

\$12,030,202,701,513.91. I should note this week is the first time our debt has broken the 12 trillion level.

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

The national debt has increased by \$1,391,776,955,220.11 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 \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 63RD
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR.
AND MRS. A. NORMAN BANTZ

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House to pay recognition to an important day in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. A. Norman Bantz.

On November 16, 2009, Norman and Gloria Bantz celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. Norman was born on July 17, 1921, and his wife, Gloria, was born on November 16, 1922.

The couple married on November 16, 1946 at Annunciation Church in Crestwood, New York.

Over the years, Norman and Gloria have been blessed with 6 children, Alexandra Louise, Rita Marie, Ralph Fredrick, Margaret Elizabeth, Katherine Mary, and Peter James; 13 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.

On November 16, the couple along with their family and friends celebrated their anniversary at the home of their daughter.

I would like to congratulate, Norman and Gloria, for reaching this important milestone in their lives. They are shining examples of love and dedication for us all, and I wish them and their family all the best at this important occasion.

HONORING CARY LIGHTSEY

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a nationally recognized leader in protecting the environment and a sixth generation Florida rancher, Cary Lightsey of Lake Wales, Florida, who was awarded the 2009 Southeastern Farmer of the Year.

The Sunbelt Agricultural Exhibition Southeastern Farmer of the Year Award honors excellence in agricultural production and management, leadership in community and farm organizations, and recognizes family contributions in producing safe, abundant supplies of food, fiber and shelter for U.S. consumers. Cary Lightsey, as the sixth award recipient to come from the state of Florida, represents some of the best of American agriculture.

It is a great privilege to recognize Cary Lightsey and his family for their many achieve-

ments and contributions to the fanning industry and to their community.

Brahma Island, a large secluded region in Lake Kissimmee, is home to 28 endangered species, 14 nests of bald eagles and 300-year-old oaks, ancient Indian settlements, wild game, and commercial beef cattle. This island, owned by Cary Lightsey, and the Lightsey Cattle Co., is preserved in its natural state and will remain so through a perpetual conservation easement. On the island and his other ranches, Lightsey raises over 7,000 head of commercial cattle.

Lightsey and his family have been innovative leaders in methods to market cattle, development of replacement stock, as well as expansion and vertical integration into the cattle market throughout the United States. In addition to raising livestock on the island, Lightsey offers ecological tours and guided hunts for wild hogs and exotic deer.

Cary Lightsey was the first Florida rancher to use conservation easements. By keeping 40 percent of his ranches in native land use, Lightsey has been able to make extensive use of conservation easements that cover about 70 percent of his ranching properties. With the easements, Lightsey retains ownership of the land and receives benefits from environmental and governmental organizations in return for giving up his rights to develop the land.

In addition to these conservation and livestock endeavors, Lightsey has been involved in several other innovative ventures including harvesting palmetto berries used for a prostate cancer medicine, relocating threatened gopher turtles onto his ranches, and his latest effort, raising Wagyu cattle for the Japanese beef market. He has also established new grass varieties used for forages and treatments for water flow nutrients, sharing these technologies with other Florida ranchers.

Cary Lightsey has made valuable contributions to his community through numerous civic activities as well. Each year he donates cattle to the Florida State Fair Futurity Steer Show, is active in the Polk County Youth Fair, and has served on numerous conservation and water management district land boards.

I stand today to commend Cary Lightsey and his family, including his wife, three children and grandchildren for this honor, which was said to be have been bestowed due to his entrepreneurial spirit, good business judgment, sound farming practices, high ethical standards and leadership in his family, community, state and nation. The 2009 Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year title was also awarded to Lightsey for his sensitivity to the environment, his response to community and social concerns, and his "abiding devotion to his family, his faith and his nation."

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent this great American.

HONORING CHRIS MARROU

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the end of an era. For just shy of 35 years, Chris Marrou has anchored the news broadcast at San Antonio's KENS-5 television. On November 24, 2009, he will give his final broadcast.

Though he spent his youngest days in San Marcos, TX, Chris was born in San Antonio and has lived in the city for most of his life. He was among the first students at Robert E. Lee High School. After being voted "Most Likely to Succeed" by his graduating class, it was off to Princeton University where he began his career in broadcasting on the campus radio station, WPRB. Upon graduating, Chris returned to San Antonio, working first in radio, for KITE and KBAT, before moving into television with WOAI, where he soon began covering sports. San Antonio lost him briefly when a Dallas radio station lured him away, but he soon returned, taking over the anchor spot at KENS-5 television on December 24, 1973. And what a Christmas present that was.

