

attention by a District resident, Luis Landau, a former docent at the Library.

The residents of the District have always had all the obligations of American citizenship, including paying federal taxes and serving in all the nation's wars, including the War of 1812, during which the Capitol building, which then housed the Library of Congress, was burned, prompting construction of the current Library of Congress building with the state and territory seals. It is, therefore, without question that the District and its residents should receive equal treatment among the stained-glass windows that portray the history of the United States. D.C. residents deserve to have their history and American citizenship recognized.

There is existing evidence that the seal of the District should have been depicted. The Members of Congress room in the Jefferson Building, which is not open to the public, has a painted depiction of the D.C. seal, along with state seals, on its ceiling. This precedent reinforces our request to be represented among the stained-glass windows in the Main Reading Room, which is open to the public. There is no reason why the D.C. seal cannot be added with the planned restoration of the stained-glass. The right time to add the seal of the District would be during the planned restoration.

Congress already includes the District of Columbia, or has corrected the omission of the District, when honoring the states. For example, the District of Columbia War Memorial honors District residents who served in World War I, the World War II Memorial includes a column representing the District, the flag of the District is displayed among the flags of the fifty states in the tunnel connecting the House office buildings to the Capitol, and D.C.'s Frederick Douglass statue now sits in the Capitol alongside statues from the 50 states. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 requires the armed services to display the District flag whenever the flags of the states are displayed. Legislation was also enacted to give D.C. a coin after it was omitted from legislation creating coins for the 50 states. We also successfully worked with the U.S. Postal Service to create a D.C. stamp, like the stamps for the 50 states, and worked with the National Park Service to add the D.C. flag alongside the state flags across from Union Station. It is long overdue to display the D.C. seal, along with the seals of the states, in the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress.

I urge support of this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, 2015, I was unable to vote on roll call votes 681, 682, and 683. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on consideration of the resolution, "yea" on ordering the previous questions, and "yea" on agreeing to the resolution.

TRIBUTE TO EDWIN AND BARBARA BLANK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Edwin and Barbara Blank of Shenandoah, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1965.

Edwin and Barbara's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Blanks that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HONORING VALARIE MCCALL ON THE OCCASION OF HER APPOINTMENT TO THE CHAIR OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION (APTA)

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Valarie McCall on her appointment to the Chair of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). APTA strengthens and improves our public transportation to ensure that all Americans have access to that option in their communities across our nation. Valarie is a great model for all aspiring public servants across the country, and is deserving of our recognition and gratitude for this achievement.

Valarie began her distinguished public service career as the Director of Cleveland's Empowerment Zone, where she managed a \$200 million budget and worked to advance job planning and placement initiatives, as well as providing financing to businesses. She was also the youngest city clerk for Cleveland's City Council and served on a countless number of boards benefitting her community. Today, Valarie serves as the Chief of Government and International Affairs for the City of Cleveland. As the first person to hold this position, she acts as a liaison between the Mayor's Office and State and Local Governments, Federal Agencies, and international organizations.

With her in-depth public service experience, I have no doubt that APTA will benefit tremendously from Valarie's Chairmanship. Her national appointment makes Ohio proud.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing her distinguished record of public service.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1076 "DENYING FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES TO DANGEROUS TERRORISTS ACT OF 2015"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the past few months have been marked by senseless violence across the globe and in our own country from Tuscon, Aurora, Sandy Hook, Charleston, Chattanooga, Roseburg, and now most recently in San Bernardino, California.

It is past time that we come together united by our common humanity and with this simple message: the violence must stop! The senseless mass shootings in Paris and San Bernardino remind us of the imperative of ending gun violence in our country. And there are actions that can be taken to reduce gun violence beginning with the enactment of the bipartisan "Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Public Act of 2015" (H.R. 1076).

This bipartisan legislation, which I am proud to co-sponsor, would close the dangerous loophole that allows terrorist suspects to legally buy deadly weapons. H.R. 1076 would bar the sale or distribution of firearms to any individual whom the Attorney General has determined to be engaged in terrorist activities. It also would grant the Attorney General the authority to deny a firearms license to individuals for whom there is a reasonable belief that the individual may use a firearm or explosive in connection with terrorist activity.

Mr. Speaker, according to a report by the Government Accountability Office, since 2004 more than 2,000 suspects on the FBI's Terrorist Watchlist have successfully purchased weapons in the United States. It is simply intolerable that more than 90 percent of all suspected terrorists who attempted to purchase guns in the last 11 years walked away with the weapon they wanted, with just 190 rejected despite their ominous histories.

This legislation was originally crafted in 2007 and endorsed by President Bush's Justice Department, has bipartisan support in the House, and is supported by prominent Republicans and counter-terrorism & law enforcement experts.

H.R. 1076 greatly reduces the likelihood that terrorists can obtain some of the most lethal weapons in America. Right now a terrorist can buy a firearm in the parking lot of a gun show, over the internet, or through a newspaper ad without needing a background check.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot be against criminals, terrorists and the dangerously mentally ill getting guns and be against H.R. 1076. I thank Congressmen PETER KING (R-NY) and MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA) for introducing this bipartisan legislation (H.R. 1076).

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1076 will save lives and strengthen the rights of law-abiding gun owners. It deserves a vote in the House.