

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES B. RENACCI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 594, YEA on Roll Call No. 595, YEA on Roll Call No. 596, YEA on Roll Call No. 597, and NAY on Roll Call No. 598.

## HONORING MR. DOUG SIDEN

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the invaluable service to our community from the leadership of Mr. Doug Siden, and to congratulate him on his retirement from the East Bay Park District Board of Directors.

Mr. Siden has served for the past 24 years on the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Board. During his tenure, Mr. Siden recognized the importance that the East Bay Parks play in the lives of so many local residents, and has worked tirelessly to provide access and an enjoyable experience for visitors to all of the District's 66 locations.

As an EBRPD Board member, he worked diligently to help EBRPD pass Measures CC and WW to support and expand the system. At \$500 million, Measure WW was the largest bond measure ever awarded to a local district to acquire and develop new parks, and it helped the Park District meet the increasing demand to preserve open space for recreation and wildlife habitat.

Mr. Siden served for many years on the East Bay Economic Development Alliance's Executive Board, was a founding member and served as a chairperson of the Martin Luther King Freedom Center in Oakland, and led the fight to establish the Alameda County Creek and Watershed Symposium. Additionally, during his career he has served on the advisory committees of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

Mr. Siden is also a longtime Rotarian and has served as a Baptist minister for over six decades. He directed a youth camp for Baptist Churches of the West for 20 years, and led the effort to establish year-round camps in Santa Cruz and near Lake Tahoe. He holds an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the American Baptist Seminary of the West for his leadership.

On a personal note, Doug has been a longtime friend and partner in the East Bay, and I greatly appreciate his leadership and counsel. I wish him well on this new chapter of his life.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Mr. Doug Siden on a well-deserved retirement. We honor his tireless support of open space, parks, and healthy recreation, and also for his vision of a more ideal world in which all can enjoy and benefit from these natural treasures.

## BEST OF LUCK TO TEXAS 02'S FOOTBALL TEAMS AT STATE SEMI-FINALS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, sweet tea, BBQ, and football—these are just some of the things Texans love dearly. From high school football to college football, Texans will come out to every game no matter what the temperature and weather are. Our commitment to our football teams is so strong that preachers will find a way to mention the local team in their sermons and make sure you get home just in time to watch the game with friends and family.

Football is a very special part of the culture in Texas. From the stadiums to the food to the different student clubs that gather in the stadiums, football games unite Texans. The bands, the drill teams, the cheerleading teams, the students that form it all—they are an extraordinary group that make the culture and character of Texas so unique in the United States. More than just uniting families and friends, football allows our community to share in the joy of victory and the sadness of temporary defeat; it teaches our children to keep working hard for their goals both individually and with their teammates.

Although professional and college football receive the most national attention, high school football is just as important in Texas. I still remember going to my son's football games, from his start at pee-wee leagues to his career playing for my alma mater, Abilene Christian University. Those memories make me even more proud to say that two high schools in my district have met their goals and broken records this season.

Atascocita High School is fighting for a chance to compete in the state championship. Last year they had a record-setting playoff run, reaching the Region II-6A Division I final. This year, they raised the bar even higher. With the outstanding sportsmanship of their players, the football team of Atascocita High School has exceeded expectations. I know how proud the players, their parents, and their school must be. Ranking at Number 18 in the state, the Eagles have some of the most promising players on their team.

Quarterback Daveon Boyd, now a senior, has received four awards throughout his high school football career. He has surpassed the national average in number of yards, yards per game, touchdown passes, completion percentage, attempts, and interceptions. This season alone, he's had a 63 percent pass rate for 4,139 yards and 46 touchdowns.

But Boyd is not the only outstanding player in Atascocita High School. Samuel Cosmi, the offensive tackle, is a University of Houston pledge. Defensive tackles De'Marius Brooks and Kendrix Burford, along with defensive backs Justin Campbell, Alerick Soularie, and Travian Blaylock give the Eagles an edge in size and speed.

Another high school in my district, Klein Collins, won its first regional semi-finals at Baylor's McLane Stadium in the Division II Region II-6A playoffs. While all the players have done outstanding work, senior running back D'Anthony Doyle rushed 167 yards and got a

couple of touchdowns, making him the hardest working player that game. His teammate, Josh Powell, also earned the team two more scores. At the end of the game, the team's hard work left the team with a 54-16 victory over John Tyler. As a proud dad who beamed in the stands watching his son play, I know how thrilled their parents will be watching them play against Spring Westfield on December 2.

I am incredibly proud of the students of the Atascocita and Klein Collins High School football teams for their successes this season. It is great to see students in my district represent us so well with their hard work and talent. I look forward to their upcoming games and seeing them succeed and exceed expectations for years to come. Best of luck at State Semi-Finals.

And that's just the way it is.

## MERCHANT MARINE OF WORLD WAR II CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for the bipartisan H.R. 2992, the "Merchant Marine of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act," introduced by my colleague, Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS of Indiana.

I stand to recognize every service member who has dedicated his or her life to the protection of this nation and the world.

