

served because of his work as Legion Post Commander.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Ray Miller on this remarkable occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing him a wonderful retirement and many years of happiness.

HONORING JEFF CARDWELL

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jeff Cardwell for his work as the North Carolina Emergency Management Area Coordinator and congratulate him on his retirement.

Mr. Cardwell began his career serving as a Fire Officer for the Gamewell Fire Department, where he still serves today. He served as a firefighter for the city of Lenoir from 1986 to 1991 and for the City of Hickory from 1991 to 1993. In 1993 Mr. Cardwell began his career with North Carolina Emergency Management, serving as an Area Trainer and working his way toward an administrative role. During his time with North Carolina Emergency Management, he worked on twenty-six FEMA disaster declarations and eight of North Carolina declarations, including every major disaster in North Carolina since 1993. Mr. Cardwell has been recognized for his outstanding service several times, receiving awards including the Western North Carolina Firefighter Association Officer of the Year in 2001 and the Colonel William A. Thompson Award as the North Carolina Emergency Management Employee of the Year.

Mr. Cardwell has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to serving the people of North Carolina in emergency management. As such, I am proud to honor Mr. Jeff Cardwell for his faithful service to the people of North Carolina and I wish him the best on his retirement.

TOGETHER CONGRESS CAN COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a miraculous thing happened recently in Washington. Both parties came together to negotiate important legislation, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, moving beyond partisan attacks and rhetoric to find common ground. Their compromise passed the Senate by a vote of 99–0. This is not only important from a procedural, functional standpoint, it's important because it will help fight a major problem in our society: human trafficking, one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the United States. We urge the House to bring the Senate bill up for a vote without delay.

Many of us do not realize that in this nation, and in our own backyards, individuals are held against their will, their bodies sold repeatedly day in and day out. This modern-day form of slavery is an enormous black market, with an estimated value of \$9.8 billion in the U.S.

The average age of children sold into the sex trade is just 13. As Americans, and as parents and grandparents, we cannot turn a blind eye to this fact any more. Human trafficking is real. It is in every state, city and suburb in America. It is imperative that we protect American children from the traffickers who prey upon the most vulnerable in our society.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act is a robust and aggressive response that does three main things.

First, the bill targets demand. Going after those who buy and sell our children will help decimate this industry. The legislation treats those who pay for sex with minors and other trafficking victims as criminals and will help prosecutors put them where they belong: behind bars.

Second, the bill focuses on restoring the victims. Children who are sold for sex are victims, not prostitutes, and it's time to treat them as such by ensuring that they have a safe place to stay, resources they need for rehabilitation and services uniquely tailored for human trafficking survivors.

Lastly, the bill provides resources to train law enforcement and others who may come into contact with human trafficking victims to better identify and respond to their needs. The bill creates a fund built from fees and fines collected from convicted traffickers.

We urge the House to bring S. 178, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, to the floor for a vote and send it to the president's desk for signature. It will be a powerful day when Washington can stand together to proclaim, "Our children are not for sale."

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF BRADLEY KRUPP ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Bradley Krupp of Bowling Green, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Bradley's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2019. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Bradley brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2019. While attending Bowling Green High School in Bowling Green, Ohio, Bradley was a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, French Honor Society and received student athlete awards. In addition, he was a member of the Key Club, French club and drama club.

Throughout high school, Bradley was a member of his school's cross country team

and earned his varsity letter. I am confident that Bradley will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bradley Krupp on the offer of his appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Bradley will excel during his career at the Military Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, on roll call nos. 216, 217, 218, 219, and 220 I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained due to travel.

Had I been present, I would have voted aye on roll call 216.

Had I been present, I would have voted nay on roll call 217.

Had I been present, I would have voted nay on roll call 218.

Had I been present, I would have voted aye on roll call 219.

Had I been present, I would have voted aye on roll call 220.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll call votes 208, 209, and 210. If present, I would have voted "no" on roll call vote 208, "no" on roll call vote 209, and "no" on roll call vote 210.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CLERK PATTIE BENDER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to retiring St. Joseph County Clerk Pattie Bender. Pattie is a staple of our Southwest Michigan community and my dear friend. I rise to thank her for 45 years of distinguished public service.

A life-long resident of Southwest Michigan, Pattie currently serves in a dual capacity as county clerk and register of deeds. She began her career with St. Joseph County in 1970 and has served as county clerk since 1991.

The office of town or county clerk is one of the oldest known offices in local government, essential to the functioning of our democracy. It is an office of trust that demands the utmost integrity and diligence. As clerk, Pattie is entrusted with the supervision of all national,