

married at Martha's Vineyard in a small and beautiful ceremony.

After they both retired from their careers on Capitol Hill in 1995, the Edwards decompressed by living in the village of Loumarin in Southern France. For more than a decade, the Edwards lived half the year in Carmel-by-the-Sea in California and half at Holly Point, their home overlooking the Chesapeake Bay in Edgewater, Maryland. They settled in Carmel for the last three years.

Born in New York on October 5, 1946 to the late John and Dorothea J. Wilkie, Edie graduated from Concord Academy and Vassar College. Tall and slim and athletic, she was an avid tennis player with a forehand her opponents considered lethal.

In addition to Mr. Edwards, she is survived by five stepsons; a sister and two brothers, Rennie Wilkie Lieber, John McNeil Wilkie and Peter Wilkie, and their families. She is also survived by her stepmother, Margot Loines Wilkie, of New York and Martha's Vineyard and two stepsisters, Faith Morrow Williams and Constance Morrow Fullenweider and their families.

Mr. Speaker, Edith Wilkie Edwards touched many lives in her community and devoted her life to building a more peaceful world. It is a privilege and a high honor to recognize her life. She will be missed and I know I speak for the whole House in honoring the life of this dedicated and loving woman.

#### HONORING ABRAHAM BREEHEY

### HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Abraham (Abe) Breehey, a devoted husband, father, son, and brother and to mourn him upon his sudden passing at the age of 34. Abe was the Government Affairs Director of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. Born in Binghamton, New York in 1976, Abe Breehey graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Sienna College in Loudonville, NY. He earned a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University of Albany and went on to serve as a Legislative Assistant during the 107th Congress and 108th Congress. He joined the IBB legislative staff in 2004. Abe was a sagacious voice for labor, widely respected on Capitol Hill and throughout the ranks of his union for his intellect, passion and commitment. He had the innate ability to build consensus across political and ideological lines.

On April 14, 2011, Abe passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He will long be remembered as a husband devoted to his beloved wife, Sonya and his treasured young daughter, Abigail. He is survived by his parents, Ray and Carol, his sister Rachel, three nieces, a nephew, and his loyal dog Kelsey. Abe leaves behind a legacy of many friends whose lives were bettered for having known him. Mr. Speaker, during his lifetime, Abe enriched the lives of everyone around him. As we bid farewell to this vibrant man, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his unwavering patriotism and legendary service to the working men and women of our community and our country.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,287,630,052,323.12.

On January 6, 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 \$3,649,204,306,029.30 since then.

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

#### ADA LAUNCHES JOBS-SOCIAL SECURITY-MINIMUM WAGE CAMPAIGN

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Americans for Democratic Action has launched a Progressive agenda for jobs, rejuvenating the American economy, saving Social Security, and raising the minimum wage.

#### JOBS

Workers without jobs can't provide adequately for the basic needs of their families. The unemployment crisis is damaging families and contributing to a multitude of economic and social ills, including:

The highest poverty rate for working-age people between 18 and 64—12.9% in 2009—since 1965. Today, 43.6 million Americans are living in poverty, 19 million of whom are in deep poverty.

Workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own often cannot pay mortgages and rent, even when receiving unemployment benefits, which are not equivalent to wages lost. The foreclosure crisis—primarily the outcome of misdeeds of bankers and mortgage brokers—is driving further declines in home values while destroying once-vibrant neighborhoods. Joblessness also contributes to increased homelessness, which is not only tragic for families who lose their homes, but is accompanied by broader social harms and increased budget pressures on already strapped local and state governments.

Unemployed workers—along with many who are still employed—are losing employer-based health insurance coverage. In 2009, 50.7 million people were without health insurance—the highest number of uninsured since the Census started collecting the data in 1987. Joblessness is increasing pressure on public programs such as Medicaid, while increased use of uncovered emergency services by those with no other option for care is driving further increases in healthcare costs for small businesses and those still fortunate enough to have jobs and healthcare coverage.

Workers without jobs can't pay taxes that provide the resources to hire teachers, police and firefighters, build and maintain roads, provide for appropriate national security, ensure product safety, protect the environment, and fill urgent long- and short-term national needs.

We condemn the folly of deficit slashing while 15 million Americans remain unemployed—plus 11 million more who are underemployed or have dropped from the labor force. Insufficient economic demand and idle productive capacity in the economy, in the short-term, bleeds federal and state budgets, whether or not current economic conditions meet the official definition of "recession." Reckless spending (except perhaps for ill-conceived and poorly executed wars) is not the cause of our budget woes. This is made obvious as conservatives decry the deficit, but cannot or will not name any specific government program they would slash in order to meet their demands for deficit reduction.

Job creation—and the economic growth that spurs job creation—is the only way to reduce a budget deficit that is primarily the result of high unemployment. Unemployed workers represent idle productive capacity—lost wages and lost economic output. Lost wages reduce demand for goods, services, and investment, and depress tax receipts. Without consumers with money to spend, firms don't invest or hire, leading to more joblessness and still lower output. That leads to declining tax receipts along with growing demand for automatic stabilizers (such as unemployment benefits) and safety net services (such as Medicaid, food stamps, and housing assistance). Government deficits are inevitable in economic downturns with high unemployment.

Since firms will not hire or invest where demand is lacking, and unemployed workers cannot expand consumption and increase demand, only the government can spur growth—through deficit spending and investment. Tax cuts may be helpful, but in the current climate, direct spending and investment will more quickly and more strongly stimulate demand. Investing now in America's current and future prosperity is the remedy for both joblessness and the long-term budget deficit.

Conservatives argue that austerity will spur economic growth. That argument is based on evidence that fiscal austerity reduces interest rates (borrowing costs) for firms, and thus stimulates investment. But the evidence for this model does not mirror current conditions. Interest rates in the U.S. are already at historically low levels, yet firms are not investing or hiring. Moreover, few of the countries that experienced rapid growth while practicing fiscal austerity adopted austerity when the economy was operating far below its potential level of output, and in no case was a country as far below its potential as the U.S. is today.

Furthermore, all of the evidence that austerity fosters growth comes from countries with a much larger percentage of their economy involved in export industries than is the case with the U.S. Trade provides a source of demand for countries with a large export sector. The U.S. currently cannot rely on export-led growth to stimulate sufficient demand to reduce unemployment. For unemployment to be reduced in the short run, domestic demand must be increased. Thus, arguments for slashing government budgets in order to stimulate jobs and economic growth are not credible under current economic conditions.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ARRA, may have created or saved up to 3.3 million jobs and averted a second Great Depression, according to the independent Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimates. But simple math shows that it was woefully insufficient to offset the loss of \$2.1 trillion in