

Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Combat Action Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

We grieve the loss of this great American, but we also celebrate and honor his life and his service. Capt. Lyon embodied the best of the American ideals and values we know are instilled in our fighting Airmen. He served this nation as the fine Airman he always wanted to be. He was willing to fight to bring liberty to people he did not know, in a land where he had never been.

I am forever grateful for Capt. Lyon's service to our country and am both humbled and honored by the sacrifice he made for our freedom. Because of his bravery and that of his fellow men and women in uniform, our American freedoms are protected for future generations. He is truly a hero and an inspiration to us all.

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OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 8, 2014*

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 \$17,310,216,315,568.94. We've added \$6,683,339,266,655.86 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

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HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. LUAN THUY DUONG, MINISTER COUNSELOR FOR CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS, AT THE EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IN THE UNITED STATES

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 8, 2014*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding service of my dear friend, Dr. Luan Thuy Duong, who has worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam since 1990 and for the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the United States since August 2010. Dr. Duong is currently the Minister Counselor for Congressional Affairs at the Embassy and is completing her term this week.

Dr. Duong received her B.A. in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, her M.A. in International Studies from the University of Sydney, and her Doctorate degree from the Vietnam National University.

Before being posted to the Vietnam Embassy in the United States, Dr. Duong was

Deputy Director General at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and conducted academic research on Southeast Asia, ASEAN and the Asia Pacific region. She made foreign policy recommendations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Vietnamese Government. She also gave lectures on international relations and foreign policies at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam. Dr. Duong is the author and co-author of several books and has published many articles in foreign newspapers and other publications.

In my official capacity as the former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I want to publicly acknowledge Dr. Duong's contributions to strengthening U.S.-Vietnam relations. Her contributions have been invaluable to our bilateral partnership, and she has served the Government of Vietnam with distinction and loyalty.

Dr. Duong is the daughter of Luan Van Uc and Vo Thi Thiet. She is married to Nguyen Van Tri and they have two children, Nguyen Luan Quoc Anh and Nguyen Luan Thuy Anh.

On a personal note, I will miss Minister Counselor Luan Thuy Duong. I extend to her and her family my highest regards and best wishes.

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H.R. 3685—PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 8, 2014*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act, and to thank Representative LOU BARLETTA of Pennsylvania for his sponsorship of this legislation.

Volunteer firefighters, first aid squads, and emergency medical technicians are vital in ensuring safety in my home state of New Jersey and across the nation. Many communities rely exclusively upon such dedicated volunteers for protection and emergency medical services.

The National Volunteer Fire Council reports that there are 783,000 volunteer firefighters in the U.S. comprising 70 percent of the firefighting force, and our nation has over 20,000 volunteer departments.

However, thousands of volunteer groups across the nation could be forced to shut down because the towns cannot afford the high costs of the President's new healthcare law.

Due to the Affordable Care Act's requirements, fire departments, emergency squads and municipalities may have to provide health insurance for volunteers working more than 30 hours a week. The current law stipulates that the 'employer mandate' will apply to organizations that have at least 50 employees, which can include multiple fire departments and EMS houses within one community.

The vast majority of volunteers I speak with do not expect to receive health insurance from their departments or organizations. Volunteer firefighters and EMS responders do not see their work as a career or a part-time job—it's a call to serve the community passed down from one generation of a family to the next.

I know that volunteer fire and EMS departments operate on a shoestring budget, and won't have the resources to pay for health insurance for their personnel. Without this new bureaucratic burden, most departments already have difficulty making ends meet.

I am deeply concerned that subjecting fire departments and municipalities to this provision will result in vital volunteer services being reduced or eliminated in our communities.

This is why I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 3685, the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act, and again thank Congressman LOU BARLETTA for his leadership in addressing this critical public safety issue.

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RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM E. INGRAM, JR.

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 8, 2014*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Lieutenant General William "Bill" E. Ingram, Jr., who has faithfully and valiantly served the American people for 44 years in the United States Army. General Ingram has had a truly remarkable career and it is on behalf of a grateful nation that I congratulate him on his retirement as Director of the Army National Guard.

In his 44 years of service, Lieutenant General Ingram has commanded at all levels from platoon to battalion. He has commanded United States, United Nations, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces in Croatia, Macedonia, and Kosovo, and was especially effective as the General of the North Carolina National Guard for over nine years—a position his father held from 1977 to 1983. Over the past two years he has served as the Director of the Army National Guard where he oversaw the entirety of the Army National Guard's programs, policies, civilian employees, and over 350,000 Guardsmen in all 50 states.

Throughout his stellar career, Lieutenant General Ingram's dedication to service has been recognized with numerous awards and decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Kosovo Campaign Medal among many others.

I am proud to say that Lieutenant General Ingram is a product of the First Congressional District of North Carolina. He was born and raised in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and was a resident of Williamston, North Carolina. He and his wonderful wife, Lil, have been tremendous assets to National Guard families in North Carolina and across the United States helping them cope with the deployment of family members through several children's programs and family readiness initiatives.

I have had the good fortune to know Lieutenant General Ingram for many years and have watched the progression of his career with admiration. I am honored to call him my friend. He is an inspiration to eastern North Carolina and to all who know him.

I offer my sincere appreciation for his service to the United States of America and the great state of North Carolina. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Lieutenant General William E. Ingram, Jr., on his retirement and wish him many years of enjoyment with his family.