe Hockey, the Australian Ambassador to the United States, who has become the honorary patron of Washington DC Youth Rugby.

The Embassy of Australia has been a partner with Washington DC Youth Rugby for the past six years, reaching out to underserved youth in the District of Columbia's inner city, promoting health and physical fitness, and teaching valuable life skills through the international sport of rugby.

Recognizing rugby as the fastest growing sport at the youth level, the Embassy hosted over 300 guests at a sports diplomacy reception on August 25, with proceeds benefiting Washington DC Youth Rugby. That evening, Ambassador Hockey will be highlighting the participation of the Australian Wallabies and USA Eagles in the Olympics for the first time since 1924.

Founded in 2004 with just seven players to field a team, Washington DC Youth Rugby has grown from a summer-only touch program in Northeast DC to sponsoring a tackle program for high school boys and girls at Bell Multicultural High School in Columbia Heights. While using rugby as a vehicle for social inclusion and youth development, Washington DC Youth Rugby is offering flag rugby in over 20 District elementary and middle schools in physical education classes and afterschool program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking the Embassy of Australia for showcasing sports diplomacy in DC and making a difference for the youth of our city in terms of health, self-esteem, teamwork and social skills development. I would also like to thank the coaches, volunteers, donors, partner schools, students, parents and alumni of Washington DC Youth Rugby on their steady growth and accomplishments over the last 12 years.

HONORING BERKELEY MT. ZION  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, located in Berkeley, California upon its 70th Anniversary as a strong religious pillar in the East Bay community.

Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1946 by Reverend Neal Lee Peterson, Deacon Fred Williams, Brother Harrison Williams, and Sisters Mattie Mae Peterson, Lula Williams, Ethel Mae Posey, Nora Sargent, Morrell Posey, Maxine Lyons, and Thelma A.J. Upchurch, who met at the home of Sister Maxine Lyons to fulfill the vision of Reverend Peterson.

During its early years, Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church met in the homes of various members, and held services at the Codornices Village Recreation Center.

In 1949, Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church was able to purchase its property on Camelia Street and establish its first permanent position. Services were held there for 12 years. As time passed, the church outgrew the small space, and in January 1961, the church moved into its newly-completed home on Eighth Street.

In 1966, Reverend Doctor M.T. Thompson answered the Lord's call to Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, where he led the