

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of December 2nd 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following.

Monday December 2, 2013: rollcall No. 612: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3547, "yea"; rollcall No. 613: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3588, "yea"; rollcall No. 614: On Approving the Journal, "aye."

Tuesday December 3, 2013: rollcall No. 615: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 255, "yea"; rollcall No. 616: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 2719, "yea"; rollcall No. 617: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 1204, "yea."

Wednesday December 4, 2013: rollcall No. 618: On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 429, "nay"; rollcall No. 619: On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 429, "nay"; rollcall No. 620: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 1105, "yea"; rollcall No. 621: On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 1105, "aye"; rollcall No. 622: On Passage, H.R. 1105, "aye."

Thursday December 5, 2013: rollcall No. 623: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "aye"; rollcall No. 624: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "aye"; rollcall No. 625: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "No"; rollcall No. 626: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "aye"; rollcall No. 627: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "aye"; rollcall No. 628: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "No"; rollcall No. 629: On Passage, H.R. 3309, "aye."

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRAVINGS BAKERY

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cravings Bakery of Allenhurst, New Jersey on its 25th Anniversary. Cravings Bakery continues to provide quality products and outstanding customer service to the local community.

Wanting to share her passion for cookies with others, Jan Walker opened Cravings Bakery in the fall of 1988. She met her husband, Stu Kramer, while working at the bakery through his aunt, a customer. Less than a year later they were married, and they've been working in the bakery together ever since.

The bakery offers a variety of homemade baked goods, including cookies, muffins, scones, danish, brownies, cakes and pies. It also offers coffee, cappuccino and lattes, which are enjoyed by a group of regular customers known as the "Coffee Clatch."

Its exceptional desserts and service make Cravings Bakery a premier establishment for

the Allenhurst and surrounding communities to enjoy. For 10 years in a row, Cravings Bakery was voted "Best Desserts" in Monmouth and Ocean Counties by the readers of the Asbury Park Press.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Cravings Bakery on its 25th Anniversary. Jan and Stu's hard work and commitment to quality are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

## REFORMING OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

**HON. RUSH HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the time to reform our broken immigration system is long overdue. Our system does not meet the needs of families or businesses. I have met with people throughout our district to understand what our uneven, unfair, and unjust immigration system costs our businesses, our families, and our society at large—a cost to our national ideals, as well as a cost in dollars and cents. I have joined the group of dedicated activists who have for nearly a month been fasting on the National Mall, in the shadows of the Capitol, to call attention to the plight of the 11 million individuals who are Americans but for a piece of paper. The time is now to bring them out of the shadows.

My colleagues may have noticed, as have various advocacy groups, that I have not signed on as cosponsor of H.R. 15, the legislation that has recently taken shape as the leading immigration reform bill. The fact of the matter is that we can, and we should, do better. I do support strongly the legislation authored by my friend and colleague from Arizona, Representative RAÚL GRIJALVA. It is a strong, progressive approach to reforming our broken system.

In fact, the Grijalva bill is superior to H.R. 15. It targets and prioritizes border enforcement in an intelligent way to where and how it is needed most—to protect us from serious criminals and terrorist threats. It improves conditions for immigrant detainees and protects family unity by prohibiting separation of families with children. It protects workers' rights and keeps immigration enforcement in the hands of the appropriate authorities—the federal government, not local police.

Whatever legislative vehicle immigration reform takes, it must contain a legal, controlled pathway to citizenship for the undocumented immigrants who keep our economy moving and to repair a tear in our social fabric. It must promote family reunification by reducing two decade-long family backlogs and reuniting spouses, parents, and children to together pursue the American Dream. It must build on the success of President Obama's Deferred Action program and incorporate DREAMers—those who were brought to the U.S. at a young age through no wrongdoing of their own—into the mainstream of American society so they can continue to make beneficial contributions not only to our economy, but to our diverse society. It must satisfy the needs of American employers. And it must ensure

smart, targeted, and reasonable immigration enforcement that protects American society from serious criminals and real threats.

H.R. 15 is not the bill I would have written—nor do I believe it is the bill that will ultimately become law—do not want to appear to be delaying reform. I call upon Speaker BOEHNER and the Republican leadership to immediately bring to the floor for our consideration legislation to reform our immigration laws.

When it comes to something as important as fixing our broken immigration system, we should not settle for less than the American people deserve.

## CONGRATULATING KATHY LONG

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long, a long-standing community leader whose commitment to Ventura County has been immeasurable over the years.

Currently serving her fifth term as Supervisor to Ventura County's 3rd District, Kathy's dedication to the residents of Ventura County is reflected in her extensive work as a public servant. Since first being elected to the position in 1996, Kathy has made it her mission to strengthen our economy, ensure a sustainable environment, and create a safe community for all families. Her lengthy career in public service shows her unwavering passion for representing Ventura County and its residents, as well as always advocating for the region's best interests.

Kathy's lifelong work has always embodied the true definition of dedication, public service and community. She currently serves as the Board of Supervisor's representative on the Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County where her efforts focus on the economic development of Ventura County through the attraction, preservation and expansion of local businesses. Kathy was most recently elected as their Board of Directors Chair for 2013.

Over her career of more than 16 years as Supervisor, Kathy has taken on many leadership positions and has effectively represented our community's needs and prosperity. She served as Chair of the Board of Supervisors in 2000, 2005, and 2010.

To honor all that she has done for Ventura County including her extensive work and advocacy for a strong and vital economy, the Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties Chambers of Commerce Alliance has recognized Kathy with the Lawmaker of the Year Award. This is a fitting and well-deserved accolade that represents the caliber of work that Kathy performs on a daily basis. Kathy's pledge to the economic vitality of Ventura County and the strengthening of our workforce makes her a fitting recipient of this honorable recognition.

I have personally known Kathy for many years and I am pleased to join the Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties Chambers of Commerce Alliance in honoring my friend and colleague, Supervisor Kathy Long.