

Michael started his law enforcement career as a Police Officer with the City of South San Francisco for six years. On September 5, 1988, he was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department. As an officer, Michael worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Traffic, and Investigations. In 1998, he completed the distinctive Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)—Robert Presley's Institute of Criminal Investigation (ICI) certification course with a specialty in homicide investigation.

Michael was promoted to Police Corporal on September 8, 2000, and served in Patrol, Youth Services, and earned a City Manager's Commendation in 2003 for his contribution and dedication to the City of Fairfield Driver's Training Program. On January 5, 2007 Michael was promoted to Police Sergeant and supervised teams on Patrol and then the Traffic Unit beginning in 2008. As the Police Department experienced changes in leadership and command staff, he stepped in and assisted city management by filling the gaps and acting as a Police Lieutenant and managing Patrol Operations when needed. In 2009, he earned the California Office of Traffic Safety's Award of Excellence for his outstanding motivational and leadership skills. His guidance and efforts dramatically increased the successful implementation and completion of traffic safety activities in the City of Fairfield.

Michael has been a valued employee and his commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Michael B. Mitchell continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BOB NICKELSEN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60 years of outstanding public and volunteer service of my fellow Oregonian and friend, Mr. Bob Nickelsen. I would like to celebrate and pay tribute to Bob's loyal service to my hometown of Hood River, Oregon and to pay tribute to a man who embodies the selfless spirit of service to others.

In 1951, Bob first joined the West Side Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter. In 1961, Bob was appointed fire chief of the department, a position that he held until 1980. During his tenure as fire chief, the West Side Fire Department expanded its services by erecting a second firehouse, which now bears his name. Under Bob's guidance, the fire department also began dispatching first responder personnel to aid emergency medical calls with the Hood River Ambulance Service.

For the past 30 years, he has also served as an elected member of the West Side Fire District Board of Directors. To this day, Bob continues to put himself in harm's way as a volunteer fire fighter. His leadership allowed this small rural volunteer fire district to stay in step with current developments in the fire

sciences and provide the professional level of support that the community so richly deserves.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Nickelsen's civic responsibilities do not end at the firehouse doors. He was a commissioner for the Port of Hood River for over 15 years and has served on numerous local agricultural boards and committees. He was previously recognized as the Hood River Valley's "Orchardist of the Year." As a leader within the local farming community, Bob has contributed much of his time and effort to the economic development of Hood River and the Columbia Gorge.

On December 10, the West Side Fire Department will once again honor Bob with a banquet on his behalf I invite my colleagues to join me in praising Bob Nickelsen for 60 remarkable years of dedicated public service, his numerous contributions to his community, and for his outstanding character as a citizen of Hood River.

Theodore Roosevelt once said that "the first requisite for a good citizen is that he should be willing and able to pull his own weight." Bob continues to far surpass this noble standard.

SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011.

While I support sensible restrictions on dangerous substances, I am concerned about the unintended consequences this bill could have on medical research. This bill has the potential to make these kinds of substances extremely difficult for researchers to obtain. In fact, many researchers have expressed concern that the list in this bill is too broad and would restrict their ability to conduct important experiments.

Additionally, this legislation would bypass the scientific and medical review process that is in place for adding substances to Schedule I. Making decisions without scientific review is problematic.

It is important to note that states are free to make decisions regarding these kinds of substances. I supported the reasonable step New Jersey took when it banned the synthetic drugs known as "bath salts" this summer.

Since this bill would bypass scientific review and could hinder much-needed research, I urge my colleagues to vote no.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ETHEL MACLEOD HART SENIOR CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center, a popular gathering location for Sacramento's seniors. It is a great pleasure to recognize the center's 50th Anniversary, as it

has provided a positive environment that enhances and affirms older adults' dignity and promotes their independence. As the Hart Center's supporters and patrons gather to celebrate this milestone, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the center's leadership and service to the Sacramento community.

The Sacramento Senior Center was formed in 1961, and was later renamed the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center in honor of Hart's generous legacy to the city's senior community. From its earliest beginnings, the center has helped to foster a welcoming environment that supports older citizens' interests and needs, a place in which senior citizens feel a connection to each other and receive validation from the wider community.

Over the last fifty years, the Hart Center has provided a wide variety of recreational and health services. The center's programs include flu clinics, legal workshops, the Friendship Café, computer classes, and a hearing impaired club. In addition, the Center's staff publish a monthly newsletter called the Hart Cornerstone that announces community events, and provide fitness classes that promote physical exercise and encourage healthy aging. The Hart Center has also partnered with a number of organizations to meet the needs of local seniors, including the Gray Panthers, Older Women's League, Sacramento Senior Legal Hotline, California Health Advocates, Social Security, the Franchise Tax Board, and many others.

As a member of Congress, I have had the privilege of visiting the Hart Senior Center on numerous occasions. Earlier this year I had the opportunity to speak at an Older Women's League monthly meeting at the Center, and talk about legislative proposals that affect Sacramento's senior community. Additionally, last summer the Hart Senior Center hosted a Social Security 75th anniversary party where we celebrated the program and reflected on its importance.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center on its 50th anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Hart Center's role of providing the community with much needed services.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132 the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,046,397,725,405.16. We've added \$10,244,992,550,110.88 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.