

the Joint CREW Program Office, PMS-408, he served as the Director, Test and Evaluation and Principle Assistant Program Manager before arriving at JIEDDO.

Today, one of the greatest threats faced by our service men and women is the improvised explosive device, TED. Our troops face an adaptive enemy with little regard for the sanctity of human life. As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I work closely with JIEDDO to help provide the necessary capabilities to protect our service men and women from the TED threat. JIEDDO has made significant strides to combat those dangers by not only reducing the effectiveness of IED attacks themselves, but also by targeting and eliminating the enemy networks that seek to use these devices to harm our troops.

Captain Gaghan has contributed greatly to protecting the lives of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. At JIEDDO, he was initially responsible for leading all Counter-TED research and development efforts in support of our Combatant Commanders urgent needs. In this role, he developed and delivered numerous capabilities that have enabled our forces to more effectively detect IEDs, jam radio-controlled initiators and identify Home Made Explosive precursors. Lieutenant General Michael Barbero, Director of JIEDDO, quickly recognized Captain Gaghan's strong leadership abilities and selected him to fill two key positions in the past year: JIEDDO's Chief of Staff and Acting Deputy Director of Rapid Acquisition and Technology. Throughout his tenure at JIEDDO, Captain Gaghan's tireless efforts and great dedication helped JIEDDO achieve its mission of rapidly providing Counter-IED capabilities in support of the warfighter to defeat the IED as a weapon of strategic influence.

I am proud to share in the celebration of Captain Gaghan's military career, and I join his colleagues in honoring his extraordinary leadership at JIEDDO and his distinguished military service.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE ARNOLD
M. GOLDEN, SR.

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life of one of my constituents, the late Arnold M. Golden, Sr., who passed away at his home on St. Croix last Saturday. Arnold M. Golden was a Crucian gentleman and statesman, one who spent all of his life in service to his family and his community.

Known to family and friends as "Morty", he distinguished himself as a Virgin Islands Senator, a St. Croix administrator, Commissioner of both the Departments of Public Works and Commerce under the Governor Juan Luis Administration, and the manager of the Sunny Isle Shopping Center. He served on many community groups and organizations to include the Knights of Columbus, League of Women Voters, Boy Scouts of America, Landmarks Society and AARP.

Morty Golden was a community servant, dedicating himself to the betterment of our islands, especially St. Croix. He was among the generation of Virgin Islanders who guided the

growth and development of the modern Virgin Islands, working to develop the tax system, the planning, land use and conservation laws, and the Virgin Islands National Guard. His most recent service of note was as a Delegate to the Fifth Constitutional Convention, where he advocated for transparent, workable government.

I knew him as an elder statesman, always ready with words of wisdom on how to make our islands a better place to live and our government function in a way that served the needs of all its people. He was a champion of municipal government and of transparent government with more accountability to its citizens. He was a champion of good governance and for the further development of our territory through the adoption of its own Constitution.

Arnold M. Golden was born on December 13, 1931 in the town of Frederiksted to Louis R. and Violet (Pedersen) Golden. He was the eldest of 10 children and attended the St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Parochial Schools. He graduated from Christiansted High School in 1949 and attended the Polytechnic Institute and UPRAT Mayaguez in 1949 and later the University of the Virgin Islands, where he pursued interests in engineering and management.

Morty worked briefly at VICORP before being drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served 2 years of active duty, with one tour of duty in Korea. He was later Commissioned in the Armed Forces Reserves, and served with the Army Reserve Unit on St. Croix for a number of years. Later he was employed by A.C. Sanford as a land surveyor, where he worked on the construction of the Alexander Hamilton Airport. He was later employed as an appraiser by the Tax Assessor's Office, assisting in the modernization of the office and tax system.

In 1968, he was elected to the Virgin Islands Legislature and was instrumental in the passage of legislation to create the Planning Office, the Executive Budget Act, and land conservation legislation. He worked on legislation authorizing Governor Melvin Evans to secure the authority to activate a National Guard Unit in the Virgin Islands, as well as the Jr. ROTC units.

Morty Golden was honored to serve in numerous positions under the administration of Governor Juan F. Luis to include: Administrator, Commissioner of Public Works, Commissioner of Commerce and Assistant to the Governor. He also served on many government boards and commissions. He also managed the Sunny Isles Shopping Center in between his government service. Upon his retirement in 1987, he returned to land surveying.

