

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to my attendance at the memorial service in Arizona for the Prescott Fire Department's Granite Mountain Hotshots, I will miss votes today, July 9, 2013.

## HONORING MS. QUIN'NITA COBBINS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Quin'Nita Cobbins who is a dedicated worker making changes to the Holmes County community.

Quin'Nita Cobbins is a native of Mississippi and has completed her primary and secondary education in the Holmes County School District. In 2010, she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in history from Fisk University and completed a master's degree in history at the University of Georgia in 2012.

Ms. Cobbins has served Holmes County by working with the Community Students Learning Center in equipping students with tools needed to expand their worldview, enriching their knowledge on academic subjects, and encouraging college prep. Working with school age children and adults, she used her study abroad experience to construct a class that exposed students to the history, culture, and language found in Spain. Students learned the history of Spain's expansion and colonization in the supposedly "New World" and why we have a growing Spanish-speaking population. In addition, students, both young and old, learned how to form simple conversations in Spanish that will be beneficial to them as the U.S. demographics change. Students not only became new "bilingual" speakers but were able to think more globally.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Quin'Nita Cobbins for her sincere dedication and determination in bringing back knowledge to our community.

## HONORING MR. JULIUS CIACCIA ON BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Mr. Julius Ciaccia, Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, on his election as President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA.

Mr. Ciaccia is an accomplished leader and committed environmental steward who has played a prominent role in the water industry, exemplifying what it means to be a public

servant. He is ideally suited to serve as President of one of the Nation's leading proponents of responsible policies that advance clean water. Mr. Ciaccia has served the people of the Cleveland area for decades, and in this new role, will continue to ensure that the Nation's clean water agencies continue to protect public health and improve the environment.

Mr. Ciaccia began his career in public utilities in 1977 when he was appointed as Assistant Director of the Public Utilities Department for the City of Cleveland. In 1979 he joined the leadership of the City's Division of Water where he served as both Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner until 2004.

During his over 30 years with the City of Cleveland's Division of Water, Mr. Ciaccia oversaw the management of over \$1 billion worth of capital improvement projects and maintained the agency's very favorable financial position. He was appointed Director of the City's Department of Public Utilities in 2004 exercising oversight of the water, sewer collection and public power systems, with a focus on developing comprehensive financial plans and supporting revenue enhancement initiatives.

Mr. Ciaccia began his current role at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) in 2007. At the Regional Sewer District in his current role at the District, he oversees all aspects of managing one of the nation's largest wastewater management utilities. Under his leadership, the District has received two awards from the Commission on Economic Inclusion including a 2009 award for Supplier Diversity which highlights the success of his initiative to craft and implement a supplier inclusion program. In 2012 the NEORS was awarded by the Commission for Senior Management Inclusion, recognizing the diversity of senior staff.

As the District's Executive Director, Mr. Ciaccia was responsible for confirming their consent decree for a long-term control plan to significantly reduce overflows from combined sewers, as well as the successful development and implementation of a new Regional Stormwater Management Program. Among Mr. Ciaccia's many accomplishments as Executive Director of NEORS is the transformation of the District's culture to one of transparency and exceptional financial management.

As a member of NACWA's Board of Directors, Mr. Ciaccia has served as the Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. Mr. Ciaccia has selflessly shared his time, passion, energy and ideas to carry out the objectives of the Clean Water Act.

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate Julius Ciaccia on becoming President of NACWA. I am certain his actions will ensure continued water quality progress for the Cleveland area, the State of Ohio and the Nation.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of June 17, 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following.

Monday, June 17, 2013:

Rollcall No. 245: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 876, "yea."

Rollcall No. 246: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 253, "yea."

Rollcall No. 247: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 862, "yea."

Tuesday, June 18, 2013:

Rollcall No. 248: Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 1947 and 1797, "nay."

Rollcall No. 249: Motion on Agreeing to the Resolution on the Rule for H.R. 1947 and 1797, "nay."