Over the past 36 years Chris has been one of the most trusted and respected voices in San Antonio and South Texas, even during his brief sojourn in Boston. He has won numerous awards from the Texas Associated Press Broadcasters and other organizations. Not content with just one career, however, Chris began attending St. Mary's University School of Law, graduating with his Juris Doctor in 2007, the same year he was voted "Best TV News Anchor" by the San Antonio Express-News. After passing the Texas bar later that year, he founded the firm of Ramiriz, Marrou & Martinez de Vara, P.L.L.C. with some of his law school classmates.

Chris Marrou has been a great friend to the City of San Antonio, a familiar and trusted friend, welcomed into the homes, and hearts, of millions of people at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. every night. He will be greatly missed, though we wish him the best as he moves into the next phase of his life.

COMMENDING BETA GAMMA CHAPTER
(VSU) OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Rep. RANDY FORBES, to call attention to a group of young students from Petersburg, Virginia, who have distinguished themselves, their University, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I direct my colleagues' attention to the brothers of the Beta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at Virginia State University. Over the last three years the Beta Gamma chapter has partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters and has maintained one hundred percent chapter membership participation rate. They are the first, and only, Alpha Phi Alpha chapter in the country to accomplish this remarkable achievement. I would like to applaud my brothers for volunteering to be responsible role models for at-risk youth, helping them to reach their full potential and to lead vibrant, successful lives.

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity was founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. As the first intercollegiate Greek letter fraternity established for African Americans, Alpha Phi Alpha initially served as a brotherhood and study and support group for minority students at Cornell, but it also recognized the need to help correct the educational, economic, political and social injustices faced by African Americans.

From that initial foundation at Cornell, the core Alpha Phi Alpha principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character and the uplifting of humanity were established. Alpha Phi Alpha now has a presence on hundreds of college campuses as well as in hundreds of alumni chapters in 44 States. The presence is also felt here in Washington, where nine members of the U.S. Congress are members of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

In 1991, an agreement was entered into between Alpha Phi Alpha and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America to unite their efforts to transform communities and the lives of young African Americans. The men of Alpha Phi Alpha have become thoroughly engaged in recruiting volunteers, and cultivating a positive relationship and experience with their Little Brothers.

The brothers of Beta Gamma continue this proud tradition by proactively engaging the Petersburg community's schools and families, in addition providing one-on-one youth mentoring for children at-risk of slipping through the cracks of our society. Studies show that the regular presence of a responsible adult provides lasting, positive impacts on the life of a child. Those children mentored by the Big Brothers of Beta Gamma chapter will be less likely to use drugs and alcohol, will perform better in school, and will have healthier family relationships.

Today, I rise to recognize these young gentlemen for their genuine concern for their local community and for their dedication to public service.

RECOGNIZING CAKES BY HAPPY EATERY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a sign of recovery and reinvestment in our nation's economy. On November 19, 2009, "Cakes by Happy Eatery" opens its doors for business in Manassas, Virginia.

This family-owned business was established in 1986 as the "Happy Eatery Restaurant and Bakery." It previously operated in Alexandria, Virginia as a traditional Chinese restaurant with an in-house bakery for 17 years. In 2002, the business moved to a location in Centreville, Virginia and became "Cakes by Happy Eatery." During this move, the family decided to undergo more than just a name and location change. They also transformed the business model and focused all of their talents and efforts on becoming a full-service bakery.

This has proven to be a successful business decision. The family's recipes and catering services have been well received and the business has outgrown its Centreville location. The new Manassas location will expand the family's services and responsibilities. The matriarch, Mrs. Fu-Mei Wu, will act as the chief quality control manager. Mrs. Wu's daughters will continue to be involved in the bakery's everyday business. Victoria Wu will oversee daily operations. Charlotte Wu Homme will handle advertising and Emily Wu-Rorrer will continue to create the popular bakery's new products.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Wu family for creating jobs by opening a new "Cakes by Happy Eatery" location. I admire the Wu family for their hard work, and I hope for their continued success.