He served the community in various community organizations to include the Catholic Social Center, the Knights of Columbus, the Boy Scouts, the League of Women Voters, Landmark Society, and AARP. He has been honored for his outstanding community service by the Jr. Chamber of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Navy, U.S. Postal System and Rotary Club of St. Croix West.

Mr. Speaker, Arnold M. Golden's most important role was as the patriarch of his beloved family. He was preceded in death by his son, Louis M. Golden, and leaves behind his beloved wife of 56 years, Carmen Maria (Encarnacion) Golden, his children: Helen Marie Danielson, Violet Anne Golden, Peder Mark Golden, Carmen Louise Walker, and Ar-

nold M. Golden, III, his grandchildren: Leroy E. Danielson, Jr., Janelle Marie Plummer, Louis M. Danielson, Lionel Danielson, David M. Thomas, Jasmine L. Walker, Benjamin Walker, IV, Christina Walker, Nico Golden, Carla Golden and Juma Golden and four great-grandchildren: Leroy E. Danielson, III, Alimah M. Danielson, Daylon Lee Tank Yuk and Louriz M. Danielson.

Mr. Speaker, the life and legacy of Arnold M. Golden is one of which the entire U.S. Virgin Islands community is very proud. He is an example of public service at its best. My family and staff extend our condolences to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

A TRIBUTE TO HILLSIDES

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor HillSides, a nonprofit organization for abused and emotionally disturbed children, in Pasadena, California upon its 100th Anniversary.

In 1913, Evelyn Wile, a kindhearted young deaconess of the Episcopal Church, opened HillSides Home for Children in Highland Park for 13 abandoned children that sought to reject the established approach of cold, uncaring institutions and provide a personal and empathetic community for homeless children.

Ms. Wile's vision of a campus of cottages where children could flourish in a country-like environment surrounded by sunshine, fresh air, and open space became a reality in 1918, when she moved the home from Highland Park to 17 acres in the San Rafael Hills of Pasadena, where it has remained to this day. The increase in space allowed Evelyn to build more residential cottages and an administration building, which was completed in 1927. Over the next 40 years, HillSides Home for Children was a safe haven where children were the top priority. In the 1960s, HillSides shifted focus from being an orphanage to becoming a center for abused and emotionally disturbed children. By the late 1970s, it had grown to include 14 on-campus buildings and 2 satellite homes. HillSides Education Center was established in 1982 to offer specialized instruction for students with behavioral challenges or learning disabilities, and the Family Center was created that same year to provide crisis intervention and parent education for at-risk families. HillSides Home for Children's name changed to HillSides in 1999. In 2005, HillSides Youth Moving On was established, a transitional living program for young adults leaving foster care.

In the last century, HillSides has grown tremendously from Ms. Wile's original home that served 13 children. To date, HillSides has rescued over 110,000 families and is recognized as a leader in children's rights advocacy issues. Encompassing a comprehensive network of residential and community facilities that provide an unmatched depth and breadth of resources to at-risk children and families, HillSides has pioneered techniques that have become standard practices and ranks among the region's most respected and trusted organizations in the field.

I am honored to recognize Hillside for its 100 years of loving care and support to countless children and families and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating Hillside for its remarkable achievements.

HONORING MELVIN YOUNG, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a determined young man, Mr. Melvin Young, Jr.

Melvin Savelle Young, Jr. was born June 28, 1994 in Vicksburg, Mississippi to the proud parents of Melvin Young, Sr. and Rhonda Morris Young. He is also the proud grandson of Bernice Profit of Hollandale, Mississippi and the late Emma Lee Dorsey of Rolling Fork, Mississippi.

While in high school, Melvin was the runner up for Mr. South Delta High School, a member of the varsity football, baseball, and the track team. He also participated in the JROTC program. He is a faithful member of Salem Missionary Baptist Church where he is a devoted choir member. In conjunction with his hopes to positively impact his community, Melvin became a member of the Mayor Youth Council and has worked as a volunteer at the Sharkey County Tax Assessor and Collector Office. Melvin also volunteered in the emergency response efforts of the county to save public records during a flooding crisis; as a volunteer he worked to move official records to a secure location.

