

President Obama nominated Ms. Harden for the position of Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. Her nomination was unanimously approved by the Senate. Ms. Harden's steadfast leadership led to what Secretary Vilsack has called the "best-implemented Farm Bill in history," referencing the 2014 Farm Bill in which Ms. Harden led the USDA's efforts to work with Congress to see the bill through to completion and implementation.

Ms. Harden has been praised by many for her bipartisan and commonsense approach to policies and programs that expand opportunities for rural communities. Krysta Harden, a "Georgia farm girl" herself, has dedicated her career to serving our nation's farmers and promoting a thriving bio-based economy.

As a friend of long standing and someone that I have had the honor to work with closely in developing legislative frameworks for farmer settlements, I can say with a full heart that I will miss working with Krysta in Washington. She has served admirably as Deputy Secretary of the USDA and has shown herself to represent the highest standards of public service. Ms. Harden has established a legacy of providing support for underrepresented groups—particularly women, young people, immigrants, disadvantaged producers, and veterans. I am very grateful for her tireless advocacy to diversify the nation's agriculture sector and her steadfast support for rural America. A woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise in her field are unparalleled and will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Ms. Krysta Harden upon the occasion of her departure from an outstanding career at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on February 23, 2016, on Roll Call No. 83 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4408, to require the development of a national strategy to combat terrorist travel, and for other purposes, as amended, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on this bill to require the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, within 180 days of enactment, to transmit a national strategy to Congress to combat terrorist travel.

On February 23, 2016, on Roll Call No. 84 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4402, Foreign Fighter Review Act of 2016, as amended, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on this bill to require the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, within 120 days of enactment, to provide a report to Congress on instances or attempted instances since 2011 of foreign fighter travel from the United States to Iraq or Syria.

PEARLAND CHEERLEADERS PLACE
AT STATE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pearland High School cheerleading team for placing third overall in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) State Competition.

Spirit, the UIL State Cheerleading Competition, is an extension of the typical high school cheerleading role, enhancing school spirit. This highly competitive UIL competition consists of three different categories: fight song, time out band dance, and time out cheer. Pearland High School competed in the UIL State Competition in the Class 6A division where the Pearland Oilers placed third overall, how impressive. We are so proud of our Pearland Cheerleaders and we can't wait to see what the future competitions bring.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Pearland High School Cheerleaders for placing third in the UIL State Competition. Keep up the hard work.

THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD "RICK" HEALY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my profound thanks for the service and best wishes on the retirement of Rick Healy. Rick has worked in the House of Representatives for over 35 years, which is multiple lifetimes here on the Hill.

Rick's career in the House encompassed more than three decades of dedicated service to the people of Minnesota's 4th Congressional District, to the House Natural Resources Committee, and to the Appropriations Committee.

I was fortunate enough to have Rick work with me as the Democratic Clerk for the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee during his last year, before departing this month to work with our former Chairman Jim Moran in the private sector.

Rick is a proud son of St. Paul. He graduated from St. Thomas, and his wife, Cecilia, is a St. Kate's grad. The first Congressional experience Rick gained was as an intern with his Member of Congress, Representative Bruce Vento. He then joined the Congressman's staff in DC working on environmental issues in 1980. When Bruce became the Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, Rick left his personal office and joined the Subcommittee staff.

Congressman Vento is remembered both in Minnesota and nationally for his tremendous dedication and passion for the conservation of America's wilderness and natural treasures. Rick Healy played a pivotal role in advancing those efforts. He supported Chairman Vento and his successors in crafting much of the major public lands legislation passed through

the Resources Committee over the next 25 years.

Rick's knowledge and experience was instrumental in issues of importance to Minnesota, like the management of the St. Croix National Scenic River and the establishment of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

Rick was a tremendous help to me when I was first elected after Congressman Vento passed away in 2000, and provided valuable council on environmental issues as I followed in our friend and mentor Bruce's legacy by serving on the Resources Committee.

As a staffer who has been here longer than almost all of the Members serving in this body, Rick Healy assisted his Chairs and Ranking Members through the ups and downs of Majority and Minority.

And, five years ago, when he joined the Appropriations Committee, he brought that institutional knowledge to the work of funding and improving our nation's public lands, our environmental stewardship, our trust and treaty responsibilities with tribal nations, and our investment in the arts and humanities. Rick has been an invaluable resource on the Appropriations Committee.

I, along with many other Members and staff, will miss his depth of knowledge, his expertise and insight, his hard work, and his sense of humor.

Rick, we wish you the best of luck.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 151

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 151 in Antioch, California. Formed in 1916, it is one of the oldest troops in California.

Since 1910, the Boy Scouts of America have helped mold future leaders of our country by teaching lifelong values and skills through educational activities. The Boy Scouts believe that helping the youth of America today sets us on a path to become a more responsible, respectful and productive society tomorrow. From its inception, Troop 151 has built a program consisting of traditional outdoor scouting activities that include camping, backpacking, and hiking to promote physical fitness and good character.

Community involvement continues to be a guiding principle for the Boy Scouts of America. Troop 151 was instrumental in the resurrection of the Antioch's Veterans Day celebration and they annually provide traditional flag services to the Veterans' Day celebration among other important community events. The boys of Troop 151 are proof that scouting can help build a greater sense of personal responsibility and high self-esteem. As a result, scouts are better prepared to make good decisions and give back to our community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Boy Scouts of Troop 151 for one hundred years of service to the City of Antioch and its residents.