

NEW YORK STATE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ANN GEER

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of New York's 20th District to express our sincere appreciation for the continued hard work, dedication, and contributions made to our communities by New York State American Legion Auxiliary Department President Ann Geer.

Department President Geer has worked tirelessly for over 30 years to serve and protect our veterans' interests. As a 24-year veteran of the United States Army, I am personally humbled and appreciative of all the work that Ann has done. She has been active since 1981 in the Joyce-Bell Unit located in Otsego County, which she was able to join due to her husband Stephen's honorable service during the Vietnam era. After only a short period of time, Ann became the Unit President in 1982, a position she served for six years.

Ann's leadership and incredible dedication resulted in her being selected for every major committee and office position at the unit and county level until being elected as full Department President on July 16, 2011. She has since served with honor and distinction, leading the New York Department at a national level while continuing to serve at the local and State levels.

Beyond her service to our military men and women and veterans, Ann has been an active member of the Unadilla, NY community for the past 31 years. Ann raised her two sons while helping hundreds of other children through her career in education. As a dedicated volunteer and community leader, she was a founding member of the Recreation Commission and is active in the Sidney Community Band, in the Academic Team at Unatego High School, and has served on the Unadilla Community Foundation Board.

For these reasons, I am glad to stand today in recognition of NYS American Legion Auxiliary Department President Ann Geer's service in Otsego County, New York State, and across our country. I am honored to be given the opportunity to acknowledge her dedication to our community and especially our veterans. We all owe her a debt of gratitude and appreciation.

HONORING ANNE MITCHELL
FELDER

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida and myself, I rise now to offer my heartfelt condolences and pay special tribute to the life of, Ms. Anne Mitchell Felder, a woman of many talents and passions, who honorably served our country in The United States Army, and who worked as an educator and was a faithful servant to her community and church. Anne Mitchell Felder

was a hero, humanitarian, community leader and friend.

We are inspired when we recall the accomplishments of a woman whose lifetime of service and dedication served many and whose lasting influence changed the lives of those around her. Beginning her career as an educator at Lincoln High, in Bradenton, Florida for six years, Anne Mitchell Felder went on to serve in The United States Army's, Women's Army Corps (WAC), where she became a medical laboratory technician at the Reception Center in Ft. Benning, Georgia. A recipient of the WAC three-year Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, the Army Commendation Ribbon, and Victory Pin, Ms. Felder was a hero. She returned to civilian life to follow her passion of educating the young minds of tomorrow by teaching at Jones High School for over 22 years, teaching mathematics, serving as Guidance Counselor and later as Dean of Students. A religious woman who remained active in her church, The New Covenant Baptist Church of Orlando, Ms. Felder was secretary to the Charter Trustee Ministry from 1992–1996 and most recently a member of District Five and the Sanctuary Sunday School Class.

A woman for whom education was important, Anne Mitchell Felder received an Associate of Arts degree from Bethune-Cookman College; a Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College; a Master of Science Degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; and studied at Columbia University in New York. And, she was a member of Kappa Delta Pi, an honorary society for students in education. She also understood and valued her obligation and duty to serve our society and those in need and did so through Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated where she was a Golden Life Member, a 60Years-Plus Member, and a charter president of the Orlando Alumnae Chapter, who enjoyed the status of a Delta Dear.

The life of Anne Mitchell Felder was one of accomplishment and service. We are aware that a life well lived is a life well shared. As an educator and hero, she gave of her talents and gifts to benefit the community, the nation, and her family. In her passing, we pay tribute to an exceptional leader whose courage, strength, and love of her community left an indelible legacy for future generations. She will be remembered and respected because she had an awesome gift of teaching and providing love and support to those who knew her. We offer our prayers for her immediate family and host of loving relatives and friends whose lives have been forever changed by this exceptional woman. We thank our Heavenly Father for allowing us to be blessed with the time spent with Anne Mitchell Felder, our friend, mother, sister, and hero.

Anne Mitchell Felder is survived by her daughter Vicki-Elaine Felder, and brother Thomas Watson Mitchell.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President

Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,875,734,673,516.05. We've added \$5,248,857,624,602.97 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

On this day in 1945, President Harry Truman, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at the opening of the Potsdam Conference. We must balance the budget so that we may continue to meet and lead other great world powers.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP
OF DR. DON BERWICK

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Don Berwick was Acting Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for President Obama. Unfortunately, the minority party in the U.S. Senate was able to prevent him from being confirmed into the post and so he was forced to leave at the end of 2011.

I've copied below a recent commencement address at Harvard Medical School by Dr. Berwick.

If Dr. Berwick doesn't embody the spirit we want for our medical professionals—as well as our public servants—I don't know who does.

I urge my colleagues to read this speech. Driving people like Dr. Berwick out of public service is not something of which anyone should be proud.

[From JAMA, June 27, 2012]

TO ISAIAH

(By Donald M. Berwick, MD, MPP)

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME SHARE THIS GLORIOUS DAY with you and your loved ones. Feel good. Feel proud. You've earned it.

In preparation for today, I asked your dean of students what she thinks is on your mind. So, she asked you. The word you used—many of you—was this one: Worried. You're worried about the constant change around you, uncertain about the future of medicine and dentistry. Worried about whether you can make a decent living. You've boarded a boat, and you don't know where it's going.

I can reassure you. You've made a good choice—a spectacularly good choice. The career you've chosen is going to give you many moments of poetry. My favorite is the moment when the door closes—the click of the catch that leaves you and the patient together in the privacy—the sanctity—of the helping relationship. Doors will open too. You'll find ways to contribute to progress that you cannot possibly anticipate now, any more than I could have dreamed of standing here when I was sitting where you are 40 years ago.

But look, I won't lie; I'm worried too. I went to Washington to lead the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, full of hope for our nation's long-overdue journey toward making health care a human right here, at last. In lots of ways, I wasn't disappointed. I often saw good government and the grandeur of democracy—both alive, even if not at the moment entirely well.

But, like you, I also found much that I could not control—a context torn apart by antagonisms—too many people in leadership, from whom we ought to be able to expect