

with our young people as an instructor in the Huron Valley District Congress of Christian Education, and is currently teaching in the Renaissance Christian Leadership School under the National Baptist U.S.A. Sunday School Publishing Board.

Pastor Ferrell has been a trusted leader, a wise teacher, a loving husband, father and grandfather, and a dear friend to many. Deborah and I are not alone in celebrating the long, meaningful and positive impact that Pastor Ferrell and his lovely family have had in my district.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday January 23, 2012 I was unavoidably absent from the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 5 and 6.

IN MEMORIAM OF
REPRESENTATIVE ED JENKINS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the passing of one of my dear friends, former Congressman Ed Jenkins of Georgia. Ed served in the House of Representatives from 1977 to 1993. He was a strong advocate for his district and for this country. Throughout his time in Congress, Ed was a leader in protecting the South's textile industry. He was a champion for the workers in those factories and communities who depended on them for their livelihood.

Edgar Jenkins was born in Young Harris, Georgia, on January 4, 1933. He graduated from Young Harris College in 1951. Before he got his law degree from the University of Georgia, he served admirably in the United States Coast Guard for three years. He also served as an Assistant Attorney General in Georgia from 1962 to 1964.

Throughout his tenure, Ed was well-admired by many for his knowledge and devotion to the issues. He protected workers throughout the country by strongly advocating keeping textile jobs in the United States. He pushed for the Textile and Apparel Trade Enforcement Act, ultimately helping its passage in the United States House of Representatives. It was his behind-the-scenes efforts that made him one of the most admirable and intelligent members of Congress.

Congressman Jenkins represented his country with distinction during difficult points in American history. His contribution to this country and the people of Georgia will not soon be forgotten.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

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 \$15,236,236,452,380.40. We've added \$10,434,831,277,086.12 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall No. 5 and rollcall No. 6 on January 23, 2012, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted to suspend the rules and pass both H.R. 1141 and H.R. 3117.

RECOGNIZING JANUARY AS NA-
TIONAL GLAUCOMA AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take the opportunity to recognize January as National Glaucoma Awareness Month. Glaucoma is an insidious class of diseases that robs hundreds of thousands of Americans of their sight. The Glaucoma Research Foundation reports that over 2.2 million Americans have glaucoma, with approximately 120,000 Americans being blind as a result of the disorder.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness and accounts for between 9 percent to 12 percent of all cases of blindness. Glaucoma affects people of all ages but is more common among people who are middle-aged or elderly. As with many health problems, glaucoma disproportionately affects people of color, with glaucoma representing the leading cause of blindness for African American and Latino individuals. Research indicates that this group of eye diseases is 6 to 8 times more common in African Americans than Caucasian Americans. Those who are diabetic or severely nearsighted are further at heightened risk for developing glaucoma.

Glaucoma presents few if any symptoms of its onset; those affected can lose as much as 40 percent of their vision prior to noticing the vision loss. Unfortunately, there is no cure for glaucoma; however, amazing advances are occurring to prevent further visual loss. Medications that slow the progression are critical and steps toward optic nerve cell regeneration

are being made. I am proud that many skilled researchers in Chicago are working to advance the prevention and treatment of glaucoma, including experts at Rush University Medical Center, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Northwestern University Medical School.

National Glaucoma Awareness Month is designed to raise awareness of this group of eye diseases and to encourage individuals to get tested. Given the lack of cure for glaucoma, early detection is incredibly important. Thus, I lend my voice to the cause of raising awareness of glaucoma and encouraging Americans to get regular eye exams to identify early any potential visual problems.

A TRIBUTE TO CLARK SHUSTER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and leadership of Clark Shuster, President of the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce (LBCCC). The Chamber plays an important role in economic and business development in my District and Mr. Shuster has been leading this important work as president since 1985. Under Mr. Shuster's leadership, the LBCCC has partnered with over 1000 members including small, medium and large business firms in the community.

Mr. Shuster has worked with the community to develop mentorship, communication, and education programs that foster free enterprise and provide businesses with opportunities to succeed.

Clark has also been a part of the Bucks County community for his entire life. He grew up in Bucks County and attended High School at Central Bucks East. Today, Clark lives in Newtown, Pennsylvania with his wife Jane. Not only is he an active leader in the local business community, but he has provided his efforts and leadership to other community organizations such as the Lower Bucks YMCA and the Levittown Fairless Hills Rotary Club.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Clark Shuster's hard work, dedication and devotion to bettering our Bucks County community and for his support of local business and free enterprise within the Eighth District of Pennsylvania and I wish him all the best in the years ahead.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of a quick conclusion and passage of a multi-year Federal Aviation Administration Authorization. On Friday afternoon, I was pleased to see that a compromise was reached regarding language on union elections under the National Mediation Board. It was almost a year ago on February 11, 2011 that the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act was introduced. During this time, Congress passed

five extensions contributing to the now 23 short-term extensions that the FAA has operated under for several years.

Twenty-three times the FAA and thousands of employees who rely on the FAA have faced potential shutdowns and uncertainty due to Congressional inaction, with one two-week shutdown resulting in millions of dollars in lost federal revenue. The impact of these extensions is not limited to instability for Americans in the aviation industry and a loss of federal revenue.

