

From 2007 to 2011 Leader PELOSI served as Speaker of the House and under her leadership the 111th Congress was hailed as “one of the most productive Congresses in history.”

Among her many accomplishments, Leader PELOSI shepherded passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to create and save millions of American jobs; historic health care reform to expand coverage and lower health care costs for millions of Americans; and strong Wall Street reforms to protect consumers and rein in the big banks. She has also fought discrimination in the workplace and passed into law the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and stands for progressive policies that support child nutrition, energy efficiency, transparency in government, affordable housing and veterans.

Leader PELOSI is an extraordinary public servant and tested leader. I am proud to support her as leader of the Democratic Caucus and look forward to serving the American people alongside her in the 114th Congress.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I attended the funeral of the former Governor of New York, Mario Cuomo, in New York City. Consequently I missed several votes in the House of Representatives.

I would like to submit how I intended to vote on these roll call votes had I been present:

On Roll Call 1, the Quorum Call of the House, I would have voted PRESENT.

On Roll Call 2, the Election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, I would have voted for Representative NANCY PELOSI of California.

On Roll Call 3, to Table the Motion to Refer H. Res. 5, Adopting rules for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call 4, Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 5, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call 5, the Motion to Recommit H. Res. 5 with Instructions, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call 6, Agreeing to H. Res. 5, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call 7, the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 22, I would have voted YEA.

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#### RECOGNIZING GWEN BENSON-WALKER

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing Gwen Benson-Walker, who has served as my Chief of Staff for three years and has been a valuable member of my staff for most of my service in Congress. On December 31, 2014, Gwen transitioned from my office to a well-deserved retirement. Gwen’s strong work ethic, intelligence, and enthusiastic personality will surely

be missed by her colleagues in the House, the residents of the District of Columbia, and especially my office.

Gwen was not born into the advantages offered to many in our society. Instead, she has always worked her way to success. Aside from her work in my office, Gwen has owned and operated several business ventures. She is a highly-regarded public speaker and a published author.

Gwen Benson-Walker performed with excellence and energy whatever work she was asked to do in my office. She served as a caseworker, and her capacity for hard work and her wise head, led her to roles as scheduler/executive assistant and finally as chief of staff. Even when Gwen moved away from the District of Columbia, she has always returned to our staff upon her return. When not on staff, Gwen was the enthusiastic volunteer coordinator for the annual Children’s Christmas Party in the Capitol, lavishing love on the city’s low-income children. Most recently, Gwen served as my Chief of Staff, a position in which she flourished, skillfully organizing and running a busy congressional office.

Gwen was a confidant to whom I turned to for advice and a friend and a mentor to staff. She led by example in her professionalism and insistence on excellence, her dedication, generosity, collegiality and good humor. Gwen is off to retirement in Spain, but she leaves too many family members and friends not to return often to her native land. Gwen now becomes a treasured life member of Team Norton.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Gwen Benson-Walker for outstanding service to the House of Representatives and my office, and to the residents of the District of Columbia.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 6, I was absent while attending the funeral of Governor Mario M. Cuomo in New York.

Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

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#### RECOGNIZING THE JAMESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Jamestown High School varsity football team on winning the 2014 New York State Public High School Athletic Association championship.

Led by head coach Tom Langworthy, Jamestown claimed the Class AA title by defeating Newburgh Free Academy 41–20 in front of a raucous crowd at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, New York. This marks the fourth time since 1994 that Jamestown High School has captured the state football championship.

The Red Raiders put on an impressive performance and excelled in all facets of the game. Quarterback Nikkolas Holland led the offense by accounting for four touchdowns. Running back Devan Jackson contributed on both sides of the ball, by rushing for a touchdown and returning a fumble for a touchdown. Senior captain Zack Panebianco was named Most Valuable Player after scoring a touchdown, kicking five extra-points, and making several outstanding defensive plays. Jamestown’s defense continued its season-long run of dominance by forcing turnovers and containing Newburgh’s high-powered offense.

Although football is a team game, I would like to recognize a few notable awards received by individual Jamestown players. Stephen Carlson was named the 2014 Connolly Cup winner, awarded to Western New York’s top scholastic football player. Stephen was also named the Section 6 Class AA Defensive Player of the Year. Zack Panebianco was named Offensive Player of the year. Joe Mistretta was named winner of the Trench Trophy, awarded annually to the top lineman in Western New York. Tom Langworthy was named Buffalo Bills/NFL Coach of the Year after guiding his team to an outstanding regular season, winning 12 games and finishing undefeated in their division.

The hard work and dedication displayed by these young men is truly inspiring. The team is a source of pride within Chautauqua County and across New York’s 23rd Congressional District.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 5, I was absent while attending the funeral of Governor Mario M. Cuomo in New York.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

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#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER NEW YORK GOV. MARIO CUOMO

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Governor Mario Cuomo, who passed away on January 1, 2015 at the age of 82. A highly respected public servant and brilliant orator, Mario Cuomo served as Governor of New York State for three terms, from 1983 to 1994.

Governor Cuomo was born on June 15, 1932, in his beloved Borough of Queens. Hailing from a family of Italian immigrants, he worked in the family’s grocery store in South Jamaica growing up. The governor graduated from St. John’s Preparatory School, and went on to play baseball on the freshman team at St. John’s University. An aggressive player, he showed great talent and promise. Indeed, he was signed as a prospect in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization, earning a signing bonus

that exceeded that of a contemporary prospect—Mickey Mantle—that was later the subject of joking between the two men.

