

held countless positions on numerous civic and charitable organizations throughout southwest Florida. He's the type of person who believes in giving back to his community tenfold and has done just that. From his service as the first full-time Lee County Attorney, to his time as a city judge in Fort Myers, Jim will have left a lasting mark on southwest Florida.

Madam Speaker, the city of Fort Myers, and indeed all of southwest Florida, are better off today because of Jim's service. It is truly an honor and a privilege to represent Jim in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I wish Jim, his wife Nancy, and their beloved family all the best.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was \$11,990,561,444,829.48. We have added \$11,607,722,003.58 to the national debt since just yesterday.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

The means the national debt has increased by \$1,352,135,698,535.68 so far this year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent an average \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

JOHN FISHEL

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, we are honored to pay tribute to our friend, John R. Fishel on the occasion of his retirement from the Jewish Federation, and honor him for his decades of invaluable service to our community.

John has spent decades of his life at work with non-profit organizations and charitable groups. He has earned high esteem and respect for his diligence and hard work as well as his many achievements and contributions to these causes.

During his time with the Jewish Federation, his attentive management style, vision, and dedication resulted in many innovative projects which transformed the organization. He created the Tel Aviv/Los Angeles partnership, a new way to nurture a close relationship with Israel and bring the people of these two cities together. In recent years, he launched efforts to engage young Jewish professionals in The New Leaders Project, a civic leadership training program for young adults. Under his leadership, many valuable programs were developed, such as KOREH L.A., a literacy program and Fed Up With Hunger, a community-wide movement to end hunger in Los Angeles.

His effective leadership was especially evident following the Northridge earthquake and the 1999 shooting at the North Valley Jewish Community Center. His work to encourage increased support for Israel was on display during the second Intifada and Israel's war with Hezbollah. His resilience in these times of trouble was a calming source of inspiration to the community.

Prior to his service at the Federation, he worked tirelessly as the top professional executive at the Allied Jewish Community Services (the local Jewish Federation) in Montreal, Canada, at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and the Council Migration Services in Philadelphia, as planning associate at the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia, and as a resource developer for the Ohio State Department of Health.

Mr. Fishel graduated with a Bachelors degree in anthropology and a master of social welfare administration and policy from the University of Michigan. He and his wife, Karen, have one daughter, Jessica. They live in Cheviot Hills.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, we ask you to join me in saluting John R. Fishel for his impressive career and dedication to the community and The Jewish Federation, and to congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

THE DEATH OF JOHN O'QUINN, PROMINENT HOUSTON ATTORNEY, PHILANTHROPIST, AND FRIEND

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I request that the House of Representatives take a moment to remember a fellow American and friend of mine, John O'Quinn, of Houston, Texas. Mr. O'Quinn died last Thursday, October 29, 2009 in a tragic car accident that also claimed the life of his longtime assistant, Johnny Lee Cutliff.

By all standards, Mr. O'Quinn was an extremely successful lawyer in Houston society, but to those of us who knew him well, John was a dedicated professional, a generous benefactor, and a loyal friend.

Publicly, John has been recognized as an icon and was named one of the "100 Legal Legends of the Law" by the Texas Lawyer. He was recognized by the National Law Journal and the Harvard Law Review as one of the "Best Lawyers in America." Mr. O'Quinn received four of the largest verdicts in Texas legal history, having won more than \$20 billion for his clients throughout his career, including a \$17.3 billion tobacco settlement for the State of Texas. He was an honors graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, served as a Regent for the University of Houston, and trustee of the University of Houston Law School Foundation.

The man behind these impressive achievements was also fiercely loyal to the town that raised him and brought him to statewide and national prominence. John was a philanthropist and gave generously to assist the University of Houston, which named a law library and stadium after him; the Children's Assess-

ment Center; the Women's Center; Baylor College of Medicine; the End Hunger Network; St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital; the South Texas College of Law Advocacy Center and many more organizations and causes of equal importance.

