

gown fit for the new First Lady. They studied both Michelle Obama and the work of other designers. They then sent a book of their designs to the First Lady.

More than a year later, the First Lady remembered that project and it when it was time to arrange for her Smithsonian ceremony she asked the Huntington High School students to join her in Washington, DC for the special event.

Madam Speaker, all of Long Island couldn't be more proud of the work of the Huntington High School students.

We are equally proud of their teachers who challenged them with this creative project. These teachers thought big. They thought outside the box. And they along with their students are being rightfully rewarded with this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Madam Speaker, I thank First Lady Michelle Obama for her thoughtful inclusion of the Huntington High School Fashion Program in this ceremony and I commend Huntington High School's students, teachers, parents and administrators whose great efforts led to this special recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL
MCHUGH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Paul McHugh as he is named the recipient of the 2010 James P. Sweeney Founder Award by the Retired Irish Police Society of Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. McHugh began his service as a police officer in 1965 as a member of the Cleveland Motorcycle Unit. His twenty-seven-year tenure was framed by integrity, loyalty and bravery. He risked his life on numerous occasions to protect his colleagues and the citizens of Cleveland. His acts of courage did not go unrecognized. In 1967, Mr. McHugh was awarded the Meritorious Award for an act of heroism by the Cleveland Police Department. While assigned to the First District Detective Bureau, Mr. McHugh's sharp and persistent investigative efforts led to the dismantling of a massive burglary ring, for which he was recognized as the "City of Cleveland Police Officer of the Month."

After his retirement from the Police Department in 1992, he volunteered as a leader and member of many local police and charitable organizations including the Police and Fire Holy Name Society, where he currently serves as Treasurer, the Saint Patrick West Park Hunger Center, the American Legion and AmVets, and the Holy Family Cancer Home.

Mr. McHugh has a life-long connection to his Irish heritage. He grew up as one of twelve children on Cleveland's west side. He is extremely active in Cleveland's Irish-American community. For the past twelve years he has served as Treasurer for the Retired Irish Police. Mr. McHugh is also a member of the West Side Irish American Club, serves on the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, and served as the Past President of the Mayo So-

ciety of Greater Cleveland. Above all his civic engagements, Mr. McHugh is a dedicated family man. Together, he and his wife, Marie raised their children, Colleen and Allan. Mr. and Mrs. McHugh remain active in the lives of their children and four grandsons.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Paul McHugh, whose exemplary service on behalf of our community is an inspiration and example for all of us. His dedication to helping others continues to enhance and strengthen our entire community, and we are grateful for his efforts.

IN HONOR OF ANGELO PETITTI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Angelo Petitti upon his recognition as the recipient of the St. Malachi Center's 2010 Sister Michael Marie Griffin Anchor Award, which will be presented to him at the St. Malachi Center's Tenth Annual Soup for the Soul Benefit.

Mr. Petitti emigrated from Faeto, Italy in 1963 when he was just 16 years old. He studied political science at Kent State University and worked as a landscaper. He left Kent State to pursue his true passion: landscape design. He moved to Florida and founded his own landscape business, but eventually moved the business back to Ohio to form Petitti Landscape Company with his brother Dominic.

Working out of a small garage, the Petitti brothers were soon inundated with requests from passersby who saw the shrubs that lined the driveway. Over the past forty years, Mr. Petitti has become one of the most successful garden center owners in Ohio. He can be heard on his weekly radio show, "In the Garden with Angelo," and is regularly seen out in the community, lending his time to help raise funds for numerous local charitable organizations.

Above all, Mr. Petitti is devoted to his family. His wife, Maria, also emigrated from the same town in Italy, and they married in 1975. Together, they raised their son, AJ, and daughters, Andria and Lisa—all of whom are involved in the family business. Mr. Petitti's unwavering integrity and generosity continues to spread throughout our community, where he is highly respected and admired by the community. He is a kind and humble man with a deep sense of charity.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Angelo Petitti, recipient of the 2010 Sister Michael Marie Griffin Anchor Award. Mr. Petitti personifies the American Dream and is an inspiration to us all.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 15, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,575,678,862,901.61.

On January 6, 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 \$1,937,253,116,607.81 so far this Congress. The debt has increased \$1,739,800,627,446.86 since just yesterday.

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

IN HONOR OF OTIS PAUL
DRAYTON, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Otis Paul Drayton Jr., a Veteran and an Olympic champion. Mr. Drayton's life was built upon a foundation of family, friends and community. His kind heart and energetic spirit will be forever remembered by those who loved him.

As a young man, Mr. Drayton moved from New York to Cleveland. He graduated from Cathedral Latin High School and went on to Villanova University where his talent as a runner was apparent. He won several national championships including a 1961 meet with the Soviet Union where Mr. Drayton set a world record for the 4 x 100 relay with a time of 39.1 seconds. In the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo where he won gold and silver medals, Mr. Drayton set the record again with a time of 39.0 seconds.

Though highly accomplished, Mr. Drayton was a kind and humble man. His quick smile and gentle nature easily endeared him to everyone. For many years he served as the Deputy Project Director for the City of Cleveland Division of Recreation and later as a part-time employee of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department. Above all else, Mr. Drayton was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Jeune.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring Otis Paul Drayton. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Jeune, his son, Walter, and his extended family and friends. Mr. Drayton lived his life with great joy, energy, and a generous heart. He will never be forgotten.

HONORING EDD KELLUM HENDEE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 15, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Edd Kellum Hendee,