

RECOGNIZING GRANT BAKER, BENJAMIN GILES, DYLAN ROGERS, AND COURTNEY THOMPSON

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grant Baker, Benjamin Giles, Dylan Rogers, and Courtney Thompson for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the summer of the 114th Congress, Second Session.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these four and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All four of our interns have made plans to continue their educational careers back in Colorado and throughout the United States. I am certain they will continue in their great success and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Grant Baker, Benjamin Giles, Dylan Rogers, and Courtney Thompson for their service this summer.

HONORING DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT POLICE OFFICER BRENT THOMPSON

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police Officer Brent Thompson. Officer Thompson tragically lost his life during the tragic shooting in Dallas on July 7, 2016. He was the first DART police officer to be killed in the line of duty since DART first formed a police department in 1989.

Officer Thompson was hailed as a "great officer" and one who had served the DART Police Department admirably since joining in 2009. His wife, who he had married just weeks before his death, regarded Officer Thompson as "the most amazing, caring, loving, selfless man" she has known. He is the father of six wonderful children, all of whom will carry on his legacy with his passing.

Some know Officer Thompson as the veteran officer who bravely charged at the shooter in an attempt to stop him during his rampage. Others know him as a former Marine who helped train and mentor local police in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, all now know Officer Thompson as the brave officer who gave his life in the defense of his fellow citizens in Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud by the way our nation has come together during this difficult time to honor Officer Thompson and the four other officers who lost their lives that day. Today, I would like to thank Officer Thompson for his bravery and sacrifice, and I join with my con-

stituents in expressing my incredible gratitude and appreciation for all that Officer Thompson has done for Dallas and the great State of Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROEPER SCHOOL

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of The Roeper School. This anniversary is a reflection of the hard work of the students, faculty and staff of The Roeper School that have established a legacy of educational excellence which continues to this day.

Ever since George and Annemarie Roeper founded The Roeper School in 1941, it has been a leader in gifted education. George and Annemarie were refugees from Germany and witnessed first-hand the full measure of the human cost of Hitler's Third Reich. They dedicated their lives to creating an environment in which a powerful few would never again be able to impose their will upon an unchallenging majority. The Roeper School has been known for educating and empowering children at every level and instilling the attitudes, values and skills that will enable them to be leaders in the community. The school the Roepers founded continues to be a highly valued resource for gifted education, consulting on educational projects as varied as the creation of Children's Television Workshop, to the publications of the President's Council on Gifted Education.

The Roeper School continues to fulfill its mission: educating and inspiring gifted students to think as individuals and engage as a community with compassion for each other and this world. Their current "no cut" policy allows all students to participate in sports they wish to play. Roeper students pursue a challenging curriculum in math, science, arts and technology that prepares them for college and beyond. The Roeper School has a dedication to diversity, democracy, and community service that dates to its founding and is still very present today. Armed with a first class education, Roeper graduates have gone on to make extraordinary contributions to our society in every imaginable field of study and work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the 75th anniversary of The Roeper School. For 75 years, The Roeper School has supported students' academic, intellectual, emotional and social growth and we wish them many more successful years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was present during roll call vote number 434 on July 13, 2016. I would like the record to reflect that on roll call vote number 434 I would have voted YES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5538) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, I want to make a statement regarding the passage of H.R. 5538, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017. Specifically I would like to make a statement about my amendment, Grayson Number 113. My amendment simply put the House on record of supporting a final funding amount of \$27,191,000 for the National Estuary Program and Coastal Waterways. It does so by removing and then reapplying \$468,000 within the \$2.5 billion appropriation for the environmental programs and management account within the Environmental Protection Agency.

The report accompanying this bill originally called for \$26,723,000 for the National Estuary Program and Coastal Waterways, which is \$468,000 below both the Senate's proposed appropriations level and the President's request for fiscal year 2017. Hence, the amount specified in my amendment.

The National Estuary Program and Coastal Waterways subaccount within the EPA does important work, including work in my State, especially on the Atlantic Coast. This program addresses ocean acidification, seeks to remove coastal watersheds, furthers the National Estuary Program's restoration goals, and assists in the implementation of the very important Gulf of Mexico hypoxia action plan.

This past March, in Central Florida, the Indian River Lagoon, which has been part of the National Estuary Program since 1990, experienced the worst fish kill in the history of the watershed. This fish kill is the result of hypoxia, caused by a recent algae blooming in the lagoon. Nobody knows how many fish died. And what's worse, nobody understands how "brown tide," the algae which caused the hypoxia, and is typically found in salty water, got into the Indian River Lagoon. With ecological disasters like this, we should be moving to fully fund the President's request.

Part of the funding for this program is used to try to overcome the hypoxia situation that has arisen in the Indian River Lagoon, while learning what happened, and more importantly, how to return the lagoon to a healthy ecosystem. This is just one of the 28 estuaries funded by this program, located along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts.

The estuarine regions of the United States comprise just 12 percent of land area of the United States, but they contain 43 percent of the U.S. population and provide 49 percent of all U.S. economic output. The economic value of coastal recreation alone in the United States—beach going, fishing, bird watching, snorkeling, diving, and so on—has conservatively been estimated by NOAA to be between \$20 billion and \$60 billion annually.