PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that yesterday, June 10, 2015, I incorrectly cast my vote in favor of the Country of Origin Labeling Act (H.R. 2393), Roll Call No. 333. I intended to vote ''NO'' on this legislation.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSOURI VETERANS HOME OF CAPE GIRARDEAU

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Missouri Veterans Home of Cape Girardeau. For the past 25 years, the administration and staff of the home have made the care of our nation's heroes their number one priority.

The Missouri Veterans Home of Cape Girardeau serves as a prominent asset to the well being of our veterans by providing them with medical care, counseling services, and documentation assistance they need and deserve. I am very proud of their service to the community of Cape Girardeau and the surrounding area.

For their tireless effort and devotion to serving our veterans in Missouri, it is my pleasure to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Missouri Veterans Home of Cape Girardeau.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call number 326 I am recorded as a Nay. I would like to reflect my intention was to vote Yea.

RECOGNIZING THE QUAD COUNTY URBAN LEAGUE AND THE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN TOMORROW'S SCIENTISTS, TECHNICIANS, AND MANAGERS AND PROJECT READY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Quad County Urban League and the students participating in two of its important programs: Tomorrow's Scientists, Technicians, and Managers, and Project Ready.

For over twenty years, the Quad County Urban League has sponsored Tomorrow's Scientists, Technicians, and Managers in an effort to inspire young minority students to pursue their goals. Over 1,800 students have benefited from the tutoring, workshops, college visits, and guest speakers provided by the program. Students who have completed the program maintain excellent grade point averages, receive thousands of dollars in scholarships, and contribute countless hours giving back to their community.

More recently, the Quad County Urban League has introduced Project Ready, a program with the goal of familiarizing minority students and their families with the college decision making process. By introducing concepts like college admissions and financial aid early on, Project Ready prepares a path for strong academic students to pursue post-secondary STEM Education.

Congratulations to the Quad County Urban League and the students who have participated in these rigorous programs. Real differences are being made in our communities because of programs like Tomorrow's Scientists, Technicians, and Managers, and Project Ready.

RECOGNIZING THE PUERTO RICAN FAMILY INSTITUTE

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an organization that has evolved into an important anchor in both New York City and in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican Family Institute (PRFI) provides a wide range of critical social and health services, strengthening our neighborhoods.

For some of our youngest neighbors, PRFI operates 35 Head Start centers located in Brooklyn, the Bronx and San Juan, Puerto Rico. 1,396 children benefit from this initiative, which provides pre-school children of low-income families a comprehensive child development program to meet their educational, emotional, social, health and nutritional needs. In addition, the Institute operates four full-day Universal Pre-K classrooms serving over 60 children in Brooklyn and the Bronx.

On the other end of the age spectrum, PRFI is equally committed to caring for the seniors in our community. The Life Line Center for Latino Seniors is based at the Brooklyn Mental Health Clinic, and offers seniors counseling, assistance with obtaining financial entitlements, referrals for medical services, food stamp assistance, as well as group and peer support.

Mental health services are also part of PRFI's portfolio. The Children's Intensive Case Management Program targets assistance to emotionally disturbed children in need of clinical case management and supervision. In addition PRFI runs a center helping emotionally disturbed adolescents, and provides adult supportive services to homeless mentally ill individuals. 1,128 clients benefit from this service, making it the largest in our state.

Housing assistance is made available to developmentally disabled individuals through PRFI's quality community based residential services, which aims to provide skills that will enable program beneficiaries to live as independently as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on. From health services, to nutritional programs, PRFI helps meet the needs of ten thousand families and children residing in New York and Puerto Rico. The assistance offered extends well beyond the Latino community reaching individuals of all backgrounds. What all of PRFI's programs have in common is that they provide a helping hand to some of our most vulnerable neighbors. Whether it is the senior citizen struggling to get by on a fixed income, a low-income family endeavoring to raise children or a developmentally disabled person wanting to lead a richer life, PRFI harnesses the strengths of our community to assist them.

