

I extend my deepest congratulations to Soledad Sierra for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD UNIVERSITY PHARMACY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating the Howard University Pharmacy Alumni Association on 55 years of service to the Howard University College of Pharmacy and to the profession of pharmacy.

Pharmacy education is an essential part of the core curriculum at Howard University. Since its establishment, Howard University has consistently educated diverse, culturally competent and thoughtful pharmacists. In fact, one of Howard University's earliest graduates earned a Bachelor of Sciences in Pharmacy, and started the legacy of service and excellence that has defined subsequent generations of graduates.

The College of Pharmacy's graduates work tirelessly to address existing and emerging health care concerns, including health care disparities along racial and economic lines. However, their call to serve extends well beyond the clinical and beyond the confines of their profession. For 55 years, the Pharmacy Alumni Association has served as one of the most effective advocates for the school and its students. Through its efforts, countless students have received scholarships and mentoring that enabled and empowered them to join this noble profession.

I ask the House to join me in celebrating the Pharmacy Alumni Association's 55th anniversary, and I wish the Howard University Pharmacy Alumni Association many more years of success as they continue to provide financial and networking opportunities to the next generation of pharmacists.

HONORING ABDULLAHI CHARIF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Abdullahi Charif, a 12-year-old boy who tragically lost his life on March 1st, 2014, as a result of an accident that occurred while swimming during a physical education class at school.

Abdullahi lived a short life but he made a significant impact on his family and community. He was a bright and promising young man who enjoyed life. We must cherish the gifts and lessons he provided to his family and friends during his short time.

The tragic loss of Abdullahi should serve as a reminder that pool procedures in schools must be evaluated and held to the highest standards of safety. We must do all we can to avoid tragedies like this from occurring again.

I offer my condolences to his family and community in this time of loss.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life of Abdullahi Charif.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congregation Ahavas Achim in Highland Park, New Jersey as it celebrates its 125th Anniversary this year. Since its incorporation in 1889, Congregation Ahavas Achim has provided a spiritual center for prayer, education and community to Middlesex County residents.

Upon its incorporation, Congregation Ahavas Achim began humbly, meeting in members' homes or rented stores in New Brunswick. Over the next several years, it grew, purchasing land and a building and continued to enlarge and remodel to meet the needs of a growing membership. Congregation Ahavas Achim relocated to Highland Park in 1987 and its new building was dedicated in 1989. The synagogue expanded once again and was re-dedicated in 2010.

Congregation Ahavas Achim is a Torah-observant congregation and member congregation of the Orthodox Union. It is open to Jews of all backgrounds and strives to include all members in synagogue life.

Over the years, Congregation Ahavas Achim has been led by Rabbi Israel Marcus, Rabbi Samuel Baskin, Rabbi Abraham Shapiro and Rabbi Ronald L. Schwarzberg. After serving as Assistant Rabbi, Interim Rabbi and Program Director, Rabbi Steven Miodownik became Rabbi of the congregation in 2006 and continues to provide spiritual leadership and guidance today. In addition to the Rabbi, the officers, staff and members of Congregation Ahavas Achim endeavor to carry on its mission and commit to a Halakhic life.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating Congregation Ahavas Achim as its members and supporters gather to celebrate its 125th Anniversary on March 30, 2014 and honor Marcia and Barry Levinson and Jennie and Josh Fine. Congregation Ahavas Achim and the esteemed honorees and guests of honor are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

WILSON MANTILLA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Wilson Mantilla for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Wilson Mantilla is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Wilson Mantilla is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Wilson Mantilla for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 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 \$17,546,932,628,558.05. We've added \$6,920,055,579,644.97 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 13 and 14, 2014 I joined Admiral Mike Connor, Commander of US Submarine Forces, on a visit to the USS *Missouri* to see firsthand the operations of a Virginia Class Submarine and missed several recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yes" on rollcall No. 129, on the motion to recommit H.R. 3973 with instructions;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 130, on agreeing to the Polis of Colorado Part A Amendment No. 3 to H.R. 3973;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 131, on the motion to recommit H.R. 3189 with instructions; "No" on rollcall No. 132, on passage of H.R. 3189;

"No" on rollcall No. 133, on the motion to table H. Res. 517;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 134, on the motion to recommit H.R. 4015 with instructions;

"No" on rollcall No. 135, on passage of H.R. 4015.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND RANDALL TREGO

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man who has put God and others above himself. The Reverend Randall Trego has been a blessing to The Woodlands through his ministry. As chaplain at St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital for the past 11 years, Rev. Trego has helped families heal. Since

the hospital's opening in 2003, patients, staff, and families have all relied on Rev. Trego for loving, spiritual guidance.

