

Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,615,726,037,322.66. We've added \$4,988,848,988,409.58 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING DREW LISCUM

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Drew Liscum is a senior at Kempner High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

People as a whole seem to receive adequate information about what the government actually does in a very unique way. The reason being is that the government, in about every country, controls what is seen and what is not seen. They control key aspects to people's lives. I believe in the truth . . . whether it hurts me or not.

For instance, why is it said nationwide and even worldwide, that politicians are "liars." Well maybe it's because they are simply talented at hiding the blunt truth. When a friend asks for an opinion about their hair or if they look good, it's ok to throw in a white lie to not hurt their feelings. But when you lie to your country, it's different on so many levels. I'm not saying that our government lies, but I'm not saying that they tell the truth either. People refer to government as a system for the way it works. If you're in the government, your punishments are much less crucial than that of an average citizen. For example, a man named Michael Lund was arrested on October 28th, 2011 for driving while intoxicated. He was trying to cut through a blocked off accident scene a little after eleven-thirty. Michael Lund is the captain of the Sugar Land Police Department. The men that arrested him were Stafford Policemen. The same types of charges were also given to a dear friend of mine. His charges were not withheld or cut back. The point is that the government should be equal in every aspect. Whether it's a case or the truth being put forward, everyone should know the same and be treated the same.

In the documentary, "Dear Zachary," a man, Andrew Bagby, was killed in 2001 after breaking up with his girlfriend. After she denied murdering him to several cops and people, she moved to Canada. Bagby's family still pressed charges against her, but now it was a little more difficult. Shortly after living in Canada, she announced herself to be Pregnant. Andrews parents now became a bigger part of the picture. They wanted to gain custody of Zachary. On August 18th, Shirley Turner takes her son, Zacahary, far out into the middle of the ocean and drowns

the both of them. On December 15th, 2010, Governor General David Johnston gave Royal Assent to Bill C-464: An Act To Amend the Criminal Code, making it law in Canada. The bill has added an amendment to Canada's criminal code giving courts the right to refuse bail to someone charged with a serious crime who is deemed a potential danger to children under the age of 18.

The argument on what role the government should play in our lives will go on forever. The problem is that they need to be there for us when we need them, and also know when to step down and let us live our own lives. People such as Shirley Turner should be taken care of here in America while she is extremely dangerous and all evidence is pointing towards her. The government needs to understand to play their own role before they decide to play it in ours.

HONORING MR. HEZEKIAH WATKINS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary civil rights activist, Mr. Hezekiah Watkins. Mr. Watkins is a lifelong resident of Jackson, Mississippi. He graduated from Lanier High School and continued his education at Utica Junior College, Southern Illinois University and East Tennessee State University.

Mr. Watkins became a lifelong proponent of justice after his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. In 1961, the "Freedom Fighters" banned together in Jackson, Mississippi to demonstrate against state segregation laws, and for doing so, 328 people were arrested with the charge "breach of peace." At the age of 13, Mr. Watkins was the youngest to be arrested and sent to Parchman Prison during the Freedom Riders movement. He continued his involvement in Mississippi's fight for civil rights, and as a result was arrested over 100 times more in years to follow. These experiences caused him to commit to improving the quality of life and opportunities for young African American youth and all of mankind.

Mr. Watkins began his career as a young entrepreneur and took on full time employment with Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center and Hinds County Human Recourses Agency.

He is currently employed with the Jackson Medical Mall and owner of the Corner Food Market and Deli in Jackson, Mississippi. Mr. Watkins continues his activism for justice as a community leader who promotes community and civic involvement in Mississippi's African American youth.

Mr. Watkins has been married for the past 23 years to the former Chris Tanner. Together, they delight in the joys of three children, Marvin, Quentin, and Kristi. They also have four grandchildren, Quentin II, Brandon, Corey and Mason.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Hezekiah Watkins for his dedication and service as a Civil Rights advocate and pioneer during the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

HONORING THE SOCIETY OF SANTA MARIA MADDALENA SOCIETY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me the greatest pleasure to rise today to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Society of Santa Maria Maddalena of New Haven—the oldest American fraternal organization in Connecticut—for their many invaluable contributions to our community.