Mr. O'Quinn was a passionate car collector. Before his passing, he planned to open a public museum to display and share his love of cars and the histories accompanying each.

There are few Houstonians who have not been affected by Mr. O'Quinn's work, either through his role as attorney, benefactor or philanthropist. Mr. O'Quinn will be remembered as a dedicated legal professional, generous philanthropist, and dear friend. It will be hard to imagine Houston without one of its most dynamic personalities and legal giants. Mr. O'Quinn will be greatly missed.

HONORING SONOMA TREASURE ARTIST OF THE YEAR LIN LIPETZ

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to honor Lin Lipetz, the Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year. Selected by the city's Cultural and Fine Arts Commission, Ms. Lipetz was chosen for her talents as a teacher and an artist as well as for her contributions to the community.

With an MFA from the University of Washington in ceramics, painting and textiles, a bachelor's degree in art from the University of Washington, and a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University in interior architecture, Lipetz has the academic credentials to back up her long experience as an artist. With drawings and beautifully colorful and joyous paintings ranging from abstract to landscape, she has exhibited frequently, both as a solo artist and with groups.

Her work is in numerous collections, and she has also won honors and grants including Friends of the Crafts in Seattle, Washington; National Endowments for the Arts High School Art Instruction in Missoula, Montana; and the Art Across the Valley Tour through the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art.

Her contributions to the City of Sonoma enrich the lives of its residents and add to the vibrancy of its arts community. She teaches painting and intuitive drawing at the Sonoma Community Center, is active with the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art and served as a commissioner on the Cultural and Fine Arts Commission.

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to celebrate Lin Lipetz's selection as Sonoma Treasure Artist of the year. We join the Sonoma community in our appreciation of her talents and her contributions.

SALUTING JOHN HAMILTON FOR 29 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'd like to recognize a model patriot

who has really made a difference in the young, rising leadership of our armed forces, Mr. John Hamilton. Next week Mr. Hamilton will officially step down from the Third Congressional District Academy Candidate Selection Board after 29 years of service and volunteering his time, effort and talent to three different Members of Congress: former Congressman Steve Bartlett, former Congressman Jim Collins and me.

In this advisory capacity, John offered his wisdom and expertise to help identify and recommend hundreds of students from the Third Congressional District for nomination to a prestigious service academy, including one who went on to become a Rhodes Scholar.

The Third District of Texas is home to some of the best and the brightest young people. As a Member of Congress it is always an honor to recommend fine students to our nation's service academies. These students join the premiere military force of the world and become leaders of men and women in uniform. John Hamilton played an instrumental role in helping Third District young adults achieve their dream of military service.

My friend, John, was perfectly situated to play the role of advisor for the Third Congressional District Academy Candidate Selection Board. He graduated in 1968 from the prestigious United States Naval Academy with a B.S. in Engineering/Management.

He knows firsthand the rigors, discipline, and inner strength needed to thrive, not just survive, at a service academy. I know his experience in Annapolis helped him make many decisions.

John also graduated from SMU School of Law in 1976. He is a Lifetime Chapter Member of the North Texas Chapter of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and a member of the State Bar of Texas. Since 1994 he has served as President of Hamilton & Hartsfield, P.C., a law firm specializing in general corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, and business transactions. He is a shining example of a well-rounded patriot eager to give back to his country and his community. I am thankful for his service and I will miss his valued opinions and leadership.

Godspeed, John Hamilton. God bless you and God bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, November 5, 2009, I missed rollcall vote No. 857. Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 857, on agreeing to H. Res. 885, I would have voted "aye."

CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2868, the Chemical and Water Security Act.

As the bill stands now, I cannot vote in favor of this legislation. A provision in the bill to require Inherently Safer Technology, IST, in chemical facilities would likely create costly mandates for local farm suppliers and jeopardize the availability of widely-used fertilizer and pesticides. This language could inadvertently have the effect of causing my district to lose much needed jobs. While I support the intention of this legislation, to safeguard our chemical and drinking water facilities from terrorist attack, the current language would severely impact the ability of farmers to produce food and would adversely impact farmers all across my district.

