

I extend my deepest congratulations to Taylor Norman for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

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 \$19,218,673,186,359.42. We've added \$8,591,796,137,446.34 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.

IN TRIBUTE TO REVEREND TONGBER S. VANG

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Reverend Tongber S. Vang who passed away on February 21, 2016 at the age of 51. Tongber S. Vang was born in Sanau, Laos and was the eldest of 7 children. Tongber Vang immigrated to the United States at the age of 12, after living in refugee camps of Thailand with his family for a number of years. He lived first in Little Rock, Arkansas and eventually moved to Milwaukee and lived with his grandmother, Mao Xiong. He graduated from Milwaukee's West Division High School and attended Milwaukee Area Technical College with the intention of following a career in dentistry.

Tongber met Pa at Hmong New Year Celebration; he knew immediately she was the woman he would marry. He was touched by Pa's Christian faith and she encouraged his growth with Christ that led him to the ministry. On July 4, 1986, Tongber and Pa were married, and immersed themselves in the ministry, teaching Sunday school for children at Northwest Baptist Church. After Pa graduated from high school in 1988, they both attended and graduated from Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Missouri. After graduation, Tongber and Pa moved to Louisville, KY where they both attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. They studied during the week but their weekends included a 6-hour commute to and from Lansing, MI to perform church outreach to the Hmong community and coordinate a children's Sunday school ministry.

Pastor Tongber moved his family back to Milwaukee in 1997 and accepted a position working for AmeriCorps, Vista Program at the Milwaukee Public Schools. He engaged Hmong parents and students at both South Division and Washington High Schools. In the fall of 1997, Pastor Tongber made the decision to accept the offer to pastor his home church, the Hmong First Baptist Church.

Pastor Tongber led his congregation with incredible grace, love, and passion for the word of God. However, his deepest passion was caring and praying with and over members of the church. He led a successful capital campaign which resulted in the construction of the current church building. The church was his second family; he believed with true conviction that if families were okay, the church would be okay, as would the community and the world. Pastor Tongber devoted countless hours to support church ministries and ensuring goals were met. In 2010, he led a mission trip to Nan, Thailand.

Pastor Tongber is survived by his beloved wife Pa, their three wonderful sons—Solomon, Josiah, and Joseph, a loving daughter-in-law—Joann, and a cheerful 13-month-old granddaughter Charity Siabzoo, and a yet-to-be-born granddaughter named Genessa Hnub Tshiab.

While Pastor Tongber's time on earth was short, guided fully by his faith in God, he served his family, church and his community selflessly. I was proud to call him a friend and was inspired by his good works. Mr. Speaker, this is why I rise to pay tribute to Tongber S. Vang, a true asset to the 4th Congressional District.

ORAN BAZEL JR.

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Oran Bazel Jr. for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Oran Bazel Jr. is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Oran Bazel Jr. 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 Oran Bazel Jr. 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 THE SERVICE OF DR. RUTH ELLEN WASEM ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ruth Ellen Wasem, a Specialist in Immigration Policy, will be retiring from the Congressional Research Service (CRS) at the end of this month. Dr. Wasem came to CRS in 1987 as an Analyst in Social Legislation, where she worked on

teenage pregnancy, youth policy, homelessness, and immigration policy. She eventually moved full-time into immigration policy, where she became a recognized and leading expert in the field. Dr. Wasem is a graduate of the University of Michigan, where she received a Ph.D. and M.A. in History. She completed her undergraduate degree at Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. Dr. Wasem was raised in Cadiz, Ohio.

Throughout her time at CRS, Dr. Wasem provided substantial legislative support to Members and Congressional staff who often turned to her for analysis, brainstorming, and consultation on various aspects of immigration and social welfare policy. Her work in these areas included assisting Congress with interpretations of current and proposed law, explaining agency operations, analyzing data, developing and analyzing legislative options, and comparing legislative proposals at various stages of the process. Dr. Wasem's work was used by Congress in hearings, legislative development, markups, and preconference negotiations.

Dr. Wasem's extensive knowledge in immigration policy and her keen ability to frame and analyze issues of paramount concern to Congress often made her a prominent point of contact for Congressional staff. Her encyclopedic knowledge of immigration law and policy was on display during the past decade when Congress attempted to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation. Dr. Wasem provided an innovative view of the major categories of immigration issues and the key elements involved in reforming the nation's immigration system.

Dr. Wasem wrote numerous analytic and concise reports for Congress—well over 300 during her tenure at CRS. Dr. Wasem also contributed to the House Ways and Means Committee's Green Book. Her contribution to the Green Book consisted of high-level statistical analysis on nonimmigrant eligibility for public benefits.

Dr. Wasem was routinely chosen to moderate the immigration panels of CRS' biennial Legislative Issues and Procedures seminar for new Members in Williamsburg, Virginia. She also testified before Congressional committees numerous times throughout her tenure at CRS providing testimony on issues ranging from asylum to unauthorized migration to immigration and social policy data.

One of Dr. Wasem's most important contributions to CRS' work for Congress has been her leadership of the analysts, lawyers and information professionals who support Congressional consideration of immigration-related policy issues. As CRS' Immigration Team Leader, Dr. Wasem has been a mentor to her team members, as well as to Congressional staff. She unfailingly displayed great generosity and selflessness in devoting her time and energy to the issues of the day.

The Congressional Research Service has given Dr. Wasem a number of outstanding commendations and special achievement awards for legislative analysis in the areas of immigration policy, Haitian relief, health care reform, homeland security, temporary foreign workers, and welfare reform.

