

neighborhood houses, area hospitals, St. Agnes School, and often made house calls upon request. His role as Santa eventually earned him important recognition by Keene Central School's Honor Society, which honored him as "a graduate who has made outstanding contributions to our town, state, and nation." Brett will be missed by many for his dedication to civics through his involvement in many local organizations in Upstate New York and beyond.

I thank Brett's family for sharing him with the community and send them my most heartfelt condolences on his loss.

IN HONOR OF THE CRIGHTON  
PLAYERS/PLAYERS THEATRE  
COMPANY 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
SEASON

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the same year that Mickey Mantle slugged his way to his 500th career homer, Andy Griffith was America's favorite TV dad and sheriff and Cabaret took home theatre's coveted Tony Award, a group of community leaders got together in Conroe to talk about how best to bring the arts to their city.

They gathered at the Montgomery County Library to form the Little Theatre of Conroe. Their first performance of "The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker" was held in the Conroe High School auditorium.

Blessed with a faithful audience, the Conroe theatre stalwarts were able to purchase the old Hunt Plumbing Building in Conroe in 1967 where they performed comedies, dramas and dinner theatre fare. At the end of their first decade, they joined forces with the city of Conroe to produce their first musical to coincide with our nation's bicentennial celebrations.

"Oklahoma" was performed at Conroe High School to a standing room only crowd. Two years later, they wowed with "South Pacific".

It was about a decade into the Little Theatre's venture when Frank and Hallie Crighton Guthrie were exploring the possibility of donating their family's vaudeville theatre in downtown Conroe. All they asked was that the name be maintained and the theatre used primarily for the performing arts and that the Little Theatre of Conroe would be the resident theatre group.

With the help of architect Harry Devlin, fund-raising artistry of Rigby Owen, and the sweat equity of the Little Theatre troupe, the run down theatre was reborn as the "Crown Jewel of Montgomery County." The Crighton Community Theatre then reopened with "The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia," a play about a small Texas town.

For 30 years, the Crighton Theatre was home, but when the City of Conroe decided to invest in a downtown revitalization project, the 1947 Weisner building was repurposed as a state of the art theatre for the Crighton Players. It is in this theatre where they produce several shows each season to sold out crowds, including more than a thousand season ticket holders.

The Players Theatre Company brings the arts home to Conroe with studio programs,

summer arts programs, senior programs, C. Kidz, The Players' Old Time Radio Hour, the City of Conroe's Shakespeare Festival and annual community celebrations.

Their theatre conservatory program provides community members high quality arts instruction and corporate partnerships expand the reach of what started in the hearts of a small group of theatre lovers.

Experienced directors, actors, and technical crews voluntarily give their all for each performance and faithfully carry out the vision that began in the Montgomery County Library a half a century ago.

As we celebrate the Players 50th anniversary season, we rejoice in their successes and we can't wait to see what they do in their next 50 years.

CONSCIENCE PROTECTION ACT OF  
2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the so-called Conscience Protection Act, S. 304, which is simply another unacceptable attack on women's reproductive health.

The sole purpose of this bill is to deny access and create additional barriers for women seeking safe and constitutionally protected medical procedures. After relentless attempts in this Congress and in the courts to curtail a women's right to choose, this bill is yet another measure designed to make it harder for women to get medical information critical to their health and safety.

This bill bypassed regular order and was rushed to the House floor days before Republican leadership plans to leave town for seven weeks. Yet, House Republicans are refusing to vote on—or adequately fund responses to—the many crises that endanger our public's health, from the Zika virus to gun violence to the epidemic of opioid addiction. Instead, House Republicans are choosing to vote on this bill to limit a woman's right to choose—the 13th vote in this Congress that undermines a woman's ability to make informed decisions about her own personal health and family.

I strongly oppose this bill and urge my colleagues to vote no.

GREAT JOB WAYZATA BASEBALL

**HON. ERIK PAULSEN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wayzata High School Baseball team for winning the Minnesota state baseball championship.

The Wayzata Trojans stormed through the three game state tournament with an early decisive victory, a walk-off home run in the semifinals, and a solid pitching performance that allowed only five hits during the final contest. This resilient defensive effort, coupled with scoring four runs in the final two at bats

in the fifth inning, ultimately resulted in the Trojans winning their first state championship with a score of 9–1.

Baseball is a game that fosters teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship. I also want to recognize their commitment not just to their sport, but to the time spent in the classroom and in the community to become outstanding student athletes.

Mr. Speaker, the family, fans, and the entire Wayzata community are very proud of this team. Congratulations again to the Trojans on winning the high school baseball championship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 440 on H. Res. 822. I mistakenly recorded my vote as yes when I should have voted no.

PHILADELPHIA BLUE SOX

**HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Philadelphia Blue Sox, a thirteen-and-under little league baseball team from my district who have earned national recognition and have won five tournaments just this year with a sterling record of 40 wins and only 6 losses.

The team is made up of 14 handpicked players from Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs. The boys are committed and train year round, often early in the morning and late into the night, when school and their parents allow.

Thanks to the dedicated leadership of their head coach Michael "Zoom" Zolk, Tom Distro, and Michael "Big Zoom" Zolk, as well some help from the Philadelphia Police Department, the hard work and dedication of the Blue Sox has translated into an impressive string of victories.

We in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District are proud of this exceptional group of young men, and we are eager to see them continue to succeed. Go Blue Sox.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 447, on July 13, 2016, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote on an amendment offered by Rep. GRAHAM (D–FL) to H.R. 5538.

Had I been present, I would have voted YES.