

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 381, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

MD ANDERSON CANCER HOSPITAL
HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am always pleased to see my fellow Texans succeed. Today, I want to take a moment to recognize yet another accomplishment by the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Hospital. MD Anderson has been ranked as the top cancer treatment center by the latest US News & World Report's "Best Hospitals" study. Of course this should not come as a surprise considering that the hospital has been ranked number one by the study for the last six years in a row.

The accomplishments of MD Anderson do not stop there. In several subspecialties, the hospital has been ranked highly. In particular, the Ears, Nose, and Throat subspecialty is ranked third. MD Anderson Hospital succeeds because of the dedicated people that labor tirelessly every day with one shared purpose: fighting cancer. Under the direction and leadership of President Ronald DePinho, 20,000 employees and 1,100 volunteers help countless individuals through their expertise, research and simple compassion.

MD Anderson has had a huge impact on many children and gave them the hope of life despite adversity. For Joey Nichols, he received a diagnosis of lymphocytic leukemia at the young age of three. He couldn't understand what that meant or why he felt ill. Today, Joey acknowledges that he has no clear memories during his time at MD Anderson, but he sees it as a defining moment in his life. MD Anderson saved his life, and because of its work, Joey has aspirations to become a pediatric oncologist and to work at MD Anderson one day.

MD Anderson's dedication to fighting children's cancer should be acknowledged and celebrated. In a separate survey, the MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital was ranked 21st in the nation. MD Anderson's services go beyond the well-being of the patient. The children's hospital provides support groups, activities, and camps for families of children with cancer. In a difficult time for a family, there is some comfort in knowing that we have such knowledgeable and compassionate people to fight cancer alongside them.

Mr. Speaker, these remarks only scratch the surface of the accomplishments achieved by the MD Anderson Cancer Hospital. I am confident that the hospital will continue to exceed expectations and to remain as one of the top cancer centers in the United States. I am proud to see such a prestigious hospital in the great State of Texas—and the great City of Houston.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 23, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall vote No. 389. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CELEBRATING THE 24TH ANNUAL
BRONX DOMINICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to twenty-fourth annual Bronx Dominican Day Parade, La Gran Parada Dominicana del Bronx, which will take place on Sunday, July 28, 2013. This celebration of heritage and culture is one that is eagerly anticipated by the Dominican and Bronx communities each year.

Under the leadership of Felipe Febles and Rosa Ayala, the Bronx Dominican Day Parade has grown exponentially in size, scale, and significance over the years. It has morphed into the extraordinary cultural celebration that it is today. For years the United States has largely recognized the Dominican-American community for its success on the baseball diamond, however, there are thousands of Dominican professionals and students that serve as community leaders in the fields of government, law, media, science, and technology.

As the second largest Latino community in New York City, Dominicans have made invaluable contributions to the city, as well as to the entire nation. Although the highest concentration of Dominican New Yorkers live in Northern Manhattan, a significant, and growing, number have enriched The Bronx with their unique culture, spirit, and drive to live the American Dream. I am grateful that so many have chosen to make The Bronx their home.

The Bronx Dominican Day Parade is a unique event that celebrates the diversity of New York City, the distinct heritage of one of its most important communities, and the strong sense of unity that can be found in celebrating our different cultures. As a New Yorker, I am very pleased to see this event grow every year, and extremely proud to march alongside everyone celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of Dominican men and women in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to marching in the twenty-fourth annual Bronx Dominican Day Parade, and I am confident that this event will exist as a cultural landmark celebration for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
SGT. JUSTIN R. ROGERS

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sgt. Justin R. Rogers, a brave soldier and devoted family man who served our country for the past five years in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sgt. Rogers was only 25 years old when he passed away in Bagram, Afghanistan on June 28, 2013. He leaves behind his wife, Stefanie, daughter, Nateli, and his mother and stepfather, Teresa and Stan Vicki, who reside in Sgt. Rogers' hometown of Barton, New York.

Sgt. Justin Rogers enlisted in the Army in 2008 following his graduation at Tioga Central High School. While attending Tioga Central, Rogers was a standout athlete and leader, captaining both the football and wrestling teams. He utilized these leadership skills in his career as a soldier, earning multiple awards during his service including, two Army Achievement Medals and an Army Good Conduct Medal.

Sgt. Rogers was devoted to his country and planned on making the Army a career. A few weeks before his death, he had reenlisted to serve another three years as a horizontal construction engineer with the 101st Airborne Division based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Today we remember the commitment and dedication of Sgt. Justin Rogers. He selflessly served his country to protect our freedom and it is imperative that we honor his sacrifice.

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A TRIBUTE TO CIVILIANS WHO
HAVE SERVED IN DIFFICULT RE-
GIONS AROUND THE WORLD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to personally thank and honor the civilians who faithfully serve in war zones and high threat security environments alongside our military in so doing further our national security and peacefully advance American interests.

I am especially grateful to those civilians who served side-by-side with members of our armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

These civilians, as well as contractors and former military who return as civilians work for and with the U.S. military and varied U.S. government agencies, deploy into conflict zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan and into high threat security posts.

Dr. Peter R. Mansoor, the Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair in Military History and the