

the nation, this day marks an important moment of its history and a celebration of a free, democratic Taiwan.

In the 104 years since its establishment, the Republic of China has become a strong economic and strategic partner of the United States. Their advancements in scientific development and environmental protection are commendable, and their steadfast commitment to human rights remains an example for nations around the globe. Certainly, there is much to celebrate.

From the Presidential Building in Taipei, to this Capitol in Washington, D.C., let us join together in celebrating this important day and recognizing the bonds shared between the United States and the Republic of China.

I wish the people of Taiwan, and all those celebrating abroad, a happy Double Ten Day and many more years of an independent Republic of China.

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OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 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 \$18,150,545,316,215.04. We've added \$7,523,668,267,301.96 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.

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TRIBUTE TO BOB AND  
BERNADETTE STANBROUGH

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bob and Bernadette Stanbrough of Shenandoah, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Bob and Bernadette married in 1965.

Bob and Bernadette's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this devoted 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 and in wishing them and their family nothing but the best moving forward.

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HONORING CAPTAIN JULES TRAUT

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Captain Jules Traut, of Libertyville, Illinois, for his service to our country and unwavering

support for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Captain Traut currently serves as a member of the 10th Congressional District Military Academy Nominations Committee. This year marks the 54th year that Jules Traut has served as an Admissions Liaison responsible for interviewing and nominating students for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

As a Liaison Officer, Captain Traut has met with hundreds of students and continues to demonstrate his dedication to helping young men and women achieve their goals of receiving an education from the Academy.

Captain Traut also volunteers his services as Chief Engineering Officer with the Columbia Yacht Club in Chicago where he helps maintain and restore their signature 386-foot ship and club headquarters, the Abegweit.

I am grateful to Captain Traut for his contributions to our community and his selfless service to others.

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RECOGNIZING SUNDAY OCTOBER  
11TH AS THE INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF THE GIRL

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sunday, October 11 as the International Day of the Girl. This day celebrates the accomplishments of young women throughout the country and throughout the world and empowers future generations of young leaders. This day also promotes discussion on issues that affect girls and women everywhere.

From Sojourner Truth who fought for the abolishment of slavery and the importance of women's rights to Elizabeth Cady Stanton who fought for women's right to vote, throughout our history, women have led and empowered change in our country and around the world.

As husband to a loving wife and father of three girls, I believe that we must foster a climate filled with freedom and opportunity for young women everywhere to learn, lead, and achieve their dreams.

Therefore, let us join in the celebration of the International Day of the Girl.

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HONORING SHARON PALMER

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank an outstanding public servant from the State of Connecticut on the occasion of her retirement. Sharon Palmer has served for the past three years as Commissioner of the Department of Labor and as a lifelong advocate for our state's workers.

During her time as Commissioner, Sharon has left a lasting mark on the state's economy by improving workforce training programs, strengthening jobs initiatives and working relentlessly to remove fraud from state programs. Sharon has simultaneously worked to advance opportunity for Connecticut's workers,

to preserve the state's valuable resources, and to advocate for federal grants that have allowed innovation to flourish in our home state.

Sharon's involvement with workforce issues dates far before her time as Commissioner. She worked as the former Vice President of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and president of the state chapter of the American Federation of Teachers, serving as an ally and liaison for workers. Her previous experience as an educator instilled in her a deep understanding of the connection between education, opportunity, and a workforce prepared to power a growing economy.

Sharon never shies from speaking her mind or sticking up for policies that Connecticut workers need and deserve. If you are at odds with Sharon, you can expect a firm, but fair discussion. She would never back down when the well-being of Connecticut families is at stake. Sharon hails from Waterford, CT, in the southeastern part of the state. Somehow she always found time to participate at the local level of town government and was an active member of the Democratic Town Committee. Sharon was and is a staunch supporter of mine who helped me win a victory to Congress in 2006 in a hard fought race that was decided by the smallest of margins—83 votes.

Sharon also was a devoted wife to her departed husband George and the mother of four children, Kerry, Cory, Greg, and Chris.

Although her advice, hard work, and experience will surely be missed by the State of Connecticut, I ask my colleagues to please join in wishing my friend Sharon Palmer a restful and enjoyable retirement.

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CELEBRATING THE 85TH  
BIRTHDAY OF MRS. LEAH SIMS

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, Friday, October 9, 2015, to ask my fellow colleagues of the 114th United States Congress to join me in celebrating the 85th birthday of Mrs. Leah Sims. I rise not only to celebrate her 85 years, but to also ask that we honor Mrs. Sims for the good work that she has done throughout her life.

Mrs. Sims was a distinguished and beloved educator in my hometown of Murphysboro, IL for nearly 20 years. She taught chorus to elementary, middle, and high school students throughout her career and volunteered as the choir director of the First Baptist Church. She deeply loved her job and students. That love and admiration was returned in kind as some of her former students even joined her church choir to continue on under her direction and tutelage.

Mrs. Sims has been a fixture in her community as both an educator and leader. As a former student of Mrs. Sims, I can say with confidence that there is not a person that has met her who hasn't been positively affected by her compassion, thoughtfulness, and humility.

Her life-long impact on the students lucky enough to call her their teacher is something worth honoring. Once again, I ask that you join me in celebrating the birthday of Mrs.