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.

But our fight is not over. We have a long way to go until women reach true wage equality, which is why we must support legislation like the Paycheck Fairness Act, which builds on previous efforts and continues to address wage disparities.

Lilly's story is proof that progress can be made on this front, and just as importantly, she is a testament to how one person can create a lasting legacy of change.

Today, we celebrate Lily Ledbetter's courage by commemorating the anniversary of this essential legislation becoming law, and by remembering that in America, one person can make a difference.

CONGRATULATING NDSU BISON ON WINNING 2011 FCS CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RICK BERG

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate the North Dakota State Bison on an incredible football season that led to winning the 2011 FCS championship.

More than 10,000 Bison fans cheered on NDSU in Frisco, Texas, where the Bison capped off a 14–1 season and defeated the Sam Houston Bearkats in the championship game 17–6 on January 7, 2012.

The Bison, Coach Craig Bohl and his staff worked hard this season, and their determination resulted in NDSU's 9th football championship, and the first at the Division I level.

These student athletes represent NDSU's commitment to both academic and athletic excellence. Their character and perseverance truly exemplify the North Dakota spirit, and they have made our state proud. These young men will be remembered for a lifetime. Their efforts brought our state closer together, and we celebrate their athletic and academic successes.

Congratulations to the Bison players, coaches, NDSU staff, and Bison fans everywhere on an excellent season. You've made North Dakota proud!

Thank you, and Go Bison!

HONORING THE ARTESIA-CERRITOS LIONS CLUB 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Artesia-Cerritos Lions Club for their 65th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone that deserves our recognition and praise.

For 65 years, the Artesia-Cerritos Lions Club has maintained the reputation of being a keystone in local communities due to their steadfast response of donations and services to residents in need. The Lions Club has been at the forefront of health and safety, offering their services to local public safety fairs and Relay for Life events. They have also organized support efforts for the needy by arranging food and toy drives. In addition, the Lions Club has been vital in building the morale and closeness of the community by hosting the Miss Artesia Royal Court Contest, the Miss Cerritos Scholarship Contest, Flag Day events, and annual Easter Egg Hunts.

The Artesia-Cerritos Lions Club has provided life changing services and opportunities for youth of Artesia and Cerritos. The Lions Club has provided eyeglasses for children in the ABC Unified School District, sponsored the annual track meet for all of the elementary schools in the school district, and have hosted a student speaker contest for local high schools. In addition, The Lions Club has been a sponsor of the Cerritos High School Leos Club, a youth volunteer group, which has inspired young people to assume leadership roles by giving them a chance to learn, grow, and serve by participating in community service projects.

The Artesia-Cerritos Lions Club, driven by their motto ''We Serve'', has been a model for organizing and empowering volunteers in Artesia and Cerritos to serve their community. The contributions and achievements of the Lions Club members are far too many to count, but the enrichment and sense of community they have created is something to be acknowledged. For that reason, I would like to recognize the Artesia-Cerritos Lions Club for 65 years of honorable deeds and good work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary. It is a great pleasure to recognize the Board's long standing dedication to flood protection projects and flood management in the Central Valley. As Board members, staff and agency partners gather to celebrate this milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the key role the organization plays in protecting millions of Californians from a potentially devastating flood.

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board was created by the California Legislature in 1911. The Board's role is to serve as a liaison between the State of California, local residents, property owners, cities and counties, and the United States government. The Board works closely with the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that the Central Valley receives the highest level of flood protection possible, while addressing a number of financial, environmental, and engineering challenges.

Over the last century, the Board has maintained a wide variety of Central Valley flood protection systems and infrastructure along the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, and their tributaries. This encompasses 1,600 miles of levees, 107 million acres of land, and 1,300 miles of designated floodways. The Congressional District that I represent is home to the City of Sacramento, which sits at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers. It is without doubt that the Board's investment decisions have helped improve the safety for each of us that call Sacramento home.

In 2007, the California Legislature and the governor signed legislation that changed the name of the Central Valley Flood Protection and expanded the Board's responsibilities and authorities. The Board remains responsible to the citizens of California to ensure that the flood management system within the Central Valley meets the ever-mounting challenges of the 21st Century. This includes working with the Corps of Engineers on vegetation management and the California Department of Water Resources on a new Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.

The Board is led by Chair Benjamin Carter, who serves alongside Jane Dolan, Teri Rice, Francis ''Butch'' Hodgkins, Emma Suarez, John Brown and Michael Villines. The Board's Executive Officer is Jay Punia.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board and their continuous commitment to providing the Central Valley with ever-improving levels of flood protection. The Board has contributed immensely to the safety and vitality of California's Central Valley. As Board members and staff gather to celebrate their 100th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their outstanding work in providing flood protection for the residents of the Central Valley.

SISTERS OF LORETTO CELEBRATE 200TH JUBILEE YEAR

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a truly American story of faith and service, a tradition that has served, educated, and upheld true values in my district of El Paso, Texas. During this Catholic Schools Week, I would like to congratulate the Sisters of Loretto celebrating their 200th Jubilee Year this April.

On April 25, 1812, three frontier women, Sisters Mary Rhodes, Nancy Havern and Christina Stuart, with the help of their Catholic pastor, the Rev. Charles Nerinckx, came together to found the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross, on Hardin's Creek in central Kentucky, marking the beginning of a uniquely American community of faith and service. Motivated by faith and charity, they were soon joined by many others, taking as their purpose the instruction of girls and young women of every faith and economic means, even welcoming enslaved persons.

The Sisters of Loretto expanded the work of education westward, first by steamboat to Missouri and Louisiana, and then by wagon train to New Mexico, by mail-coach to Colorado, and by train to Texas, Arizona, and California, ultimately contributing to American education in more than 40 states. In the 20th century, they reached out to girls in Asia, South America, and Central America. Their members now serve throughout the United States, as well as in Europe, Guatemala, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Uganda, Ghana, and Pakistan.

In their 200 years of work, the Sisters of Loretto and their colleagues have founded