

their first priority has been the communities of America. Their members have served in thousands of ways across the nation. In my own home state, members of the AmeriCorps Conservation Corps were critical in assisting the management of the Colockum Tarps Fire this past year—a fire which burned across over 20,000 acres. This is only one small example of their commitment to helping others in any way possible.

Members like these set an example to all Americans. Their actions continually encourage people of all ages and from all walks of life to engage in community service projects and help others. I am encouraged by their dedication and witness daily the benefits of community engagement and service that they work so hard to promote. Once more, I thank and congratulate them on achieving this milestone.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.

Today, it is \$16,738,502,722,145. We've added \$6,111,625,673,232 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING 50 WWII VETERANS VISITING THROUGH HONOR FLIGHT OF EASTERN OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Friday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to the nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: James Bray, U.S. Army; Howard Brink, U.S. Army; Donner Fearing, U.S. Army; Murray Hale, U.S. Army; Dan Jackson, U.S. Army; Franklin Jenkins, U.S. Army; Robert Michael, U.S. Army; Warren Norton, U.S. Army; Frank Passmore, U.S. Army; Wilbur Rasmussen, U.S. Army; Deryl Richter, U.S. Army; Joseph Sequito, U.S. Army; Charles Wilkins, U.S. Army; Thomas Wright, U.S. Army; Howard Bunker, U.S. Army Air Force; Phillip Chaperon, U.S. Army Air Force; Walter Davis, U.S. Army Air Force; Everett Endicott, U.S. Army Air Force; Hiram Hern, U.S. Army Air Force; Thomas Herrod, U.S. Army Air Force; William Keating, U.S. Army Air Force; Carl King, U.S. Army Air Force; James Minturn, U.S. Army Air Force; Richard Strom, U.S. Army Air Force; Robert Bullock, U.S. Coast Guard; Fred Coulter, U.S. Coast Guard; Mel Baldivia, U.S. Marine Corps; Robert Tinsley, U.S. Marine

Corps; Calvin Weissenfluh, U.S. Marine Corps; Richard Drexelius, U.S. Merchant Marine; William Anderson, U.S. Navy; John Brainerd, U.S. Navy; Jack Burtch, U.S. Navy; John Clarke, U.S. Navy; John Emerson, U.S. Navy; Albert Emmons, U.S. Navy; Alta Halliday, U.S. Navy; Orlin Hansen, U.S. Navy; Darell Hillard, U.S. Navy; Frederick LaMear, U.S. Navy; Robert Ledford, U.S. Navy; Harry Maxwell, U.S. Navy; Donald Morris, U.S. Navy; Harold Schumock, U.S. Navy; Russell Sichley, U.S. Navy; Ellis Skidmore, U.S. Navy; Gordon Smith, U.S. Navy; Donald Tippet, U.S. Navy; Arthur Vinall, U.S. Navy; and Jeffrey Walker, U.S. Navy.

These 50 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Dick and Erik Tobiason for their tireless work with Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ERNIE BANKS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize baseball legend Ernie Banks for being selected to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Among other recipients of the nation's highest civilian honor will be former President Bill Clinton; the late Sally Ride, the first American female astronaut; country singer Loretta Lynn; North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith and Oprah Winfrey.

Ernie Banks made his debut to the Major League on September 13, 1953, 60 years ago. I am proud to say Ernie Banks is a native of my Congressional District in Dallas, Texas. Ernie Banks, who went on to have a Hall of Fame career with the Cubs, grew up at 1723 Fairmount Street, Dallas, Texas. His parents, Eddie and Essie Banks raised Ernie and 11 other children there.

He attended Booker T. Washington High School, also in Dallas, which didn't have a baseball team at the time. Despite that, he excelled playing on the school's softball team. He was a wide receiver on the football team and also ran track. He played basketball down the street at the Moorland YMCA. He worshipped at St. Paul United Methodist church. As Banks states, "Our North Dallas—was a great place to grow up." After two years in the Army and a brief return to the Monarchs,

Ernie Banks, at 22, was selected to play for a Major League team, the Cubs, becoming only the ninth black player to take the major

league field. To date, Banks holds Cubs records for games played (2,528), at-bats (9,421), extra-base hits (1,009), and total bases (4,706). As one of the Nation's pioneers in baseball, Ernie Banks has inspired and enlightened so many throughout his life.

