

schools in Kentucky, Connecticut, Michigan and Ohio. And because of that, these kids are raising funds to build this World War I memorial for all that lived and died in this war.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we as a Nation honor all that fought in the four great wars in the last century. And it is a shame we haven't built a memorial to them. But I can tell you something, Mr. Speaker. America's school kids will not be denied because they are the grassroots campaign to build that memorial, and they are raising funds to do it.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more powerful than American school kids that have made up their minds, and they have made up their minds that America shall honor the war dead of World War I, the Frank Buckles and all of those four million-plus that served with him. And we're going to build this memorial whether the Federal bureaucrats like it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

SCHOOLS INVOLVED IN THE EFFORT

Terryville High School, Terryville, CT
 Bristol Eastern High School, CT
 Kingwood High School, Humble, TX
 Creekwood Middle School, Humble, TX
 Riverwood Middle School, Humble, TX
 Zeeland public schools, Michigan
 Buckeye public schools, Ohio
 University of Arkansas at Montecello
 Michigan State University ROTC Program
 Hudsonville Public Schools, Michigan

□ 1530

CELEBRATING THE 33-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE COVENANT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, the covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States of America defines the unique relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States, recognizing United States sovereignty but limiting, in some respects, applicability of Federal law. The commonwealth accordingly enjoys a greater degree of autonomy than most United States territories.

The covenant was negotiated over the course of 27 months, from December 1972 to February 1975, by the Marianas Political Status Commission, made up of representatives of the Northern Mariana Islands and a delegation representing the United States.

The proposed covenant was signed by negotiators on February 15, 1975, and unanimously approved by the legislature of the Mariana Islands District of the Pacific Islands on February 17, 1975.

On June 17, 1975, the covenant was submitted to Northern Mariana Islands

voters in a plebiscite. At the time, 95 percent of eligible residents had registered to vote, and of the 95 percent of all registered voters who cast ballots in the plebiscite, 78.8 percent voted to approve the covenant.

The covenant was subsequently approved by this House on July 21, 1975, and by the Senate on February 24, 1976.

On March 24, 1976, President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 94-241, enacting the covenant. Some provisions became effective on that date. Remaining provisions became effective on January 9, 1978, and November 4, 1986.

On January 9, 1978, the Northern Mariana Islands Government was established, and the first elected governor took office.

On November 4, 1976, qualified residents of the Northern Mariana Islands became United States citizens.

On May 8, 2008, President George W. Bush signed Public Law 110-229 and gave to the Northern Mariana Islands the seat in Congress that I presently have the privilege to occupy.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands mark the 33rd year of the date when the covenant took effect.

The 33 years of our political relationship, Mr. Speaker, has been beneficial to both the Northern Mariana Islands and to the United States, such that the political agreement continues to be celebrated by very proud citizens in that most western part of the United States. I join my people in their celebration and bring their joy to this Congress.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this joyful and historical day with Congress, the Nation and with the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express grave concern regarding the budget that the Budget Committee is acting upon this week and which some have proposed be brought to the floor of this House next week.

I would suggest that it is very much in need of dramatic changes and would ask that the leadership of this Congress take that budget back and start over again because a debt of the magnitude that this country is already facing, added to the projected deficit for next year alone, now up to \$1.8 trillion, is a staggering sum of money, and it is not something that is sustainable.

We have known this for a long time. In fact, one of the namesakes of the an-

nual dinners that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle hold, the Jefferson-Jackson dinners that are held all across the country, he has been known throughout American history for his strong stand against piling on greater and greater public debt. In fact, late in his life he said, "There does not exist an engine so corruptive of the government and so demoralizing of the Nation as a public debt. It will bring on us more ruin at home than all the enemies from abroad." And we are, in fact, seeing this statement made long ago coming to haunt us in very severe ways at this time in our history.

You know, we had up until last year a \$9 trillion national debt that had been accumulated over more than 200 years of our Nation's history. And yet the projection now is that in the next 10 years, according to this budget—and that is based upon optimistic projections I would say with regard to government spending—the liabilities the government already has for a number of different programs, but the projection already offered by the administration is that that debt will increase by one-and-a-half times in the next 10 years.

That is staggering to consider that we could outstrip all of the spending that has taken place over all of that period of time in such a short period of time, and I want to show you exactly how that works with this chart.

This chart shows the doubling of the debt held by the public in a very short period of time. Projections now are that it will be even greater than this. This one shows that it grows to \$16 trillion. We now have a new projection that says \$23 trillion will be the national debt in total.

The public portion of the national debt, that portion of the debt that we owe to American citizens and other people around the world, will grow to \$16 trillion from less than \$6 trillion just last year. That is a stunning figure, but this doesn't even tell the whole story because what this shows is just the public portion of the debt.

Every year, the Congress borrows from the Social Security trust fund, and other trust funds, additional funds, and the government simply puts an IOU in those trust funds, funds so important to our senior citizens and others who are counting on those funds to be there in the future, to make sure that Social Security and other programs are actuarially sound, and yet the money has been borrowed, such that the total amount of our national debt by 2019 will come to \$23 trillion.

We have in this budget that has been offered in this Congress too much spending, too much taxation and, what we're focusing on today, too much debt. Let me call the words of President Jefferson to mind again: To preserve the independence of the people, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty or profusion and servitude—and that is