

professional service, Don has served as a state or chapter executive committee officer with several defense industry professional associations including the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), the American Defense Preparedness Association (later the National Defense Industry Association), and the JROTC Awards Banquet Committee, among others.

In his personal life Don has always been a staunch, committed Conservative. His first official participation in the Republican Party came when he offered to volunteer in the re-election campaign of President Nixon in 1972. He went on to serve as a volunteer in both Reagan landslides of 1980 and 1984. His first foray into local Michigan Republican Party politics was as a volunteer in the Honorable Joe Knollenberg's successful campaign for the United States House of Representatives in 1992. Don was later elected as a precinct delegate and joined the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republicans. During his time in the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republicans, Don has led, organized, or assisted in almost every volunteer effort undertaken by the organization in order to promote principled Conservative values which make our GOP the grand party it is. Don's other greatest achievements are his two children, Beth and Steve, and his four grandchildren. Beth and her husband Eric, have three children, Megan, Sean, and Kelly. Steve and his wife Andrea have one child, Christopher.

Madam Speaker, Donald W. Kolhoff has faithfully served Michigan and Wayne County. As he receives this award for his lifetime of achievements, he serves as a timeless example of selflessness and public service. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Donald W. Kolhoff upon his award and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

HONORING RAYMOND SERCU OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Raymond Sercu, a great leader in the community of Napa Valley. Mr. Sercu is being honored by Napa Valley Product Services Industry for his many contributions to developmentally disabled adults in the Napa Valley.

Mr. Sercu was born in Buffalo, New York and served in the United States Air Force for two years before coming to California for post-graduate work at UC Berkeley and San Jose State. He worked as Area Manager for National Cash Register from 1954 to 1965 before beginning his distinguished tenure with Vallerger's Markets of Napa in 1965.

Mr. Sercu's time as President of one of Napa's premier small businesses is only the beginning of his extensive community involvement. Ray has served as Chairman of Queen of the Valley Hospital's Board of Trustees, the Northern California Grocers Association, Retail Marketing Services and the Napa County 4-H Sponsorship Committee. He has also served

as President of the Napa Valley Economic Development Corporation, and in the Napa Valley Chamber of Commerce among many others. He is a Rotarian and lifetime PTA member who was appointed to the Napa City Council from 1999 to 2001. Of particular note on this occasion is Ray's service to developmentally disabled adults as Chairman of the Product Services Industry Board of Directors and President of North Bay Developmental Disabilities Services.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sercu has earned the continued admiration of all who have worked with him. His colleagues and friends describe Ray as one of the kindest, most generous people they have ever met, someone who would give the shirt off his back to make the community a better place.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Ray Sercu for his many years of service. He has been a model citizen and leader in the Napa Valley and his presence has enriched the lives of everyone in our community. I join his wife Jenny and six children in thanking Ray for a distinguished lifetime of service and wishing him continued success and fulfillment.

UW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the University of Washington School of Medicine and their incredible standing as one of the best medical schools in the world. According to US News & World Report, the University of Washington tops the list of national primary care medical schools for the 16th consecutive year.

The groundbreaking and life-saving work done at the UW School of Medicine is beyond extraordinary. I feel a sense of pride to know that the best primary care medical school in the nation is located in my home state of Washington.

The School of Medicine was also ranked first in family medicine and rural medicine for the 18th straight year, fourth in women's health medicine, sixth in geriatric and pediatric medicine and eighth in internal medicine. Additionally, six active and retired members of the UW community are among 210 new Fellows named to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences: David Baker, William Gerberding, Andrew Meltzoff, Ed Miles, James Truman and Gunther Uhlmann.

Previously, the University of Washington was ranked the 17th best university in the world by the Institute of Higher Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and 22nd among the top 100 global universities by Newsweek. The University of Washington has proven itself to be a world-class institution and it is truly a privilege to represent a region boasting some of the greatest minds in the world. I congratulate them on the honor for the School of Medicine and look forward to continue working together to make sure we provide the best medical care and training possible.

