

would be the design and construction management of physical improvements to the Buffalo waterfront areas to create private and public sector recreational and commercial development along the Lake Erie shoreline.

Fortunately, we won that settlement and in 2007 the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation was created. Since that time, ECHDC has taken an aggressive approach to waterfront development and is credited with remarkable projects along Buffalo's Inner and Outer Harbors that are reinvigorating our city and residents and visitors alike.

ECHDC is responsible for the work on the Erie Canal Redevelopment Project, which revitalized 12.5 acres of idle waterfront space into a highly trafficked downtown destination now known as Canalside. This site incorporates historic elements of the original Erie Canal and celebrates Buffalo's role as the western end of the canal.

The Corporation has successfully managed development of 23 acres at the Inner Harbor for public, commercial and mixed uses. ECHDC oversaw demolition of the Buffalo Memorial Auditorium, ongoing construction of historically aligned canals to be used as unique water features and public ice staking destinations, and improvements to the public landscape including a vibrant central wharf at Canalside that accommodates large concerts, public markets, and hundreds of other popular events throughout the year.

As a result of the groundwork laid by ECHDC, work is now underway on HARBORcenter, an over \$170 million private sector investment on the Webster block that builds off of the success of Canalside.

Thanks to the hard work of the ECHDC, we now have increased business and recreational activity on the Inner and Outer Harbors including 1,000 feet of boat dock installments at Canalside, two new restaurants, the development of Wilkeson Pointe, a 20 acre parcel of parkland on the Outer Harbor among many other public access improvements and amenities. Given ECHDC's record of accomplishment in the waterfront development business, the Corporation was recently entrusted with devising a plan for the future use of approximately 130 acres of Outer Harbor lands.

Mr. Speaker, the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation has worked tirelessly in their mission to revitalize the City of Buffalo's Inner and Outer Harbor areas and restore economic growth to Western New York. The region has benefited from the leadership and innovative vision of the Corporation, its staff and Board of Directors. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation for their dedication to Western New York and congratulate them in receiving the Stewardship Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF RICHMOND AREA HEALTH CENTER'S STAR PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Richmond Area Health Center

as it celebrates its third year of providing outstanding medical care through its "Star Program."

The Richmond Area Health Center is a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center site, providing primary care to 3,500 people in a medically underserved community. The Health Center has worked over the last several years to improve health outcomes and lowers costs by inspiring individuals to change their lifestyles. The Health Center's "Star Program" incorporates healthy lifestyle strategies and affirmations into every primary care visit to improve patients' health and well-being.

This no-cost program has helped approximately 900 patients collectively lose more than 11,000 pounds. By helping patients make lifestyle changes, the team at Richmond Area Healthcare Center has been able to reduce the number of medications it prescribes and diagnostic tests it orders. The Health Center's model of lowering costs and empowering patients is now serving as a model for several similar programs throughout the state of Maine.

On October 18, 2013, the Richmond Area Health Center celebrated three years of exceptional healthcare by hosting a reception with patients and members of the greater community. I am delighted to recognize the accomplishments of this dedicated team of healthcare workers and look forward to their continued success in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Richmond Area Health Center on three years of exceptional patient care.

HONORING WILLIE HESELMEYER AND ELDA ZEPLIN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the lasting love and commitment of two great Texans.

On November 2, 1938 millions of Americans recalled the thrilling race the day before between thoroughbreds Seabiscuit and War Admiral. Others were still recovering from Orson Welles' legendary War of the Worlds radio broadcast from the previous weekend.

Willie Heselmeyer and Elda Zeplin of Taylor, TX had bigger things on their minds. They were joining hands at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (founded by Elda's family in 1894) to become husband and wife.

75 years later, they still walk together hand in hand. Willie, with Elda constantly by his side, worked the land as a cotton, corn, and milo farmer. They brought two sons into the world and were united through feast and famine. Together they witnessed their nation's brave soldiers defend freedom on foreign shores, watched a humble midwesterner take mankind's first steps on another world, and marveled at technological advances beyond any of their dreams.

What began in 1938 continues strong into a new millennium. Willie and Elda still live independently in their home on their farm east of Taylor. They play dominoes with friends nearly every day. Family and faith remain at the center of their happy life together.

Willie and Elda will gather this November with friends and family at the Fellowship Hall

of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Taylor to celebrate 75 years of love and commitment. Marriages like the Heselmeyers are the foundations of one of our most cherished institutions and give us all an ideal to which we can aspire. They make both Texas and our nation strong. Erika and I, who will celebrate a half century of marriage in a few years, congratulate Willie and Elda on 75 years together and wish them the best in the years to come.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK MEN OF LABOR

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Black Men of Labor as they celebrate 20 years of service in preserving art and culture in the city of New Orleans.

The Black Men of Labor was established in 1993 by musicians Fred J. Johnson Jr., Benny Jones Sr., and Gregory Stafford. For the past twenty years, they have honored the contributions of African American men in the work place while promoting and preserving traditional jazz music.

Rooted in the historic neighborhood of Tremé, America's oldest African American community, these men celebrate their West African heritage with yearly parades throughout the streets of New Orleans.

I want to commend the Black Men of Labor for their commitment to preserving the living, breathing birthright of the city of New Orleans, jazz music. Through our triumphs and tragedies, it is our rich legacy in the arts that keeps us grounded as a community. Organizations like the Black Men of Labor are at the core of this commitment.

On Sunday, October 20th, the streets once again came alive to the sound of music as the Black Men of Labor celebrated their 20th anniversary. I want to join the New Orleans community in celebrating their contributions.

In 1987, the United States Congress designated jazz as a rare and valuable national treasure to which we should devote our attention, support, and resources to make sure it is preserved, understood and promulgated. Today, I echo that sentiment and applaud these men for their dedication to empowering their communities through music and the arts.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 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 \$17,087,891,889,205.15. We've added \$6,461,014,840,292.07 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.