

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY FOR CHRISTMAS IN APRIL * PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Christmas in April * Prince George's County, as it marks its twenty-fifth anniversary.

Thanks to the leadership of founding Chair Cap Mona and the hard work and dedication of volunteers and sponsors, Christmas in April * Prince George's County has improved the lives of thousands of seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, and others in our community by providing rehabilitation and critical repairs to their homes.

With nearly 75,000 volunteers and many generous sponsors, Christmas in April has helped rehabilitate 2,253 homes in Prince George's County over the past twenty-five years. I'm always inspired to see our entire community come together not only to rebuild homes, but to rebuild lives and lift spirits.

I've been proud to join the community at sites each year since Christmas in April began this critical work in 1989 to see firsthand the difference it makes for our neighbors in need. When I visit the houses in April, I often tell the volunteers that at the end of the workday they will see the results of their labors and the smiles of gratitude on the faces of the individuals and families, and that is the compensation and inspiration gained through lending their helping hands. That is the real gift of Christmas in April.

Mr. Speaker, I'm inspired to see so many people in our communities come together each year to help their neighbors in need, and I thank them for their hard work and dedication to their community. I look forward to continuing to work together, and I am confident that Christmas in April will continue to carry out its mission of rebuilding homes and bringing communities together for at least another twenty-five years and beyond.

DEBT MANAGEMENT ACT (H.R. 3579)

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, Americans know the national debt needs to be addressed. The current debt stands at more than 17 trillion dollars and the CBO projects that under current laws the Federal debt would climb to 25 trillion dollars by 2023.

If we continue down this path, the nation will eventually face a painful economic reckoning. We can't afford to leave our country—and our children—with such unsustainable debt.

To address these needs, I introduced the Debt Management Act. This bill requires the Administration to justify debt limit increase requests with reports on the national debt and progress on deficit reduction.

By bringing greater transparency to the national debt and our structural deficit, the Debt Management Act establishes a more credible

and consistent process to address debt limit requests.

Having a clear policy framework to address the national debt would instill much-needed discipline into the debt limit process, increase confidence in the economy, and strengthen our nation's long-term fiscal stability.

I encourage my colleagues to co-sponsor the Debt Management Act.

HONORING CARSON DANT PFAFF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Carson Dant Pfaff. Carson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 303, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Carson has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Carson has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Carson attended Philmont Scout Reservation in 2012 and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Carson has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Carson constructed four dog houses for the Friends of Parkville Animal Shelter in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Carson Dant Pfaff for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT
KEEGAN RENDER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Keegan Render of Troop 123 in Indianola, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Keegan worked with the Knights of Columbus of St. Thomas Aquinas Church to clean and repaint the church's parking boundaries and garage. The work ethic Keegan has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates

the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. It is an honor to represent Keegan and his family in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY DIXON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated and compassionate leader in emergency management, Mr. Larry Dixon of Morehead, upon his retirement from Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM).

With more than 20 years of experience as an Area Manager, including 30 presidential disaster declarations, Larry has earned the respect of his peers across the Commonwealth for his outstanding efforts to aid our communities during their darkest hours. He has guided projects in 13 counties, helped update disaster plans, trained officials, and assisted local first responders. Statewide, he served as the lead instructor for ten emergency management courses. He's the go-to guy. Yet, even with a wealth of knowledge and his tenacious ability to work through devastating circumstances, he'll tell you no storm proved more challenging than the March 2012 EF-3 tornado that ripped through West Liberty, Kentucky. Comforting families and friends in his neighboring county through the aftermath, Larry pressed forward to ensure relief efforts were prompt and thorough.

Larry has also gained recognition on the national stage. He never hesitated to lend a hand when hurricanes disrupted our southeastern seaboard, or when wildfires spread out of control in Montana. As a result of his excellence in emergency management, Larry was selected to join the Emergency Management System Compact Executive Task Force and helped craft national policy for sharing state resources during disasters.

For his remarkable work, Larry Dixon was honored as the Regional Response Manager of the Year and has been inducted into the Kentucky Emergency Management Association Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and honoring a real hero during disasters in Kentucky, Mr. Larry Dixon on his retirement. I wish him and his wife, Tully, the very best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 3, I missed a series of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 615, No. 616, and No. 617.