Rev. Trego began his service at St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital with four volunteers as part of his pastoral care team. Today those same individuals have been joined by 19 other spiritual caregivers. St. Luke's volunteer chaplains come from all faiths and are available to all patients, employees, doctors, nurses, and visitors 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In 2004, Rev. Trego, began what has become known as the "feelie heart" ministry. Inspired by another's story, the Reverend encouraged his team to make small fabric hearts to give to those who needed encouragement. With love, the team initially made 50 hearts to give away. To date, nearly 30,000 hearts have been hand made by volunteers, organizations and even the families of prior patients. The hearts have become so important to patients that those having surgery have their feelie heart pinned to the underside of their gurney for reassurance.

This week Rev. Trego is retiring, but not before performing his last Blessing of the Hands ceremony on Tuesday, March 25. Annually, the Reverend has offered this ceremonial washing, drying, and anointing of hands in service to others. Over 2,000 individuals have participated in these ceremonies that serve as a reminder of God's healing power and compassion. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this special day.

It can't be overstated what a tremendously important part of the fabric of St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital that Rev. Trego has become. He truly embodies St. Luke's motto of "Faithful, Loving Care." As the St. Luke's family honors him this week and receive their Blessings from him, they reflect on how they have been blessed by this man's faith, compassion, and dedication. Bless you, Rev. Trego. Your retirement is well earned.

TIMMY RITTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Timmy Ritter for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Timmy Ritter is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Timmy Ritter is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Timmy Ritter for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
LEONARD KRAVITZ

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Private First Class Leonard Kravitz, who gave his life during the Korean War in an extraordinary act of heroism and posthumously received the Medal of Honor on March 18, 2014. PFC Leonard Kravitz fought valiantly to protect our country and rightfully deserves our recognition and admiration.

I am proud to represent a district that is home to such a large number of veterans, and I feel tremendous gratitude to the heroes of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and to the new generation of veterans from the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan. My father, Bernard Deutch, volunteered to fight in World War II as a teenager where he earned a Purple Heart at the Battle of the Bulge. It was his example of service to our nation that motivated me to serve in Congress.

PFC Leonard Kravitz sacrificed himself for his platoon when he took over a machine gun, fired into an ambush of Communist forces, and stayed behind so that his fellow soldiers could withdraw safely. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for his sacrifice. PFC Leonard Kravitz was also recommended for the Medal of Honor, but he never received it due to widespread prejudice in the military against Jewish and other minority servicemembers. His childhood friend, Mitch Libman, a resident of South Florida, worked tirelessly for decades to ensure that the courageous sacrifice of his dear friend would not go unnoticed. This heartfelt act of advocacy led to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2002 and H.R. 3304, a bill that I introduced, which ensures the recognition of all soldiers who never received the Medals of Honor they deserved.

In this era of partisan vitriol and gridlock in Washington, our leaders can always look to veterans as an example of how individuals from all walks of life can put their differences aside in order to accomplish great things. PFC Leonard Kravitz has finally been recognized as the hero he is, and his friend Mitch Libman reminds us of the duty we all have to ensure that no soldier becomes a forgotten hero. I urge every citizen of this great country to live by their examples.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S CHIEF
DIPLOMAT TO THE UNITED
STATES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with the other co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus—Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART, Representative ALBIO SIRES, and Representative JOHN CARTER—to recognize the service of Taiwan's chief diplomat to the United States, Representative Pu-tsung King. During his tenure in our nation's capital, Representative King was an invaluable resource

and dear friend to the Taiwan Caucus. We congratulate him on his next assignment as Secretary General of National Security Council for the Republic of China on Taiwan.

Representative King earned a Ph.D. in journalism from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Arts in Communications from Texas Tech University. During his recent tenure, Representative King worked to resume negotiations for the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), turning a new page in trade relations between Taiwan and the United States. He and his team also worked toward passage of a bill which called for Taiwan to be granted observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization. President Obama signed the bill into law in July 2013.

As co-chairs of the Taiwan Caucus, we would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the upcoming 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). The legislation established direct relations between Washington, DC, and Taipei. The 35th anniversary represents an important milestone in our long-standing relationship with Taiwan, serving as the foundation for our bilateral economic, security, and trade relations.

In closing, we congratulate Representative King and on his successful tenure as Taiwan's top diplomat in the United States. We look forward to working with him in his new capacity and to his enduring friendship.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWEST
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS PROJECT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise to recognize the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) on thirty years of fighting for the rights of immigrants and refugees in my home state of Washington. With four offices throughout the state, the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project has protected the well-being of tens of thousands of immigrants throughout its history.

The Northwest Immigrant Rights Project was founded in 1984 as a non-profit legal services organization serving Central American refugees. Since that time, it has expanded to serve individuals and families from more than 100 countries around the world, and added educational and public policy work to its efforts. This level of excellence can be seen in NWIRP's innovative weekly legal clinics on the Deferred Action Program, which have been a vital resource for immigrant youth in our state.

Our nation needs more advocates for the rights of immigrants and refugees, and I am proud that an organization in Washington state is setting such a fine example. I am confident that the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project will be a strong voice on these issues for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project on a fantastic thirty years. Their work is of incredible value and I wish them well in the future.