

energy and attitude toward teaching and helping others has always translated into family. Now that her sons are grown, she continues that same philosophy with her three grandsons. She is constantly researching and providing pathways to higher learning for each of her grandsons. She does this by taking each one of their strengths individually and providing a specific learning goal for each one, which is very similar to the approach she uses to provide Military Academy Appointments each year. Patty loves sharing the accomplishments of her sons & grandsons to her many friends and extended family members. She stays in close contact with her sister, niece, and nephew who all live in Oregon and Washington.

So I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Patty Shay for her service to Congress, and the Nation. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD M.
LUKETICH

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the long service of Mr. Bernard M. Luketich as National President of the Croatian Fraternal Union, which is headquartered in Pittsburgh.

Since its founding in 1894, the Croatian Fraternal Union has grown with the Croatian community in the United States. It is estimated that 30,000 Croatian Americans currently live in the Greater Pittsburgh area, and I am very happy to represent many of our local Croatian Americans in the U.S. Congress.

The Croatian Fraternal Union has provided much-needed insurance, investment, and social services for its members since its inception and has helped many Croatian Americans establish successful families and communities over the past 100+ years.

The Croatian Fraternal Union also ardently supported the Republic of Croatia's establishment as a stable democratic and free market-oriented nation-state as a result of the devolution of the Soviet Union and the Balkan Wars in the 1990s. The CFU was instrumental in developing American support as a founding member of and in steady concert with the National Federation of Croatian Americans for the new Republic's full accession into western multilateral organizations. This includes full membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, in early 2009 and the European Union on July 1, 2013.

This year, Mr. Luketich was re-elected to serve his 35th year as President of the CFU, the largest and oldest Croatian American organization in the United States. I would like to congratulate Bernie for his 35 years of strong leadership as President of the Croatian Fraternal Union.

As we all know, the president of any organization cannot do it alone. It is important to also to note the contributions of his long-time senior staff at the Pittsburgh headquarters—Executive Assistant/Editor Lorraine Turkall, Secretary/Treasurer Ed Pazo, VP Franjo Bertovic, VP George Pavlecic, Editor Ivan Begg, and CFU Board of Trustees President Bernadette Luketich Sikaras.

Mr. Speaker, I submit a June 5th article on Bernie Luketich's career that appeared in the Croatian American community's premier ethnic newspaper, the "Zajednicar."

Mr. Speaker, congratulations again to Bernie for his steady leadership and service to his diaspora community and to our United States.

[From the Zajednicar, June 5, 2013]

BERNARD M. LUKETICH—CELEBRATING 35 YEARS AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION OF AMERICA

A record-setting milestone was achieved on June 1, 2013 as CFU National President Bernard M. Luketich began his 35th anniversary year serving as National President at the helm of the Croatian Fraternal Union of America. Consecutively elected as National President since the 1979 CFU National Convention, President Luketich is currently serving his ninth full term as president of the Society.

Prior to becoming National President on June 1, 1978, Luketich had served as a Member of the Society's National Administration in various capacities, beginning with his election to the National Board of Trustees at the 1959 CFU National Convention held at Detroit, Michigan.

The son of Emma and Ivan Luketic, Bernard Luketich was born and raised in Cokeburg, Pennsylvania. His father, Ivan, emigrated from the village of Zagorje, Ogulin, Croatia and settled in Cokeburg where he found work in the Pennsylvania coal mines. A coal miner himself in his youth, Bernard Luketich carried his family values and love for his Croatian ancestry to become a leader of the largest Croatian fraternal organization outside of the old homeland.

Recognized as the "Founding Father" of the CFU Junior Cultural Federation, President Luketich counts this youth cultural program among his proudest achievements since it perpetuates Croatian identity and heritage among CFU children and young adults. In addition to the annual Junior Tamburitza Festivals, President Luketich was further instrumental in initiating the annual CFU Adult Tamburitza Festivals, both cultural events which have flourished over the years to promote Croatian tamburitza music throughout the United States and Canada.