In the fall Melvin plans to attend Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston, Mississippi where he will pursue a degree in Pre-Engineering.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Melvin Savelle Young, Jr. for his hard work and dedication in his efforts to achieve his goals.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 469 and 470 I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 469, and "aye" on rollcall No. 470.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 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 \$15,884,155,929,632.05. We've added \$5,257,278,880,718.97 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.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR
TAMMY COON

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representative ISSA rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Major Tammy Coon, United States Army. Sergeant Major Coon has served a distinguished career in the United States Army, spanning over twenty eight years. She has distinguished herself with exceptional meritorious service in a succession of positions of great importance and responsibility to the Army and the nation. She has culminated her military career in the Army's Office of the Chief of legislative Liaison as a Congressional Legislative Liaison to the United States House of Representatives for the past 2 years. Additionally, she is the first Sergeant Major in the United States Army to serve as a Congressional Legislative Liaison to the House of Representatives. Over the course of the 28 years which she has spent in uniform serving her country, she has been cited by her command as exhibiting outstanding initiative, leadership and professionalism in all of her actions. In doing so, she has made significant contributions to the welfare of soldiers and their families, to say nothing of the service she has provided to the people of this nation.

Sergeant Major Coon's previous positions of significant leadership included: First Sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Space Brigade, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Chief, Enlisted Promotions, Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Virginia; Senior Enlisted Advisor, Directorate of Personnel, Multi-National Forces-Iraq (MNF-I), Baghdad, Iraq; Senior Enlisted Advisor, Special Management Division, Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Virginia; and Senior Enlisted Advisor for Soldier Programs/Community Recreation, Department of the Army, Alexandria, VA.

Sergeant Major Tammy Coon served as a Congressional Legislative Liaison to the United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC. During this assignment she served as the primary point of contact for 70 Members of Congress within the Pacific Region, which included California, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Additionally, she served as the Army House Liaison Division's primary point of contact for Wounded Warrior Care issues and for the Mental Health and Invisible Wounds Causes, routinely interacting with Members of Congress and senior staffers.

As First Sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Space Brigade, Colorado Springs, Colorado, she was responsible for discipline, health & welfare, safety, and training of 120 active duty, reserve, and National Guard soldiers as well as 130 Department of the Army Civilians. Even though the unit was deployed in five separate locations, Sergeant Major Coon ensured that the soldiers, civilians, and families were well cared for.

Sergeant Major Tammy Coon served as the Chief, Enlisted Promotions, Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Virginia. She managed the Department of the Army's enlisted promotion system, affecting Army enlisted soldiers worldwide. Her guidance and leadership were instrumental in the execution of over 50,000 promotions annually, while markedly increasing the efficiency of the promotion process. Additionally, Sergeant Major Coon reviewed and provided input for regulatory guidance revisions. She routinely proposed new initiatives and prepared correspondence on behalf of the President, Congress and Department of Army Senior Leadership.

As the Senior Enlisted Advisor, Directorate of Personnel, Multi-National Forces-Iraq (MNF-I), Baghdad, Iraq, she was the principal advisor for all enlisted personnel readiness and Human Resource management issues for 150,000 U.S. military and 13,000 members from 25 Coalition Countries deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During this time she developed, synchronized, and implemented personnel policies and training that impacted enlisted members throughout the Iraqi theater.

As the Senior Enlisted Advisor, Special Management Division, Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Virginia, Sergeant Major Coon was responsible for the manpower management and strength management of enlisted personnel assigned to Special Mission Units (SMU) and Special Access Programs (SAP) which support national security objectives. SGM Coon compiled, analyzed, and produced personnel statistical information for all enlisted career management fields quarterly reviews ensuring that these units were properly manned in order to execute missions directed by the National Command Authority.

While serving as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for Soldier Programs/Community Recreation, Department of the Army, Alexandria, Virginia, she coordinated and implemented Soldier Programs for 84 United States Army Garrisons and had oversight of a \$40 million budget. She co-authored and analyzed strategies and surveys for various Army initiatives and served as lead trainer for all Soldier programs across the Army, training over 30,000 Soldiers and civilians.

Sergeant Major Coon is the perfect representative of the United States Army. We have gotten to know Sergeant Major Coon as the "soldier with a smile". She brings an enjoyment and enthusiasm to serving her country and representing the Army that is unparalleled in the halls of Congress. We are grateful for the advocacy Sergeant Major Coon has done on behalf of the physical and mental well being of soldiers and their families. Sergeant Major Coon has provided us with advice and counsel on issues affecting wounded warriors and their families that has led to legislative action improving wounded warrior care and mental health care. We particularly appreciate the work Sergeant Major Coon has done with our staff in providing them with the materials, briefings and support they need to work on issues affecting the Army.

Sergeant Major Coon's dedication to duty and superior leadership has left an indelible mark on the United States Army, the soldiers with whom she has served, and the Congress of the United States. Her actions, in over 28 years of military service, are in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army.