

Known as the leader of millions of Greeks living outside of Greece, Mr. Athens served as the President of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad, SAE, since its founding in 1995. In 2006, Mr. Athens was named President Emeritus by the Sixth World Assembly of SAE.

Since its founding, SAE has worked to promote Hellenism, support the efforts of the Greeks worldwide, and strengthen ties between Greece and the countries of residence of Greek expatriates.

During his tenure with SAE, Mr. Athens has travelled to every continent to further SAE's mission. He also worked closely with other notable Hellenes in the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes. He has met with nearly every U.S. President and leader in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on Hellenic and Orthodox issues. It is with Mr. Athens' care and dedication that SAE has thrived.

Mr. Athens was also a proud founder of Hellenicare, a Primary Health Care Initiative and humanitarian effort. Under his direction, a total of seven medical care centers were opened in Hellenic areas of the Republic of Albania, Armenia, Georgia, and Ukraine. These centers provide free medical services for those who would otherwise have no access to high quality medical treatment.

A decorated U.S. Army Captain, Mr. Athens was honored with the Bronze Star and the U.S. Army Commendation Medal for his service in World War II. He has also led a successful career in business, founding the Metron Steel Corporation, which continues to be one of the largest steelworks in the country.

Mr. Athens has been honored with more than 42 awards, medals and distinctions for his service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my friend Andrew A. Athens for his remarkable service and his lifelong commitment to enriching the lives of others. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2009, the day I took office, the national debt was \$10,627,961,295,930.67.

Today, it is \$16,723,061,528,495.80. We've added \$6,095,100,232,565.13 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

CHELSEY BOCK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chelsey Bock for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Chelsey Bock

is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chelsey Bock 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 Chelsey Bock for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary merit of the Seattle Seahawks today, March 18, 2013.

The Seattle Seahawks finished the 2012 season with an overall record of 11–5, including a perfect home field record of 8–0 in an entertaining season. Included in their 11–5 record, they dominated with back to back 50 point games against their opponents.

They advanced to the playoffs, winning the NFC wild card and fighting through two rollercoaster playoff games—the spirit of the “12th man” supporting and driving them forward. With six Seahawks players, one being their rookie quarterback, on the roster for the 2013 Pro Bowl, they helped ensure a NFC victory.

Seattle demonstrated great cohesion and teamwork throughout the season, being ranked number one in the NFL in scoring defense. The offense set single season records for total rushing yards, average rushing yards and per carry average during the 2012 regular season.

Coach Pete Carroll has been an inspirational leader rebuilding the Seahawks and strengthening team unity. He has also been instrumental working with youth in our communities through A Better Seattle, a partnership to help create a culture for safety and peace while reducing violence in our communities.

As the Chairman of the Charitable/Exempt Organizations Tax Reform Working Group, I am pleased that, in addition to Coach Carroll, there are so many players from my hometown sports team that have Charitable Foundations. Their passion for giving back to their community exemplifies the spirit of the Pacific Northwest.

Mr. Speaker, I again offer my appreciation for the community spirit of Seattle Seahawks and congratulations for an outstanding and entertaining 2012 season and look forward to their 2013 season. Go Hawks.

CASEY BARRETERO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Casey Barretero for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Casey Barretero is a 9th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Casey Barretero 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 Casey Barretero for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SEQUESTRATION CUTS HARMING AMERICANS

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, the people of this Nation are looking to this Congress for help. My constituents and the constituents of every elected representative here sent us to Congress to take action on their behalf.

They are worried about how they will keep a roof over their heads, food on their plates, the lights turned on, and get back and forth from work. They are holding out some hope that we might actually do what they sent us here to accomplish. They have told us they want Social Security and Medicare to continue. They want to keep their health benefits and hope to hear that this Nation's resources will be used to restore our infrastructure, create jobs and educational opportunities, strengthen our economy and restore confidence in our leadership as a nation.

They expect elected officials to build, and not to tear down. They want to unify this Nation and not divide it into two camps of the super-rich and the struggling poor. They have told us this in so many ways, especially during the last election. But instead, they are witnessing what seems to be a full-scale assault at every level of government on American life as we know it. From the U.S. Capitol to State capitols even in Georgia, extremists seem determined to reverse our climb toward recovery and drive this Nation into a ditch.

Our first priority should be trying to improve the lives of the middle class, the working class, and low-income Americans, not negotiating lay-offs, freezing salaries, scapegoating government employees, eliminating civil rights protections and collective bargaining. Public servants at every level of government are under constant attack, and in these urgent times we are reducing service to communities and teetering on the edge of economic instability. At the same time that we are reducing