

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position for a vote cast on December 11, 2015 on passage of H.R. 2250 and the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 664, Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

On Roll Call Vote Number 693, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "No."

While I believe H.R. 644 makes some meaningful steps toward combatting unfair trade practices, negative provisions in the bill related to climate protection, and a lack of strong currency provisions make me unable to support the legislation. The conference report strips language that was included in the Senate-passed version of H.R. 644 that would have allowed for the application of countervailing duties to address currency manipulation.

## TRIBUTE TO STEVE BUCCI

**HON. MARK WALKER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, Steve Buccia has served his country in over 40 years in war and peace. From his first days at West Point, Steve has dedicated his life to protecting this nation. After a distinguished military career, he served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and most recently as the head of national security research at the Heritage Foundation. Steve launched the Foundation's Index of U.S. Military Strength, the most comprehensive and authoritative annual assessment of the state of the armed forces. He is a recognized world expert on security matters from cyber security to terrorism. Most importantly, he is one of Washington's premier mentors of our future—our young professionals. We all owe him a thank you for a lifetime of putting his nation first.

## HONORING THE WORK OF TED A. BEATTIE

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Ted A. Beattie and wish him the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life, retirement.

Ted Beattie has served for more than two decades as President and CEO of Shedd Aquarium, one of the largest aquariums in the world. It has also ranked as the top paid cultural attraction in Chicago for seventeen of the twenty-one years. This was due in large part to Mr. Beattie's leadership.

He led two noteworthy and record breaking fundraising efforts, raising almost \$100 million in funds for Shedd Aquarium, demonstrating his ability to inspire support for Shedd and its

diverse, global animal collection. His leadership for the aquarium, housed in an architecturally beautiful setting, also helped promote 21st-century advances in animal care, environments and interpretation.

For 35 years he devoted his life to animal conservation and education. He holds degrees from Ohio State University (OSU). After completing his education, he went on to serve on the OSU Provost's External Advisory Board on Teaching, the Advisory Board for the School of Journalism and Communication and the OSU Major Gifts Committee.

I know that I speak for many when I say that Ted Beattie will be deeply missed. His devotion and professionalism, his focus on economic security for Shedd Aquarium, and his entire career are truly one of a kind. Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. Ted Beattie for his extraordinary leadership and commitment to animal conservation.

## CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT AT PICATINNY ARSENAL

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Picatinny Arsenal on opening a renovated, historic firehouse on the military installation.

Picatinny Arsenal, located Morris County, New Jersey, has been a leader in developing cutting edge guns and ammunition for all branches of the United States Armed Forces since its founding as a powder depot in 1880. Home to over 6,000 employees including civilians, military personnel, and contractors, Picatinny Arsenal's portfolio comprises ninety percent of the Army's lethality and all conventional ammunition for joint warfighters.

Building 3316, home of a new fire department, was originally built in 1903 as a Dutch-colonial structure. Before serving as a fire house it was a horse stable, and later a garage for the Lake Denmark Naval Ammunition Depot. By 1945 the building was converted to a dormitory and fire department for the Navy. In 1962 Army firefighters moved into the building, and it remained a fire headquarters until 2009. In 2010 the building was repurposed to serve as an outdoor recreation facility. Now after renovations, the fire department is moving back in, and creating a third fire department for the installation.

The building was selected as a location for a new fire department after the Fire Chief's assessment showed a need for a new department to better serve all three fire zones. The creation of this department has resulted in the hiring of 16 new firefighters. Many surrounding towns rely on the fire services provided by the arsenal for mutual aid. Due to the dangerous mission of Picatinny Arsenal, all firefighters are trained in a variety of situations including medical response, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear situations. The opening of this building will help the Picatinny Fire Department to better serve its community.

First responders are the backbone of our communities, and Picatinny is lucky to have such a well-trained fire department at its dis-

posal. While we all hope the fire department does not see too much action, at least we all know they are ready for every crisis.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking and recognizing the Picatinny Arsenal Fire Department and its firefighters for their dedicated service, and wish them continued success with their new department.

## CONGRATULATING BLACKSBURG MAYOR RON RORDAM

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Blacksburg Mayor Ron Rordam, who was recently approved by the Virginia Municipal League to serve as its president for one year.

"My theme as president is 'Live Local,'" Rordam said in a statement released by the Virginia Municipal League. "This means everyone should support our local businesses, schools, and neighborhoods. It's how we support our citizens. And, within that broad concept, I will focus on ways we can influence education affecting our youngest citizens to give them every advantage to succeed in the future. To have strong communities, we must have a work force that is flexible and nimble. Early childhood education is one of the most important keys to ensuring that our localities can compete for those future jobs."

I congratulate Mayor Rordam on this accomplishment, and look forward to continuing to work with him and other local officials in an effort to further the growth of our area's economy and improve its quality of life.

## HONORING TED BEATTIE

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ted Beattie, the CEO of Shedd Aquarium for his decades of service and to wish him well as he retires. Ted has had an incredible impact on the Shedd Aquarium, the Chicago community, and marine wildlife around the world. My family and I have spent many enjoyable hours at Shedd Aquarium.

Ted joined Shedd Aquarium in 1994. Under his leadership Shedd has added 6 permanent exhibits. His work brought creatures of the Caribbean Reef to Chicago, including sharks, stingrays, and of course, coral. He also brought us the Stingray Touch exhibit, which allows children of all ages to come in direct contact with these incredible creatures—with no risk of harm, of course.

Ted was instrumental in the re-imagining of the Oceanarium. There, Shedd Aquarium guests can experience the coast of the Pacific Northwest and the dolphins, sea lions, and others that make it their home.

Ted's work extends beyond Chicago and the shores of Lake Michigan. Under his leadership, Shedd established the Daniel P. Haerther Center for Conservation and Research. The center includes a portfolio of 18