

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

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 \$18,152,054,202,954.52. We've added \$7,525,177,154,041.44 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING TUNICA TEENS IN ACTION, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. (Concerned Citizens for a Better Tunica County) is an African-American, grassroots, community based, and community lead, leadership development organization that is rooted in empowering the African-American low-income communities in Tunica County, MS and the Mississippi Delta since 1993.

Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. was formed in July 1999 when the young members of Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County decided that they wanted more individualized training to help them do better community organizing work with their adult allies. Tunica Teens In Action started out with 17 young people ranging between the ages of 11–20 who were led by Ashley N. McKay. These bright young people realized that they needed to develop their skills to help the community and themselves to succeed in a school system that had been on academic probation for over ten years.

Tunica Teens In Action was formally incorporated in 2011 and fully transitioned from Concerned Citizens FABTC, Inc. as a youth and female led youth of color organization. Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community leadership development organization.

Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County was formed in 1993 when African-American grassroots low-income moms, dads, students, and other community activists came together to fight for education reform and fairness in Tunica County, MS. At that time, Tunica County was one of the poorest counties in the United States and when Rev. Jessie Jackson visited Tunica in 1985 he labeled it "America's Ethiopia" because of the devastating housing, economy, and community needs. Since 1993, Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County had been a leadership development and empowering organization for Education Reform, Youth Leadership Development, Housing and Job Reform, Democracy Organizing, and Environmental Justice. Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County, Inc. formally incorporated in 1997 and was a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County, Inc. (Concerned Citizens) is a rural broad based grassroots community leadership development, education, and training organization working to empower the community by developing new grassroots leaders and organizers in Tunica County, Mississippi. Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County, Inc.'s mission is to empower the disadvantaged and low income community (families) of color by building leadership and organization, involving students and parents using the inter-generational model, (young people and old people working together), in the community of Tunica County, MS.

"Empower" is defined as the effective participation of the community to impact the formation of public policy and effective participation in the decision making process in the educational, economic, political, environmental, and social change systems with a special emphasis on education policy in the Tunica School District that will help to create a first-rate quality public educational opportunity for all families in Tunica County and the country. With roots in the struggle for education justice, Concerned Citizens has evolved into a multi-issue community based organization that is led by low-income people of color.

The TRANSITION TO TUNICA TEENS IN ACTION: Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. mission is to develop young leaders, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, who will be able to effectively participate in their community by developing the educational skills, technical skills, and understanding thru community organizing using the intergeneration model since 1993.

Tunica Teens In Action's program of work is rooted in leadership development and local community organizing that uses an inter-generation model to empower the low income communities of color. Most of Tunica Teens In Action work occurs at community trainings/workshops, at public actions to demonstrate community power, through collaborations and coalitions, social media, and in small one-on-one meetings to help educate ourselves and community.

Major Accomplishments: Prevented the white farmers from re-segregating the Robinsonville and Casino Community (1995).

Prevented the Tunica County Board of Supervisors from Abolishing the County Voter Rolls (1996).

Helped to get the Robinsonville Elementary School built for/near the Black Community (1998).

Helped to get the Tunica County School District to a "Successful" academic rating (2011).

Provided youth leadership and education training to over 25,000 persons (1993–2015).

Non-partisan Democracy Organizing—Accountable Governance trainings that helped to create over 30 new African-American accountable elected officials (2005–2015).

Provided private education college scholarships to over 200 high school graduates (1999–2014).

Provided redistricting training to community to help re-shape policy and power in Tunica County, Tate County, Panola County, Sunflower County, Tallahatchie County, Marshall County, Desoto County, Coahoma County, Lee County, Pontotoc County, and Green County (2002 and 2012).

Established P-16 Community Engagement Councils to help parents and students to have

a voice in the creation of education policies for their children (2011–2015).

The staff includes Ashley N. McKay—Executive Director, Mildred P. Conley—Assistant Director, Marilyn L. Young—Education Director, Melvin Young—Resource Director, 4—Youth Interns, and a host of community and volunteers. TTIA has a 9 member Board of Directors that govern the organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. for their dedication to serving their community and this great state and country.

CONGRATULATING IOWA'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the collegiate basketball teams from the great state of Iowa on their seasons and their 2015 NCAA Tournament success.

The University of Iowa Hawkeyes Women's team finished the regular season 26–8, earning a #3 seed in the NCAA Tournament's Oklahoma City region. The Hawkeyes reached the "Sweet Sixteen" after wins over American University 75–67 and the University of Miami (FL) 88–70.

The Hawkeyes Men's team finished the regular season 22–12, earning a #7 seed in the NCAA Tournament's South region. The Hawkeyes defeated the Davidson Wildcats 83–52 in the second round.

The Iowa State University Cyclones Men's team finished the regular season 25–9. The Cyclones won the Big 12 tournament with a 70–66 victory over the Kansas Jayhawks in the championship game and earned a #3 seed in the NCAA Tournament's South region.

Finally, I am proud to congratulate the University of Northern Iowa Panthers Men's team, from my district, finished the regular season an astonishing 31–4. The Panthers won 16 straight games down the stretch and eventually won the Missouri Valley Tournament Championship, defeating Illinois State University by a score of 69–60 in the championship game. UNI earned a #5 seed in the East region and defeated the University of Wyoming Cowboys 71–54 in the second round.

In week 11 of the regular season, all three Iowan Men's programs were nationally ranked in the AP Top 25 poll with the Hawkeyes at #25, the Panthers at #20, and the Cyclones at #9. As a proud Iowan and devout college basketball fan, I extend my congratulations to coaches, Lisa Bluder and Fran McCaffery from Iowa, Fred Hoiberg from Iowa State, and Ben Jacobson from UNI, and their student athletes on successful seasons and I look forward to cheering them on again next year.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WILLIAM A. NACK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary leader and a valued