

school for Brandeis Hillel schools in San Francisco and San Rafael.

I have known Don since I served on the Simi Valley City Council and he covered the meetings as a journalist. Fortunately, he found a more respectable line of work when he joined the Las Virgenes School District as its public information officer in 1979.

From there, Don became a middle school teacher, school principal, assistant superintendent of business services, deputy superintendent, and finally superintendent on July 2, 2007.

He is credited with bringing the first Spanish immersion program to the district, instituting a community service requirement for graduation, increasing technology in the classroom, adding high school performance arts centers, and renovating and expanding Lindero Canyon Middle School, where he began his teaching career.

Although Don left the classroom early in his career, he never left the kids. For 35 years, he has taken a group of eighth graders to Washington, D.C., over spring break. Don believes very deeply that students should know firsthand how their government works.

That belief stems from an earlier career before the call to teaching caught up with him. Don traveled the world as an administrative coordinator for the Los Angeles World Affairs Council and had a front-row seat to the decision-making processes of Secretaries of State, presidents, princes and kings.

But it was education that became his life. Don credits Bernard Cohen, his seventh- and eighth-grade teacher at Walter Reed Junior High in North Hollywood, for sparking his interest in teaching.

"Most kids get one teacher who ignited that spark and made learning exciting," Don told a local paper when he was named superintendent. "There wasn't one person who didn't respect him and look up to him. I thought that was cool."

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure many a Las Virgenes student has looked up to Dr. Donald Zimring and thought he was cool, too. I am equally sure my colleagues join me in thanking Don for his 37 years of professional service to Las Virgenes Unified School District and in wishing him the best in his new role at Brandeis Hillel.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF BURLINGAME'S ADOPTION OF B COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1ST BRIGADE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the city of Burlingame for its adoption in 2007 of B Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

In 1967 a soldier in Vietnam named Sgt. Joe Artavia wrote a letter to his sister, Linda Patterson, asking her to convince the city of San Mateo to adopt his company. He thought an adoption would lift troop morale "as high as the sky." Patterson rallied the community to support her brother and his comrades. Within three months the San Mateo City Council passed a resolution to adopt the company.

Tragically, Artavia was killed three weeks later rescuing a fellow soldier, and the people of San Mateo joined together in mourning. Artavia's death solidified San Mateo's commitment to its adopted company and, in fact, in 1972 San Mateo was the only city in the United States to hold an official homecoming parade honoring Vietnam veterans.

Working with Patterson, the city of Burlingame adopted its own company of the 101st Airborne Division in 2003. Since that time the city has continuously supported B Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, visiting them in peacetime, establishing pen-pals and sending care packages.

In a few months Burlingame's adopted company will be re-deployed for another tour in Afghanistan. In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the original welcoming-home parade, a new parade and festival will be held to honor past and present soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join me in honoring the city of Burlingame for supporting B Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and its brave men and women who fill its ranks, especially those who gave their lives for our freedom.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,777,954,587,181.97. We've added \$5,151,077,538,268.89 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

On this day in 1788, the Constitution of the United States went into effect when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it. The Constitution, which strove to form a more perfect Union and promote the general Welfare, is being crushed by the weight of our national debt.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION (NATCA)

### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA).

Since its establishment in 1987, NATCA has been a fierce advocate for its members and has been a strong proponent for aviation jobs, continuously working for improved working conditions and opportunities in the field for over 20,000 controllers, engineers and other safety professionals.

It is no easy task to manage the most complex airspace system in the world, but with diligent professionalism and outstanding quality, NATCA has been working for a quarter of a century to keep us all protected. It is because of their unwavering commitment to aviation safety that over 700 million passengers a year arrive safely at their destinations.

I congratulate all the professionals at NATCA for their 25 years of hard work. We look forward to many more years of safety in the skies.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AND THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California and the Girl Scouts of the United States of America as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. As Girl Scouts across the country and those in Sacramento gather to celebrate this remarkable milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Girl Scouts' important role nationally and in the Sacramento community.

The Girl Scouts began under the guidance of Juliette Gordon Low who founded the organization with a handful of girls seeking new experiences and opportunities in their communities. Over the last century they have grown to a membership of over 3.2 million girls and adults, including nearly 29,000 girls and 11,000 adult volunteers in Sacramento and Central California.

Over the last one hundred years, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America has provided many services to their scouts' communities and to this country. During World War I, the Girl Scouts sold war bonds to help fund the war effort; the Great Depression saw them running food drives and volunteering in hospitals; they grew Victory Gardens during World War II; they supported the civil rights movement in the 1960s; and after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, they reached out to a shaken America with special services to the community and for first responders.

With the help of parent volunteers and other adults giving their time and effort to the organization, the Girl Scouts have been able to grow and continue their legacy as a resource for our daughters, nieces, and granddaughters. They cultivate service, character, appreciation for diversity, and confidence in young girls, fostering new generations of female leaders. The Girl Scouts Heart of Central California provides programs that include activities encouraging girls to explore careers in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and math; an outreach program for girls in underserved rural and urban areas; and a Latino initiative reaching out to encourage first-generation Spanish-speaking women to serve as Girl Scout leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California and the Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 100th anniversary. I am confident

that the Girl Scouts will continue to affect positive change and help inspire girls across the nation. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Girl Scouts of the United States of America and their outstanding service to our country.