It is my hope that as this legislation progresses that the concerns of the agricultural community will be addressed and I can vote for the final product.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR ESTEEMED VETERANS AND FOUR LOCAL WASPS IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THEIR CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARDS

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, nearly 70 years ago a group of extraordinary young women answered the call of duty and accepted a mission that no generation had before them. Just over 1,100 women eagerly left the grounded existence of home and family, climbed into the cockpits of military aircraft and set about to do their part in the good fight of World War II. By 1943 they had come to be known as WASPs: Women Airforce Service Pilots. They had the verve of Amelia Earhart, the poise of their upbringing and a dutiful patriotic spirit to get them through. Some 38 perished during their 2-year tenure while fulfilling a variety of missions: testing aircraft and ferrying planes from coast to coast among them. Today we honor the service of four of these WASPs who reside in the Third Congressional District of California: Dorothy C. Goot and Captola Johnson, both of Fair Oaks; Barbara H. Kennedy and Doris K. Ohm, both of Sacramento. We thank you for your service. On Veterans Day, as we pay special tribute to men and women in the military, we especially thank you for your example and sacrifice. Women sustain the Armed Forces of these United States more today than at any other time in history. We thank you. We salute you all.

HEALTHY KIDS ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Healthy Kids Act," legislation that will focus the resources of the federal government on ending the epidemic of obesity that threatens a generation of America's children.

Over the past three decades, the rate of childhood obesity has risen to crisis propor-

tions. Current data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that rates of obesity have more than doubled for children aged 2 to 11 years and more than tripled for adolescents aged 12 to 19 years. According to the CDC, 32 percent of children are overweight, 16 percent are obese, and 11 percent are extremely obese. In some racial and ethnic groups, in low-income populations, and among recent immigrants, the rates of obesity among children and youth are alarmingly high.

The health consequences for these children are very serious. They are at much greater risk of developing diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, asthma, and other diseases than their non-obese peers. Many children are subjected to ridicule and bullying that damage their emotional well-being. Beyond the tragic consequences for the children themselves are the effects on the American economy. Obese children are at risk of growing into obese adults who do not participate fully in the workforce because of employment discrimination, lost productivity due to illness and disability, and premature death. If the childhood obesity epidemic continues at its current rate, conditions related to type 2 diabetes, such as blindness, coronary artery disease, stroke, and kidney failure may become common conditions of middle age. Health care costs for this population are likely to rise to an extent we are only now beginning to appreciate.

Many factors contribute to the childhood obesity epidemic. Many children's diets are too high in fats and carbohydrates and do not include enough fruits and vegetables. At the same time, our children are less active than they were a generation ago. More time front of the television means that kids are exposed to over 20,000 commercials a year, very few of which are encouraging them to exercise and eat right. Residential communities often do not have safe sidewalks or recreation areas to draw children off the couch and outside to run and play. Underfunded schools have cut back on physical education programs and are resorting to revenues from vending machines full of junk food to supplement public funding.

The Healthy Kids Act will provide critical Federal leadership to address this crisis by establishing an Office of Childhood Overweight and Obesity Prevention and treatment within the Department of Health and Human Services. The Director of this office will be the Federal Government's champion on this issue. The Director is charged with evaluating the effectiveness of existing Federal policies, programs, and research efforts and identifying future needs; implementing Federal support measures for State, tribal, and territorial programs; and carrying out a comprehensive, long-term, national campaign to prevent weight gain and obesity among our children and youth. The Director will also have an important role in promoting and supporting school wellness policies that monitor students' body mass index, provide parents with information on health and nutrition, and implement age-appropriate physical activity programs.

In carrying out these responsibilities, the Director will consider the unique needs of racially and ethnically diverse groups and high-risk populations, including low-income populations and communities. The Director will also take advantage of the expertise of the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Defense, Interior, Housing and Urban