Located in Wooster Square, the neighborhood in New Haven where I grew up, the Society of Maria Maddalena has played an important role in forging the strong bonds of our community. Founded in 1898 by immigrants from the town of Atrani in the Salerno Province, south of Naples, Italy, the Society of Maria Maddalena has been a resource for neighborhood families for generations. Named for the patron saint of Atrani, the Society of Maria Maddalena was originally established to assist fellow Atrani immigrants with housing, employment, English translating, and legal matters. It was a place where families faced with the many challenges of starting a new life in a new country could turn for support, comfort, and friendship. Over the years, the Society's purpose has become more community oriented, helping any worthwhile cause or individual regardless of ethnic background. It has donated tens of thousands of dollars to numerous charities and organizations in New Haven and across the State. St. Michael's Church in New Haven, the Salvation Army, Columbus House, Connecticut Hospice, and two Jima Survivors are just a few of those organizations who have benefitted from their generosity. The Society has also provided scholarships to inner city youths.

The Santa Maria Maddalena Society preserves the traditions, heritage and culture of its members' ancestors, and also maintains ties to Atrani by providing assistance to the Santa Maria Maddalena Church in Italy and the society's Italian sister organization for its annual Festa to Santa Maria Maddalena which coincides with the feast day in Connecticut. During the week of July 22, a replica of the original statue of the saint, which was brought to the United States in 1914, is carried through the streets of Wooster Square. The saint is adorned with jewelry provided by the original members of the society. The feast procession culminates at St. Michael's Catholic Church where a high mass is celebrated. The feast celebration extends for four days with Italian music and food, and on Saturday evening, Neapolitan music is featured. The holiday is a time for reuniting with friends and providing younger generations with opportunities to learn about their culture.

People across the country struggle to create a sense of community—a sense of belonging. Over the course of its one hundred-fourteen-year history, the Society of Maria Maddalena has helped the families of Wooster Square do just that. For their many invaluable contributions as well as their continued support and friendship, I am proud to stand today to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the members, past and present, of the Society of Maria Maddalena. The bonds of community

that the Society has helped to shape will continue to impact generations to come.

IN HONOR OF COMMANDER ROB SELKO, UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Rob Selko for his service to our great nation.

For much of his life, Commander Selko proudly, faithfully and honorably served this country. Born and raised near Philadelphia, Commander Selko attended The Pennsylvania State University on the Navy Reserve Officer Training, NROTC, scholarship. After graduating with a degree in Chemical Engineering Commander Selko was commissioned as an Ensign and ordered to NAS Pensacola to commence training as a Naval Flight Officer, NFO.

Following his NFO training he was ordered to VF-101 for Fleet F-14A Tomcat Radar Intercept Officer training at NAS Oceana. Commander Selko was then assigned to VF-33 where he completed a North Atlantic and a Mediterranean Sea deployment on board USS *America* (CV-66), amassing over 750 hours and 200 arrested landings in the F-14A Tomcat.

In 1994, Commander Selko joined the Navy Reserve and was re-designated as an Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer. In February 2006, he was assigned to NAS Lakehurst, New Jersey as Officer in Charge and tasked with leading the Navy's first unit involved in airships in over forty years. His unit deployed to NAS Key West, FL for joint operations with the U.S. Coast Guard, marking the first airship operations involving the U.S. Navy since 1962. Unfortunately, late in 2010, Commander Selko was diagnosed with leukemia. He spent most of 2011 in treatment and recovering from his illness.

Commander Selko currently resides at 5 Glen Burnie Court, Sicklerville, New Jersey and after 28 years of faithful and honorable service will be retiring on June 23, 2012. He is married to Christine Selko of Pennsauken, and they have raised four children together in New Jersey.