ZACHARY NIELSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Zachary Nielson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Zachary Nielson is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Zachary Nielson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Zachary Nielson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON HUSKIES MEN'S CREW TEAM ON WINNING THE 110TH INTERCOLLEGIATE ROWING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Washington Men's Crew Team for winning the 110th Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships (IRAs) on June 2, 2012.

From the moment that they began their grueling training, the University of Washington Huskies exemplified sportsmanship, athleticism and perseverance. Their discipline was rewarded when the Huskies won all five events at the IRAs—the first time in IRA history that a single program has swept five races. This victory marks the first time in more than 70 years that the Huskies have won consecutive national titles, and it finishes a season where the Huskies won every race in which they competed.

The Men's Varsity Eight—Sam Ojserkis, Dusan Milovanovic, Alex Bunkers, Ryan Schroeder, Mijo Rudelj, Sebastian Peter, Sam Dommer, A.J. Brooks, and Robert Munn—easily surpassed the standing record for the IRA championship. In fact, every Husky boat also set a championship record on their way to victory.

As we celebrate the long tradition of crew at the University of Washington, I want to commend Coach Michael Callahan, and all of the

talented athletes of the Husky Men's Varsity Crew Team for their truly historic season. I wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING MAUREEN WIGGINS SHOEMAKER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an advocate of literacy and research communications, Mrs. Maureen Wiggins Shoemaker.

Mrs. Shoemaker was born in Sumner, Mississippi. She attended R. H. Bearden Elementary School (formerly West District High School), and graduated from West Tallahatchie High School in 1974. She has received degrees from Coahoma Jr. College, Jackson State University, and also received a Master's in Elementary Education from Mississippi Valley University.

Mrs. Shoemaker's passion for literacy led her to continue her studies in Library Science at Southern University in Louisiana. Mrs. Shoemaker has served R. H. Bearden Elementary School and West Tallahatchie High School faithfully through her efforts to renovate and improve the technology sustainability in both libraries.

Mrs. Shoemaker has been an asset to the West Tallahatchie School District, due to her ability to recognize and address the dire needs of the students in the Tallahatchie School District. In addition, she has remained active in her community working with the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility and Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids of Mississippi (SPARK). Through these partnerships, Mrs. Shoemaker has been able to spread her passion for literacy among supporters of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Maureen Wiggins Shoemaker for her continued efforts to support literacy in the State of Mississippi.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD BLOCKER

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2012*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida and myself, I rise now to offer tribute to the career and success of my friend, Mr. Ronald Blocker, who served as the Superintendent for Orange County Public Schools for the past 12 years. A visionary and scholar Mr. Ronald Blocker is a true leader of the Central Florida Community, and the great State of Florida.

We are encouraged by Mr. Blocker's accomplishments while serving as the superintendent since July 2000; it was under his leadership that the graduation rate in Orange County, Florida, is at the highest level it has ever been with the dropout rate at the lowest. A man dedicated to education, Ronald Blocker earned degrees in educational leadership and counselor education from the University of

Florida. He worked as a school psychologist and principal. As the districts first black superintendent, Mr. Blocker made a name for himself and in 2011 he was named Florida Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Association of District Superintendents.

Mr. Blocker has received many accolades and honors including the John M. Tiedtke Lifetime Achievement Award from United Arts of Central Florida; he was named the District Reading Leader of the Year by the Florida Department of Education's Just Read, Florida! Division; named the Florida Art Education Associations Superintendent of the Year; and received the Florida Superintendent's Award for Volunteer/Community Involvement. Recipient of the Chairman's Award from the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission, Mr. Blocker has made a lasting contribution to the economy of Orange County. His influence in the Central Florida community has not gone unnoticed either, he was ranked eight on a list of the 50 most powerful people in Central Florida and among the top 25 most powerful by a panel of community leaders.

He served as the President of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents; a member of the American Association of School Administrators; Florida Association of School Administrators, and the Council of Great City Schools.

Described as an "advocate of children", and "a teacher's superintendent", Mr. Blocker was able to build new schools, and replace and upgrade 128 older facilities. With 33 new schools opened under his guidance and 62 replaced or restored, Mr. Blocker reduced overcrowding and removed 1,000 portable classrooms and raised the Orange County School District to an "A" Rating 3 years in a row.

Recently by virtue of Orange County and the School Board, he has been honored with the renaming of the Orange County Public School building to the "Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center." Mr. Blocker has worked to ensure healthy revenue that will continue to preserve the quality of education that the Third Congressional District and Central Florida Community deserves and needs, with his high expectations for employees and students. Mr. Blocker's theme of "One Vision, One Voice," is a message we can all truly stand by.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2012*

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 18, 2012, I attended a visitation in the 17th District of Illinois and was unable to cast my vote for rollcall Nos. 379 and 380.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the bill by Senator MIKE LEE, S. 684, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah, which passed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 383-3.

I would also have voted "yea" on the bill by Senator CARL LEVIN, S. 404, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah, which also passed by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 380-0.