PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen delay, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 906 and 907 during the 1st session of the 112th Congress. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way on H.R. 1633: rollcall No. 906, Amendment by Mr. RUSH— "no"; rollcall No. 907, Amendment by Mrs. CHRISTENSEN—"no."

HONORING THE ROCK BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rock Bridge High School varsity cheerleaders on its state championship.

On October 1, 2011, the squad of 25 young women placed first in the 5A Super Large division at the Missouri Cheerleading Coaches Association's state competition. It was the first time the squad has won a state cheerleading championship. These young women and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work and dedication.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the tremendous effort of the Rock Bridge High School's varsity cheerleaders and congratulating them on a job well done!

HONORING GRAPEVINE SENIOR OFFICER WARREN ORR

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize retiring Grapevine Senior Officer Warren Orr for his 24 years of service as a police officer.

Senior Officer Orr began his law enforcement career with the Bonham, Texas Police Department. He served as a Bonham police officer from December 1987 to November 1994.

In November 1994, Senior Officer Orr joined the Grapevine Police Department where he continued his career until he retired in January 2012. During his tenure at the Grapevine Police Department, Senior Officer Orr served as a patrol officer, motorcycle officer and detective. In addition to his normal duties, Senior Officer Orr served as a hostage negotiator for many years and obtained a Master of Peace Officer certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education. While assigned as a motorcycle officer, Senior Officer Orr received extensive training in crash reconstruction and became one of only three hundred worldwide members of the International Network of Collision Reconstructionists.

Senior Officer Orr and his wife, Grapevine Police Department Senior Officer Darcey Sutton, own a ranch in east Texas. Senior Officer Orr plans to spend his retirement raising cattle and shoeing horses, a trade he learned from his father and has passed on to his son, Bruce Orr. Bruce is a junior in the honors program at Tarleton State University.

I am very proud of the Grapevine Police Department, and I am honored to recognize Senior Officer Orr for his contribution to the community. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Warren Orr for his service as a police officer.

IN COMMEMORATION OF CORPORAL KEVIN REINHARD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Marine Corporal Kevin J. Reinhard of Colonia, New Jersey. On January 19, 2012, Corporal Reinhard was on a helicopter mission in the southern Afghanistan province of Helmand, Afghanistan, when his aircraft went down, killing the Corporal and five of his fellow Marines. He was 25 years old. Corporal Reinhard's valiant and heroic actions during his deployment in Afghanistan are truly worthy of this body's recognition.

Marine Corporal Kevin Reinhard is remembered as a loving son who was committed to his family and friends. A resident of the Colonia section of Woodbridge, New Jersey, Corporal Reinhard is a proud alumnus of St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, New Jersey. He attended Ramapo College and later transferred to Middlesex County College in Edison, New Jersey where he majored in Criminal Science. In the spring of 2008, he admirably enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed in Hawaii. He soon rose to the rank of Corporal and proudly served as a Crew Chief, flying on a Sikorsky Sea Stallion with HMEI 363, also known as the "Lucky Red Lions." In January 2012, Corporal Reinhard was serving his second deployment in Afghanistan when his helicopter crashed, tragically taking his life and the lives of five other Marines. Corporal Reinhard leaves behind his mother, Kathleen Rose, his father, James, sister, Kathleen Marie, as well as his paternal grandparents, James and Mary Ann Reinhard. He is pre-deceased by his maternal grandparents, John and Veronica Gerrity of Colonia. Corporal Reinhard was an outstanding individual who proudly embodied the motto of the United States Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in commemorating the life of Corporal Kevin J. Reinhard, an American hero who courageously served his country. His legacy has served as an inspiration to us all and he will truly be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, 2012, I was not present for two recorded votes because I was in my district highlighting the importance of manufacturing to rebuilding Iowa's economy and supporting good-paying Iowa jobs.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 10 and "yea" on rollcall 11.

In addition, on the occasion of her resignation from the House of Representatives, I would also like to honor Congresswoman Giffords' service to our country and her constituents. I had the honor of sitting next to Congresswoman Giffords on the House Armed Services Committee. Her dedication to our troops and to her constituents will be missed.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was $4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is $15,295,052,578,718.01. We've added $10,493,647,403,423.73 to our debt in 16 years. This is $10 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, this weekend we celebrated an important anniversary in our nation's history.

Three years ago, only nine days after taking the oath of office, President Barack Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law. It was the first bill he signed into law as President, solidifying this Administration's commitment to women's equality.

I met Lilly Ledbetter during a Judiciary Committee hearing in 2007. She told us then how after working at her company for more than twenty years, she learned of the long-standing pay discrimination against her based on gender. Unfortunately, this type of workplace discrimination occurs all too frequently across our country. Women still make just three-quarters of a man's salary for the same work. Fortunately, for women all across the country, Lilly Ledbetter found out about the discrimination carried out against her and took action.

As a result of her courage and strength, President Obama and the Democratic-led Congress passed this important piece of legislation that protects women and addresses a critical aspect of the wage gap in our country.

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act closes numerous loopholes and clarifies that an employee is discriminated against each and every time she receives an unfair paycheck. It also makes modest, common-sense reforms that hold employers accountable for their actions.