

told that I was being awarded the 3rd highest award for valor that the nation can grant—the Silver Star.”

In honor of his service to our nation, I am proud to recognize Jerold Klein and thank him for his commitment to the South Florida community of veterans.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 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 \$17,189,547,404,790.46. We've added \$6,562,670,355,877.38 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN MEMORY OF DR. NOHAD TOULAN AND DIRICE MORONI TOULAN

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out to Mariam and Omar, to the extended Toulan family, to their Portland State family whose lives have been touched by the service commitment of Nohad and Dirce Moroni Toulan. Indeed, Portlanders who never knew them have benefited from their presence in our community for almost 40 years.

The Toulans were a unique power couple not just in Portland, but with influence around the world. Indeed, they were an international power couple; he from Egypt, she from Argentina. They accepted international assignments, as when he became the first planning director for the greater Cairo region.

He had been an advisor to the United Nations development program and to local and foreign governments. Most significant was his 20-month assignment directing the preparation of the comprehensive regional plan for the holy city of Mecca. They were amazing assignments for an amazing man.

It was my honor to have met him when he first arrived in Portland in 1974. I was working in the president's office at Portland State University then when he began the most critical chapter in the development of Portland State as a true urban university.

It is hard to think of all the ways the Toulans contributed to the evolution of our modest continuing education center for returning veterans to the establishment of a vital, strong, thriving university with particular expertise in urban studies.

Dr. Toulan was a renaissance man: a scholar, planner, and academic leader, a force in the community for human rights, sound foreign policy, and protecting the planet. There is a

reason his name graces the School of Planning and Public Policy at Portland State. No one contributed more to the emergence of one of the outstanding academic outposts in America dealing with planning, livability, transportation, and how we knit these elements together for a better future.

Nohad helped define the critical role that an urban university can play not just as a place of instruction, but for research and a living laboratory.

Dirce Moroni Toulan in her own right was an accomplished professional. She didn't just support Nohad through his career, but had a strong academic and professional background and was greatly influential and respected at the university. It is not by accident that her name is on the library for the College of Public Affairs.

I worked directly for two presidents and since worked with four more. Each put their imprint on the university which is still being enhanced further under the stewardship of Wim Wiewel and his wife Alice. Yet over the last 40 years, I don't think anybody has done more for the evolution of the university and its role in our community, and in the nation, and in the world.

We mourn the loss of this extraordinary couple even as we celebrate their lives. Portland State University, our community, the nation is a better place because of them.

As I reflect on the sad closing of this brilliant chapter, to focus on the academic and the professional, important as they are to lose an essential element that has become more important to me over the years, even as the formal phase of their career wound down.

They were a true interfaith couple: a Catholic priest and Muslim Iman were at their memorial last Monday. In an era of such international tension these last dozen years, which have been visited upon our community, theirs were voices of tolerance and compassion. They were vigorously opposed to discrimination, and fierce champions of outreach, of connection, of mutual respect.

For all of the many contributions that will live on in urban affairs and Portland State University, they made a vital contribution to sane foreign policy, religious tolerance, and interfaith cooperation which may not be evidenced like the name of a college or a library. Their message was there when the community needed to hear it and their example when the community needed to see it. We are richer for that gift.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR ROBERT WILLIAMS FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF PUBLISHING STATE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW ISSUE FOR THE RUTGERS LAW JOURNAL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Professor Robert Williams for his immense contributions to the Rutgers Law Journal and to Rutgers School of Law—Camden.

Twenty-five years ago, state Constitutions were a relatively obscure area of legal scholarship. However, Professor Williams understood that these state Constitutions have a real impact on people's lives, sometimes more so than the Federal Constitution. Along with Professor G. Alan Tarr, he coined the term "comparative subnational constitutional law" for this field of study, and published the first State Constitutional Law issue for the Rutgers Law Journal.

Since this time, Professor Williams's scholarship has brought great acclaim to his discipline, and to Rutgers-Camden. The Journal has included an annual State Constitutional Law issue for the past twenty-five years, and Professor Williams has been instrumental in every one. He also serves as the associate director of the Center for State Constitutional Studies. And despite his extensive academic responsibilities, Professor Williams still serves as counsel in public interest cases, and has filed several notable Amicus briefs in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions of Professor Williams to the legal community should not go unrecognized. I join all of Rutgers Law—Camden and South Jersey in expressing our gratitude for Professor Williams as he celebrates a milestone in his commitment to the rule of law.

CONGRATULATING CAPITAL PARTNERS FOR EDUCATION (CPE) ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Capital Partners for Education (CPE) on 20 successful years of providing low-income youth in the national capital area with the necessary support to get to and through college.

Founded in 1993, CPE is a dynamic college preparatory program that helps motivated, low-income youth to overcome the academic and social barriers that may otherwise prevent them from attending and succeeding in the college of their choice. Through its proven combination of one-on-one mentoring, partnerships with quality schools, academic financial assistance, and a customized array of academic, career, and life skills development, CPE works to break the cycle of poverty by leveling the educational playing field for low-income students.

Since its inception, CPE has helped 99% of its graduates enroll in college and 70% to graduate on time. To meet the needs of the community and the 21st century workforce, CPE is expanding to reach more students. Currently, the organization serves 200 students and is on track to double its student body by 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking the staff, volunteers, donors, partner schools and organizations, students, parents, and alumni as they celebrate the 20th anniversary of CPE and its many accomplishments.