

Washington and that the federal government responded to their needs.

Deciding to leave the Congress she loved was a tough choice for Liz. But it was a natural progression to join the labor movement. She knew that her next assignment as legislative and political director at the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union was in keeping with her values and unwavering commitment to the men and women of the American labor movement. In this position, Liz worked with passion and moved with dispatch to ensure that the interests of the country's clothing and textile workers were fully represented not only before the U.S. Congress and Executive Branch, but internationally as well.

In 1995, Liz accepted a position as political director at the American Federation of Teachers in what would become the final and perhaps most important stop in her accomplished career. During her 15 years there, Liz's work on behalf of the more than 1.4 million members of the AFT included many accomplishments and milestones. She carried with her an intimate knowledge of the important work performed by AFT members and an ability to advance with unmatched skill and grace the causes she cared about most.

Liz is a true leader, always doing the right thing in a manner that is respectful of others and in turn earning others' respect. She is a wonderful woman and will be missed dearly by all of us who have had the pleasure of working with her. I wish Liz all the best in the years to come.

HONORING ALYSON DUDEK

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Alyson Dudek, a native of Hales Corners, Wisconsin, who along with her teammates—Lana Gehring, Katherine Reutter, and Allison Baver—won the bronze medal in the 3000-meter short track relay at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

This performance ended a sixteen-year medal drought for the United States in the event and Alyson's impressive effort was another memorable instance of Wisconsin athletes admirably representing our country at the Olympic Games in Vancouver. On behalf of all Wisconsinites, I want to congratulate Alyson on her accomplishments in the 3000-meter and 500-meter short track speed skating events.

The 2010 Winter Olympic Games showed yet again the inspiring skills and talents of Wisconsin natives who participated and medaled in a number of different disciplines. Alyson's exemplary performance in both the individual 500-meter event and 3000-meter relay in Vancouver capped off a tremendous skating season and it is my pleasure to congratulate Alyson, her family, coaches, and teammates on this achievement.

I am proud to recognize Alyson Dudek and all the members of the 2010 United States Olympic Team for their inspiring performance, breaking a record with 37 medals, and for their admirable representation of our country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,508,944,297,560.56.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,870,518,551,266.70 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN FLUNDER

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the incomparable Mary Ann Flunder of Kansas City, Kansas.

A longtime elected member of the Kansas City, Kansas Community College Board of Trustees, Mary Ann has given a lifetime of service to the Kansas City community. A tireless community activist, she has long served as one of my most important advisors and sounding boards. I place this statement in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, however, in recognition of her upcoming receipt of an award from the Kansas City Business Magazine, which will recognize her at an event on March 11th as one of the most influential businesswomen in the Kansas City area in 2010.

The March 2010 issue of KC Business includes a brief profile of Mary Ann Flunder, which I include below. I thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to pay public tribute to unique, irreplaceable, longtime Kansas City, Kansas community leader Mary Ann Flunder.

MARY ANN FLUNDER: BUSINESS CONSULTANT

Mary Ann Flunder has spent her life empowering others to achieve their academic, career and life goals. She has done so by assisting more than 100 entrepreneurs with business startups, by helping existing businesses achieve licensing and government funding, and by lobbying for legislation that advances small businesses. A tireless worker and champion of others, Flunder takes it upon herself to connect those who need connecting. A well-known advocate in the community, the sage-like Flunder has a reputation for stepping up to the plate and making things happen by expending her own time, money and other resources. Flunder participates on several boards, maintains an interest in the education of youth and runs a side business that sells Watkins products primarily to senior citizens. Flunder received an Excellence Award at the 2009 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Freedom Fund banquet.

HONORING MILDRED THOMPSON

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mildred Thompson, long-time Clerk of Courts for Scioto County. Sadly, Mildred passed away on February 28th. She was a life-long resident of Southern Ohio, and graduated from Minford High School. She married Judge Lowell Thompson. Mildred is survived by two daughters, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

First elected in November of 1968, Mildred Thompson continuously served the citizens of Scioto County as their Clerk of Courts until she retired in September of 2008. During her nearly 40 years as Clerk—Mildred was known for her tireless dedication to the citizens of Scioto County. She served on the boards of many state and local community organizations and, along with her husband, was a positive influence on the lives of many local children through her service as a 4-H advisor.

Mildred was loved and respected by those she came in contact with as Clerk of Courts for her hard work and the kind way she treated everyone she met. Outside of work, Mildred was known for her countless volunteer efforts. One of her favorite places to volunteer was the Southern Ohio Medical Center. Each year the Friends of Southern Ohio Medical Center present the Mildred E. Thompson Scholarship to a high-school senior from Scioto County who has placed service above self.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mildred Thompson, who led a life dedicated to public service. Mildred has forever left an imprint on her community. God bless Mildred and may she rest in eternal peace.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, this week is National Peace Corps Week, so I want to take a moment to recognize the tremendous work done by Peace Corps volunteers around the world. I myself served in the Peace Corps in Somalia in the mid-1960s and saw first hand the contribution that Peace Corps volunteers make to the communities in which they serve.

Since the founding of the Peace Corps in 1961, nearly 200,000 volunteers have served in 139 countries around the world. Over 7,000 volunteers are currently providing services in 76 countries, making contributions in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth, and the environment. Twelve of my own constituents are serving around the world in such countries as Panama, Kenya, and Cambodia.

Next year the Peace Corps will celebrate its 50th anniversary. During this anniversary year, we will rightly recognize the achievements of the Peace Corps and its volunteers over the past five decades. However, I hope we also