

rare breed and they help make not only our country, but our world a much safer and better place.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY BAISDEN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2016

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, reaching the age of 80 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Betty Jane Baisden was born on March 19, 1936 and today she is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Baisden has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; she has been a devoted Christian since her childhood days to present as President of the Mothers Board at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mrs. Baisden is celebrating her 80th Birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in Georgia, she celebrates a life of blessings; as a Mother, Grandmother, friend, community servant and leader; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; an advocate, faithful matriarch and a community leader; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 80th birthday in the 4th District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Betty Jane Baisden for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all, now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim March 19, 2016 as: Mrs. Betty Jane Baisden Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 19th day of March, 2016.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2016

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 \$19,219,465,874,275.48. We've added \$8,592,588,825,362.40 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 MOTHER ROVELMA THOMAS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2016

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, for ten years, Mother Rovelma Thomas served as President of the Beulah Baptist Church Mother Board Number 1, in Decatur, Georgia. We are all grateful for this virtuous woman of God accepting her call to serve in the leadership role of the Mother Board; and

Whereas, Mother Thomas began her membership at Beulah in 2000 and since joining the church, she has provided service to citizens from all walks of life. She has educated and mentored through various church ministries such as the Golden Eagles and the Ernestine Smith Bible Class. She is a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents, giving the citizens of our District a friend to help those in need, a fearless leader and a servant to all, to ensure that the love of God touches everyone; and

Whereas, Mother Thomas, a twenty-three year veteran of Decatur City Schools, is a cornerstone in our community who has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mother Thomas on her outstanding years of leadership and service to the Beulah Baptist Church Mother Board Number 1; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim June 11, 2016 as: Mother Rovelma Thomas Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 11th day of June, 2016.

A HEROIC ACT AT THE SIDE OF THE HIGHWAY

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sean Kehren of Pine City, Minnesota who heroically saved a woman he had never met before from a fiery car crash on a busy interstate highway in Northern Minnesota. Sean was traveling south back to the University he attends after attending the eighth Congressional District Democratic Convention in Duluth, Minnesota when the car in front of his veered off the road, crashed into a tree and caught fire.

Sean ran to the driver's door of the car to see if the driver was injured. When he saw flames underneath the vehicle, Sean decided it was time to act and he pulled the driver out of the car. Then, with the assistance of the passengers in his car, he carried the driver to safety away from the burning vehicle. After rescuing the driver, Sean even accompanied her to a local hospital and helped her contact relatives so that she could be surrounded by her family after her accident.

When Sean was asked what motivated him to act so courageously, he was very humble. Sean said he was just doing the right thing and helping out a person in need. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Sean for his selfless actions which put his own safety in jeopardy to save a stranger.

JUNE 12, 1987: RONALD REAGAN ADDRESSES PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, June 12th marks an important date in United States policy. Twenty-nine years to the day, President Ronald Reagan traveled to Berlin to speak out against communism and call on the President of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, to tear down the Berlin Wall. This would become known as his famous "tear down this wall" speech.

The Berlin Wall grew in the aftermath of the Second World War. In 1945, the Allies split a defeated Germany into four allied occupation zones. The eastern part of the country went to the Soviet Union and the Western part of Germany went to the United States, Great Britain, and later France. Even though Berlin sat entirely in the Soviet territory, it too was divided into Eastern and Western occupation zones with the Soviets taking the East and the other allies taking the West part of the city.

As Berlin was split apart, so too was the relationship between the democratic United States and communist Soviet Union. These stark differences in political ideologies led to extreme tension in that area, and around the world.

So much so that the Soviet Union would often play the role of mischief maker in Germany. In 1948 the USSR began a blockade on West Berlin in the hopes of driving out the Western influences. However, due to the ingenious Berlin Airlift, the blockade was called off the following year. Following a decade of relative calm, the Soviet Union was once again up to no good. They were embarrassed by the steady flow of refugees from the Communist East into the Capitalist West part of Germany. In the first 11 days of August in 1961, 16,000 East Germans fled to West Germany. On August 12th alone, 2,400 people defected.

It was then that Soviet Premier Khrushchev closed the border between East and West Berlin for good. In 1961 the Berlin Wall officially came into existence. It stood 12 feet tall and 4 feet wide until the fall of communism. During that time, the only way to cross the border was through one of three checkpoints: Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie. But travelers were rarely allowed to cross the border.

The mischief of the USSR divided a city and separated friends, families, and loved ones. If you tried to cross the border you could be shot. At least 171 people died trying to escape to freedom. The Berlin Wall not only literally divided a city for 30 years, but stood as a brutal reminder of how cruel communism could be. It wasn't until communism began to thaw, with the help of President Reagan change was made.

On June 12, 1987, President Reagan traveled to Berlin to view the wall. That afternoon,