BULK DATA COLLECTION TRAMPLES OUR RIGHTS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the unrestricted and unconstitutional bulk data collection program started by the NSA represents the worst of the Washington Machine.

A recent poll shows that a majority of Americans agree.

The government should not have the authority to collect information without first obtaining a warrant. Period.

Our Founders feared a government powerful enough to commit unreasonable searches and seizures, so they crafted the Fourth Amendment to protect our right to privacy.

Though technology has evolved and continues to do so, the Constitution remains the same.

Gone are the days where Americans use their cellphones exclusively for phone calls and text messages.

Many people also use their phones for daily activities from tracking their steps to logging their finances or inputting what they ate that day.

The Fourth Amendment protects our phone conversations, our emails, our texts, our Internet history, our bank statements and more.

The NSA bulk-collection program tramples our rights.

Recently, the 2nd U.S. Court of Appeals deemed this bulk collection of data illegal.

Now, some members of Congress are trying to pass a law that allows this illegal surveillance to continue, and I will not stand for it.

The House of Representatives recently passed the USA Freedom Act, which makes some steps to limit data collection under Section 215 of the Patriot Act; however, the bill does nothing to limit government spying under Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act.

Contrary to claims that the House bill would ''end bulk surveillance,'' the truth is it would not.

The NSA uses Section 702 as a means to gather not only data, but actual content of communications—content of your phone calls, texts and emails. Section 702 is more intrusive than Section 215.

In the course of this collection, the content of American citizens, many of whom have done nothing wrong or illegal, is also collected.

Current law allows law enforcement to then search through this data for information and they can do so without a warrant.

Reverse-targeting of American citizens is inconsistent with the Constitution and must stop now.

Opponents of civil liberties will argue that these mass invasions of privacy will make us safer.

Americans should not have to give up their constitutional rights for national security.

Casting too wide of a collection net for intelligence can be a distraction from the analysis necessary to stop plots and—to counter terrorism.

Let's be clear: The NSA should keep close watch on suspected terrorists to keep our country safe.

But before invading the privacy of American citizens, a warrant must and can be obtained in a timely manner.

Programs that permit due process and are held accountable by an open court will serve as a just way to collect intelligence.

The sacrifice of our personal liberty for security is and will forever be a false choice.

I have introduced several pieces of legislation that would restrain the federal government: This legislation includes H.R. 2233, the End Warrantless Surveillance of Americans Act. H.R. 2233 would prohibit warrantless searches of government databases for information that pertains to U.S. citizens. It would also forbid government agencies from mandating or requesting "back doors" into commercial products that can be used for surveillance.

This legislation mirrors an amendment that was offered to the USA Freedom Act, which was backed by a broad bipartisan coalition, including members of Congress and outside groups across the political spectrum.

The fight for NSA reform is ongoing, and I will continue to stand up and defend the Bill of Rights.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING TIM SBRANTI ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize a great teacher, mentor, and friend, Tim Sbranti, as he retires after 17 years of public school teaching.

Since 1978, Tim has been a resident of our shared hometown, Dublin, California. Tim's service to Dublin started early, serving as student body president at Dublin High School and on the Parks and Community Service Commission.

After graduating from California State University, Sacramento, Tim returned to his hometown to teach and coach at his high school alma mater. I was fortunate enough to have Tim as my economics teacher, mock trial advisor, and tennis coach. As an educator, Tim encouraged me and countless other young people to help our community and go into public service. Over the past 17 years, few people have shaped the lives and inspired more youth in Dublin than Tim Sbranti.

Tim's advocacy for public education reached beyond Dublin. He worked as the chair of the California Teachers Association's Political Involvement Committee and led Californians Dedicated to Education. Beyond education, Tim has committed himself to working in all areas to better our local community. I was honored to serve with Tim when he and I were members of the Dublin City Council. Tim served on the City Council from 2002 to 2006, and as Dublin's mayor, from 2008 and 2014.

While always putting his hometown first, Tim has also been active in advancing opportunity in the greater Tri-Valley area. Tim has served as a board member of the Tri-Valley Housing and Opportunity Center, Dublin Historical Preservation Association, and Las Positas College Foundation. And, he is a past president of the Dublin Lions Club.