Interested in Croatian activities at a young age, Bernard Luketich became a member of the Croatian Fraternal Union in 1932. He was elected President of his local CFU Lodge 354 at Cokeburg, Pennsylvania at the age of 16 and has served in that capacity since that time. Luketich established the St. George Junior Tamburitza of Lodge 354 in 1950 and later organized the St. George Adult Tamburitza of Lodge 354 in which he currently participates as an active tamburitzan.

President Luketich has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Redom Hrvatskog Pletera in 1996, the Redom Danice Hrvatske s Likom Katarine Zrinske in 1998, both bestowed upon him by the late Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman, and the Red Kneza Trpimira s Ogrlicom i Danicom in 2003, presented to him by former Croatian President Stjepan Mesic.

Without question, Bernard Luketich has been the driving force in promoting Fraternal Unity among the CFU Membership and is the identifiable face of the Croatian Fraternal Union who has been instrumental in making our Fraternal Organization what it is today.

Bernard Luketich, along with his wife, Martha, and their family, continue to make their home in the small mining town of Cokeburg, PA. The full legacy of National President Luketich is yet to be written but

we can continue to expect great things from Bernard M. Luketich as he greets his 35th Presidential Year with the same pride that he has espoused since first becoming a member of our Fraternal Society. His lifelong passion remains the principles, programs and benefits of the CFU and the preservation of Croatian heritage, culture and identity. "Zivio!", President Luketich!

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OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January
20, 2009, the day President Obama took of-
fice, the national debt was
\$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,116,336,111.15. We've
added \$6,111,239,287,178.07 to our debt in 4
and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our
nation, our economy, and our children could
have avoided with a balanced budget amend-
ment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE JAMIE
KOTULA FOUNDATION FOR OUT-
STANDING COMMUNITY CON-
TRIBUTIONS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise
today to honor the Jamie Kotula Foundation,
an organization set forth to enrich the lives of
others in Northeastern Pennsylvania through
"random acts of kindness," a strong value of
Jamie Kotula. The Foundation will also host
the third annual Kick-Off Classic on August 31
and September 1, 2013, marking the outset of
the fall sports season at Marywood University
in Scranton.

Jamie Kotula, who tragically passed in a car
accident on the morning of January 14, 2011

at the age of sixteen, lived a life of service to-
wards others. His selfless character was re-
vealed as a student at Holy Cross High
School in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, where he
served as secretary of the Student Council
and a member of the boys' varsity soccer,
swim, and track teams. In addition to being a
dedicated class leader and a skilled and ener-
getic athlete, Jamie was extremely well-round-
ed as a member of the National Honor Soci-
ety, the Pro-Life club, chess club, foreign lan-
guage club, and the show choir.

In honor of Jamie Kotula, who lived his life
in the present each and every day, the Jamie
Kotula Foundation was created to support like-
minded individuals and groups in Northeast
Pennsylvania who enrich lives and commu-
nities through acts of kindness and selfless-
ness. Since its creation in 2011, the Founda-
tion has distributed more than \$100,000 in
both scholarships and donations to charitable
causes, such as helping out the victims of the
school violence at Sandy Hook Elementary in
Newtown, Connecticut.

In recognition of the community contribu-
tions of the Jamie Kotula Foundation's largest
event, the Kick-Off Classic, I add my congratu-
lations and best wishes for continued success
and service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PERMA-
NENTLY ENDING RECEIPT BY
PRISONERS ACT

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I am in-
troducing the Permanently Ending Receipt by
Prisoners Act, also known as the PERP Act.
I am pleased to be joined by Representatives
TODD YOUNG, MIKE KELLY, TIM GRIFFIN, JIM
RENACCI, TOM REED, and CHARLES BOUSTANY,
all Members of the Committee on Ways and
Means Human Resources Subcommittee,
which I chair. As a former sheriff and now
Chairman of this Subcommittee that has juris-
diction over the Unemployment Insurance (UI)
program, this bill blends the expertise I devel-
oped in my past career with my present com-
mittee responsibilities.

