

while leading his troop as Senior Patrol Leader. Michael has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Michael renovated the landscaping around the lower level entrance of Gashland Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, by installing stone pavers and a bench and by planting an evergreen tree along with a yellow rose bush.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael David Neeley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 1961, 484—"nay"; 354, 485—"yes."

CONGRATULATING ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, today I have the distinct privilege of recognizing and celebrating Actors Theatre of Louisville on its 50th anniversary season. As the state theater of Kentucky and a force of tremendous influence on the national stage, Actors Theatre has long been a source of pride and distinction for the people of our community and the Commonwealth.

Since its formation in 1963, Actors Theatre has transformed from a scrappy collective headquartered in a tiny downtown loft to one of the nation's premier artistic institutions and a staple of the city's downtown revitalization. Its world-class collection of theatre artists and administrators have introduced more than 400 new, original plays into the American theater canon, and they continue to defy even the highest expectations.

Actors Theatre also hosts one of the most exciting, innovative, and inspiring festivals in America. The Humana Festival of New American Plays is one of the precious few institutions in American arts where new work can meet its full expression, and where creativity is rewarded with the appreciation of our great city.

Whether it is debuting Pulitzer Prize-winning plays or 10-minute shorts, Actors Theatre remains a preeminent player in American drama and an unparalleled cultural asset for our community.

On behalf of the Third Congressional District, I wish Actors Theatre continued success and look forward to another 50 years of inspiring performances.

CONGRATULATING UNITED FINANCE COMPANY ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY AND RICHARD PARKER III ON HIS 40 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE COMPANY

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the backbone of American communities are small, successful, family-owned enterprises. In Portland this month we are honoring the 90th anniversary of Parker family's United Finance Company and the 40th anniversary of Richard H. Parker's involvement with the family business.

The Parker family and their business have been an anchor in Portland's eastside for almost a century. It has been my pleasure to work with Rick Parker, Jr., for virtually his entire time with the company, which coincides with my time serving in public office.

His family and employees have been part of the revitalization of Portland's central-eastside district. He was one of the key members of the central-eastside industrial council which helped form a private-public partnership with the city to protect and enhance this vital sector of our local economy.

Most recently, it was my honor to work with him as a leader with Portland's streetcar renaissance and the successful project that brought it to the eastside of the Willamette River. Whether it's dealing with issues of public policy, public investment, or civic and charitable promotion, he and his family have played a vital role in Portland's vibrancy and the renaissance of Portland's near eastside.

I extend my congratulations to him, the family business United Finance Company, and am secure in the knowledge that his son, Richard Parker III, is continuing the tradition of family stewardship and community involvement.

Congratulations and we all look forward to celebrating the centennial in October 2023.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF A HUSBAND, A FATHER, A SAILOR, AND A FRIEND: MARTY BODROG

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the hearts of every American felt pain when we heard that a deranged man killed twelve innocent Americans at the Washington Navy Yard on September 16, 2013. My family and I were crushed when we learned that we knew one of the victims of this senseless crime, Marty Bodrog.

We lived in the same neighborhood as the Bodrog family in Annandale, Virginia. It was a neighborhood where the neighbors truly cared about each other. During weekdays, the kids would go to school while the parents went to work. The weekends were unique as there was always an event or gathering of neighbors. My family would see Marty regularly, whether he was walking his dog or hanging out with his family at the pool on a summer day. He was part of the fabric that made our neighborhood such a special place. We miss him.

Marty Bodrog's life was a life focused on others and service. A 1981 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Marty spent twenty-two years on active duty, rising to the rank of Commander. He was a surface warfare officer, known as a "ship driver" in the Navy. After retiring from active duty, Marty spent the rest of his professional career making sure that American Naval vessels were the best our world has ever seen.

Marty also served the family he loved. He was married to the love of his life, Melanie, for twenty-five years. They were blessed with three incredible daughters: Isabel, Sophie, and Rita. No father as ever been more devoted to his family than Marty was.

But, Marty's most important service was his service to the Lord. He created a regular Bible study in our neighborhood and was a religious education teacher in his church, Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield.

A wise man once told me that the greatest gift one human being can give another is the gift of a smile, or a laugh, or an extra heartbeat of excitement. Marty spent a lifetime giving others those gifts.

In closing, I'd like to say to my fellow Sailor and friend, "Bravo Zulu on a life lived well. May you enjoy fair winds and following seas in your new, eternal life. We'll see you again, soon."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed rollcall votes 484 and 485. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: rollcall No. 484—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1961—"yes." rollcall No. 485—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree H.Res. 354—"yes."

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARIA LUISA VERA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments, service, and contributions of Sister Maria Luisa Vera, as a community leader of Laredo, Texas.

Sister Maria Luisa Vera was born on October 7, 1941 in Brownsville, Texas and is a third generation Mexican-American. For over 20 years she resided in Laredo, Texas and has contributed to the community through ministry in health care.

Although she was educated in a public school system, she received religious instruction from her mother and the parish catechist. After graduating from Brownsville High School in 1960 she decided to continue her education by enrolling in Canales School of Vocational Nursing in Brownsville, Texas and became a Licensed Vocational Nurse in 1961. Within the next two years she joined the Sisters of Mercy and applied for membership in 1963.

By 1970, Sister Maria Luisa Vera received her bachelor's in registered nursing and