

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,907,946,255,585.93 so far this Congress.

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

HONORING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the League of Women Voters, which celebrated its 90th anniversary on February 14, 2010.

Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has worked to increase understanding of major public policy issues, encourage informed and active participation in government, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. With organizations in every state and hundreds of local chapters across the country, the League is one of the strongest grassroots activist networks in the country.

Throughout its history, the League has played a vital role in transforming our society and preserving responsive government. Whether fighting McCarthyism, helping to end segregation, protecting our environment, organizing our Nation's presidential debates, strengthening the Voting Rights Act, or upholding the decision in *Roe v. Wade*, the League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of nearly every major policy issue in the last 90 years. Through its dedication to good, responsible government, the League has been influential in overseeing the passage of Congress' most important pieces of legislation, including the Social Security Act and child labor laws.

The League's decentralized structure enabled it to keep pace with our Nation's dynamic societal changes in the last century, ensuring that its legislative priorities reflected the needs of society and critical issues of concern. Today, the League remains true to its mission of education and advocacy, focusing on global climate change, health care reform, and voting rights for the District of Columbia.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the achievements of the League of Women Voters and the contributions it has made to our Nation and to American history. Its efforts honor the legacy of the women who assembled at Seneca Falls, New York over 160 years ago. With the same courage and belief in equality, the League of Women Voters continues to make history.

IN RECOGNIZING OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL PEANUT BOARD

**HON. BOBBY BRIGHT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. BRIGHT. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, March 10th, the National Peanut Board

(NPB) celebrates 10 years of work on behalf of America's 10,000 peanut farmers, including the 500 who live in my district. Before this organization was created, there was no national effort by growers to market American-grown peanuts, spur new product development and innovative new uses, or to carry out an issues management program. Through several major strategic initiatives, the NPB's grower-funded check-off program has made measurable progress toward its goal of increasing demand and consumption since the launch of its promotion, marketing and advertising campaign.

Highlights from the National Peanut Board's past ten years will be showcased on March 10th at an event at the historic Eastern Market in Washington, D.C. featuring dishes created by celebrated chefs. They plan to honor one of America's most iconic and beloved foods. From savory to sweet, peanuts will be used in traditional and innovative dishes from a variety of cuisines at this special event celebrating this essential and deeply rooted part of America's food culture.

Since its inception, NPB has played a vital role in promoting peanuts. To stimulate consumer demand for American-grown peanuts over the last decade, NPB has extolled the value, nutritional attributes, versatility, portability, and great taste of American-grown peanuts, peanut butter and peanut products. NPB has undertaken marketing programs domestically and internationally to reach that goal, working to spark new uses for American-grown peanuts and peanut butter and to encourage the creation of innovative peanut products.

These programs are working. Since the start of NPB's programs in 2000, total peanut usage has increased more than 15 percent when compared to levels of usage in the 1990s. Peanut butter consumption alone has increased even more dramatically—over 20 percent during the same period, according to USDA Stocks and Processing reports.

Through partnerships with other commodity groups, manufacturers, and foodservice, NPB brings American-grown peanuts where they have never been before. NPB's targeted foodservice initiative actively promotes the culinary value of peanuts and peanut products by positioning them as versatile ingredients that can add nutrition, flavor, texture and appeal to any meal. In fact, listings of peanuts on the menus of the 200 restaurant chains have increased by 146 percent over the past seven years, according to Food Beat, Inc.

Production research funding is also at the forefront for the National Peanut Board. Over the past 10 years, NPB has invested more than \$14.4 million in peanut production research to help create crop efficiencies, improve crop quality and reduce production costs. Additionally, the NPB is the only commodity board investing in food allergy research, outreach and education and has allocated more than \$7 million to this cause.

Furthermore, the NPB played a pivotal role during the 2009 salmonella crisis, most notably by hosting a two-day consumer and media outreach event in Vanderbilt Hall in Grand Central Terminal in New York. Through direct interactions, NPB and its partners educated consumers, conveyed the concerns of peanut farmers, and facilitated a steady market recovery for peanut butter.

Nearly half the peanuts grown in the United States are harvested within a 100-mile radius

of Dothan, Alabama. As the Representative of the district which ranks fourth in the country in overall peanut acreage, I understand the importance of organizations like the NPB. Ten years of hard work and positive results for America's peanut farmers is a remarkable achievement. In honor of their 10th Anniversary, I commend the National Peanut Board for all of their hard work and past achievements, and wish them continued success in the future.

JACOB A. FRANKLIN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob A. Franklin. Jacob 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, Great Rivers Council Troop 99, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Jacob has displayed dedication and perseverance with this significant achievement, values which will stay with him throughout his life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob A. Franklin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING GAIL KROHN OF THE SECOND DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today the Second District of Texas recognizes Ms. Gail Krohn for her service to the Nederland Independent School District as she retired earlier this month. For 43 years, she has helped forge the minds of countless students, preparing them for an ever-changing and demanding world.

Gail was born in Kentucky and moved around through five different states before she and her family settled in Hull-Daisetta, TX. They stayed until she graduated from Lamar State College of Technology. Soon thereafter, she embarked on a long and fruitful career working with children in the Nederland Independent School District.

She began her career as a reading teacher at C.O. Wilson Middle School but was destined for a leadership role. Gail would eventually become principal of Central Middle School before taking over the role of Superintendent in 1997. Though she no longer worked with children on a daily basis, Gail made sure that the classrooms in Nederland always empowered students to achieve their dreams.

Numerous times throughout her career, Gail received recognition for her excellence in the