with the Distinguished School Award. As a result, North Panola High School received $23,750.05 to further enhance the students' overall educational experience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing North Panola High School for its dedication to serving our great state of Mississippi and country.

TRIBUTE TO PETER WILLIAMS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Peter Williams of Indianola, Iowa for receiving a coveted Fulbright award during the 2014–2015 Academic Year. Peter is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities with a degree in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, as well as minors in Chinese and Music. He will travel to China in September 2015 and begin his research on the endangered golden snub-nosed monkey of west central China.

Established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program is funded through an annual appropriation to the U.S. Department of State. It serves as a valuable foreign affairs tool by making people-to-people connections. It also gives participants a chance to help with important issues across the globe and gain valuable skills, giving them the necessary experience to lead our future generations. With over 360,000 participants since its creation, the Fulbright Program serves an important role in educating our young people and improving our diplomatic relations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Peter today. It is the young people like him who are willing to work hard and make sacrifices for the betterment of society that will lead our future generations. I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on this outstanding achievement and wish him nothing but continued success moving forward.

CONGRATULATING SCOTT CUNNINGHAM ON HIS YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT AWARDS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate one of my personal staff members, Scott Cunningham, on his earning two prestigious national awards from the YMCA Youth and Government program for his volunteer service.

YMCA Youth and Government exists at both the state and national levels and provides teenage youth with the opportunity to participate in model state legislatures, international assemblies, and other related bodies. The students involved often exhibit strong interest in being civic and community leaders and in developing policy ideas to better the world around them. At conferences, which often involve months of preparation on the part of the participants, the students learn to hone these skills. Some, like Scott, go on better prepared to pursue a career in public service and, in turn, give back by regularly helping the next generation's students in their own YMCA conferences.

Scott first became involved with YMCA Youth and Government while in high school in Dallas, Texas, and was active in both Texas and national programs. After graduating high school in 1998, he returned to serve at conferences as a college advisor and has continued ever since among alumni volunteers at several state and national conferences. He has also lived his love for public service and policymaking in his own career. Scott came to Washington as a congressional intern in 1999. In 2007 he joined my staff and continues to serve the people of the 24th district of Texas with energy and integrity, first as policy director, then legislative director, and presently as deputy chief of staff. I have no doubt that Scott's hard work and experience in YMCA Youth and Government, both as a student and an adult volunteer, have contributed to his excellent and good-humored performance.

For his consistent efforts to make Youth and Government and its participants as successful as possible, Scott recently received service awards at two different national conferences. On June 13, he was awarded the YMCA Youth and Government Distinguished Service Award at the Youth Governors Conference in Washington, DC. This award, better known as the Crystal Gavel, is presented to alumni in recognition of dedication and exceptional service to the program. To earn it, one must meet the established criteria which include: having volunteered with Youth and Government for over ten years, personifying a spirit of selfless service and exemplifying the qualities of servant leadership, demonstrating significant personal investment in the program and a meaningful impact on his or her area of work, and exemplifying the Four Core Values of the YMCA—caring, honest, respect, responsibility—and a commitment to the goal that ''Democracy must be learned by each generation.''

On July 2, at the 48th Annual YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs in Black Mountain, North Carolina, Scott was awarded the Dr. Paul Grist Service Award. This lifetime honor is given for most distinguished service as an advisor to the conference and the Youth and Government program.

For his part, Scott affirms that YMCA Youth and Government has done much for him in his life, and he considers it a privilege to give back to the program that gave him ''a whole lot and then some.'' It is an honor to have such a dedicated public servant assist me in many critical ways in representing the 24th district of Texas. And on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Scott Cunningham on his two YMCA Youth and Government service awards and in thanking him for his tireless and sacrificial work to help the upcoming generation of young Americans learn the ideals and practice of democracy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call #448 on H.R. 1557, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDREA SWANSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alexandrea Swanson of Carter Lake, Iowa for receiving a coveted Fulbright award during the 2014–2015 Academic Year. Alexandrea is a recent graduate of Creighton University with a bachelor's degree in international relations and German and a minor in Spanish. She will travel to Germany in August 2015 and begin working in an English teaching assistantship.

Established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program is funded through an annual appropriation to the U.S. Department of State. It serves as a valuable foreign affairs tool by making people-to-people connections. It also gives participants a chance to help with important issues across the globe and gain valuable skills, giving them the necessary experience to lead our future generations. With over 360,000 participants since its creation, the Fulbright Program serves an important role in educating our young people and improving our diplomatic relations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Alexandrea today. It is the young people like her who are willing to work hard and make sacrifices for the betterment of society that will lead our future generations. I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on this outstanding achievement and wish her nothing but continued success moving forward.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 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 $18,151,831,938,889.04. We've added $7,524,954,889,975.96 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.