I am honored today to have the opportunity to publicly recognize Tim's many years of teaching and contributions to our shared hometown and the Tri-Valley.

HONORING BURNEY STARKS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize a leader in Tucson's community who dedicated his life to serve others.

Mr. Starks was a 1969 graduate of Pueblo High School, a proud Pueblo Warrior. In 1974 he graduated with honors from the University of Arizona where he also played football for the Wildcats. He then earned a Master's degree from Troy University. He was also known for his skills as an actor and singer. He appeared onstage in productions such as "Driving Miss Daisy" and "Look Ma, We're Dancing," as well as many others. Mr. Starks also sang with the True Devotion Motown Revue.

Mr. Starks was a U.S. Army veteran. He went on active duty as an Army officer and had tours of duty in Georgia, Indiana, Missouri and South Korea. Following his initial active duty tour he returned to Tucson where he hosted a TV talk show called "Looking Black" and worked for Tucson Unified School District. He returned to active duty in 1981 and retired from the military service in 1996 at the rank of Major. After leaving active duty he worked for the Tucson Urban League and returned to Tucson Unified School District. Mr. Burney Starks was known as the long time educator at Pueblo High School, a school counselor specializing in dropout prevention. He instilled in the minds of those who didn't believe in themselves that they could accomplish anything they set their minds to, that nothing was out of reach as long as they wanted it enough and were willing to work towards it. Mr. Starks was also known for the many community activities he was a part of and in some cases was the driving force for. Burney served on the boards of the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, the Dunbar Coalition, the America Israel Friendship League, the Southern Arizona Academic Decathlon, the Pueblo Warrior Alumni Foundation and as President of the Board of the Tucson Juneteenth Festival Committee. He also served as Lieutenant Governor for Kiwanis International where he had been a member for 35 years; He was past commander in the Military Order of the World Wars and past president in the Reserve Officers Association.

He is survived by his wife Ruth M. Starks, 5 children Benjamin S., Burnes O. III, Elizabeth M., Bryan M., and Rebekah R.

Burney has 9 Siblings/Gary E., Daryl D., Terry L., Charles G., Donna R., Harry J., Jacqueline B., Larry D., and Timothy B.

Burney Starks has left a legacy which he will be remembered for and honored for years to come.

IN HONOR OF ELIJAH "SONNY" SINGLETON, JR.

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere condolences and to honor the memory of Elijah "Sonny" Singleton, Jr., for his achievements, contributions, and service to his community as a loving father and pillar of civic engagement.

Elijah Singleton spent his life serving his community as a teamster, putting the needs of others before his own. Elijah was also active as a member of his local union, imparting the importance of citizenship to his children at an early age. He taught them the value of a day's work and to appreciate life's gifts and opportunities.

His monumental example was the inspiration for his son, Troy, who now serves in the New Jersey General Assembly. Pursuing a life of service and following the lessons of his father, Troy once remarked that his father never looked for short cuts because true success only comes as a result of hard work and diligence.

Mr. Speaker, Elijah Singleton's dedication to family, community, and public service was evident. As a family man, he constantly surrounded himself with those he cared for, and no one worked harder or loved more passionately than Elijah. He is survived by two devoted sons, Troy and Derrick, and six adoring grandchildren. I join the South Jersey community and the State of New Jersey in honoring the life and accomplishments of this great man.

HONORING FRANK NASH

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank Nash from Ironton, Missouri for his academic success and service to our community.

Frank has set a wonderful example of hard work and a dedication to serve others. Now an Eagle Scout, Frank has earned nine Eagle Palms since he started as a Tiger Cub with the Boy Scouts. For his Eagle Scout project, Frank built tables and chairs for senior adults at his church to use. He also built a flower box to decorate the First Baptist Church of Pilot Knob's sign.

He is the salutatorian of his graduating class and has already earned more than 40 college credits through his high school's advanced placement program. He will be attending the