

He was the only corpsman on the scene for the first ten minutes of the attack. Although he was able to help many Marines, there were many others that lost their lives that day.

Furthermore, when several Marines in his unit showed signs of suicidal thoughts, he worked to help them get through it and allowed them to bunk above him during their last days in Afghanistan to ensure their return home was as peaceful as possible. He remains committed to his Marines and makes himself available around-the-clock to discuss these issues.

Petty Officer Santos has received numerous awards and recognition for his exemplary service, including the Purple Heart, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, and a Combat Action Ribbon.

He is married to Easton Santos; together they have a 10-year-old daughter, Keana, and are currently expecting another child.

I congratulate Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Joseph Santos on being named U.S. Pacific Fleet's 2012 Sailor of the Year. I join the people of Guam in thanking him for his bravery and selfless service to our nation, and for making our island proud.

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TRIBUTE TO LUCILLE SUTTON

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2013*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, the lives of many have been touched by the life of this one woman who has given of herself to her family and her community; and

Whereas, Mrs. Lucille Sutton's spirit is as sweet as pie, she was an exemplary mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great grandmother, neighbor and friend; and

Whereas, Lucille Sutton was a virtuous woman, a woman of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of her community and family which in turn uplifted others; and

Whereas, she was an exemplary matriarch, serving as compass and wise counselor and bringing great joy to our district, her family and friends; and

Whereas, this remarkable woman gave of herself, never asking for fame or fortune as she became a quiet storm, a spark that starts a flame; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional Recognition on Mrs. Lucille Sutton for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of DeKalb County and the nation; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that Mrs. Lucille Sutton of DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Recognition": Mrs. Lucille Sutton, U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Proclaimed, this 2nd day of January, 2013.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT  
OF SSG STEPHEN RYAN

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2013*

Mr. SMITH OF WASHINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate SSG Stephen Ryan on being honored with the Howard O. Scott Citizen-Soldier of the Year Award from the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber's Military Affairs Committee. He is a valued NCO who also serves in the Washington Army National Guard with distinction of more than 12 years.

The Citizen-Soldier Award is given to an exemplary Soldier, Airman, Sailor, Marine, or Coast Guardsman who demonstrates Mr. Scott's belief that giving back to the community is one's responsibility.

SSG Ryan has excelled in each position he has held throughout his career. He is highly regarded in the maintenance community as one of the best practitioners of the Standard Army Maintenance System Enhanced (SAMS—E) in the Washington National Guard.

His off duty work with the 951st Maintenance Company's Family Readiness Program is a tribute to his unit and fellow soldiers. He continues to volunteer and devotes his personal time to the men and women of the 951st as a leader and mentor of our Citizen Soldiers.

For the last six years SSG Ryan has volunteered often with the Pierce County Friends and Athletes (PCFA), one of the largest independent Special Olympics programs in the State. He also is the head usher at Lakewood New Hope Community Church, where he spent a year as a board member.

The Citizen-Soldier Award memorializes Howard Scott who grew up in Tacoma and served his nation when called upon during World War II. He returned to succeed as a banker in Tacoma—giving of much his time to community service organizations, believing that service is a core responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize SSG Stephen Ryan. His dedication to serving our community is an inspiration to others.

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OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. 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 \$16,755,788,437,042.45. We've added \$6,128,911,388,129.37 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.

RECOGNIZING THE 95TH REPUBLIC  
DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
AZERBAIJAN

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2013*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan as it celebrates its 95th Republic Day on May 28, 2013. Later this year, Azerbaijan will also celebrate the 22nd anniversary of its freedom from the Soviet Union and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States.

Azerbaijan's initial independence was short-lived, and was overtaken by the Bolshevik Revolution and the force of Soviet Russia. Many Azerbaijanis lost their lives in 1920, trying to retain their independence. After decades of living under Soviet rule, in 1991, Azerbaijan once again regained its independence after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Over the last two decades Azerbaijan has become an increasingly important partner to the US, with Russia as a neighbor on its' northern border and an extensive border with Iran in the south, Azerbaijan is located in a geopolitically dynamic region between Europe and Asia. It is a predominately Muslim secular democracy noted for religious tolerance that is also home to Christian and Jewish communities.

As highlighted by former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Azerbaijan plays a key role in supporting the Northern Distribution Network, which provides passage for Coalition supplies bound for Afghanistan. In addition to supporting U.S. security interests in the region, Azerbaijan serves a paramount role in supplying world markets with oil and gas. It is the only secular Muslim country that maintains close ties with Israel, supplying roughly forty percent of Israel's energy needs.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of its 95th Republic Day. I also encourage my colleagues to join the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus to show support for the important partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan.

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HONORING JOYCE GEORGE

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2013*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Educational System; and

Whereas, Mrs. Joyce George began her educational career in teaching in Alabama and this year she retires from teaching at Edward L. Bouie, Sr., Elementary Theme School in Lithonia, Georgia, she has served the DeKalb County Public Schools System well and our community has been blessed through her service; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Teacher, Educator and Motivator, giving the citizens of