

more genuine and more sincere than the memory of our minds. Without a shadow of a doubt, I know Nita has a permanent place in the hearts of those who had the good blessing to know her.

To say that Nita left her fingerprint on the world is an understatement. She was a friend and confidant to many, and deemed a source of strength by all; I know she will continue to touch and guide the loved ones she leaves behind.

CONGRATULATING DR. MARK J. LEMA ON THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise today to congratulate Mark J. Lema, M.D., Ph.D on receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the American Society of Anesthesiologists. The award is the highest honor bestowed to an individual for lifetime of exemplary service and achievement in the specialty of anesthesiology.

As the 65th recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in the organizations' one-hundred plus year history, Dr. Lema joins an illustrious group of awardees that includes the founders of anesthesiology, and pioneers in the field.

Dr. Lema is currently Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, Critical Care and Pain Medicine at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y. He also serves as Professor and Chair of Anesthesiology at the University of Buffalo, State University of New York, as well as a board member on the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER). He has also served as president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (2007), the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (2004) and the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists (2001). He is currently President of the Medical Society of the County of Erie.

Dr. Lema received his PhD in physiology from University at Buffalo and his medical degree from SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Throughout his prominent career Dr. Lema has been recognized as one of the country's authorities in the field of anesthesiology. He has served Western New York community with nearly thirty years of service and achievement in scientific research and organized medicine.

Mr. Speaker it is with great pride I recognize Dr. Mark Lema for receiving the Distinguished Service Award and extend my thanks for his countless contributions to the Western New York community in which he calls home.

HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST RICARDO CERROS, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and deep sadness that I wish to

commend United States Army Specialist Ricardo Cerros, Jr. for his bravery and willingness to fight for his country. Specialist Cerros was assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. While serving in Afghanistan on his first deployment, Specialist Cerros was killed by enemy forces during a firefight while conducting combat operation on October 8, 2011. His sacrifice will forever be remembered by those he fought to protect.

A native of Gary, Indiana, Ricardo spent his early childhood years in Gary, Indiana, before moving to Salinas, California, to live with his father. He graduated from Everett Alvarez High School in Salinas and continued his studies at the University of California in Irvine. He enlisted in the United States Army in July 2010. Family members recall that Ricardo had a strong feeling to join the military, and that he wanted nothing more than to serve his country. Colleagues remember Specialist Cerros as a well-respected leader. Family and friends remember Ricardo for his cheerfulness, positive attitude, and happy-go-lucky manner. For his courage and sacrifice, Ricardo has been honored by the military with awards including: the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Parachutist Badge. Ricardo will be greatly missed by so many people in the communities he was part of and forever cherished by those who loved him.

Specialist Cerros leaves behind a loving family. He is survived by his father, Ricardo Cerros, Sr., and stepmother, Deborah A. Cerros, both of Salinas, and his mother, Marguerite D. Cuevas, of Gary, Indiana. Ricardo also leaves to cherish his memory his siblings; Nicholas, Theresa, and Marco Cerros. He also leaves behind many other dear friends and family members, as well as saddened communities and a grateful nation.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Specialist Ricardo Cerros, Jr. Specialist Cerros sacrificed his life in service to his country, and his passing comes as a great loss to our nation, which has once again been shaken by the realities of war. Specialist Cerros will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his communities, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,940,671,706,465.75.

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 \$4,302,245,960,171.95 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

RECOGNIZING DIXIE SMITH AS A HASTINGS' STAR STUDENT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dixie Smith, a Suncoast High School senior in Riviera Beach, as a Hastings' Star Student. During her junior year of high school, Dixie earned recognition as the Palm Beach County All-Conference selection for diving. This year however, her accomplishments go even further. Recently, world renowned tennis player Serena Williams chose 17-year old Dixie as the recipient for the M Foundation's Silver M Award. With this award, she joins the ranks of previous recipients who are viewed as "exemplary role models" in their communities. The award will present Dixie with a \$1,000 college scholarship and a \$1,000 donation to a charity of her choice. It was Dixie's commitment to giving back to her community which earned her this award.

Without a doubt, Dixie Smith exemplifies the term volunteerism. She started the Autism Speaks club at her high school, teaches gymnastics at Gymnastics Revolution, and also lends her time to instructing developmentally disabled children at the Renaissance Learning Center. Additionally, she has taught surfing to autistic children for the past three years, and has participated in the Surfers for Autism event regularly. In a recent letter, Dixie shared with me how these events served to be a humbling experience as time after time she witnessed children, who were initially afraid of the ocean, overcome their fears and catch waves on their own. She believes that surfing changes them, and the joy felt by their parents as they thank her is better than any award or scholarship she could ever receive. Dixie's work with developmentally disabled children is to be commended. Her selfless service represents a true dedication to the betterment of her community. I am sure Dixie's outstanding achievements are an inspiration to her peers and to the greater Riviera Beach area. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LONG-TIME MEMBERS OF SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 20

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, October 21, 2011, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 honored long-time members with their 25, 40, 50, 60, and 70-year service pins at the Sheet Metal Banquet, which was held at Ambassador Banquets in Hobart, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 presented pins for 25 years of membership to: Scott H. Allmon, Jeffery Bacon, George R. Bassett, Jr., Scott Blount, John Breezley, Richard J. Cervantes,