Rollcall No. 250: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1151, "yea."

Rollcall No. 251: Final Passage of H.R. 1797—Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, "nay."

Rollcall No. 252: H.R. 1896—To amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that the United States can comply fully with the obligations of the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, "nay."

Wednesday June 19, 2013:

Rollcall No. 253: Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 1947, "nay."

Rollcall No. 254: Motion on Agreeing to the Resolution on the Rule for H.R. 1947, "nay."

Rollcall No. 255: Motion on Approving the Journal, "yea."

Rollcall No. 256: McGovern of Massachusetts Part B Amendment No. 1, "aye."

Rollcall No. 257: Foxx of North Carolina Part B Amendment No. 3, "no."

Rollcall No. 258: Broun of Georgia Part B Amendment No. 5, "no."

Rollcall No. 259: Blumenauer of Oregon Part B Amendment No. 8, "aye."

Rollcall No. 260: Blumenauer of Oregon Part B Amendment No. 9, "aye."

Rollcall No. 261: Kaptur of Ohio Part B Amendment No. 14, "aye."

Rollcall No. 262: Royce of California Part B Amendment No. 15, "no."

Rollcall No. 263: Chabot of Ohio Part B Amendment No. 16, "no."

Thursday June 20, 2013:

Rollcall No. 264: Brooks of Alabama Part B Amendment No. 18, "no."

Rollcall No. 265: Butterfield of North Carolina Part B Amendment No. 25, "aye."

Rollcall No. 266: Marino of Pennsylvania Part B Amendment No. 26, "no."

Rollcall No. 267: Schweikert of Arizona Part B Amendment No. 30, "no."

Rollcall No. 268: Tierney of Massachusetts Part B Amendment No. 32, "aye."

Rollcall No. 269: Polis of Colorado Part B Amendment No. 37, "aye."

Rollcall No. 270: Garamendi of California Part B Amendment No. 38, "aye."

Rollcall No. 271: Marino of Pennsylvania Part B Amendment No. 41, "no."

Rollcall No. 272: McClintock of California Part B Amendment No. 43, "no."

Rollcall No. 273: Gibson of New York Part B Amendment No. 44, "aye."

Rollcall No. 274: Walorski of Indiana Part B Amendment No. 45, "no."

Rollcall No. 275: Courtney of Connecticut Part B Amendment No. 46, "aye."

Rollcall No. 276: Kind of Wisconsin Part B Amendment No. 47, "no."

Rollcall No. 277: Carney of Delaware Part B Amendment No. 48, "aye."

Rollcall No. 278: Goodlatte of Virginia Part B Amendment No. 99, "no."

Rollcall No. 279: Radel of Florida Part B Amendment No. 49, "no."

Rollcall No. 280: Walberg of Michigan Part B Amendment No. 50, "no."

Rollcall No. 281: Pitts of Pennsylvania Part B Amendment No. 98, "aye."

Rollcall No. 282: Fortenberry of Nebraska Part B Amendment No. 100, "aye."

Rollcall No. 283: Huelskamp of Kansas Part B Amendment No. 101, "no."

Rollcall No. 284: Southerland of Florida Part B Amendment No. 102, "no."

Rollcall No. 285: Motion to Recommit with Instructions for H.R. 1947, "aye."

Rollcall No. 286: Final Passage of H.R. 1947—Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act, "no."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed Roll Nos. 305, 306 and 307. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Roll Nos. 305 and 306, and I would have voted "yea" on Roll No. 307.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF STEVEN PEZENIK

### HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Steven Pezenik, who passed away at age 57 on May 26, 2013 after a long battle with cancer.

Steven Pezenik began his distinguished career as a Consumer Service Specialist with the New York State Public Service Commission, where he served with distinction for 14 years. He then joined United Way New York City/AFL-CIO as a Constituent Liaison, before moving on to the United Food and Commercial Workers/Retail Wholesale Department Store Union. There, he proudly served the working men and women of Local 338 as Director of Special Projects, coordinating the local's public relations, and writing in and editing a quarterly newspaper. In his most recent position as Deputy Director of Constituent Services for New York State Senator Jose Peralta, Steve acted as a liaison between government agencies to help secure services for constituents.