HONORING SIMON HUGHES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, recently the Texas record for the largest gator killed on state property was broken by 110 pounds. The new state record stands at 800 pounds and 12-foot-6-inches. The remarkable thing is that the shooter, Simon Hughes, had only a year of experience under his belt. Even more remarkable was that the shooter is a five year old from Goodrich Texas, near Lake Livingston.

Simon Hughes is the son of Scott Hughes a sixth generation rancher also from East Texas. Mr. Scott Hughes was reasonably worried that something "real big was out there" and driving smaller gators into his stock ponds. He then obtained a state permit to kill the alligators populating his 5,000 acre ranch near the Lake. Mr. Hughes also took his son, a mere first grader, along for a hunt seeing as he already had been taught gun safety since he was "big enough to walk and stand in a deer blind." When the gator came upon Simon, he screamed "holy moly," and shot the beast that was twenty times his size with his new junior-sized .410-gauge shotgun.

Madam Speaker, in true cowboy fashion Simon wants the world to know that he was never afraid for a second. Texas commends Simon for his bravery and outstanding accuracy at such a young age.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI STEVEN FOSTER AND SENATOR JOYCE FOSTER

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of a distinguished couple in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado, Rabbi Steven Foster and State Senator Joyce Foster. Rabbi Foster has announced that he will retire in June 2010 after four decades at Denver's Temple Emanuel, the oldest Jewish congregation in Colorado. On this occasion, I rise to pay tribute to the Fosters and to their exceptional service to our community and our world.

The Fosters moved to Denver in 1970, when Rabbi Foster accepted his first position as an ordained rabbi at Temple Emanuel after receiving degrees in Hebrew Letters at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. Together they have raised three children and have made Denver a better place for all its residents.

The first Temple Emanuel with which Rabbi Foster was affiliated was in his hometown of Milwaukee, where he grew up attending the

synagogue during the emerging civil rights movement. By the time of his bar mitzvah, he was determined he would become a rabbi. As a senior in college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he traveled to Alabama to walk in the historic Freedom March led by Dr. Martin Luther King to the state capitol in Montgomery. His actions marked a lifelong commitment to social justice.

Rabbi Foster has been an activist for social justice, an advocate for interfaith outreach, and a spiritual leader to the thousands of Temple Emanuel congregants. Rabbi Foster's work has included founding the Temple Emanuel Preschool and Kindergarten, Herzl Day School, and Stepping Stones to a Jewish Me, an outreach program for interfaith families. He has served on the boards of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, National Council of Justice and Peace, United Way, and Allied Jewish Federation, to name just a few.

Rabbi Foster has taken on all these tasks while also tirelessly devoting himself to the spiritual needs of his flock. Never reticent to speak out and take action on social issues, Rabbi Foster has worked assiduously against the death penalty and for racial equality, reproductive rights, and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. In the words of Rabbi Foster, "Either we are all created in God's image, or we're not." Temple Emanuel's largest community service project, Mitzvah Day, embodies Rabbi Foster and Temple Emanuel's commitment to social justice, as hundreds of families go into the Denver community and perform good deeds.

Joyce Foster grew up in Benton Harbor, Michigan. She was educated at Lake Michigan College and Roosevelt University and Northwestern University in Chicago, where she met Rabbi Foster. In 1977, she began a 16-year career at Jewish Family Service in Denver, where, as Director of Employment Services, she worked with many refugees from the former Soviet Union and Pacific Rim countries. In 1993, she ran for Denver City Council. Upon her election, she became the first Jewish woman to sit on the Council. She subsequently spent 10 years representing District 4 and served as Council President during 2001–2002. As a Councilwoman and Council President, she was a leader on transportation, land use issues, and regional cooperation between the City and its surrounding suburbs. She represented Denver on the Denver Regional Council of Governments Board, and developed close working relationships with other cities and counties, business and transportation organizations, and state agencies such as the Colorado Department of Transportation. One of her signature accomplishments was working with Denver middle and high school students to help build a skate park in downtown Denver, which helped reduce crime and benefited the community by providing an after-school activity for young people.

After retiring from the Denver City Council, in 2008 Joyce Foster was elected to represent her community as Senate Senator for Colorado's District 35. As a State Senator, Joyce Foster has been a champion for access to health care as a basic human right and for high-quality education for all children. Named by Denver's 5280 magazine as one of four Colorado "Freshman Legislators to Watch," Senator Foster has earned a reputation as a savvy legislator who reaches across the aisle to serve the public good.