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I supported Reading is Fundamental, a national project, that received funding through H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Reading is Fundamental (RIF) is authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. RIF promotes youth literacy by providing underserved children access to free and new books at programs across our nation.

It is a good program, and I am pleased to support it.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 342 encouraging the designation of May 2, 2009 as "Vietnamese Refugees Day".

H. Res. 342 expresses the support of the House of Representatives for a day to commemorate the arrival of Vietnamese refugees in the United States and document their harrowing experiences and subsequent achievements. May 2, 2009 has aptly been chosen for this day of commemoration since it also the date on which a powerful symposium entitled "Journey to Freedom: A Boat People Retrospective" is being sponsored by the Library of Congress and Vietnamese-American organizations across the United States.

More than one million Vietnamese refugees left their home country following the Vietnam War. Many risked their lives fleeing peril and destruction on small, overcrowded ships. Others escaped by land to refugee camps throughout Southeast Asia. Over 22,000 of these courageous individuals settled in Minnesota and I am proud to say that many now call Minnesota's 4th District their home.

Despite the difficult conditions they left behind, Vietnamese refugees have prospered in the United States. In Minnesota, and across the United States, Vietnamese-Americans have made their communities more prosperous and more vibrant. Today, Vietnamese-Americans are amongst the most distinguished contributors to the fields of literature, the arts, science and athletics in America. Vietnamese restaurants, retail services, and grocery stores have helped turn University Avenue in St. Paul, Minnesota into a thriving business center.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to recognize the great courage and achievement of Vietnamese refugees everywhere by joining me in supporting H. Res. 342.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Conference Report on S. Con. Res. 13, Chairman, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014. I thank Chairman SPRATT of the Budget Committee for his leadership and hard work on spearheading the effort to bring a budget to the floor that the American people can live with, helps fuel the engine of the government, makes America thrive, and makes it place that we all can be proud of. The President, the Conferees, and this Congress, should all be commended for helping bring this budget to the floor. I support the budget and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I support the budget for several important and distinct reasons.

Unlike the last Administration, which inherited a \$5.6 trillion surplus, this Administration inherited an economy in steep decline, a budget in record deficit, and faltering public services due to persistent underfunding and inattention. The Congress has already taken steps to create jobs, help Americans regain their home, help Americans pay their bills and put food on the table for their families. The Congress has also taken steps to rebuild our economy. The Congress has done all of these tasks by enacting the Recovery Act. The budget is an economic blueprint for the future that builds from these initial steps by making strategic investments to rebuild our economy over the long term. The budget provides for increased investment in health care reform, education, and energy independence and at the same time puts the budget back on a path to fiscal responsibility and sustainability.

The budget is to be applauded as nothing short of a miracle. It makes strategic investments in education, health care reform, and energy independence and puts the country back on track to remain globally competitive. It puts us on track to cut the Federal budget deficit by more than half by 2013. The budget reflects the Recovery Act. The Obama Administration inherited a deficit of well over \$1 trillion and the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. The budget builds upon the President's plan. It provides tax relief to middle-income families, creates jobs through investment in infrastructure, and extends unemployment benefits for millions of Americans.

The budget addresses eight years of Republican policies that have brought on America's current economic woes. So far, we have seen 25 straight months of housing price declines; 14 months of job losses and 4.4 million jobs lost, the most since World War II, with 651,000 jobs lost in February alone; unemployment is currently soaring above 8.1 percent and in the double digits in the minority communities across this great Nation; and 45 percent drop in major stock markets from their highs.

The budget supports the President's goals for Health Care Reform. The President's principles for healthcare reform include making health coverage affordable and available to all, improving safety and quality, and improving and providing Americans with a choice of health plans and physicians, including the choice of keeping their current health plan. The budget begins to address the rising health care costs. The average cost of an employer-sponsored health insurance policy exceeded \$12,000 in 2008, more than twice what it cost ten years ago. The President's plan would reduce the inefficiencies that have caused these prices to soar.

