

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LARRY KISSELL**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 26, 2009*

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 24, 2009, I missed two rollcall votes as I was attending a White House briefing on the Energy bill. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall number 428, and "no" on rollcall number 429.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 26, 2009*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, due to a meeting at the White House, a Financial Services Committee Hearing and other commitments, I was unavoidably absent for certain votes this week. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 453, 454, 457, 458 and 460 and voted "nay" on rollcall votes 427, 455, 456, and 459.

## A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF DON GILKEY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 26, 2009*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of an agricultural icon in California, Mr. Don Gilkey of Corcoran, California. Don passed away on May 24, 2009 at the age of 74. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Moonyeen Gilkey, three children and several grandchildren.

Don Gilkey was born on February 3, 1935 in Corcoran, California to Margaret and Ralph Gilkey. Don graduated in 1952 from Corcoran High School. In 1953 he left for the University of California, Berkeley, where he played football and rugby all four years of college. Don was a lineman and punter for the Cal Berkeley Bears and in 1956 was voted the team captain. He was named First Team All Pacific Coast and Second Team A.P. All-American. In August 1956, during his senior year, Don married the love-of-his life, Moonyeen Apperson, and they spent their first year of marriage in Berkeley while Don finished college. After graduating from Cal, Don spent a short period of time as an officer with the U.S. Army. Upon returning, Don declined several offers to become a professional football player, deciding instead to return home to Corcoran where he would become an integral part of the family farming business.

In 1958, Don became a partner with his brother Charles and brothers-in-law Don Riddle and Ken DeVaney in the family farming operation. Soon thereafter, the family partnership grew to include another brother-in-law, Bill Bondurant. During his farming career, Don farmed cotton, grain, alfalfa and raised turkeys. In 1962, the family farming operation

was such a success they decided to build their own cotton gin and the company went on to successfully bale 30,000 to 60,000 bales per year at their peak.

In 1966, one of Don's many community efforts became a reality when a new football stadium was built. In appreciation of Don's efforts, the following year the community of Corcoran overwhelmingly named Don Gilkey as their "Citizen of the Year". His community involvement was boundless. For many years, Mr. Gilkey served on the board of directors for Lakeland Dusters Aviation and Commercial Tire. He was a three-term board member and president of the Corcoran Unified School District board of trustees, president of the Corcoran Chamber of Commerce, member of the Corcoran Hospital Foundation, a lifelong member and trustee of the Corcoran First United Methodist Church, a long time member of Corcoran's Rotary Club, board member of the California Wheat Commission and the California Wheat Growers Association, past delegate to the National Cotton Council, member of Class V of the California Agricultural Leadership Program and for several years Don served as a board member of the California Ammonia Company. Don was honored as a member of the "65 Club", a select group of farmers chosen for their achievement in agriculture production, farm and community leadership. This special honor was given to him in 1982 in Washington, D.O by then U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John R. Black during the National Agriculture Day ceremonies.

It goes without saying that Mr. Don "Donnie" Gilkey's dedication to his family, the family farm and his community have earned him a legacy of respect and enormous appreciation from Central Valley farmers, the Corcoran community and the agriculture industry. He will forever be remembered as "Don Gilkey, The Big Man with the Big Heart". I am honored and humbled to celebrate the life of this amazing man and agricultural icon.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise today as a cosponsor of this important amendment and urge of all of my colleagues to support it. I thank the Gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for his tireless advocacy on addressing human rights issues, and I would like to recognize Cindy Buhl on his staff and Jamila Thompson in my office for their hard work on this issue.

The McGovern-Sestak-Bishop-Lewis amendment would allow public access to the names of graduates and instructors at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation formerly known as the School of the

Americas. This military institution, based at Ft. Benning in Georgia, is known throughout the region for its questionable teachings and record of its graduates.

This amendment is simply about transparency. By revealing the names of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation attendees, we can shine the light of accountability and truth on an institution that is unnecessarily shrouded in secrecy. We can show our regional neighbors that we seek to be their partners in peace, and not co-conspirators of aggression.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the McGovern-Sestak-Bishop-Lewis amendment. Mr. Chair, with this amendment we can show that the intentions of the United States reflect a more cooperative foreign policy and a renewed commitment to international human rights standards.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALLEN BOYD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 26, 2009*

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend to a vote on May 20, 2009. Had I been present, my vote would have been "yea" on H.R. 2352, Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE LA SAGRADA FAMILIA FESTIVAL

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 26, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of La Sagrada Familia Festival being held this June 26 through 28, 2009 and in remembrance of Reverend David F. Fallon, founding pastor of La Sagrada Familia Parish. This year's celebration is the twenty-fifth annual Latin American Festival and is being held at the Sagrada Familia Parish in Cleveland, Ohio.

The members of the La Sagrada Familia Parish in Cleveland have a long history of dedication to our community and to empowering Cleveland's diverse Latin American community. This year's celebration will feature live music, cultural dances, children's activities and a talent show that highlight the rich culture of the Latin American community. This year's honoree, Reverend David Fallon, became the founding pastor of Sagrada Familia on April 11, 1998 and continued in that role until his death on May 1, 2009. Under his direction, La Sagrada Familia became a source of strength and support for people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds. Father Fallon initiated numerous programs and organized church volunteers to serve the community through social service, employment and education initiatives.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the La Sagrada Familia Festival as they honor the memory of Reverend David F. Fallon at the 25th annual Latin American Festival. I offer my best wishes for a joyous celebration of culture and community.