Our country has benefitted immensely from his career, and I hope he will continue to inspire others. I wish to commend Ernie Banks and thank him for his service to this great nation. As a pioneer in baseball, he has created positive pathways many future generations.

TO TRINITY ELMS RESIDENTS ON THE OCCASION OF GRANDPARENTS DAY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the residents of Trinity Elms on the occasion of Grandparents Day.

It is an honor to extend to Trinity Elms residents another expression of much deserved thanks and appreciation for the critical role they, as grandparents, play in the lives of their families and our larger Clemmons community.

Grandparents fortify and exemplify the values we seek to teach our children. They encourage children to dream, teach them the importance of duty, and push them always to do their best. Trinity Elms residents are to be thanked for providing this direction.

As an anchor of love and stability in many families, grandparents often help their children bear the responsibilities of parenting. They possess invaluable knowledge and wisdom, and are a reservoir of life experiences which transcends generational differences and stand the test of time.

Though gratitude for the part grandparents play is oft under-sung, we will not make that mistake today. For the many hats Trinity Elms residents wear as grandparents, those of teacher, comforter, cheerleader, coach, disciplinarian, and even adjunct parent, I salute them. A grandparent's love is something that can never be replaced in a child's life.

May we continue to treasure the blessing of grandparenting as an affirmation of the generosity of Almighty God. That we, as individuals, have the opportunity to love and encourage our children and grandchildren as they grow and navigate the challenges of this life is astounding. And through the process, grandparents too are changed for the better.

In fond remembrance of my own grandparents, and as the proud grandmother of two, I commend Trinity Elms residents for their service and offer them my sincerest thanks.

HONORING SABRINA CALDWELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Ms. Sabrina D. Caldwell, a Kosciusko High School Senior who is the Oprah Winfrey Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year and has assumed the role of 2013 Youth of the Year for

the state of Mississippi by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Mississippi. She was named state runner-up earlier this year and assumed the role after the current winner was unable to fulfill his duties as Mississippi's Youth of the Year.

In addition to winning the title, Ms. Caldwell will also receive scholarship money from the Mississippi Area Council as well as the Tupperware Corporation. She was selected among 18 organizations across Mississippi for her sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

Being named the 2013 State Youth of the Year is one of the highest honor a Boys and Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and her Boys and Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles that are overcome. She is the daughter of Roschella and Billy Caldwell.

Ms. Caldwell has maintained a 3.0 grade point average at Kosciusko High School. Her awards include: Advanced On Biology I, Algebra I and English II. She is the secretary for the Mayor's Youth Council, a hospice volunteer for Sta-Home, a member of the Keystone and the Leadership Club at the Oprah Winfrey Boys and Girls Club and a member of the Kosciusko High School Beta Club.

She is also currently enlisted in United States National Guard. Ms. Caldwell plans to attend Meridian Community College to major in physical therapy and later go on to a major university to further her education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Sabrina D. Caldwell.

THE TROUBLING PATH AHEAD FOR U.S.-ZIMBABWE RELATIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, despite more than a decade of targeted sanctions, Zimbabwe has continued to be a major U.S. trading partner through the Generalized System of Preferences, even though it has been excluded from the African Growth and Opportunity Act. Chromium, platinum and diamonds have enriched Zimbabwe's leaders, but not its people.

Zimbabwe had been one of Africa's leading industrial powers and agricultural producers until its government diminished the ability of the country to sustain its industrial or agricultural production. Illegal and disruptive land seizures resulted in political cronies gaining control of productive agricultural land rather than the black farm workers as promised. Agricultural production suffered, dragging down manufacturers of agricultural equipment—the base of the country's industry. The reduction in tax revenues led to a desperate search for foreign funding to stabilize an economy whose inflation rate reached globally historic levels.

Nevertheless, Zimbabwe is a major player in southern Africa, even more so now that newly reelected President Robert Mugabe has been chosen as Vice Chairman of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the organization's anticipated Chairman next year. Facing international appeals for an end to sanctions on Zimbabwe and threats from the

Mugabe government of economic retaliation, the U.S. must devise a policy that safeguards American interests while maintaining our support for democracy, human rights, good governance and economic development. Today's hearing will examine how the process of policy formation is going now and discuss what that policy should look like at the conclusion of that process.

