

Schedule I controlled substances. Additionally, as of October 4, 2011, the DEA has 3,983 active registrants who manufacture, research, and conduct chemical analysis with Schedule I controlled substances. I encourage the scientific community to continue their efforts to understand these and other drugs.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF NOEL CUNNINGHAM

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life of Noel Cunningham, a restaurateur and philanthropist I had the pleasure of knowing for almost 20 years.

A resident of Denver, Noel was a true citizen of the world. Born in Ireland in 1949, he went to work at London's famed Savoy Hotel, achieving the rank of sous chef by age 23, before moving to California in the 1970's. In 1986 he moved to Denver and opened Strings, a bistro in Denver's Capitol Hill neighborhood that quickly became a community institution, hosting local celebrities, politicians, community and charity events and romantic date-nights.

While his professional biography will be defined by his extraordinary culinary talents, Noel's legacy will forever be based on the impact his philanthropic efforts had in Denver and across the world.

While in California he met Pat Miller, the noted restaurant critic known as the "Gabby Gourmet," and the two developed a lifelong friendship. Together, they started "Taste of the Nation," a nation-wide fundraiser that by 2010 had raised almost \$80 million to fight hunger and poverty across the United States.

With his wife Tammy, Noel founded The Cunningham Foundation, which included Quarters for Kids, to help educate children about local hunger and homelessness, and 4 Quarters for Kids, a project he named in reference to the four quarters it takes per day to provide an Ethiopian child with breakfast, lunch, a school uniform, and a teacher and books. Firm in his belief that philanthropy could strengthen a local community while enriching the lives of those across the globe, Noel targeted 4 Quarters primarily to local children, who held carwashes, concerts, pledge drives, and silent auctions to help create a better future for their Ethiopian peers.

Noel was active with the local Volunteers of America, and served on the board of the national nonprofit Share Our Strength. On weekday afternoons, it was not uncommon to drive by Strings and see Noel serving meals to the homeless in between the persistent lunch and dinner rushes. He was committed to building a better community, both locally and globally, and was not afraid to enlist the help of others to achieve his goals; he worked with local hospitals to provide life-saving treatments for Ethiopian children, and local businesses to ship supplies and other necessities to Africa. He founded "A Dinner of Unconditional Love"—a charity dinner to raise funds for Dr. Rick Hodes, an American Doctor living in Ethiopia whose mission is to help heal the poor—and had planned to expand the program across

the country so that he could raise the \$10 million Hodes needs to build his own hospital in Ethiopia.

Mr. Speaker, from the streets of Denver to the farms of Ethiopia, Noel Cunningham spent each and every day making a difference in the lives of those around him. Never content to settle, he pursued perfection in his restaurant and in his charitable endeavors, never once falling short in all the years I have known him. His life stands as proof that any individual can have an extraordinary impact, and his tragic passing leaves a monumental crater in the global community that spans from Denver to Ethiopia and beyond.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,052,444,423,722.81. We've added \$10,251,039,248,428.53 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION
FOR HENRY FORD HEALTH
SYSTEMS

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise today to recognize the achievements of the Henry Ford Health System which, under the strong and dynamic leadership of its CEO, Nancy Schlichting, has earned a 2011 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. This award recognizes and encourages benchmark business practices; once reserved only for manufacturing and similar businesses, the Baldrige Award has been expanded to include health care organizations. As a recipient of the Baldrige award, Henry Ford Health System continues to serve as a role model for other companies across the country. The award puts a spotlight on the amazing work being done at the Henry Ford Health System to deliver top quality health care to its patients.

Henry Ford Health System has established itself as one of the Nation's premier health care providers. Henry Ford Health System uses innovative strategies and solutions which have been developed and implemented for the past decade, helping reduce unintended patient harm and establishing a "zero-defect, no-excuses" approach to health care outcomes. Over the years, the Henry Ford Health System has developed a reputation for delivering the best possible outcomes for patients. Because of this dedication to putting patients first, it is one of just 4 organizations around the Nation

to receive this award and the only one in Michigan.

With approximately \$5.8 billion in economic impact through payroll, operating expense and capital expenditures, Henry Ford Health System is not only an effective health care entity, but a major contributor to Michigan's economy. As a top 5 employer in Southeast Michigan, the Henry Ford Health System boasts an impressive 24,000 employees and is responsible for 37,500 additional jobs through direct and indirect employment at 7 hospitals and 33 ambulatory care sites. With more than 2,000 physicians system wide, it is also one of the Nation's largest non-university research programs.

Earning the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award is no easy feat, with many companies each year following the Baldrige criteria as a model for proper organization and action. Henry Ford Health Systems now joins the ranks of companies such as Boeing Aerospace Support, Cadillac, and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company as innovators in their respective fields.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Henry Ford Health System and the 2011 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award that it has earned. The Henry Ford Health System's achievements serve as a beacon to other businesses countrywide.

FARM DUST REGULATION
PREVENTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act.

This bipartisan legislation is necessary to ensure that farmers and ranchers will not be subjected to excessive regulation from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA currently has the ability to tighten regulatory standards for dust under the Clean Air Act.

Should the EPA do so, farmers, ranchers, and rural economies could be devastated. On dry days, production could come to a standstill as producers focus on controlling dust rather than producing food.

After months of receiving questions and concerns from farmers, ranchers, and their Representatives in Congress, the Administrator of the EPA finally stated that her agency does not intend to change the current standards.

However, as long as EPA Administrator Jackson retains unchecked power to implement stricter standards, farmers and ranchers could be subject to oppressive regulations at any time.

A legislative fix is the only way to give farmers and ranchers the certainty they need to invest in the future without worrying about the influence of overzealous activists on EPA's regulations.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.