It is important that we take the time on this day to remember and reflect on Commander Selko's deep commitment to inspiring and touching the lives of those around him in his service to this country. May he be remembered as such, and may we continue to carry on his legacy in our hearts as we walk through life.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HILLEL HONOREES STANLEY AND PEARL GOODMAN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Stanley Goodman and Mrs. Pearl

Goodman for their years of exemplary service to the South Florida Jewish community. Their accomplishments are truly a cause for celebration, and it is a privilege to represent them in the United States Congress.

Since becoming members of the South Florida community in 1961, The Goodmans have been tireless advocates for Israel, and have joined countless organizations like The Hillel of Broward and Pam Beach to promote the welfare of Jewish people across the globe. During their 58 years of marriage, the couple has instituted mentoring programs, as well as networks through universities in Broward and Palm Beach that allow young students to engage with the larger Jewish community. In addition, Both Dr. and Mrs. Goodman have served on the Board of the Jewish Family Services of Broward County and are actively involved in the award-winning David Posnak Jewish Day School where Dr. Goodman is an Honorary Vice-President.

But the Goodman family's service extends beyond the scope of creating a more inclusive, informed Jewish community, and includes a commitment to fostering artistic enrichment in South Florida. Dr. Goodman has served as Secretary for the Executive Committee at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts Foundation, and Mrs. Goodman is an avid supporter of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts Foundation.

The South Florida Jewish community has undoubtedly been strengthened by the Goodmans exceptional work. They are truly a source of inspiration for all those who have dedicated themselves to promoting Jewish causes, and I look forward to their continued good work.

Congratulations to Stanley and Pearl Goodman, and well as their children and grandchildren, as they celebrate this well deserved honor.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER L. BROWN

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. AUSTIN. Mr. Speaker, while we can never fully express the depth of our appreciation for those who give their lives to protect our freedoms, I rise today on behalf of the constituents of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District to recognize and honor the life of Army SSG Christopher L. Brown.

A 2003 Hamilton Township High School graduate and Army Service member, Staff Sergeant Brown, 26, was killed in an attack with an improvised explosive device on April 3, 2012 in Kunar Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He showed exceptional courage and bravery, and gave his life while defending the United States.

Staff Sergeant Brown was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado. He was on his second deployment to Afghanistan and had also served nearly a year in Iraq.

He served with distinction and his awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and an Army Commendation Medal.

Brown is survived by his wife, Ariell, their daughters Charlie and Dylan, their unborn child, as well as his parents and three sisters. His devotion to his family, friends, and fellow Service members and to this nation is honorable. As a dedicated and loyal patriot, he selflessly served this country with bravery and valor.

Thus, today I ask my colleagues to join me and the constituents of the Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in honoring the life and memory of SSG Christopher L. Brown, a true hero.

RECOGNIZING LAURA PINK AS THE 2012 HURLBURT AFA CHAPTER 398 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Laura Pink, the 2012 Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Pink has spent her entire career "paying it forward" to her students, their parents, and her colleagues. Her dedication to helping educate others started long before she stepped into the classroom as a teacher. As a junior in high school, Ms. Pink began teaching as a reading tutor. She went on to earn a double major in Elementary and Special Education in college and received an endorsement in Gifted Education for all grades. Ms. Pink attributes her success as an educator to her own teachers, who instilled in her the self-confidence for success and a passion for scholarship. She has forever impacted the lives of her students, and she is truly deserving of this honor.

In the classroom, Ms. Pink uses the wonders of science, technology, engineering, and math to challenge and empower her students. Outside of the classroom, she is involved with the Air Force Association, Hurlburt Chapter's Teacher Workshop, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the Civil Air Patrol, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Ms. Pink has been able to combine her classroom activities with her extracurricular activities so that she can better serve her students and secure grants for hands-on classroom experiments. Additionally, Ms. Pink has been able to introduce the Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Connections in Education program at her school, which uses aviation to foster her students' interest in science and math.

The importance of teachers such as Ms. Pink is unquantifiable, and I commend her dedication to our nation's future. To be selected as Teacher of the Year is a reflection of Ms. Pink's exemplary work ethic and steadfast dedication to the students of Northwest Florida.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Laura Pink for her great achievements and laudable service. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing her all of the best.