

Shrines in our junior and senior high schools nationwide. These Shrines serve to inspire our nation's youth and are just another example of Dan's, and The National Exchange Club's, commitment to strengthening America's civic society and promoting American patriotism.

Dan's tireless efforts have not gone by unnoticed. In 2010, Dan was awarded the high honor of the National Exchange Club's Lifetime Achievement Award. Throughout his tenure with the National Exchange Club, Dan also received additional awards and letters of commendation from the National Exchange Club's Directors and District Executive Directors for his dedication to making our communities better places to live.

Dan's passion and dedication to the Exchange Club's efforts have been, and will continue to be, an inspiration throughout the community. He has been the heart and soul of many projects within our region and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American, and friend. I know that many in our region are grateful for his service and I congratulate him on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 339 and 340, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence of Pioneer Middle School in Yorkshire, New York. The school was recently designated a "School to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Pioneer Middle School was one of only 118 schools from across the country to receive this outstanding distinction.

The Forum uses rigorous criteria of requirements and achievements to select the recipients of this highly esteemed honor. Academic performance, developmental responsiveness, and social equity are among the factors used to grade each school. Schools that receive this prestigious distinction must display a strong "sense of purpose" and maintain a "trajectory toward excellence." Pioneer Middle School continually meets and exceeds each of these requirements and it shows in the students and their mentors.

Earning this award speaks to the dedication of the administration and faculty to providing students with the highest level of academic excellence. I would like to specifically recognize the principal of Pioneer Middle School, Melissa Prorok, for going above and beyond in facilitating a positive academic experience for each student.

Once again, I commend Pioneer Middle School on this notable achievement. I am con-

fidant that the excellence displayed by the teachers and administrators will continue to develop strong academic foundations for their students, paving the way for them to achieve success throughout their academic careers. I am proud of the positive impact this school is making on students and its community.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHRISTOPHER A. GRICE

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Lieutenant Colonel Christopher A. Grice, a true American hero. His achievements are shining examples of dedication and loyalty to the state of Kentucky, and his country.

Colonel Grice was originally commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Course (ROTC) as a Distinguished Military Graduate after graduating with a Bachelor of Science from Southern Illinois University. Colonel Grice continued his education by later earning a Master of Science degree in Environmental Management from Webster University.

His military career as a commissioned officer began as the Battalion Chemical Officer of the 1st Battalion in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he also served as a Support Platoon Leader. Colonel Grice led the Blue Grass Chemical Activity's workforce through the Rocket Separation Operation. The operation was deemed successful due to Colonel Grice's commitment to safety and stakeholder involvement. Perhaps Colonel Grice's greatest attribute is his leadership abilities. After facing a government shutdown and a moratorium on hiring during his command, Colonel Grice's ability to maintain a high morale while meeting all regulatory requirements is truly admirable.

Several military decorations Colonel Grice has received throughout his impressive career including the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon. These awards are only a small testament to Colonel Grice's service to our armed services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Colonel Christopher A. Grice on his life of superior excellence, service and loyalty. His service to the state of Kentucky is greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing what Colonel Grice accomplishes in the future. I would also like to extend my personal gratitude to Colonel Grice for all that he has done for the United States military, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote 356, I was away from the House floor and intended to vote "aye."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 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 \$17,545,861,055,228.61. We've added \$6,918,984,006,315.53 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.

IN HONOR OF DR. CHARLES "CHUCK" LIONEL FRANKLIN, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding community leader, caring physician, and loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Dr. Charles "Chuck" Lionel Franklin, Jr. Dr. Franklin departed to his eternal reward on Monday, June 2, 2014. A funeral service was held on Monday, June 9, 2014, at the Dunbarton Chapel at Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of mourners were present to pay tribute to Dr. Franklin's honorable life and legacy.

Dr. Franklin was born on April 5, 1946, and was raised in Washington, D.C. Over the course of his lifetime, Dr. Franklin exemplified the meaning of being a servant leader. He began at Howard University, where he never missed an opportunity to engage in causes that promoted justice and equality. Even as an alumnus, his commitment to the university remained one of his greatest causes. He advocated the D.C. Metro bus system to change the name of the bus stop for Howard's campus from "LeDroit Park" to "Howard University" to recognize the university's status in the same way that other prominent colleges were recognized. Also, as a result of his advocacy on behalf of his beloved alma mater and black college football, the Washington media began publishing the scores and highlights of black college sports in mainstream sports news stories. Dr. Franklin shared Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s belief that, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

In 1976, Dr. Franklin expanded his repertoire of servant leadership by opening his Family Medicine practice in Silver Spring, Maryland, with medical privileges at area hospitals. Dr. Franklin practiced medicine for 35 years, focusing on patient advocacy. He worked tirelessly to bring awareness to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I will always remember about Dr. Franklin is his steadfast commitment to his family and his faith. I became fond of Dr. Franklin through his wife, the former Alexis Margaret Herman, former U.S. Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton, and a lifelong friend of mine. As big brother to Dolores and Estelle, dad to