

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WAR ON POVERTY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, a half-century ago today, President Johnson stood before Congress and declared “unconditional war on poverty.” Since that declaration we have seen many victories, but also many defeats. Battles may have been won, but the war is far from over.

President Johnson’s first State of the Union committed his administration to the pursuit of his fallen predecessor’s agenda. Not out of sorrow for President Kennedy, but out of conviction for the principles he represented.

President Johnson defined the mission of the War on Poverty as helping Americans achieve the American dream. He spoke in terms of the average citizen and his “hopes for a fair chance to make good; his hopes for fair play from the law; his hopes for a full-time job on full-time pay; his hopes for a decent home for his family in a decent community; his hopes for a good school for his children with good teachers; and his hopes for security when faced with sickness or unemployment or old age.

He identified poverty as not the cause but the symptom of America’s problems. He believed the cause lay in a lack of education and training, a lack of proper clothing and housing, a lack of safe communities and the sense of security needed to pursue a better life.

He challenged the nation to pursue bold solutions. He called for expanded investment to rescue distressed communities; to engage aimless youth in productive purposes; and to ensure basic levels of food, income, and medical security.

We have done much in the intervening years to achieve his vision. Today, we have the Affordable Care Act helping Americans to receive vital medical services that were previously out of reach. We have numerous programs helping communities offer their children more opportunities to succeed. We have rooted out the most abject forms of poverty that once prevailed throughout much of our rural communities. The poverty faced by our nation’s seniors prior to Johnson’s declaration has seen tremendous improvement because of his call to action. And we have expanded workforce training programs and educational opportunities for everyone, sending millions of Americans to college who are the first in their families to attend.

Unfortunately these admirable gains reflect less urgency and dedication than the War on Poverty should merit. The gains in the first decade after President Johnson announced this endeavor were remarkable, with the official poverty level hitting its all-time low in 1973. But since then new economic challenges have arisen that work against those at the bottom, limiting the ability of the impoverished to raise their position.

Today, we have an inflation-adjusted minimum wage that is less than 70% of what it was at the end of President Johnson’s administration. We have vast inequities in our

schools that make the quality of children’s education first and foremost a function of address and not their own effort or merit. These inequalities are magnified in an era of skyrocketing executive pay, corporate profitability, and worker productivity, where workers must subsist on stagnant wages that cannot even keep up with historically modest inflation. Just a couple of weeks ago, we made the problem worse by cutting off unemployment assistance to 1.3 million long-term job seeking Americans in a job market that simply cannot offer them meaningful employment.

I urge my colleagues to cease their assault on the objectives President Johnson declared so long ago. Quit fighting the healthcare law and help us improve, refine, and implement it for the good of all Americans. Quit denigrating people who worked for decades, but through no fault of their own are now facing extended unemployment. They aren’t resting on a hammock; they are clinging to anything that floats in an economic storm that we helped Wall Street create. Quit bargaining away the social safety net that prevents a family confronted with an unexpected layoff or family illness from losing their home and their future.

But those actions are merely the very least of what we should be doing. If we want to make sure that every person actually has a chance to pursue happiness—which as President Johnson pointed out is the reason that we so jealously guard our security and liberty—then we need to finally win this war. It is time for us to recognize that in the wealthiest nation in the world and in the history of the world, we simply cannot tolerate the sort of persistent poverty that prevents generations of citizens from providing for themselves and their families.

Winning this prosperity will require us to take action just as our predecessors did when President Johnson first called upon them. We can begin by taking up my bill, H.R. 1000, which would aggressively pursue a program of job training, and infrastructure and community investment until we reach full-employment. We should also pass a bill to raise the minimum wage and index it to inflation for this generation of workers—the most productive of any generation in history—so they can realize the same fair break their parents and grandparents had. And we must reauthorize extended unemployment insurance to help salvage the dignity and security of men and women who lost their jobs because of the Wall Street bankers we bailed out in 2008.

These are the first steps to ensuring that every American is able to enjoy the fruits of our forebears and our own toil. They are not enough to solve the breadth of problems that we face, but their enactment would lead to a meaningful improvement in the lives of those who are beginning to lose faith in us and themselves.

I urge my colleagues to take action this session of Congress that reflects the standards President Johnson laid out a half-century ago and to pursue an agenda that elevates the poor rather than entrenches the rich. We did it before, we can do it again.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,

1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 10

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for December 2013.

SD-G50

JANUARY 14

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

To receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense counterterrorism operations.

SVC-217

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine conference and travel spending across the Federal government.

SD-342

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine aging in comfort, focusing on assessing the special needs of America’s Holocaust survivors.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight

To hold hearings to examine management of air traffic controller training tactics.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the report of the President’s Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies.

SD-226

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JANUARY 15

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SD-215