

Mr. Speaker and Members, I know that we often recognize Americans who have left their mark upon their communities and it is appropriate to do so. It is also appropriate to recognize that some persons provide decades of exemplary service to this nation not merely because they are paid to do their job but because they are in love with their work and receive payment many times over by watching the fruits of their efforts flower for future generations. Larry Buckmaster loves his job and has now chosen to retire. I find it hard to believe that we are going to let him leave. Let us honor a wonderful American, a great father and husband, and a civic treasure. Larry Buckmaster will be remembered for the lives that he improved, the leaders he inspired and the smiles that he brought to our faces. Let's wish him well on the golf course. He deserves a second hole in one.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes during this week:

On rollcall vote No. 419, On agreeing to the Gallego Amendment to H.R. 2610, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 420, On agreeing to the Young Amendment H.R. 2610, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 421, On the Grayson Amendment to H.R. 2610, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 422, On the McClintock Amendment to H.R. 2610, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 423, On the Hastings of Florida Amendment to H.R. 2610, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 424, On the Second Hastings of Florida Amendment to H.R. 2610, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 425, On the Third Hastings of Florida Amendment to H.R. 2610, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 426, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1911, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 427, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 850, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 428, On the Waxman Amendment to H.R. 1582, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 429, On the Connolly Amendment to H.R. 1582, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 430, On the Murphy of Pennsylvania Amendment to H.R. 1582, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 431, On the Motion to Recommit to H.R. 1582, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 432, On Passage of H.R. 1582, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 433, On Ordering the Previous Question to H. Res. 322, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 434, On Agreeing to H. Res. 322, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 435, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1897, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 436, On Passage of H.R. 2879, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 437, On the Scalise Amendment to H.R. 367, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 438, On the Smith of Missouri Amendment to H.R. 367, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 439, On the Latham Amendment to H.R. 367, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 440, On the Nadler Amendment to H.R. 367, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 441, On the Johnson of Georgia Amendment to H.R. 367, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 442, On the Jackson-Lee Amendment to H.R. 367, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 443, On the Moore Amendment to H.R. 367, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 444, On the Motion to Recommit H.R. 367, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 445, On Passage of H.R. 367, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 446, On Passage of H.R. 2009, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 431 I was unavoidably detained in a meeting at the White House with the President. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to attending the funeral of Colonel George E. "Bud" Day, I missed the following rollcall Votes: No. 428–447 on August 1, 2013 and August 2, 2013.

If present, I would have voted:

Rollcall Vote No. 428—Waxman of California Amendment to H.R. 1582, "nay".

Rollcall Vote No. 429—Connolly of Virginia Amendment to H.R. 1582, "nay".

Rollcall Vote No. 430—Murphy of Pennsylvania Amendment to H.R. 1582, "aye".

Rollcall Vote No. 431—H.R. 1582, Motion to Recommit, "nay".

Rollcall Vote No. 432—H.R. 1582, Energy Consumers Relief Act, "aye".

Rollcall Vote No. 433—H. Res. 322, On Ordering the Previous Question, "aye".

Rollcall Vote No. 434—H. Res. 322, Resolution Providing for the Consideration of H.R. 367, H.R. 2009, and H.R. 2879, "aye".

Rollcall Vote No. 435—H.R. 1897—Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013, as amended, "aye".

Rollcall Vote No. 436—H.R. 2879, Stop Government Abuse Act, "aye".

Rollcall Vote No. 437—Scalise of Louisiana Amendment to H.R. 367, "aye".

Rollcall Vote No. 438—Smith of Missouri Amendment to H.R. 367, "aye".

Rollcall Vote No. 439—Latham of Iowa Amendment to H.R. 367, "aye".

Rollcall Vote No. 440—Nadler of New York Amendment to H.R. 367, "nay".

Rollcall Vote No. 441—Johnson of Georgia Amendment to H.R. 367, "nay".

Rollcall Vote No. 442—Jackson Lee of Texas Amendment to H.R. 367, "nay".

Rollcall Vote No. 443—Moore of Wisconsin Amendment to H.R. 367, "nay".

Rollcall Vote No. 444—H.R. 367, Motion to Recommit, "nay".

Rollcall Vote No. 445—H.R. 367, Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2013, "aye".

Rollcall Vote No. 446—H.R. 2009, Motion to Recommit, "nay".

Rollcall Vote No. 447—H.R. 2009, Keep the IRS Off Your Health Care Act of 2013, "aye".

ENHANCING THE U.S.-INDIA TRADE PARTNERSHIP

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, India has been our strategic partner for years and we should continue to strengthen this relationship. One way to do so is by enhancing our trade partnership. U.S.-India bilateral trade is nearly \$100 billion—up from barely \$15 billion in 2000, but we can do better. Unfortunately, India's recent trend towards raising trade barriers has hampered this relationship, and both American firms and American workers have been on the losing end of these policies.

These discriminatory policies jeopardize manufacturing and other jobs back at home in Pennsylvania. For example, India's system of cascading tariffs, taxes, and other import charges is often cost-prohibitive. The pronounced disparity between bound rates (rates that generally cannot be exceeded under WTO rules) and applied rates (the actual rates charged) means that India's average applied rate is among the highest in the world. Furthermore, India's trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.2 percent versus the U.S. rate of 1.6 percent, burdening U.S. manufacturers and making U.S. exports cost-prohibitive for Indian consumers. Lastly, India's tariff schedule is hard to find in one public place and this lack of transparency and accessibility is also burdensome.

By resolving these issues and seeking greater market-based reforms, we can strengthen the U.S.-India trade relationship and unleash the economic energy that will create prosperity for both the U.S. and India. This is a future worth striving towards.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to family commitment, I was unable to vote on H.R. 1897. Had I been present I would have voted "aye".

