

John also served the town as Alderman, Selectman, and was the last mayor of Willimantic and the first mayor of Windham. Among John's signature accomplishments, were helping to secure funding for the town to install lights and a playground at Recreation Park, the Textile Museum, and the iconic "Frog Bridge" downtown.

Beyond his 32 years of service as a public servant, John's reputation for civic engagement was legendary. He was passionate about recreation, and not only played on a softball team himself for over 50 years, but also ran the Elk's "Hoop Shoot" and the Knights of Columbus Free Throw contest for over 40 years, was a member of the Town Recreation Commission, and was involved with Little Pal basketball, Little League baseball, WYO and the intermediate junior high basketball travel team.

No sporting event did John care about more than his children's athletic events—he even created a shortcut on his computer to track his daughter's statistics for the Springfield College basketball and rugby teams. John's hard work to promote civic engagement and youth recreation was recognized when he was honored as the P.O.B.E. Elks Club Elk of the Year in 2003–2004, as president of the Polish Club, and an honorary member of the Franco-American Citizens Club.

The Windham community will miss John deeply. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our condolences to his wife, Pauline, and his family as they mourn the passing of a good man.

HONORING CLAIRE'S CORNER
COPIA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS
40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, nestled on the corner of Chapel and College Streets in Downtown New Haven is Claire's Corner Copia, a gourmet vegetarian restaurant that is among one of the most popular and beloved restaurants in the City. Founded by Claire and the late Frank Criscuolo, this community treasure is celebrating its 40th Anniversary and I am proud to rise today to join the community in extending my heartfelt congratulations on this remarkable milestone.

A registered nurse by training, Claire decided she really wanted to find a way to work with her husband, Frank. Disappointed with some of the fare she was getting from local restaurants at the time, she and Frank opened Claire's Corner Copia in 1975. Claire was determined to bring the essence of her home-cooked meals to her restaurant and to create what she calls her "own utopia."

Claire's is, in a word, eclectic. Its two walls of windows allow customers to enjoy the bustling crowds on Chapel and Church Streets, the tables and chairs do not match, and the menu is a series of blackboards with your choices written in colorful chalk. You wait in line to place your order, give your name to have it brought to you, you get your own cutlery, and bus your own table. Claire liked the idea of her customers "participating" in their dining experience. Over the course of its 40-

year history, Claire's Corner Copia has built a loyal following not only locally but for travelers as well. A Seattle resident who travels to New Haven on business recently told the local paper, "It's the only restaurant I go to every time I come to New Haven. Everything is fresh and there is a wide assortment of characters." That is Claire's Corner Copia.

What makes Claire's Corner Copia so special—aside from the all-vegetarian menu, the use of fresh ingredients, and its famous baked goods—is the atmosphere that Claire has created. Nearly everything on the menu is made in-house, you can always find Claire buzzing around the restaurant, and her employees, many who have been with her for more than a decade love their work. Instead of relying on tips, her staff is paid a fair wage, provided health benefits, and paid time off. Claire and her staff dedicate themselves to providing their customers with a unique experience. That is the secret of the success of Claire's Corner Copia.

I want to extend a special note of congratulations to Claire Criscuolo. The restaurant business is not easy and her determination, vision, creativity, and entrepreneurial skill have made Claire's Corner Copia an iconic local landmark. Claire is also a dedicated member of our community, supporting a variety of organizations including New Haven Reads, St. Francis and St. Rose of Lima Schools, and Smilow Cancer Hospital. I cannot remember a time when I did not know her and I consider myself fortunate to call her my friend. I am honored to rise today to extend my very best wishes to her and her staff on this very special occasion. Happy 40th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO RONNIE AND SHARON
FOSTER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ronnie and Sharon Foster of Clarinda, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Ronnie and Sharon were married on August 8, 1955 at the New Market Methodist Church of New Market, Iowa.

Ronnie and Sharon's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Beth, the late Dan, Don, the late Dusty, and Leesa, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion. I wish them and their family all the best moving forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate that I inadvertently voted "Yes" on Roll Call 503. I intended to vote "No."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 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 \$18,151,038,086,972.10. We've added \$7,524,161,038,059.02 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.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD AND
CAROLYN MILLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Richard and Carolyn Miller of Neola, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 28, 1965 at the Grace Evangelical United Brethren Church in Story City.

Richard and Carolyn's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Tami and Jeff, as well as their grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa's values. I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND
OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOL
OF NURSING AT THE UNIVER-
SITY OF MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the grand opening of the new academic building at the University of Michigan School of Nursing.

The University of Michigan School of Nursing is a premier institution that is committed to teaching and training the next generation of nurses. Consistently recognized as one of the best nursing schools in the country, they have trained many individuals who have gone on to excel in the field of nursing and give back to their communities. In fact, just this year they were recognized for having six subspecialties ranked in the Top 10 of the U.S. News and World Report's annual rankings. This includes the Nursing Administration program, which is ranked second, and the Family Nurse Practitioner and the Gerontology Primary Care program, which were both ranked third. This strong praise affirms the University's commitment to training the "leaders and the best."

Our nation needs more well-trained nurses who are committed to giving back to their