

away on November 30th at the age of 85. His funeral is tomorrow in Mt. Morris, Michigan.

Jack Wagner was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving in World War II aboard the destroyer USS *Sampson*. When the war ended he returned to the Flint area and began working for General Motors. He was active in the United Auto Workers throughout his career. Elected by his peers, Jack served as President of Buick Local 599 before becoming the International Representative for UAW Region 1-C, and Assistant Regional Director of Region 1-C. He was the National Chairman of the 30 and Out Committee that became part of the 1970 National Agreement and continued to serve as Honorary Chairman of the 30 and Out Committee.

Mourning his passing are his two sons, Bryan and Jack, his step daughter, Susan Norling, his sisters, Miriam Routely and Verda Mello, several grandchildren and great grandchildren, friends including Don Spillman, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy, his son, Gary, and his sister, Mildred Burgoyne.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life and work of Jack William Wagner. He was a committed, passionate advocate for working men and women; a devoted family man and a good friend. I will miss his wisdom, his insight, and his enthusiasm. My condolences go out to his family and friends at this sad time.

STATEMENT OF THE CO-CHAIRS
OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS
ON U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS
AND TURKISH AMERICANS

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. WHITFIELD and myself, as Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkish Relations and Turkish Americans, Turkey Caucus, want to welcome Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to the United States. We believe the Prime Minister's visit reaffirms the longstanding strategic partnership between the United States and Turkey, and is a unique opportunity to enhance and foster economic, political, and security relations.

As many of our Congressional colleagues know, our NATO ally Turkey valiantly stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States and European partners throughout the Cold War. Over the past 20 years, Turkey has been integral to American and NATO efforts in the Balkans and has worked to enhance peace and stability in Central Asia and the Middle East. Turkey has also played a critical leadership role along with America and the international community in both Afghanistan and Iraq. We are hopeful that Turkey will continue to play a leading role alongside the United States, P5+1 partners and the international community with respect to Iran's nuclear program.

We also want to highlight and praise the historic steps recently taken by Prime Minister Erdoğan and his government to normalize Turkey's relations with its neighbor Armenia. With the support of the United States, both countries on October 10, 2009 signed two proto-

cols to achieve this goal. We believe that, with the continuing support of the United States and the international community, these protocols will provide a new impetus for the solution of other conflicts in the South Caucasus region.

Many of our colleagues appreciate the growing importance of our strategic relationship with Turkey which was described by President Obama during his visit to Turkey in April as a "Model Partnership." We are heartened by the fact that the Turkey Caucus, which began over 8 years ago, now numbers one hundred members.

The growth of the Turkey Caucus is a testament to the importance that members of Congress place on U.S.-Turkish relations and a recognition of the longstanding partnership between our two nations. Again, we welcome Prime Minister Erdoğan to Washington, and believe that his discussions with President Obama and the Administration will only serve to strengthen the U.S.-Turkish partnership as we face difficult global challenges.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was \$12,090,825,003,370.26. We have increased the national debt \$1,598,537,727.69 since just yesterday.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,452,399,257,076.46 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.

TRIBUTE TO DR. IRENE KHAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, the Obama Administration, in forging a new foreign policy that is more humane and less antagonistic towards other nations, would do well to follow the lead of the late Tom Lantos, who dedicated his life to the cause of human rights, an issue that has now become his legacy. Indeed, it is rare for the House to name an entity after one of its own, but the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, chaired by our colleague Jim MCGOVERN, can rightly claim that distinction.

Throughout his public career, Tom Lantos and his wife, Annette, maintained a deep and enduring commitment to human rights. Among the members of this chamber, Tom Lantos was widely respected across the political spectrum for his knowledge of foreign policy

and commitment to human rights. The issue was the very core of his beliefs and his eloquent voice became this chamber's conscience on many international issues.

Few in today's world can match Tom Lantos' commitment and achievements in the cause of human rights, but if there were such a person, it would be Dr. Irene Khan, who in 2001 became the first woman, the first Asian, the first Bangladeshi and the first Muslim to hold the position of Secretary General of Amnesty International.

Dr. Khan's caring about human rights victims and the poor dates back to her native Bangladesh's early struggle for independence, as she witnessed widespread poverty and multiple threats to human dignity. It has been a combination of her personal outreach to human rights victims and case studies from around the world, combined with her professional involvement in U.N. Organizations, that led to her being selected to head Amnesty International.

In her recently published book, *The Unheard Truth*, Dr. Khan describes the divergent tracks of a fellow Bangladeshi who was born in the same household and she grew up with, and while Khan went on to be a successful lawyer, her friend, Fajal, suffered a lifetime of violence and unemployment, and is now disabled, living in a shack in one of Dhaka's sprawling slums, surviving on handouts.

For Dr. Khan, this is a grim reminder of how people remain hopelessly trapped in poverty, often due to circumstances beyond economic conditions but rather the result of political repression, famine, war, or simply the insecurity and fear inherent in their local surroundings.

In her book, Dr. Khan reveals a more acute understanding of the forces that bring about human rights abuses. Poverty, she argues, is more than the lack of material resources, it is all about fighting deprivation, exclusion, insecurity and powerlessness.

As the numbers of people living in poverty swell to upwards of 2 billion, she argues that poverty is the world's worst human rights crisis. By raising the issue of rights, Dr. Zhan is not pointing fingers but providing a formula for sustainable and equitable solutions, and giving people the means to change the power imbalance that keeps them in poverty.

To achieve Tom Lantos' vision of the banner of human rights waving "over every corner of the world," I recommend that international leaders adhere to Dr. Khan's compelling message on the need to empower the world's poor with the basic economic, social, political, and legal rights to assure them a strong voice in shaping their own future.

RECOGNIZING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA'S COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my Alma Mater, the Collegiate High School Football team on winning the 2009 Virginia Independent Schools Division I State championship. Led by Coach Mark Palyo, the Cougars compiled an impressive