

wife Pam have become dear friends of mine through the years. I learned this week that Charlie plans to retire from the Farm Bureau after serving as its president since 1992. While his retirement will be a loss to the Farm Bureau family and to those of us in Congress who work with him, I know that Charlie and Pam will continue serving the people of Missouri and the farmers and military personnel who call the Show-Me State home.

Charlie is a native of Dexter, Missouri, located in the southeastern portion of the state. He is an Eagle Scout who earned that rank in 1959 and then went on to graduate in 1963 from Dexter High School. Charlie and Pam continue to farm in Dexter.

Charlie graduated in 1967 from Arkansas State University with a degree in agronomy and graduated in 1973 with a Masters of Science in Agronomy from Missouri University. As a distinguished graduate from Mizzou, I know Charlie must have been thrilled when in 1983, Missouri Governor Kit Bond appointed him to the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

In 1985, Missouri Governor John Ashcroft honored Charlie by appointing him to his cabinet as Missouri Director of Agriculture. In 1990, he became the only Missourian to serve on President George H. W. Bush's Council on Rural America and was appointed to the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee of U.S. Trade Representative Carla A. Hills.

In 1991, Charlie became executive vice president of the North American Equipment Dealers Association but resigned that post in August 1992 to seek the presidency of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation. Charlie was elected president of the Missouri Farm Bureau that year.

During his tenure as Missouri Farm Bureau president, Charlie has been a state and national leader in agricultural policy making and has well represented the interests of Show-Me State farmers during Congressional farm bill debates. He has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the U.S. Meat Export Federation; the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture; the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, and Oilseeds; the Missouri State Government Review Commission; the Missouri Plant Biotechnology Advisory Committee; and President George W. Bush's Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations. Charlie has also served as chairman of the American Farm Bureau's Task Force on the U.S. Livestock Industry; chairman of the American Farm Bureau's Trade Advisory Committee; and a member of the board of directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (FARMER MAC).

Charlie's agricultural career has been paralleled by a career in military uniform. In 1967, Charlie enlisted in the Missouri Army National Guard as an infantryman. He worked his way through the ranks from Private to Brigadier General. As a general officer in the Missouri Army National Guard, Charlie served as Assistant Adjutant General of Missouri. Charlie retired from the Army in 1993 after 26 years of distinguished service. We owe him and his family a debt of gratitude for his military service.

Because of his outstanding leadership, Charlie holds many awards and honors. But,

despite these accolades, I expect Charlie's top honor is being a husband and a father.

Madam Speaker, I wish Charlie, Pam, and their family all the best as they transition into a new chapter of life. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in expressing a debt of gratitude to them.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,237,494,446,894.52.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,554,068,701.72 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ENSURE RISK ASSESSMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster is a terrible reminder of the inherent safety, environmental, and economic risks associated with offshore drilling. This tragedy claimed the lives of 11 people and released millions of gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico, forcing people out of work, devastating beaches and fisheries for years to come, and impacting our food supply.

BP's so-called response plan to deal with such a disaster was a farce: it listed a wildlife expert that had been deceased since 2005 and said that sensitive biological resources in the Gulf included walrus, sea otters, sea lions and seals, none of which actually live there. BP also stated that it could handle a worst case oil discharge scenario 10 times the size of the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

These glaring flaws in its response plan make it abundantly clear that BP did not take the permitting process seriously. There was virtually no thought or time put into developing these plans and certainly no accountability.

Today I am introducing legislation to ensure that risk assessment and emergency response preparedness for offshore drilling are more than an exercise in pushing paper. My legislation would require the chief executive officer of each offshore drilling and production operation under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to annually certify (1) the demonstrated capability of the operation's exploration and production plans to respond immediately and ef-

fectively to the worst-case oil spill in real-world conditions; and (2) that each plan, to their knowledge, is an accurate and effective response to a worst-case oil spill in real-world conditions, under risk of personal civil penalties.

Ever since the BP Deepwater Horizon well began spewing oil into the Gulf of Mexico, executives from BP have repeatedly excused their inability to seal the well by describing the difficult circumstances in which they are operating. I am willing to acknowledge that, because the well is 5,000 feet below the surface, effectively stopping the flow of oil is a technological challenge. But I believe these are all things that should have been considered before BP began drilling the well. And I believe that if company executives are accountable for the content of their proposals to address these safety concerns, one of two things will happen. Either they will ensure that they do have an effective and realistic response capability to an oil spill. Or they will not drill the well.

This tragedy is a game-changing event. We must reevaluate our policy on offshore drilling emergency response preparedness and bring accountability to risk assessment and the planning process. This legislation would go a long way toward ensuring our offshore drilling operations have thoughtful, accurate, and useful response plans.

Offshore drilling operations, no matter how technologically advanced, can never completely eliminate the risk of a major disaster but it is incumbent upon us to make sure these companies have a plan to respond when disaster does strike.

I hope my colleagues will support this simple but overdue legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES KING PICKETT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a longtime Mobile resident, and a very special friend, Charles King Pickett, who passed away at the age of 74 on March 4, 2010.

King, as he was affectionately known to his family and many friends, was loved by everyone who knew him. He never met a stranger and always had a kind word for others.

He served America with uncommon dedication as a paratrooper with the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division and in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

The founder of Pickett and Adams Insurance Agency in Mobile, King shepherded his very successful business for more than four decades before retiring in 2003.

An active member of the community, King Pickett helped launch the Port City Pacers and led by example, jogging over 30,000 miles during his lifetime.

Harkening back to his Army paratrooper days, he also enjoyed recreational skydiving, racking up 115 jumps, including one on his 70th birthday.

He was a strong supporter of Mobile's Mardi Gras and was an active member of both the