

had a special ring to it. It wasn't Jones or Smith or Thompson. It was Majors. . . . In his senior year Majors led Tennessee to an undefeated season, He ran, passed, punted, and even blocked. He was one of college football's best punters."

Johnny and his wife Mary Lynn live in Knoxville, where he is still known not only as a former player and coach but as a leader in the community. Mary Lynn, a remarkable and talented woman in her own right, and my wife Betty Ann have become friends over the last few years. The Majors' collective contribution to our state and nation are an inspiration to all those who know them.

One other thing: Coach Majors, as President of the Nike Coach of the Year Clinic, has promoted and assisted the United States Marine Corps in coaching clinics across America. Johnny Majors is a dedicated patriot.

Madam Speaker, I also want the House to hear from our colleague, Mr. SHULER, who had the honor of playing for Coach Majors at the University of Tennessee.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOHNNY MAJORS

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, accompanied by my colleague Mr. TANNER, to honor the achievements of Johnny Majors, former football coach of the University of Tennessee.

For 16 years, from 1977–1992, the University of Tennessee enjoyed the privilege of having Coach Majors pace the sidelines of Shields-Watkins field. Throughout his many years at the University of Tennessee Coach Majors maintained a high level of success, winning three championships in arguably one of the most competitive sports leagues in the country.

As a young man, I remember the excitement surrounding Coach Majors' visit to my home town of Bryson City, North Carolina. He was seen by many in my community as the epitome of football. He came to visit me and my family to talk about the possibility of me coming to the University of Tennessee. We expected his visit to focus primarily on the game and the football program at UT. However, Coach Majors' concerns were more about the importance of a strong education, the responsibility of leading by example, and his insistence that regardless of where you might be in your life, UT alumni are always part of the UT family.

Coaches often play a vital role in raising the youth of a community. Not only do they instill values such as hard work and dedication, but can also teach young people valuable life lessons of honor and good will. Coach Johnny Majors not only bred success on the field, but encouraged his student athletes to conduct themselves with integrity and honesty. To have a man of his character coach me was a true honor and a privilege.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. TANNER for his thoughtful statement regarding my coach and friend, Johnny Majors. I ask my colleagues join me in celebrating this great man's accomplishments, both on and off the football field, and off the football field.

ENHANCED VISITOR EXPERIENCE FOR TOURISTS AT YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today supporting a project that provides an enhanced visitor experience for tourists at Yosemite National Park and an additional administrative site for employees outside the Park boundaries.

Yosemite is the crown jewel of the National Park System; each year over 3.5 million visitors travel to Yosemite to enjoy the scenic vistas, hiking, and Valley destinations. This proposed legislation authorizes the National Park Service to purchase up to 18 acres of land in Mariposa County, from willing sellers, for visitor and administrative uses. The proposed site for this center will be at the junction of State Highway 140 and State Highway 49, located in Mariposa just outside the Arch Rock entrance to Yosemite National Park. A visitor center at this location will not only provide Yosemite National Park with an opportunity to enhance their visitor services, it will be a tourist destination for travelers in the gateway community of Mariposa as well.

This non-controversial bill enjoys a broad array of local support including the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Corporation, and County Tourism Bureau, in addition to the current Superintendent of Yosemite National Park and the Yosemite Fund. Additionally, this authorizing legislation is PAY-GO neutral and does not authorize direct spending.

Madam Speaker, I am eager to lend my support to a project that will benefit the local economy of Mariposa by providing tourism opportunities as well as enhancing the visitor experience at Yosemite National Park. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation as it moves through Congress.

TRIBUTE TO OUR NATIONS' SOLDIERS AND VETERANS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, each year on Memorial Day, Americans take a day to express their gratitude and honor the memory of the men and women who have given their lives in service to our nation. This experience of patriotism and civic consciousness is a time to reflect on the bravery and commitment of those who have answered the call to serve and our responsibilities to uphold the ideals for which they fought.

In Congress, this is a time to recommit ourselves to caring for those who served our country and their families. They have fulfilled their obligations to the American people, and we must fulfill our obligations to them.

