

streams and communities from mining waste contamination.

In 1983, in order to protect ground and surface water, the Reagan Administration implemented a rule that said mountaintop mining operations could not dump their waste too close to streams. Today's bill would require states to replace those existing protections with a 2008 rewrite of the rule that would weaken standards and fail to safeguard water resources from the impacts of mining waste. States would not be permitted to enact stronger standards to shield their drinking water from contamination. I offered an amendment with my colleagues Representatives CARTWRIGHT and LOWENTHAL to ensure States have the right to take additional action if they find it necessary, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

This legislation is particularly egregious because just last month, the DC Circuit Court vacated the 2008 rule because the Bush Administration failed to consider the impact of waste dumping on threatened and endangered species. Not only would this bill write that illegally-drafted rule into statute, it would set a five-year moratorium on any new rules to protect streams from coal mining waste.

The Interior Department is currently in the process of developing new rules to reflect advances in mining practices and mitigate environmental and health impacts from mining operations. Rather than forcing implementation of a rule so flawed that it's been tossed out by the courts, we should allow this process to go forward to safeguard Appalachian communities. I urge a no vote on the bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 149, 150, 151, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Tuesday, April 1, 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 149, "yea" on rollcall vote 150, and "yea" on rollcall vote 151.

I was also absent for the following votes on Friday, April 4, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 157, "nay" on roll call vote 158, "yea" on rollcall vote 159, and "yea" on rollcall vote 160, "yea" on roll call vote 161, "yea" on rollcall vote 162, "yea" on rollcall vote 163, and "nay" on rollcall vote 164.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. ALBERT L. NELLUM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Albert L. Nellum. Al transitioned peacefully on March 1, 2014. His impact on this city and our country may not be as well known, but it is indelible. Al was a pioneer consultant, businessman, and activist in his own way.

Al was born in the heart of the Deep South: Greenville, Mississippi and later grew up in Chicago, Illinois as well. He, like a number of us, arrived to a Washington that now barely resembles its former self. And yet, he set out to change it for the better. Opportunities were scarce for African Americans, and Al paved the way for the presence of future black consultants in the District. During the height of the Civil Rights Movement in 1964, he established A.L. Nellum and Associates Inc., the oldest black-owned management consultant firm in the United States.

He also supported and worked with us in forming what would become the Congressional Black Caucus. We relied on Al's expertise and advice over the years, and welcomed his input at various stages. He helped to organize the first CBC Foundation dinner as well as the scholarship program, which he and fellow business leaders spearheaded. Al also worked with Rep. Parren Mitchell on the first CBCF Braintrust on Black Business.

Al's activism was not limited to the U.S., but his impact can be felt internationally. His efforts against anti-black racism in Japan are a testament to his commitment to making the world a better place. He organized a full page ad to oppose Japanese racism and advocated for the fair depiction of blacks. He even traveled to Japan and met with its leaders at his own expense, to protest these offensive products and derisive images. Al's ties to Japan stretched back to the 1950s when he was a serviceman in the U.S. Army there.

I salute Al Nellum, and extend my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. May the memories of him sustain all of us at this time.

RECOGNIZING JAKE CRAIN AND THE PEARLAND OILERS BASEBALL TEAM

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jake Crain of Pearland High School. This young man pitched an impressive no-hitter on Tuesday, March 25 when the Pearland Oilers defeated the Pasadena Memorial Mavericks. Crain led the Oilers to an 8-1 victory, improving their overall record to 5-0 in district play.

Professional pitchers play their entire careers without pitching a no-hitter, and Jake achieved this as a senior in high school. The contributions of his teammates were also inte-

gral to Jake's achievement. He relied on his defense to back him up and the Oilers offense to put runs on the board. This was a team effort. Great athletes are an extension of great teams.

The Pearland Oilers baseball team is full of great teammates. I wish the Pearland Oilers the best of luck this season. On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Jake Crain and all of his Oiler teammates on recording a no-hitter.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. 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 \$17,585,625,829,197.83. We've added \$6,958,748,780,284.75 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CHAIRMAN JIMMY R. NEWTON, JR. TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Chairman Jimmy R. Newton, Jr., of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in Colorado. Chairman Newton, after over 10 years of service to his tribe, passed away on April 1, 2014, at the age of 37.

Beginning his service in politics at the age of 26, Chairman Newton served as a Tribal Council member, Vice Chairman, and Acting Chairman before becoming permanent Chairman in 2012. Though he spent much of his life in public service, he earned a degree in Visual Graphic Design from Al Collins Graphic Design School in Arizona, after which he worked as a reporter & photographer for the tribal newspaper, the Southern Ute Drum. Chairman Newton frequently sang at tribal ceremonies, exemplifying the love of his culture. He also used his voice as a dedicated servant of the Southern Ute people, working to ensure his tribe's wellbeing in every level of government.

Chairman Newton's commitment to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the State of Colorado has been a blessing to many communities, families, and individuals, and he will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife, Flora Murphy-Newton and daughter, Maylon K. Newton. I extend my deepest sympathies and prayers to his family and friends during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, though his life was tragically short, Chairman Newton maximized his time leading with strength and an exemplary heart. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize Chairman Jimmy R. Newton, Jr. for his many accomplishments and distinguished service.