Shortly after beginning to play for the Class D Brunswick Pirates in Georgia, the young future Governor Cuomo was struck in the head by a fastball, forcing his retirement from baseball. He then returned to St. John's University, graduating in 1953. There he met his wife, a fellow student, Matilda Raffa Cuomo. Together they had five children: Andrew Cuomo, the current Governor of New York, Dr. Margaret I. Cuomo, Maria Cuomo Cole, Madeline Cuomo O'Donohue and Christopher Cuomo, a journalist at CNN; and fourteen grandchildren.

Upon graduation, Cuomo enrolled in St. John's Law School on scholarship, where he graduated at the top of his class. Cuomo experienced success in his law career early on, often fighting on behalf of many blue-collar and middle class families like his own.

His success did not go unnoticed, and in 1974 he was the Democratic Party's choice for Lieutenant Governor of New York. Although he lost the primary election, newly elected Governor Hugh Carey named him New York's Secretary of State. In 1978, Governor Carey asked Cuomo to be his running mate as Lieutenant Governor, and the pair won the election handily.

In 1982, when Carey did not run for re-election, Cuomo sought and won the office of Governor of New York. In his inaugural speech, Cuomo called on the state government to be "a positive source for good," espousing an energetic optimism and true belief in government. An elegant spokesman for liberal politics, his keynote address at the 1984 Democratic National Convention is widely regarded as one of the finest political speeches of our time.

Gov. Cuomo served proudly as New York's 52nd Governor for three terms, leading the state with a philosophy of "progressive pragmatism" that resulted in fiscal and ethics reforms for the state, and a broader economic reach for the state in the global marketplace. At his lead, New York became renowned for passing more "first in the nation" types of legislation than any other state. From automobile safety to education reforms to public safety, Mario Cuomo's leadership, more than anyone else's, succeeded in ensuring New York's rightful place at the Empire State.

On a personal level, I was always an admirer of Governor Mario Cuomo, from his first election right up until his unfortunate passing. Shortly after my initial election to Congress in 2004, I made an appointment to meet with Gov. Cuomo at his New York law office. Scheduled as I was for a brief meeting, I was surprised to spend nearly two hours in the Governor's office, absorbing his advice and hearing of his many experiences in government and private life. To this day, to gain inspiration and to learn more about how to say what is on my mind, I consult many of Gov. Cuomo's writings. His voice still teaches and his message still resonates all these many years later.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the life of Governor Mario Cuomo. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our deepest condolences to the Cuomo family, and our most sincere gratitude for his dedication to creating a better state and nation.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 3, I missed the vote yesterday. I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PAUL TONKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 7, I was absent while attending the funeral of Governor Mario M. Cuomo in New York.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## RECOGNIZING MR. JEREMY M. JACOBS FOR HIS OUTSTANDING BUSINESS AND PHILANTHROPIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**HON. CHRIS COLLINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Jeremy M. Jacobs, an outstanding businessman and philanthropist from East Aurora, New York. Mr. Jacobs will step aside as CEO of Delaware North, a global food service and hospitality company headquartered in Buffalo, New York, where he has worked since 1968.

Mr. Jacobs took over what was then called Sportservice, at the age of 28, after the death of his father who helped start the company in 1915. During his time as CEO, Mr. Jacobs transformed the company from selling popcorn at local movie theaters into a business with over \$3 billion in annual revenue. Delaware North currently ranks number 169th on the Forbes list of largest privately held companies in the United States.

Mr. Jacobs is also recognized by Forbes for his philanthropic endeavors working with the United Way, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and is an active member of the Jeremiah Milbank Society. In 2008, he generously donated \$10 million to the University at Buffalo associated with the Gates Vascular Institute to support research on the causes, treatment, and prevention of heart and vascular diseases.

Mr. Jacobs' contributions to Western New York have had an everlasting impact on the region and I look forward to seeing what endeavors Mr. Jacobs undertakes next.

## RECOGNIZING HARRY C. McLAUGHLIN ON HIS NINETY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Harry C. McLaughlin, a distinguished member of the Western New York community, on his ninety-fifth birthday.

Mr. McLaughlin was born in Salamanca, New York on December 31st, 1919. After marrying his beloved wife Marjorie, he enlisted in the United States Armed Services.

A member of the 17th Airborne Division, he served as a Cook, a Motor Sergeant, and a Sergeant Major. His position as a Motor Sergeant was especially notable; in charge of a Motor Pool containing one hundred fifty-four assorted vehicles, Mr. McLaughlin personally performed difficult repairs such as engine overhauls, transmissions, transfer cases, differentials, relined brakes, and aligned wheels. His respectable service and loyalty to the military earned him a certificate of thanks from President Harry S. Truman, citing his "heartfelt thanks" for McLaughlin's "fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment."

Unfortunately his wife Marjorie passed away at a young age due to an illness. In 1960, Mr. McLaughlin married Mary, moved to Eden, New York and adopted eight children: James J., James H., Dan, Harry Jr., Debby, Judith, Maria, and Michael. Four were Mary's, while the other four were foster children. For over twenty-five years, the couple continued to take in and raise foster children. This honorable endeavor provided emotional and physical safety, as well as a loving, stable home for many children in need.

Mr. McLaughlin joined the East Eden Fire Department until his retirement in 1981 and practiced carpentry. He was also an active member of the American Legion Post 880 in Eden.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to celebrate the life and numerous accomplishments of Harry C. McLaughlin. I ask you to join me in wishing Mr. McLaughlin a very happy birthday and congratulate him for reaching such an exciting milestone.

## HONORING SPRING AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Spring Avenue Elementary School for receiving the prestigious 2014 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award.

In 1982, The Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize public and private schools boasting high or significantly improved achievement. The program's goal is to identify aspects of thriving American schools in order