

medical system which can only be detrimental to all our citizens. At the risk of oversimplification, may I state that this bill is a sugar-coated pill that is being swallowed in an easy fashion, but its ill effects will be felt in the ultimate crippling of our medical services and unwarranted regressive tax burden on our citizens.

Quoting Congressman Thomas Curtis, also from the state of Missouri, who has this to say:

What we have done is to take a system that has proved successful for 85 percent of our people, including our older people, in order to solve the problems of the 15 percent.

These arguments were made by Republicans while debating the Social Security Amendments of 1965, commonly known as Medicare—the bill that became law and responsible for the program that has treated and cared for tens of millions of American seniors with the medical care they need.

It is striking but not all too surprising that the Grand Old Party is using the same old arguments on the other side of the aisle today.

I doubt there is any member in this chamber today who would reasonably argue that Medicare has not benefited our Nation. Do they think insurance companies would step in to cover a 75-year old cancer patient if it were not for Medicare?

Madam Speaker, the specter of a government takeover of health care has been part of the Republican playbook for nearly 45 years. It wasn't true then and it isn't true now.

Medicare is the life blood of today's seniors. It put the 'great' in LBJ's Great Society. History is destined to repeat itself—not just the mistakes, but the triumphs as well.

HONORING THE LATE ANTHONY T. KAHOOHANOHANO ON BEING AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the late Anthony T. Kahooohanohano for his extraordinary heroism while serving during the Korean War. Private First Class Kahooohanohano's service was recently acknowledged with our Nation's highest award of merit, the Medal of Honor.

I am grateful to my colleague Senator AKAKA for inserting a provision in this year's defense authorization bill that awards the Medal of Honor to Mr. Kahooohanohano and to President Obama for signing the bill into law.

Awarding the Medal of Honor to Anthony Kahooohanohano has long been overdue. A 19-year-old soldier from Wailuku on the island of Maui, Kahooohanohano bravely sacrificed his own life to protect fellow soldiers in the area of Chupa-ri, Korea on September 1, 1951.

After ordering members of his machine-gun squad to take up more secure positions to provide cover as U.S. forces withdrew, Kahooohanohano bravely stayed behind to fight the enemy on his own, even fighting in hand-to-hand combat after he ran out of ammunition. He was killed in action, but his courageous actions inspired other American troops to launch a counterattack against the enemy.

On behalf of Anthony Kahooohanohano's family and the State of Hawaii, and in honor

of the service and sacrifice of our servicemembers and veterans, I thank my colleagues for supporting this measure.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was \$11,978,953,722,825.90.

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 \$1,340,527,976,532.10 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.

COMMENDING WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP'S SALUTE TO OLD GLORY PROGRAM

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the House for one minute.

On Wednesday, November 11, Veterans' Day, there will be a special celebration entitled a Salute to Old Glory in Woodbridge Township, New Jersey. The goal of the program is to refurbish all American flags and flag poles throughout the Woodbridge Township School District. This is a huge undertaking; Woodbridge Township is the largest municipality in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

A Salute to Old Glory began is a vision of Woodbridge Board of Education Member George Yuhasz, a lifelong resident of Woodbridge Township. With the help of community activist Charlie Shaughnessy of Colonia, New Jersey the program to replace and preserve American flags throughout the Township has become a huge success.

Veterans as well as civic organizations have joined in this effort in making Salute to Old Glory a positive initiative throughout the community.

The American Flag stands for many things in our beloved Nation. It also serves as a great inspiration for those who want to become part of our great democracy.

Educational involvement incorporated into the program included student essays and artistic presentations that allowed for involvement of students throughout the school district.

The program has been successful because it has been a total community effort. In fact, Salute to Old Glory will become an ongoing effort not only for the Woodbridge Board of Education but for all public buildings in Woodbridge Township that may need a replenishment of an American flag or flagpole.

All of those involved in with the Salute to Old Glory program in Woodbridge Township should be commended for their efforts.

I am pleased to share their hard work with my colleagues here in Congress and with the American people.

OPPOSING ANY ENDORSEMENT OR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE GAZA CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I am disappointed that we have gotten to the point that the House even has to consider this resolution before us this week. I am inclined to vote for this resolution but not without reservations.

My vote for this resolution should not be read either as an endorsement of Operation Lead Cast or as an endorsement of the position that investigations of serious allegations of war crimes should not be undertaken.

We cannot act as if the devastating war in Gaza in January did not have consequences for Palestinians, Israelis, and the international community. We cannot and should not brush aside legitimate allegations about abuses committed by both sides during this conflict. Yet, now more than ever, we also need to intensify efforts to resolve the very serious issues that had unfortunately led to many needless deaths and continuing tensions and may continue to do so if we let the status quo linger.

I have reservations that the resolution before the House this week would do nothing to defuse the demagoguery that has long plagued the Middle East and to help steer us to a future devoid of more rocket attacks or violence in the region.

Ten months after the "cessation" of overt fighting in Gaza, tensions remain high and both the Palestinian and Israeli people continue to live with tremendous insecurity and fear. I am dismayed that it appears to be only a matter of time until the endless cycle of violence repeats itself again along with the resumption of increased misery for innocent Israeli and Palestinian men, women, and children in the region. We as a Congress, at this point, would be better served by trying to support efforts to reinvigorate the peace process, defuse these mounting tensions, and pressing both parties to meet at the negotiating table.

Nonetheless, the Goldstone report includes some very serious charges relating to possible war crimes or other crimes against humanity committed by Israel, Hamas, and other Palestinian armed groups. To give just one example, there are allegations of deliberate and premeditated efforts to target a wastewater treatment plant—that did not have any link to "Palestinian armed groups or any other effective contribution to military action"—sending over 200,000 cubic meters of raw sewage onto farmland. What is lacking in this report is a full and complete accounting of the reckless, indiscriminate, and ongoing use of rockets by