Under existing UI program rules that oper-
ate in all States, an individual must be able,
available, and actively seeking work in order
to be eligible to collect UI benefits, which are
paid to those who are unemployed through no
fault of their own. Individuals confined in jails,
prisons, and other penal institutions are by
definition not "able and available" to work and
have historically been presumed to be not eli-
gible for UI benefits.

Despite this fact, news articles in multiple
States have revealed a nationwide epidemic of
unemployment benefit payments to incarcer-
ated individuals. Recent headlines include: Illi-
nois: "State: More than \$2M in Unemployment
Benefits Went to Inmates" (10/9/12); New Jer-
sey: "Audit Says 20,000 Inmates Were Mistak-
enly Paid Nearly \$24M in State and Federal
Benefits" (5/29/13); Pennsylvania: "Inmates
Collect Millions in Unemployment Benefits in
Philadelphia Jails" (2/20/13); and South Caro-
lina: "Government Waste—Inmates Collecting
Millions in Fraudulent Unemployment Checks"
(2/21/13). The list unfortunately does not end

there, and these and other articles make it
clear that taxpayers are wasting millions of
dollars each year on unemployment benefit
payments to prisoners.

We must make it very clear that incarcer-
ated individuals should not be receiving unem-
ployment benefits, and that States need to
make affirmative efforts to end this obvious
abuse. Unemployment benefits are designed
to support people who are able and trying to
find work and provide for their families, but
who have fallen on hard times. It is an injus-
tice that the tax dollars of law-abiding citizens
are being used to provide assistance to peo-
ple who have broken the law and simply
should not qualify for these benefits.

The PERP Act provides the solutions to this
problem by taking the following steps:

Barring States from paying UI checks to
local, state and federal prisoners, strength-
ening a current implied prohibition because
prisoners are not "able and available" for
work; and

Requiring State UI agencies to regularly
compare UI rolls with currently available in-
mate rosters to ensure UI checks are not paid
to current inmates. At a minimum, States must
access and use prisoner information the So-
cial Security Administration has collected and
used since the late-1990s to prevent the pay-
ment of Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
benefit checks to currently incarcerated indi-
viduals. This current data match is simple,
quick, and efficient, and can readily be rep-
licated by States to ensure that UI benefit
checks are not paid to prisoners.

During 2011, the UI program made a stag-
gering \$10.3 billion in improper payments,
some of which were to individuals in our na-
tion's jails and prisons. Those payments were
made because under current practice too
many States rely on the inmate to report their
change of residence to the jail so that their UI
benefits would end. Not surprisingly, few in-
mates volunteer to stop collecting these
checks, and no benefit program should rely on
the honesty of inmates to ensure taxpayer
funds are properly spent. This legislation ends
the practice of relying on self-reported infor-
mation by inmates to prevent this type of UI
benefit misspending. It does so simply by ex-
pecting all State UI agencies to tap into an ex-
isting Federal database of prisoners, already
used to ensure that inmates do not collect dis-
ability checks. This system is fast, efficient,
and affordable.

Again, I want to thank my colleagues on the
Human Resources Subcommittee, Representa-
tives TODD YOUNG, MIKE KELLY, TIM GRIFFIN,
JIM RENACCI, TOM REED, and CHARLES BOU-
STANY, for their support as original cosponsors
of this bill. I invite all Members to join me in
supporting this important legislation and look
forward to its speedy consideration so that we
can ensure we put an end to the outrageous
practice of prisoners collecting benefit pay-
ments intended for the truly unemployed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, last week,
July 18, 2013, I was speaking with a docu-
mentary group about the civil rights move-
ment, and I was unable to make it to the floor