Due to this commitment, I was unable to vote on H.R. 2879. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

Had I been present for votes on H.R. 367, I would have voted "no" on Amendment 1, "no" on Amendment 3, "no" on Amendment 4, "aye" on Amendment 6, "aye" on Amendment 7, "aye" on Amendment 8, "aye" on Amendment 12, "aye" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 367, and "no" on H.R. 367.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2009 and "no" on H.R. 2009.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on August 1 and 2, I was absent for personal reasons and missed roll Nos. 428 through 447. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll Nos. 428, 429, 431, 435, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, and 446. I would have voted "nay" on roll Nos. 430, 432, 433, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 445, and 447.

IN RECOGNITION OF OLIVE G. MAYER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the late Olive G. Mayer, a dear friend and a pioneer in the environmental community of California. She was one of the passionate driving forces in protecting open spaces in San Mateo County.

Sadly, Ollie missed the completion of one of her biggest achievements. She passed away five days before the opening ceremony of the Devil's Slide Tunnel on the San Mateo coast, a project she and her fellow tunnelistas had been advocating for decades. The engineering marvel that most people said couldn't be done is now reality thanks in huge part to Ollie's passion and persistence.

An engineer by training and Sierra Club member, she got her hands on the original construction plans for the massive seven mile long, six-lane wide highway bypass that Caltrans had proposed to build across Montara Mountain—plans Caltrans never released to the public. Ollie shared them with other environmentalists who formed a grass-roots movement determined to stop the bypass and urban sprawl along the scenic coastal hills.

The idea for a tunnel was born in the early 70s when a USGS geologist responded to a

Montara resident inquiring about solutions for Devil's Slide. He outlined several options, including boring a tunnel. Ollie presented the idea to Caltrans engineers in 1973, but they dismissed it. The tunnel idea continued its lengthy legal and rocky path. In 1995, Devil's Slide lived up to its name and slid down five feet. The road stayed closed for five months making life miserable for coastal residents and forcing local businesses to close.

The tunnelistas jumped into high gear, collected 34,000 signatures and put the issue on the county ballot. San Mateo County was blanketed in yellow and black "Think Tunnel" bumper stickers. In 1996, Measure T passed with 74% of the vote. Seventeen years and countless hurdles later, the tunnel is finally reality. David beat Goliath. Ollie's good friend and tunnelista Zoe Kersteen-Tucker put it perfectly at the opening ceremony: "It took an uprising of the people to think tunnel, vote tunnel, build tunnel and today, at last, to open tunnel."

Devil's Slide was but one of many battles Ollie took on. She was a lifelong activist, visionary and intellectual. Born Olive Graham Hendricks in New Jersey in 1918, she was the only woman in her class at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania to earn her BS in engineer. She later received her Master's degree from the University of Michigan. Ollie was an ardent fighter for equal treatment of women and freedom of speech. During the McCarthy era, she provided support for victims of blacklisting and was under surveillance and investigated by the FBI. She was among the early peace activists opposing the war in Vietnam. She fought for racial and civil equality in the 50s and 60s. In short, she was fearless and determined to make the world a better place for everyone to enjoy.

Ollie loved the outdoors and science. She met her late husband, Dr. Henry Mayer, while hiking in Colorado. They married in 1941 and after World War II moved to Woodside, California. Ollie opened a machine shop in San Carlos and founded a business that made and distributed model science projects, such as dams and power plants, for middle and high school students.

Ollie was a tireless supporter of the Peninsula Open Space Trust and played a significant role in keeping areas on the Peninsula undeveloped and accessible to the public. She was the president of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club and was honored with the John Muir Award for her lifetime work for conservation. She was also named a "Legend" by the Club, and she was appointed to the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame, among a long list of other awards.

Ollie is survived by her daughter Judith O'Brien; son Robert Mayer; and four grandchildren: Connor and Lauren O'Brien and Reid and Drew Mayer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor one of the most extraordinary and giving environmentalists and human beings—a woman who found her true north.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN BETO O'ROURKE INTRODUCING THE HEALTHY TRANSITIONS FOR VETERANS ACT

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce bipartisan legislation that will assist servicemembers as they transition back to civilian life. We have a fundamental responsibility to provide for the needs of our veterans who have sacrificed their comfort and safety for ours. The Healthy Transitions for Veterans Act will help us meet that responsibility by requiring the Department of Defense (DoD) to perform two simple and common sense tasks:

1. Provide a comprehensive physical examination to all servicemembers of the active, guard, and reserve components when they separate from military service.

2. Provide separating servicemembers with an electronic copy of their complete medical records.

Currently, servicemembers in the Guard and Reserve are not required to have physical examinations when separating from military service. This can result in a lack of documentation of service-connected injuries and medical conditions and is one of the reasons that former Guard and Reserve members who file disability claims with the VA are 4 times more likely to get an unfavorable decision than their active duty counterpart.

Providing all servicemembers the ability to take ownership of their complete health record will also ensure a smoother transition into the VA health care system as DoD and VA struggle to make their systems interoperable. For veterans who may apply for VA benefits, having their full medical record from the military will make the application process more efficient. VA employees would not have to track down evidence or engage in time consuming correspondence with the applicant to locate medical records from the DoD. This is good not just for the individual veteran, but for the entire VA system that continues to struggle to reduce the claims backlog.

I have the honor of representing Fort Bliss and the 33,000 active duty soldiers stationed there. I also represent nearly 80,000 veterans. All of these individuals, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America" for an amount of "up to and including my life." Our responsibility to these men and women does not end when we bring them home from war. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation and help guarantee our servicemembers make a healthy transition back to civilian life.

CONCERNING JOHN R. PARKER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John R. Parker on his retirement and honor his thirteen years of service as Chairman of the Jones County, Mississippi Republican Party.