Mr. Speaker, Steven Pezenik was a tireless public servant and advocate for the underserved and most in need. He helped raise over \$11 million for The United Way and organized AFL-CIO toy, blood, and food drives, including a large-scale effort after September 11, 2001. With work that spanned almost three decades, he exemplified the meaning of public service. As a board member of the Queens Jewish Community Council, Steve always put first those most in need. Steve's commitment to working families functioned as

the foundation for his activism and commitment to social justice.

The legacy he leaves behind reflects the love he had for his community. Yet, nothing was more important to Steve than his love for his family, his wife Lisa and daughter Sasha.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in honoring Steven Pezenik for his service to the people of Queens County, New York City and New York State.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

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 \$16,738,249,094,798.80. We've added \$6,111,372,045,885.72 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO NATHANIEL WILLIAMS

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a jovial and ambitious man, Mr. Nathaniel Williams. Nathaniel has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Nathaniel, a native of Vicksburg, Mississippi was born March 1, 1960 to Charles Williams and Martha M. Nash Williams. He graduated from the Vicksburg Warren School District and later attended Hinds Community College and Jackson State University.

Currently, Nathaniel is a Tax Field Representative for the Mississippi Department of Employment Security where he has worked for several years.

Nathaniel is the President and Founder of the Mighty Train of Gospel Community Choir. Currently, he serves on the board for Make a Promise Coalition of Vicksburg, President of the Vicksburg Junior High PTO, Youth Choir Director for both Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and Mercy Seat Baptist Church, member of the Riverfest Board of Directors, mentor and sponsor for the United Way of West Central MS (TEEN HELP) and volunteer at the YMCA. He has served on several other boards as president and member.

Nathaniel is also the recipient of several awards such as the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. 2010 Community Service Award, The Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence 2008 Award and the Vicksburg Family Development 2007 Male Image Award to name a few.

Nathaniel is married to Esther Bell Williams and to that union they have five children: Nathaniel, Derrick, Roderick, Sederick and Jessica Reese.

Nathaniel lives by the motto: "Whatever you do for the Master, do all you can while you can, but let it be real." He is a faithful member of Ebenezer Baptist Church where he is the Vice President of the choir.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Nathaniel Williams for his unwavering dedication to serving others.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on July 8, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 305, "yea" on rollcall vote 306, and "yea" on rollcall vote 307.

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OMAHA STAR

### HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Omaha Star on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary.

The Omaha Star was founded by the late Mildred D. Brown on July 9th, 1938. Brown was believed to be the first female, certainly the first African-American woman, to have founded a newspaper. Later the paper was placed in the hands of Brown's niece, Dr. Marguerita Washington, who now heads the newspaper.

Since 1938, the policy The Omaha Star has been to print only positive news and to be a vigilant champion for African-American progress. The circulation of The Omaha Star is 30,000 and its archives are a miniature history of Omaha's black community. Its work for equal rights for all Americans are legendary.

Two significant accomplishments of The Omaha Star are leading the charge to open public accommodations to African-Americans and working with the public school system of Omaha to ensure that black teachers have equal participation. Over the years, The Omaha Star has received many awards and was inducted into the Chamber of Commerce Business Hall of Fame on July 9th, 1996.

Currently, The Omaha Star concentrates of news coverage that is relevant to the particular market that they have continued to serve proudly for decades. It has been Nebraska's largest African-American newspaper and the Omaha's most effective publican highlighting ways to improve the lives of African-Americans. The Omaha Star has stood the test of time and continues to provide relevant information, education and positive motivation to Omaha's citizens.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating The Omaha Star on their 75th Anniversary. I know that Omahans join me in hoping The Omaha Star continues providing positive information to the African-American community for many years to come.