Dr. Wasem recently spent a year as a Kluge Staff Fellow at the Library of Congress where

she researched legislative efforts to end national origins and race-based immigrant admissions to the United States, all of which culminated in the Immigration Act of 1965. During her time as a Kluge Fellow, Dr. Wasem was awarded the Abba P. Schwartz Research Fellowship, which is administered by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, to further her research in this area.

During her 29 years at CRS, and her 2 years of previous federal service, Dr. Wasem won the respect and admiration of her colleagues. Her steadfast dedication to serve Congress and her commitment to the highest standards of analytic, unbiased and timely response to Congressional requests for information and analysis have made a positive and lasting contribution to the Congressional policy discourse.

TRIBUTE TO DR. EARL "MARTY"  
MARTIN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Earl "Marty" Martin, as he is inaugurated today April 28, 2016, as the 13th President of Iowa's largest private university, Drake University in Des Moines.

Dr. Martin began his presidency on July 1, 2015. A fourth-generation attorney, Dr. Martin served for eight years in the U.S. Air Force as a legal officer, honing his leadership and analytic skills. Later, he joined the Texas Wesleyan School of Law faculty as a visiting professor and eventually became Associate Dean of the institution. Most recently, Dr. Martin served as Executive Vice President of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

His leadership philosophy is well-documented and so is his drive and focus to strengthen Drake University, its Drake neighborhood and emphasizing Drake University's standing as one of the nation's top 100 best values of private colleges.

Dr. Martin stated his greatest challenge as the new President, "I am never going to be wise enough. Wisdom is that combination of knowing the facts are occurring and being able to assess the choices. I always want to get better." Under his leadership, Drake University is continuing to grow and flourish.

Mr. Speaker, as a graduate and proud alumnus of Drake University, I am honored to represent Dr. Martin and Drake University in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Martin on his inauguration and wishing him nothing but continued success.

STAR ROSAS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Star Rosas for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Star Rosas is a 12th grader at Westminster High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Star Rosas 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 Star Rosas for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

AMERICA'S HBCUS

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to celebrate and recognize the importance of educational opportunities that HBCU institutions create for thousands of young men and women from all walks of life.

As a member of the Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus which promotes and protects the interest of HBCUs by:

- creating a national dialogue,
- educating Members of Congress and their staffs about the issues impacting HBCUs,
- drafting meaningful bipartisan legislation to address the needs of HBCUs, and
- supporting students and graduates of HBCUs by increasing access and career opportunities.

As Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I am particularly concerned about the events of the last few weeks and months that highlight a national problem that involves the health and wellbeing of young African American boys and young men.

One important solution must be access to affordable quality education for every person in this nation.

I am proud to count Texas Southern University, as a constituent, a great HBCU—located in my home city of Houston.

I routinely partner with Texas Southern University to promote education opportunities and collaborate on community projects routinely.

I led the initiative to get Financial Aid Relief for the students and campus of Texas Southern University in the amount of \$13 plus million dollars.

I continue to keep the university community informed about major issues impacting citizens of the city of Houston, state of Texas.

Issues like Health Care, Economic Development, Education, and Social Security are of great importance to TSU academic programs.

I initiated the digitization projects for former U.S. Members of Congress Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland who both have permanent archives at Texas Southern University.

I helped establish the Barbara Jordan Medallion to be awarded each year at a ceremony held at Texas Southern University to an individual who advocates for the community.

I also assisted with the establishment of several scholarship Endowments at Texas Southern University.

I created a partnership with Comcast at TSU's School of Communication, which offers scholarships, internships and in-kind marketing.

I established the Center for Transportation, Training and Research in TSU's College of Science, Engineering, and Technology.

On September 14, 1927, the Houston Public School Board agreed to fund the development of two junior colleges: one for whites and one for African-Americans.

On September 14, 1927, the Houston Public School Board provided \$2,800 in seed capital to form a Junior College for African American students.

The initial enrollment for the first summer was 300 students.

On June 1, 1951, the name of the school was changed from Texas State University for Negroes to Texas Southern University after students petitioned the state legislature to remove the phrase "for Negroes."

When the university opened its doors in September 1947, it had 2,300 students, two schools, one division and one college—the Law School, the Pharmacy School, the Vocational Division, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

In 1973, the 63rd Legislature designated Texas Southern University as a "special purpose" institution for urban programming, which added four more academic units:

- the College of Education,
- the School of Public Affairs,
- the School of Communications and the Weekend College.

Today, Texas Southern University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs in the following academic colleges and schools:

- the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences;
- the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences;
- the College of Science and Technology;
- the College of Education;
- the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs; the School of Communication;
- the Thurgood Marshall School of Law;
- the Jesse H. Jones School of Business;
- the Thomas Freeman Honors College; and
- the College of Continuing Education and the Graduate School.

Currently, Texas Southern University is staffed by approximately 1,000 faculty members and support personnel.

HBCU's have come a long way to be where they are today.

The most significant milestone for HBCU's was the 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. The Board of Education*.

Howard University School of Law graduates successfully argued against the constitutionality of "separate but equal," opening the door for greater access to resources for institutions dedicated to education was a critical step forward.

However, it was not until the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that the federal government had the capacity and focus to enforce desegregation.

Two years ago in our nation's Capital—Washington DC—we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Rev. Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech given at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

In that speech Dr. King spoke of a world where race would mean much less than the content of a person's character.