

The most recent trip was to the Jersey Shore to assist in the clean-up from Superstorm Sandy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Episcopal Church of St. James in celebrating its 125th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING DAVE BORCKY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dave Borcky for his efforts in support of the newly renovated City of McFarland's Veterans Community Center.

A native of McFarland, California, Dave served our country as a member of the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. Since his return, he has worked tirelessly in the community to ensure veterans receive the recognition they deserve. Dave is an active member of the Lions Club and coaches 27 students from McFarland High School in the aptly named the LEOS Club. Dave and his fellow Lions organize local food drives, back-to-school drives and many other activities that improve the lives of the McFarland residents.

In December 2011, Dave was named Grand Marshall for the McFarland Christmas Parade. Mr. Borcky is also an active member of his American Legion Post, Boys and Girls State activities.

Without a doubt, Dave has been a key player in McFarland's community for a number of years. It is with great pride that I recognize Mr. Dave Borcky for his service and leadership and congratulate him on his efforts to memorialize American heroes through the McFarland Veterans Community Center.

RECOGNIZING DENIS O'SULLIVAN AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Denis O'Sullivan as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Denis lives every day with enthusiasm and appreciation for all of life's offerings. His story is reflective of the American dream, working hard to create fruitful lives for himself and his family.

Denis was born on December 2, 1933, in New York City at Lennox Hill Hospital. His intelligence and entrepreneurial spirit led him to be the owner and founder of a lucrative business, O'Sullivan Menu Publishing. The company started out small with less than 10 employees and eventually grew to a staff of over 200 individuals who were based out of the United States and Great Britain. O'Sullivan Menu Publishing provided menus to airlines, cruise lines, and various restaurant chains. Denis' company had a groundbreaking impact on the airline industry by providing the first comprehensive service for the creation and production of printed menus.

Since Denis' retirement in 2008, he has volunteered much of his time to local charities.

He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey, and maintains special interest in their Alzheimer's disease support facility. In addition, Denis is a longstanding supporter of the fundraising activities at St. Clare's Hospital in Denville, NJ.

Denis stays busy in his philanthropic endeavors, but he cherishes his time with family the most. He is a devoted husband to his wife of 33 years, Elizabeth; a caring father to his children; Roberta, Eric, Kerin, Cathlyn, Christopher, and Patricia; and a loving grandfather to his nine grandchildren. On a personal note, Denis has been a great supporter and true friend to me—his brother-in-law. Denis and Elizabeth appreciate every day of their lives whether it is by spending time with family, traveling around the world, or simply enjoying each other's company.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Denis O'Sullivan's 80th birthday. We acknowledge Denis during this milestone and for all that he has achieved.

RECOGNIZING THE PACE HIGH SCHOOL "PRIDE OF THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE" MARCHING BAND AS THE 2013 CLASS 5A FLORIDA MARCHING BAND GRAND CHAMPIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pace High School "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" Marching Band as the 2013 Class 5A Florida Marching Band Grand Champions.

For more than 40 years, the Pace High School Band has regaled crowds at Pace High sporting events, played at parades and events in Northwest Florida and represented the school at competitions on the local, state, and national levels. Today, more than 200 students make up Pace's band program, which includes three concert ensembles, a marching band, a jazz ensemble, chamber ensembles, an indoor percussion ensemble, and a winterguard program. This diverse and versatile repertoire highlights the hard work and dedication of the students and faculty of the Pace High Band and is the one of the keys to their success.

The 2013 Florida Marching Band Championships, held on November 23 at Tropicana Field in Saint Petersburg, FL, played host to more than 80 talented bands from across the state of Florida. The Pace High School "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" Marching Band began their preparations for this prestigious event more than six months ago and worked tirelessly to perfect their show, entitled "Once Upon Another Time," which featured pieces celebrating different eras in American history with sections on the industrial revolution, the civil rights era and the space race.

The assiduous work of the "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" paid off during the Class 5A semi-finals, where the band was awarded the highest scores in the Visual, General Effect, and Music categories and the highest overall score of any of the 80 bands

competing in the various class semi-finals. The "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" then followed their success in the semi-final round with another near-flawless performance in the finals, where they scored 92.38 out of 100 to take home the Class 5A championship.

Pace High's success at the 2013 Florida Marching Band Championships is a testament to the commitment and dedication of all the members of the band, and it is a great reflection on the entire Pace High and Northwest Florida community. On behalf of the United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I congratulate the "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" on their state championship and wish them all the best as they continue to proudly represent our area.

INNOVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3309) to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Innovation Act (H.R. 3309). While this legislation is not perfect, it represents an important step in our efforts to prevent patent assertion entities (PAE), commonly referred to as patent trolls, from extracting unfair and exorbitant settlements from innocent businesses through the threat of frivolous and expensive patent litigation.

This legislation ensures that when alleging infringement in a lawsuit, a party must at least identify what patents and claims are being infringed upon, and provide specificity as to how they are being infringed. This will provide more clarity and integrity to patent infringement claims, shining a light on the disingenuous claims from patent trolls.

Additionally, this legislation will help to protect the small businesses that have been accused of patent infringement for purchasing ubiquitous products and who are clearly not involved in the alleged infringement in a patent lawsuit. H.R. 3309 will allow for the action against the downstream customers to be stayed as the manufacturer of the product litigates the lawsuit. This is done so those with the knowledge of the production process, and not the innocent consumer, can argue the case—and it is only allowed if the customer agrees to be bound by the final judgment of the court.

I do, however, continue to have reservations with several provisions in this bill. Primarily, I oppose the provision that allows in some cases for the shifting of court and legal fees from the prevailing parties. I believe this provision has the potential to discourage legitimate patent infringement lawsuits by inventors and owners of intellectual property that may not be deep pocketed. I am also worried about the precedent that this reform could set with respect to protecting access to the courts for all Americans. I voted for the substitute amendment proposed by Ranking Member CONYERS