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.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAT KIELY FOR HIS 23 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE INDIANA MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pat Kiely on the occasion of his retirement. For 23 years, Pat served as President of the Indiana Manufacturers Association, the second oldest manufacturers association in the country and only trade association in Indiana that exclusively focuses on manufacturing. Pat has been a well-respected legislator and successful business leader in Indiana for decades. The Hoosier community is forever grateful to Pat for his tireless efforts and dedication to making Indiana a better place.

A lifelong Hoosier, Pat spent most of his personal and professional life in Anderson, Indiana. He attended college in Indiana as well, earning his bachelor's degree in Marketing Research and Statistics from Ball State University. In 1978 Pat became the State Representative for the 36th District of Indiana; he was only 26 at the time. Five years into his service at the age of 31, he was appointed Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, making him the youngest Chairman in Indiana history. During his six and a half terms as a state legislator, he also served as Chairman of the State Budget Committee and Chairman of the State Tax and Financing Policy Commission.

Throughout his tenure as a legislator, Pat was also a business owner and operator. In 1982, he opened Computerland, which was the first computer store in Indianapolis. Additionally, he was the Vice President at City Securities Corporation in Anderson from 1983 to 1991. He knew that technology would have a significant impact on the economy and his expertise in the area and experience as a business owner allowed him to bring valuable perspective to his role as a legislator.

In 1991, Pat left the legislature and began his service as President and CEO of the Indiana Manufacturers Association. Under his leadership, the Indiana Manufacturers Association became a national leader in protecting the business environment. Pat was instrumental in his advocacy for manufacturer's interest at both the state and federal level. His advocacy and strong leadership led the association to many accomplishments in the areas of taxes, budget, infrastructure, healthcare, and environmental policy, among others. Pat also enhanced Indiana's economy through his ability to maintain, promote, and create quality manufacturing jobs in Indiana. This was especially important since Indiana is one of the top manufacturing states in the nation.

Pat's involvement with the Indiana business community is extensive. Since 1979, he has been involved with over 35 organizations including the Indiana Economic Development Council, Indiana Employers Quality Health Alliance, Governor's Education Roundtable, Indiana Business Journal's Editorial Advisory Board, Skyline Club Board of Directors, and Indiana Legal Foundation.

His commitment to the community and success as a leader have not gone unnoticed. He has been honored with Ball State University's Distinguished Alumni Award, Ball State's College of Business Award of Achievement, the Professional Fire Fighters' Union of Indiana Legislator of the Year Award, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Environmental Impact Award.

Pat has been a champion for manufacturers in Indiana and across the country for decades. On behalf of the grateful constituents of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Pat on all of his success and extend a huge thank you for his extraordinary contributions to the Hoosier community. I wish the very best to Pat, his wife Mary Pat, and his entire family as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to modernize the Smithsonian Institution and to enhance its governance and fundraising capabilities, in keeping with the recommendations of a number of experts, including the Smithsonian Independent Review Committee, chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles Bowsher. This bill, the Smithsonian Modernization Act of 2015, makes changes to the Smithsonian's governance structure by expanding and changing the current 17-member composition of its Board of Regents, which includes public officials—six Members of Congress, the Vice President of the United States, and the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court—to 21 members, comprised solely of private citizens. This change will strengthen both the Smithsonian's governance and fundraising capacity, and it would be the first significant change in this old and revered institution since it was established in 1846.

This bill preserves and strengthens the traditional role of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate in selecting Board members while eliminating the role of the Board in selecting private citizens for the Board. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate will each send 12 recommendations to the President of the United States, who will select the 21 members of the Board from these recommendations.

The Smithsonian Institution is an irreplaceable cultural, scientific, historical, educational and artistic complex without any public or private counterpart in the world. Since its founding, the Smithsonian has developed an extraordinary array of world-class museums, galleries, educational showplaces and unique research centers, including 19 museums and galleries, nine research facilities, the National Zoo, and the forthcoming National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is now under construction. The Smithsonian has grown with private funding, donations from cultural foundations, and contemporary artists, but most of its funding continues to come from federal appropriations. Despite receiving 70 percent of its funding from the federal government, the Smithsonian has long had serious funding, infrastructure, and other needs. Today, the Smithsonian is embarking on a seven-year, $1.5 billion fundraising effort, but its current board members who hold public office are severely limited in participating, as is usually expected of board members. Under the Smithsonian's fundraising plan, the 19 museums and research institutions are working together as part of a unified campaign to raise the necessary funds. With this goal of $1.5 billion, it is more important now than ever that the Smithsonian's ability to raise money be modernized.

Congress must help the Smithsonian strengthen its ability to build resources beyond what taxpayers are able to provide. The most important step Congress could take today is to rescue the Smithsonian from its 19th-century governance structure, which keeps it from accessing needed and available private resources and limits close and critical oversight. The Smithsonian Modernization Act provides a governance structure befitting the Smithsonian's unique complexity. The existing structure may have fit the Smithsonian over 170 years ago, but today the structure has proven to be a relic that does a disservice to the Smithsonian, the federal government, and the public.

The present governance structure places immense responsibility to raise money on dedicated but overextended Members of the House and Senate, the Vice President of the United States and the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. These federal officials comprise almost half of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, and must perform their fiduciary duties as board members while giving first priority to their sworn responsibilities as important federal officials.

In 2007, an independent review committee found that the Board had violated principles of good management during the tenure of former Secretary of the Smithsonian Lawrence Small by allowing him to create an ''insular culture.'' The committee's report indicated that the Board had failed to provide the needed oversight and had overcompensated Mr. Small. The report also found that Sheila P. Burke, the Smithsonian's then-deputy secretary and chief operating officer, had frequent absences from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she personally earned more than $1.2 million over six years. Further, the Smithsonian's then-business ventures chief, Gary Beer, was dismissed for financial indiscretions. This crisis, caused by unprecedented controversies and irresponsible risks, put into sharp focus the need for new revenue streams and for a modern governance structure. The first full-blown scandal in the Smithsonian's history, replete with embarrassing media coverage, damaged its reputation and perhaps the confidence of potential contributors. The poor judgment and overreaching of Smithsonian personnel during that period demonstrate the need for new and concentrated oversight.

The current Board, of course, has taken some important action on its own. After irregularities were uncovered by the media, the Board responded to the controversies by creating a governance committee, chaired by Patty Stonesifer, a Regent and former chief executive officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with a mandate to comprehensively review the policies and practices of the Smithsonian and how the Board conducts its