

Lower Makefield, Bucks County church, built bonds of charity throughout the community with their devotion to those most in need. They dutifully collect and distribute food and clothing, school supplies, and visit the sick and homebound, year after year. St. John the Evangelist Parish has extended its mission, reaching out to the needy in nearby Trenton, New Jersey and Philadelphia, as well as supporting church missions worldwide. In so doing, the parishioners have demonstrated their faith through their good works. Congratulations on this anniversary year with all best wishes for the continuation of your community of the faithful far into the future.

TRIBUTE TO TAMELA LYNN  
LATHERY FLEMMINGS

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 3, 2015*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of my Aunt, Tamela Lynn Lathery Flemmings, a woman of great faith and an active volunteer in the Connersville community.

Tamela was a loving and devoted wife to her husband of 12 years, Marcus. She was the proud mother of her daughter, Mamie Rae Young, and leaves behind a large family including her husband, mother, brothers, sisters, as well as many, many nieces and nephews.

In addition to spending time with her family, Tamela was known for her faith in the Lord, as a member of the Growing Branches for Christ Church. Her faith led to an active commitment in her community. Through her work to help others recover from their drug and alcohol addictions by way of the Solid Rock Ministries and the House of Ruth, Tamela was able to serve the lives of many. She also regularly volunteered with Walk a Mile in My Shoes and Gentle Christmas.

I know my Aunt Tamela was someone with a loving spirit, who could be counted on for her warm laugh and big smile. She was a straight-shooter, who was candid, loyal and smart. I will always be grateful for her love, friendship and support.

Tamela, you will be missed by those you helped to smile, succeed and empower. May God bless you, your family, and all the people of Connersville who you touched and saved through your work.

IN RECOGNITION OF CYNTHIA  
SCHUMAN BANKS

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 3, 2015*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Cynthia Schuman Banks, an accomplished artist and designer, a philanthropist and community leader, and one of the most youthful people I know. I am blessed to count Cynthia as one of my closest friends.

Cynthia has extraordinary talent and whatever she touches turns into a treasure. She has painted superb portraits including those of Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, Reverend Jessie

Jackson, Dr. Linus Pauling and Vice President Walter Mondale. When former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev visited San Francisco in the early 1990s, Cynthia was selected to present him with one of her abstract paintings. She remains an avid painter to this day and recently had many of her works displayed at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Cynthia was born in Oakland, California. She attended Stanford University before she started her career as a fashion designer at Lilli Ann, a San Francisco-based clothing company that her father Adolph Schuman founded in 1934. It was named for Cynthia's mother Lillian and renowned for its good workmanship and high quality fabrics.

Adolph Schuman started the company in two rented rooms with \$800 he borrowed. Fifty years later, Lilli Ann reported retail sales of \$40 million. Mr. Schuman bought large quantities of French and Italian fabrics from small companies which helped revitalize those countries' war-ravaged textile industries. Cynthia significantly contributed to the legacy of Lilli Ann. She designed the most successful suit in the company's history.

In 1965, she changed her professional focus from fashion design to interior design and founded Benatar and Cole Interiors. She has transformed many prestigious homes in the Bay Area with her unique and exquisite touch.

In 1991, Cynthia met Dan Banks and they married the next year. For the last 23 years, Cynthia and Dan have made family their priority. They are the proud parents of Darrell Benatar, Denise Benatar, Pamela Banks Joyce and Tom Banks and grandparents Trevor, Parker, always-remembered Emily, Isabel, Maya, Colin, Sandra, Michael and Taylor. To say that Cynthia is a people person would be the understatement of the century—she loves people and loves bringing them together. Dinner parties at the Schuman Banks are must-attends for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives rise with me to honor a remarkable woman who lives life with joie de vivre and my most favorite friend Cynthia Schuman Banks on the occasion of her birthday. She continues to enrich our lives every day.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 3, 2015*

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 \$18,152,841,401,259.20. We've added \$7,525,964,352,346.12 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING MARY FORTUNE  
WILLIAMS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 3, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a self-motivated leader and innovator of the community. Ms. Mary Fortune Williams, MBA, works as an Accountant for the State of Mississippi. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Jackson State University and her Master of Business Administration degree from Mississippi College. She also earned a Certificate of Accounting from Mississippi College.

Ms. Williams is a single parent of one daughter. After becoming divorced when her daughter was a toddler, she was determined that her child would not become another negative statistic attributed to single parent households. She strives to instill in her daughter one of the greatest fundamentals of life: Never let negative circumstances define who you are or what you can become.

Ms. Williams is actively involved in her daughter's educational and character development. She works diligently in her church and her community. She is part of the Youth Leadership Team at Greater Fairview Missionary Baptist Church, serves as an Assistant Leader of Girl Scout Troop 5576, serves on the PTSA Board of Murrah High School, and serves on the planning committee for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Mary Fortune Williams for giving back to the community in which she was born and reared.

RECOGNIZING OSCAR HOPKINS, SR.

**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 3, 2015*

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Oscar Hopkins, Sr.:

Whereas, Oscar Hopkins, Sr., a native of Sumter, South Carolina, was born in 1929. He worked as a farmhand before he left home to seek a better life for his family and establish his business as a barber in Springfield Gardens, New York; and

Whereas, after moving to New York in 1951, Oscar Hopkins was drafted into the military, serving in the 7th Infantry Division, 31st Regiment, Company C as an ammunition bearer for 50-caliber machine guns during the Korean War. After completing his tour of duty and returning to the United States three years later, Oscar was united in holy matrimony to Novell Henry. Having made a lifetime commitment to each other, two boys and one girl were added to this union; and

Whereas, deciding to go into business, Oscar took advantage of his veterans benefits by signing up for barbering courses working as an apprentice before obtaining his Master Barbering License and opening his own shop in 1966. The past several years Mr. Hopkins has been an exemplary member of the South-eastern Queens community; and