The lack of a multi-year authorization has stalled the implementation of the NextGen aviation system. When fully implemented, NextGen will allow for a more dynamic aviation system by allowing for quicker and more fuel efficient routes for aircraft and a more flexible aviation system. Each delay places our domestic aviation industry at risk of falling behind their international competitors. The passage of a multi-year FAA authorization bill ensures that NextGen will move forward and allow the United States to remain ahead of the world in implementing this system.

I am confident that the FAA extension we passed earlier this week is the last extension needed to complete this process. When the remaining issues are resolved, we will be able to provide the aviation industry stability and show to the American people that Congress can work together and accomplish something.

HONORING WWII VETERAN MR. JAMES EDWARD MCSHANE CELEBRATING HIS 86TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World War II Veteran James Edward McShane, who will celebrate his 86th birthday tomorrow, January 26, 2012. Mr. McShane fought courageously in the South Pacific with the 96th Infantry Division during World War II. With great honor, I pay tribute to him today for his loyalty and sacrifice to his country during wartime.

A Chicagoland native, Mr. McShane was born to Patrick and Catherine McShane on January 26, 1925. He attended De La Salle High School in Chicago where he began playing the trombone. Later in life, his deep-rooted passion and talent for music led him to form the Jimmy McShane Orchestra, which delighted Chicago audiences for many years. Mr. McShane married the love of his life, Joan Frances Connors, on January 28, 1950. He is a devoted father of five children and a grandfather to fourteen.

After returning home from war, he received his bachelor's degree from DePaul University in Chicago. He found a career in the plastics industry forging many lasting friendships and garnering respect among his professional peers. A hardworking and dedicated man, he retired from Tyco Plastics in 2002. During his well-deserved days of retirement, Mr. McShane spends his time gardening, playing bridge, and conversing with friends.

On behalf of the residents of the Third District of Illinois, I extend to Mr. McShane my warmest birthday wishes and sincere gratitude for his service to our country. He is an exem-

plary American, and I am proud to have him as a constituent.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Since its inception 13 years ago, the program has placed some of Australia's best and brightest university students, who have exhibited a passion for civic engagement and public service, with House and Senate offices for two-month full-time internships annually. These internships have enabled me and my staff, who have participated since the program's inception to share in our common values and ideals, while at the same time learning more about the Commonwealth of Australia.

It is an understatement to say that the United States and Australia are close allies globally, or that we share many political and economic traits. We are in many ways akin to extended family, sharing much tied history and culture. It is in this spirit that the program was launched 13 years ago to further such relations. Since its beginnings, the program has seen more than 130 young Australians walk the halls of Congress, and it is with the utmost pride that I recognize the importance of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program in the United States House of Representatives.

Ms. Jessica Boddington joined my office on January 3, 2011 from the University of Queensland, where she is simultaneously pursuing degrees in International Relations and in Economics. During her time in my office, Jess has proven herself to be a caring, intelligent and dedicated intern, and I am honored to host her. In addition to serving my constituents with professionalism and respect, she has attended hearings and briefings, drafted legislative correspondence and assisted my staffers with a variety of individual projects.

Founded and directed by former House and Senate staffer, Eric Federer, the program fosters cultural and educational exchanges between the United States and Australia. Mr. Federer deserves distinguished praise for his efforts in coordinating this program, as well as for the support he provides to its individual participants. Outside of working in Congressional offices, the interns are given the opportunity to explore our brand of American democracy through panel discussions with political correspondents, representatives from various government offices and professionals at non-government agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express how remarkable the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program is, and I once again extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Federer for managing this program. As United States Members of Congress we have a responsibility to serve our constituents well, but also a unique opportunity to reach out to a myriad of people across the globe. As such, I would encourage all of my colleagues to open their doors to students from overseas, so that we can share our culture and democratic institutions. I ask my

colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program and, again, thank Jess Boddington for her admirable participation and diligent work.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BLACK JANUARY IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the people of Azerbaijan in remembrance of the 22nd anniversary of the tragic events of Black January, when at midnight of January 19, 1990, 26,000 Soviet troops stormed the capital city of Baku with tanks and armored vehicles to crush the demonstrators. The shooting continued for three days and among the victims were women, children and elderly citizens.

Black January had a profound effect on Azerbaijan. However, it was the opposite of what the Soviets had wanted. For 40 days, the country mourned the victims and as a sign of mass protest stayed away from work. This was a turning point in the history of Azerbaijan. This massacre did not stop the people of Azerbaijan from continuing their struggle for national independence. The Azerbaijani national movement succeeded to stand against Soviet challenge, and Soviet troops eventually had to withdraw from Baku. Subsequently, Azerbaijan declared its independence on October 18, 1991.

Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country and has become an essential partner of the United States in the region, collaborating on strengthening energy security and working together to counter terrorism, drug-trafficking and extremism. I would like to thank the Azerbaijani people for their friendship and share my thoughts and prayers with the families of those who gave their lives fighting for a better Azerbaijan. The United States will continue to work with Azerbaijan and other countries in the region to resolve protracted conflicts, to promote democratic development, to maintain stability, strengthen institutions, and enhance the rule of law.

CONGRATULATING THE CARPINTERIA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce in my Congressional District on its 100th Anniversary. The Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce was chartered in 1912 to serve local businesses by a group of visionary community leaders, many of whose descendants still live and work in Carpinteria.

The original charter states that Carpinteria "had good churches, schools and social condition, plus a population of 500, which was sure to grow with the great inducements of city and