That's why I am pleased Congress has provided historic increases of 60 percent since 2007 for health care and other services for our

veterans. In fiscal year 2010, Congress increased funding by \$15.3 billion over last year's level and \$747 million above the administration's request. Congress and President Obama also passed a law to fund veterans' medical care one year in advance to ensure timely and uninterrupted funding for veterans' health care system.

To support our active duty personnel, I supported a 3.4 percent military pay increase, a \$3 billion increase in funding for Defense Health Programs, and a \$3.46 billion increase for equipment in the field.

While I am pleased Congress is providing robust funding to care for our military and veterans, much work remains to be done such as ensuring increased resources for PTSD and other mental health issues, resolving the continued backlogs of veterans' claims, and concurrent receipt.

The courage of our military and our veterans is an inspiration to us all, and we thank them all for their service and sacrifice to protect our freedoms. The thoughts and prayers of our entire nation are with the men and women serving today, those who have bravely served, and the families of those whose ultimate sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to our nation's brave soldiers and veterans.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt surpassed \$13 trillion.

To put this in perspective, on January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10.6 trillion.

This means we have increased the debt by 18 percent in just 16 months. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans. There is simply no way that we can maintain this type of spending without destroying our Nation.

We know what happens to individuals that bury themselves in debt. We know what happens to companies and institutions that fail to maintain balanced books. And we know what happens to nations that spend this irresponsibly. We need only look overseas to the effects of such disastrous fiscal policies. But for some reason, a reason that wholly escapes me, the current administration and the majority in Congress continue to move forward with their ruinous plans.

There is no reasonable national policy that can be implemented that assumes a national debt increasing by 18 percent in just 16 months. I think the fact that the House doesn't appear to be considering a budget this year proves that the Majority knows that as well but wants to hide the magnitude of the problem from the American people. We need to rein in this spending and address our deficit, our debt, and preserve our future.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 16, 2011, AS "CITIZEN DIPLOMACY DAY"

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the National Council for International Visitors, NCIV—a nonprofit leader in citizen diplomacy—and supporting designation of February 16, 2011, as "Citizen Diplomacy Day."

NCIV is a membership association, with members based in congressional districts throughout the nation, dedicated to promoting excellence in citizen diplomacy—the concept that individual citizens have the right and responsibility to help shape U.S. foreign relations "one handshake at a time." NCIV's nationwide network comprises 92 community organizations as well as federal agencies, associate members, and individuals. With leadership and training provided by NCIV, member organizations create professional connections, provide cultural activities, and offer home hospitality opportunities for foreign leaders and specialists. Each year, the aggregate efforts of NCIV members involve more than 80,000 volunteers.

The NCIV network is the private-sector partner of the U.S. Department of State for the International Visitor Leadership Program, IVLP, a long-standing, successful initiative for strengthening U.S. foreign relations. More than 285 current and former heads of state (including F.W. de Klerk, Anwar Sadat, Manmohan Singh, Nicolas Sarkozy, and Morgan Tsvangirai) and approximately 1,700 cabinet-level ministers have participated in the IVLP, which U.S. ambassadors have repeatedly ranked first among 63 U.S. public diplomacy initiatives.

Through citizen diplomacy, the NCIV network and the IVLP have positively affected hundreds of thousands of lives in America and abroad—among countless other ways, by:

Empowering a key reformer to stand up for democracy and freedom following the February 2010 coup in Niger;

Introducing high school students in Reno, Nevada, to Moroccan journalists and Afghan women leaders;

Sharing best practices with leaders of Malaysian disaster-relief nonprofits in the wake of a devastating earthquake and tsunami;

Connecting an environmental and water resources engineering firm from Portland, Oregon, to business opportunities with China; and

Breaking stereotypes about Americans for a Yemeni governance and conflict management expert.

The success of NCIV is based on patriotic citizens, entrepreneurs, and small businesses coming together to help promote America abroad while boosting the local economy. By working with the State Department, NCIV is an important source of income for many throughout the U.S. based on the increased economic activity generated by international visitors.