The budget sets us on a plan to increase coverage. The number of people without insurance grew from 38 million in 2000 to nearly 46 million in 2008. Nearly 1 out of 6 Americans is without health care coverage. Most uninsured are in working families. Millions more are underinsured. The budget assumes that health care will be paid for, so it does not add to the deficit. Importantly, the budget supports improvements to medicare's payment system for doctors. The budget supports legislation on medicare physician payments to provide for efficiency and higher quality care, promote fiscal sustainability, ensure that primary care receives appropriate compensation, and improves coordination of care.

The budget invests in education. The budget builds upon the Recovery Act's historic investment in education. The budget includes the \$100 billion in education funding provided for in the Recovery Act to help states maintain elementary, secondary, and higher education services. The Recovery Act targeted funds to Title I (Education for the Disadvantaged), Head Start, and special education, where the funding can be used to train more teachers to provide needed services. This supports Congress's efforts that resulted in increased maximum Pell Grant awards to \$619 to a total of \$5,350—the largest annual increase in history—and created the American Opportunity Tax Credit for eligible students receive a partially refundable tax credit of up to \$2,500 to cover college costs. Simply put, the budget makes education more affordable and accessible and increases education funding. It supports early childhood education and supports improved school breakfast and lunch programs. The budget will afford over 31 million children a healthy and nutritious meal.

The budget builds upon significant funding and tax incentives in the Recovery Act by increasing our investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency by some 18 percent for 2010. These investments will spur new sources of energy that we can produce here, creating "green collar" jobs for American workers. It will promote energy independence over the long term.

I urge my colleagues to support the budget. It takes the appropriate steps to put the budget back on track for fiscal responsibility and sustainability. It will cut the budget deficit by more than half in four years. Specifically, it will cut the budget from \$1.7 trillion in 2009 to \$586 billion in 2013. It also improves responsibility through statutory pay-go. It includes investment in oversight and enforcement yielding savings.

YOUTH JOBS

The budget includes funding for summer jobs for youth. Our youth, and individuals that have opted not to go to college or institutions

of higher learning, need to be engaged and employed. Employment will provide them with skills and aptitudes that are necessary to be productive in society.

HEALTHCARE

The budget accounts for the cost of healthcare reform to ensure that the 45 million uninsured Americans (four million of which are children) have access to quality and affordable healthcare.

The budget accounts for the following:

Funding the Minority AIDS Initiative to build capacity among minority run non-governmental organizations and to conduct outreach services among minority communities.

Funding the Ryan White CARE Act to support care and treatment programs at the local level to address the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Funding the CDC Prevention activities for HIV, STD, TB and Viral Hepatitis to fund testing initiatives and support innovative prevention efforts at the local level.

Funding for Housing for people living with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) to provide supportive housing for people with AIDS.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

I commend the President for requesting an increase of \$15 billion for the Department of State and other international programs in FY2010, which is a 40% increase over the FY2009 level. The budget includes this increase in the budget resolution. I am hopeful that these additional funds will go towards the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; USAID; migration and refugee assistance; peacekeeping efforts in Darfur; education, healthcare and cultural exchange programs; child survival and health programs; and development assistance.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

I support the robust funding for our troops and America's national defense. I support reducing funding for the failed Ballistic Missile Defense program and reallocating those funds within the Defense Department to fund increases in shipbuilding, troop readiness, military and civilian pay, cancer research, and mental health services.

I have consistently fought for funding to weed out waste, fraud and abuse within the Department of Defense. The Defense Department has already saved an estimated \$89 billion between FY01 and FY07 by implementing 1,682 of the Government Accountability Office's recommendations. The present budget, as does President Obama's FY2010 Budget Overview, reflects a similar commitment, as has the House Budget Committee under Chairman SPRATT's leadership.

INCOME SECURITY

As the economy continues to worsen, the budget accounts for the increased need for income security programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Unemployment Insurance, Medicaid, and the Recovery Act's COBRA subsidy.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

The housing crisis lies at the center of the economic problems we face today. After the series of TARP bills, the Congress has just found out that bank executives have used over \$100 million in TARP funds to pay for executive bonuses and other forms of compensation. The budget reverses eight years of underfunding of the nation's affordable housing programs and we are pleased that the Administration has proposed a HUD budget that