The United States has experienced a troubled relationship with Zimbabwe since this southern African nation achieved majority rule in 1980. Robert Mugabe, the liberation leader who has led his country since 1980, has always resented that our government did not support his war against the previous white minority government. Despite our efforts to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with Mugabe's government over the past couple of decades, his regime has spurned our hand of friendship and flouted international law and convention.

Using colonial-era laws as models, Mugabe's government has eliminated the possibility that the political opposition can credibly challenge his rule. It has limited the ability of the media to effectively report on the news of the day. It has restricted civil society advocates from documenting and verifying the many human rights violations that have taken place in Mugabe's Zimbabwe.

When Congress passed the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001, or ZDERA, it set out a range of aid restrictions requiring U.S. representatives on the boards of international financial institutions to vote against loans or debt cancellations benefitting the Zimbabwean government, pending fulfillment of a range of conditions based on repeal of the limitations on the freedom of Zimbabweans.

Recent annual appropriations laws also have barred U.S. support for international loans or grants to the government, except to meet basic human needs or to promote democracy. Generally, bilateral aid is prohibited, except that pertaining to health, humanitarian needs, education, or macroeconomic growth. Such prohibitions are maintained unless the Secretary of State certifies that "the rule of law has been restored . . . including respect for ownership and title to property, freedom of speech and association."

However, Mugabe's August 22, 2013 inauguration marked the end of a five-year period of often uneasy political power sharing with the opposition and partially fulfilled reforms pursued by the Government of National Unity under the Global Political Agreement. The end of the unity government means that unless a deal is struck with the ruling ZANU-PF party, its former partner in government, the opposition MDC-T party will likely no longer play a role in executive branch policy-making.

Past patterns of ZANU-PF governance, along with recent actions by ruling party officials and the MDC-T's new marginalization, indicate that Zimbabwe may be entering a period characterized by a pattern of unilateral exercise of state power potentially accompanied by manipulation of the rule of law in its favor; a lack of national political consensus and the absence of vehicles for alternatives to ZANU-PF policies; continued restrictions on the activities of civil society organizations and opposition activists, including legal and extralegal harassment and violence both by the police and by ZANU-PF supporters, and weak eco-

nomie growth due to ZANU-PF's pursuit of a nationalist economic agenda focusing on state interventions in the economy.

The Mugabe government has long blamed the United States and Great Britain for hampering its economic growth due to sanctions, but aside from direct aid limitations, most sanctions are targeted toward Mugabe and his government's leadership. SADC is now calling for a removal of sanctions against Zimbabwe and is being joined by a growing international chorus that includes a few voices from within the Congress of the United States. Meanwhile, President Mugabe has threatened to punish Western firms operating in Zimbabwe unless sanctions are lifted.

But questions remain about the willingness of the Mugabe government to take the steps necessary to rescind U.S. sanctions. If Zimbabwe takes a defiant stand, where does that leave U.S.-Zimbabwe relations? The Administration has tried limited relaxation of sanctions only to be met with continued refusal to accept reform. Where does this leave U.S. policy?

However problematic our relationship with Zimbabwe has been, we need to devise a policy that fulfills our national interests, protects the human rights of Zimbabweans and enables this former industrial power to resume its rightful role in Africa's economy and the global economy as a whole.

IN HONOR OF LYNN RHYMER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2013 North Carolina Principal of the year, Lynn Rhymer.

Ms. Rhymer, who lives in Cabarrus County and is originally from Asheville, N.C., is currently the principal at Central Cabarrus High School in Cabarrus County, N.C.

She has served in education for the past 25 years, dedicating 15 years as a high school mathematics teacher and basketball coach and the past 10 years as an administrator.

She first received her bachelor's degree in mathematics and a teaching certificate from Western Carolina University. Since receiving her master's degree in school administration from Appalachian State University, Ms. Rhymer has served as an assistant principal and principal.

She began her career as principal at Northwest Cabarrus High School, transforming it within three years from a failing school to the sixth best for the state of N.C. as ranked by U.S. News & World Report. She is in her seventh year as principal and loves the time she gets to spend with staff and students.

When asked about her profession, Ms. Rhymer simply states, "I wouldn't do anything else in the world than what I'm doing now. This is my fate, and it's a pretty amazing job."

As the son of a school teacher, I understand that education is imperative for the future of our nation, and I appreciate Ms. Rhymer's dedication to our students. Her success serves as an example to other teachers in North Carolina and across the nation.

The students of the Eighth District of North Carolina are fortunate to have administrators,