Nearly the entire IVLP budget is spent within the United States, where it generates millions of dollars in local economic activity. NCIV members raise an additional \$6 for every dollar they receive in federal funding, all of which is spent locally. Furthermore, by bringing foreign leaders to U.S. schools, government agencies, and businesses, the NCIV network and the IVLP help U.S. communities build a more globally literate, competitive workforce.

Please join me in demonstrating congressional support for this national network of citizen diplomats by recognizing NCIV's 50th anniversary and recommending designation of February 16, 2011, as Citizen Diplomacy Day.

COSPONSORS OF LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY
THE REP. JIM MORAN

The Honorable Donald Manzullo, the Honorable Howard Coble, the Honorable Keith Ellison, the Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, the Honorable Lee Terry, the Honorable Mark Steven Kirk, the Honorable Peter Welch, the Honorable Betty McCollum, the Honorable Patrick Murphy, the Honorable John Boozman, the Honorable Sue Wilkins Myrick, the Honorable Steven Rothman, the Honorable Denny Rehberg, the Honorable Jan Schakowsky, the Honorable Daniel B. Maffei.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF MAY AS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT CONGRESS HAS TO PROMOTE SAFETY, WELL-BEING, IMPROVED OUTCOMES, AND PERMANENCY FOR THE NATION'S COLLECTIVE CHILDREN

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1339, which expresses the House of Representatives' support for the designation of May as National Foster Care Month and recognizes the important role that foster parents play in the lives of children across the country. There are nearly 500,000 children in America's foster care system. Many of these children come from troubled backgrounds and turbulent pasts. America's foster parents take these children in and show them the care and attention that they deserve as they wait to be reunited with their families or adopted into new, loving families.

I thank Chairman LEVIN for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman MCDERMOTT, for working to increase public awareness about the critical role that the foster care system plays in our society.

In my home State of California, there are nearly 80,000 children in the foster care system, a majority of whom were placed there by the State as a result of parental abuse or neglect. Foster parents play a critical role in the lives of some of the most vulnerable youths in California and across the country. They help hold our Nation's social fabric together by ensuring that thousands of young people in this country stay on track towards successful futures.

Designating May as National Foster Care Month is a way to encourage responsible and

caring adults to serve as foster parents. Unfortunately, there is currently a shortage in the number of foster parents available. There are less than 3 foster homes for every 10 children living under the State's care.

While the foster care system provides a vital service in our society, children in foster homes often face special challenges. In 2008, 123,000 of the 273,000 children in the foster care system were waiting to be adopted into new homes. However, by the end of the year, only 55,000 were adopted out of foster care. Foster children who are not adopted or reunited with their families often end up "aging out" of the foster care system. These children who "age out" of the system are in need of resources to help them afford higher education opportunities, find affordable housing and quality health insurance, and achieve steady employment. This is a social demand to which Congress must respond.

Past legislative initiatives to invest in our country's foster care system include the Adoption Assistance and Safe Families Act of 1980, the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. These initiatives recognized the need to provide increased resources for foster families and a sense of stability for foster children, 65 percent of whom experience a minimum of seven school changes while in the system. Congress must continue working to improve the foster care system, so that all children within this system can develop and mature in young adults with bright futures.

I salute the selflessness and hard work that foster parents demonstrate each day when they care for a child who had been displaced from his or her family. I offer my sincere support for dedicating the month of May as National Foster Care Month. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1339.

CELEBRATING ASIAN/PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1316, Celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

As an original cosponsor of this bill, I am proud to stand here today and speak on this important resolution.

This is a nation of immigrants and it is always important to take time, and recognize the contributions that different cultures and ethnicities have made to our society and our American way of life.

Today, the Asian/Pacific community is one of the fastest growing populations in America.

Over 15 million Americans claim Asian descent and over 1 million residents claim Native Hawaiian descent. By 2050, the Census bureau estimates that over 40 million residents will claim Asian/Pacific descent.

Since the time the first Asian immigrants came to America in 1843, these individuals have had a profound effect on our history.

A large number of Asian immigrants helped to complete the transcontinental railroad.

Today, Asian/Pacific Americans continue to contribute, and many have had distinguished