

\$12,030,202,701,513.91. I should note this week is the first time our debt has broken the 12 trillion level.

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 \$1,391,776,955,220.11 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 63RD  
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR.  
AND MRS. A. NORMAN BANTZ

### HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House to pay recognition to an important day in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. A. Norman Bantz.

On November 16, 2009, Norman and Gloria Bantz celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. Norman was born on July 17, 1921, and his wife, Gloria, was born on November 16, 1922.

The couple married on November 16, 1946 at Annunciation Church in Crestwood, New York.

Over the years, Norman and Gloria have been blessed with 6 children, Alexandra Louise, Rita Marie, Ralph Fredrick, Margaret Elizabeth, Katherine Mary, and Peter James; 13 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.

On November 16, the couple along with their family and friends celebrated their anniversary at the home of their daughter.

I would like to congratulate, Norman and Gloria, for reaching this important milestone in their lives. They are shining examples of love and dedication for us all, and I wish them and their family all the best at this important occasion.

### HONORING CARY LIGHTSEY

### HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a nationally recognized leader in protecting the environment and a sixth generation Florida rancher, Cary Lightsey of Lake Wales, Florida, who was awarded the 2009 Southeastern Farmer of the Year.

The Sunbelt Agricultural Exhibition Southeastern Farmer of the Year Award honors excellence in agricultural production and management, leadership in community and farm organizations, and recognizes family contributions in producing safe, abundant supplies of food, fiber and shelter for U.S. consumers. Cary Lightsey, as the sixth award recipient to come from the state of Florida, represents some of the best of American agriculture.

It is a great privilege to recognize Cary Lightsey and his family for their many achieve-

ments and contributions to the fanning industry and to their community.

Brahma Island, a large secluded region in Lake Kissimmee, is home to 28 endangered species, 14 nests of bald eagles and 300-year-old oaks, ancient Indian settlements, wild game, and commercial beef cattle. This island, owned by Cary Lightsey, and the Lightsey Cattle Co., is preserved in its natural state and will remain so through a perpetual conservation easement. On the island and his other ranches, Lightsey raises over 7,000 head of commercial cattle.

Lightsey and his family have been innovative leaders in methods to market cattle, development of replacement stock, as well as expansion and vertical integration into the cattle market throughout the United States. In addition to raising livestock on the island, Lightsey offers ecological tours and guided hunts for wild hogs and exotic deer.

Cary Lightsey was the first Florida rancher to use conservation easements. By keeping 40 percent of his ranches in native land use, Lightsey has been able to make extensive use of conservation easements that cover about 70 percent of his ranching properties. With the easements, Lightsey retains ownership of the land and receives benefits from environmental and governmental organizations in return for giving up his rights to develop the land.

In addition to these conservation and livestock endeavors, Lightsey has been involved in several other innovative ventures including harvesting palmetto berries used for a prostate cancer medicine, relocating threatened gopher turtles onto his ranches, and his latest effort, raising Wagyu cattle for the Japanese beef market. He has also established new grass varieties used for forages and treatments for water flow nutrients, sharing these technologies with other Florida ranchers.

Cary Lightsey has made valuable contributions to his community through numerous civic activities as well. Each year he donates cattle to the Florida State Fair Futurity Steer Show, is active in the Polk County Youth Fair, and has served on numerous conservation and water management district land boards.

I stand today to commend Cary Lightsey and his family, including his wife, three children and grandchildren for this honor, which was said to be have been bestowed due to his entrepreneurial spirit, good business judgment, sound farming practices, high ethical standards and leadership in his family, community, state and nation. The 2009 Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year title was also awarded to Lightsey for his sensitivity to the environment, his response to community and social concerns, and his "abiding devotion to his family, his faith and his nation."

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent this great American.

### HONORING CHRIS MARROU

### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the end of an era. For just shy of 35 years, Chris Marrou has anchored the news broadcast at San Antonio's KENS-5 television. On November 24, 2009, he will give his final broadcast.

Though he spent his youngest days in San Marcos, TX, Chris was born in San Antonio and has lived in the city for most of his life. He was among the first students at Robert E. Lee High School. After being voted "Most Likely to Succeed" by his graduating class, it was off to Princeton University where he began his career in broadcasting on the campus radio station, WPRB. Upon graduating, Chris returned to San Antonio, working first in radio, for KITE and KBAT, before moving into television with WOAI, where he soon began covering sports. San Antonio lost him briefly when a Dallas radio station lured him away, but he soon returned, taking over the anchor spot at KENS-5 television on December 24, 1973. And what a Christmas present that was.

Over the past 36 years Chris has been one of the most trusted and respected voices in San Antonio and South Texas, even during his brief sojourn in Boston. He has won numerous awards from the Texas Associated Press Broadcasters and other organizations. Not content with just one career, however, Chris began attending St. Mary's University School of Law, graduating with his Juris Doctor in 2007, the same year he was voted "Best TV News Anchor" by the San Antonio Express-News. After passing the Texas bar later that year, he founded the firm of Ramiriz, Marrou & Martinez de Vara, P.L.L.C. with some of his law school classmates.

Chris Marrou has been a great friend to the City of San Antonio, a familiar and trusted friend, welcomed into the homes, and hearts, of millions of people at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. every night. He will be greatly missed, though we wish him the best as he moves into the next phase of his life.

COMMENDING BETA GAMMA CHAPTER (VSU) OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA

### HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Rep. RANDY FORBES, to call attention to a group of young students from Petersburg, Virginia, who have distinguished themselves, their University, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I direct my colleagues' attention to the brothers of the Beta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at Virginia State University. Over the last three years the Beta Gamma chapter has partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters and has maintained one hundred percent chapter membership participation rate. They are the first, and only, Alpha Phi Alpha chapter in the country to accomplish this remarkable achievement. I would like to applaud my brothers for volunteering to be responsible role models for at-risk youth, helping them to reach their full potential and to lead vibrant, successful lives.

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity was founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. As the first intercollegiate Greek letter fraternity established for African Americans, Alpha Phi Alpha initially served as a brotherhood and study and support group for minority students at Cornell, but it also recognized the need to help correct the educational, economic, political and social injustices faced by African Americans.