

placed in the hands of private religious organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we continue to create more programs, and hold more events and activities to educate and inform Americans about children successfully placed in permanent homes, debunk myths about the process, and acknowledge the thousands of children who could potentially become a part of these statistics.

Through these efforts we can increase the rate of adoption, decrease the rate of homelessness among the youths in this group, and help develop future leaders and innovative thinkers of tomorrow.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the families who have opened their hearts and homes to foster children.

Foster parents play a critical role in the lives of some of the most vulnerable youth in Texas and across the country.

They help hold our nation's social fabric together by ensuring that thousands of young people in this country stay on track towards successful futures.

This month, we celebrate them and their efforts to change the lives of these children.

National Foster Care Month is an appropriate time to recognize and commend all those who are helping to improve the lives of children in foster care.

But it also serves as a reminder that more must be done.

These children deserve to grow up in a loving home that is safe, happy, and most importantly one they can call their own.

HONORING DANIEL J. FELIX ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor District Chief Daniel J. Felix as he retires after more than 30 years of firefighting service to our nation, the majority of those years dedicated to protecting the beautiful mountains of San Bernardino and San Jacinto, located in California's 36th District.

In 1983, Mr. Felix started his firefighting career as an intern on the Superior National Forest Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota. After obtaining his Masters of Science in Resource Management from the University of Wisconsin—Madison, Mr. Felix volunteered for the Superior National Forest.

Mr. Felix was later hired on by the Superior National Forest in Minnesota and the Olympic National Forest in Washington State. Two years later, Mr. Felix came to the San Bernardino National Forest Heart Bar Station, where he spent his first year fighting fire with the Forest Service.

In 1997 Mr. Felix was promoted to Captain at the Kenworthy Station of the San Jacinto Ranger District. He went on to be promoted to Battalion Chief of San Jacinto Ranger District in 2001, promoted to Forest Fuels Officer on San Bernardino National Forest in 2007, and in 2010 promoted to District Fire Management Officer in the San Jacinto Ranger District.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Felix's dedication to the protection of our forests and the safety of our

residents deserves acknowledgment. On behalf of all the mountain communities and the residents of California's 36th Congressional District, I would like to thank and congratulate Mr. Felix for his service and wish him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately was unable to be present for several votes taken on the House floor on April 30 and May 1, 2015, missing Roll Call Votes #192 through #215. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

- Roll Call #192: YEA.
- Roll Call #193: NAY.
- Roll Call #194: NAY.
- Roll Call #195: NAY.
- Roll Call #196: YEA.
- Roll Call #197: NAY.
- Roll Call #198: YEA.
- Roll Call #199: NAY.
- Roll Call #200: NAY.
- Roll Call #201: YEA.
- Roll Call #202: YEA.
- Roll Call #203: YEA.
- Roll Call #204: YEA.
- Roll Call #205: NAY.
- Roll Call #206: NAY.
- Roll Call #207: NAY.
- Roll Call #208: NAY.
- Roll Call #209: NAY.
- Roll Call #210: NAY.
- Roll Call #211: NAY.
- Roll Call #212: NAY.
- Roll Call #213: NAY.
- Roll Call #214: YEA.
- Roll Call #215: NAY.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL JACOBS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I attended the funeral of Rachel Jacobs, a wife, mother, daughter and a native Michigander, who was taken far too soon. Rachel's parents are friends of many of us in the Michigan Congressional Delegation and we watched her mature into an incredible young woman.

Last week, Rachel was on her way home to New York to her husband and two-year-old son when her Amtrak train derailed in Philadelphia, killing Rachel and seven other passengers.

This was a senseless tragedy. Rachel's life was cut short when she was just making her mark on this world. She had recently started a job as CEO of an education software startup and was enjoying the success of running her own company.

Rachel was an incredible businesswoman, but more than that, she was kind, generous, compassionate, caring and a true advocate for priorities she cared about. She touched countless lives from Michigan to New York.

This weekend at a Memorial Service in New York City, her friends called her a "beacon of

light." Those sentiments were echoed today at her funeral in Southfield, Michigan.

Her friends spoke of her zest for life and her infectious energy and enthusiasm.

Rachel used that energy and enthusiasm to give back to the hometown she loved. She founded the non-profit, Detroit Nation, to bring together former Detroit residents in support of the economic development and cultural innovation of the region.

Rachel lived a life worth celebrating. No words can make this better for her family or loved ones, and no action can bring her back. Her parents today were torn by grief and looking for answers they could not find.

All of us in this chamber have a moral responsibility to do what we can to understand what happened to cause that accident on the railways and ensure a tragedy like this never happens again.

We must hold ourselves accountable for fixing this—for ensuring the transportation systems America depends on are safe and secure and no more families or friends are robbed of the people they love and no more communities are left with a hole of losing someone who was the glue for so many.

We owe it to Rachel and her family, and to all those who lost loved ones in this senseless tragedy, to understand the problem and pledge to never let this happen again.

TRIBUTE TO SAMI ANDERSON

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sami Anderson of Champaign, Illinois on being selected as a 2015 Elizabeth Dole Foundation Fellow. This program recognizes military and veteran caregivers who go above and beyond to advocate on behalf of our nation's 5.5 million parents, spouses, children and other loved ones caring for our nation's wounded warriors.

Sami has exemplified extraordinary commitment to veterans throughout her personal and professional life. In 2005 her husband, U.S. Army Sergeant Garrett Anderson, lost his arm and suffered a traumatic brain injury when an improvised explosive device detonated under his Humvee during a patrol mission in Iraq. Demonstrating great perseverance, together they were able to overcome many challenges on the way to Garrett's successful recovery.

After leaving the Army, Garrett continued to serve his country as a part of my staff where he was responsible for outreach and constituent service to his fellow veterans. During his tenure with my office I also had the privilege of seeing Sami's efforts first hand.

As part of her fellowship, she will have the opportunity to talk with leaders in Washington, D.C. to address the challenges faced by our veterans and their caregivers. I have no doubt that she will be an effective advocate.

It is my goal to ensure we provide our veterans with the benefits and care that they deserve. I thank Sami and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation for their part in fulfilling that goal.