The Merchant Marines of World War II were vital in the collective effort to defeat the Axis powers.

Serving our military as a distributor, Merchant Marine fleets carry imports and exports during peacetime and become a naval auxiliary during wartime, delivering troops and needed war supplies and materials.

Many Merchant Marines have sacrificed their lives, perishing at the highest rate of casualties of any service members, sometimes as high as 1 in 24 in any given mission.

During World War II, a total of 1,554 ships were sunk by German U-boats, including 733 ships weighing over 1,000 gross tons.

One hundred forty Merchant Marines have been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Merchant Marine's highest honor, seven of whom were cadet graduates from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 2992 which honors those civilians who answered the call to serve our nation in the United States Merchant Marines during World War II.

## GEORGIA DAY OF CODE

**HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, computer technology dominates our ever-evolving world. As we continue moving towards a society dependent on communicating through our technical devices, the need for qualified people in the STEM fields is rapidly growing.

Offering the opportunity for Georgia students to delve into computer programming will enhance industries across Georgia, our country, and the globe. Harnessing these skills benefits future generations, and will help build strong twenty-first century economies.

Georgia's Day of Code, during Computer Science Education week, is a great way to place coding in the public eye. We must continue to promote this important vocation, and engage in our communities to advance technology development.

The need for those in the technology field is vast and, in Georgia alone, employers post hundreds of IT-related jobs every day, which shows how promising the future is for professionals entering this field. Georgia's Day of Code encourages educators, parents, and policy makers to promote STEM-focused careers to students across the state. We must continue to advance and innovate in the technology sector, and what better way to do that than to invest in our next generation.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF RAMONA NEILL

#### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, Ramona (Johnnie) North Neill of Blackfoot, Idaho passed away at the age of 88 on December 4, 2016 at the Gables of Blackfoot Assisted Living and Memory Center. Mona was born September 6, 1928 and raised in Kirksville, Missouri to Oscar and Zelma Jewell North. She lived there until the age of six when the family moved to Blackfoot, and attended grade school, junior high, followed by graduating from high school in 1946.

In December 1949 she met the love of her life: James (Jimmy) K. Neill who was an Employee of Idaho Power Company and was part of the Mobile Line Crew that was upgrading the Electrical Power Grid in Blackfoot. Their relationship quickly blossomed and they were married on May 26, 1950 in Winnemucca, Nevada. From there, Jim and Mona lived primarily in Boise, Idaho until they moved permanently to Blackfoot, Idaho in the summer of 1956 where she lived at the family home on Riverton Road up to the time that her health forced her to move last year.

Mona enjoyed outdoors trips with her husband and children, attending every scout, school, sports activity of her sons and the grandchildren residing in Blackfoot as well as visiting or following the adventures of her two grandchildren in Washington state.

Mona is survived by her sons: David K. Neill (Marie Carter, deceased), Blackfoot, Kim O. Neill (Christi Ann), Bainbridge Island, Washington, and James Todd Neill (Melody Renee), Scottsdale, Arizona, her four grandchildren: Cassandra Lynnette Neill, San Diego, California, Thomas K. Neill (Laura), Boise, Idaho, James K. Neill (Emily), Washington, D.C. and Andrew Albert Neill, Washington, D.C.

She will be laid to rest at Dry Creek Cemetery in Boise, Idaho where she will be next to her late husband James K. Neill.

MASTER SERGEANT MICHAEL  
THOMAS DONOHUE

#### HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Master Sergeant Michael Thomas Donohue, in appreciation of his 30 years of meritorious service in the United States Army, Navy, Navy Reserve, and New York Army National Guard.

Throughout his military career, Master Sergeant Donohue has served with honor and distinction in numerous positions, from Aircraft Handler and Tank Mechanic, to Intelligence Analyst and Operations NCOIC, culminating with his service as a Senior Maintenance Supervisor for the 42nd CAB. His unwavering dedication to duty and unparalleled professionalism has consistently earned the respect of subordinates, peers, and superiors alike.

An innovative and relentless troubleshooter, his vast technical knowledge greatly aided in his Brigade's success while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 08–09. His experience, gained from serving in two combat deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, proved invaluable as he mentored junior non-commissioned officers and officers on a wide spectrum of operational and technical topics, increasing their readiness for deployment and ultimately, unit effectiveness. His long and illustrious career has been marked by humility and service, and reflects great credit upon himself, the New York Army National Guard, United States Army, and United States Navy.

MSG Donohue's deployments include Operation El Dorado Canyon (USN, 1986), Operation Ernest Will (USN, 1988), multiple natural disasters (1997–2012), Counter Drug operations (1998–2001), World Trade Center (2001), OIF (2008–2009), and OEF (2012–2013). He provided mentorship and leadership and skillfully groomed the next generation of leaders, which resulted in the Soldier and NCO Warrior of the Year competitions for the Aviation Brigade in 2009, 2010, and 2011 and New York State Soldier of the Year in 2011. His faithfulness through these times was and is a testimony for others to follow, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize his devotion to our country.

#### THE THIN BLUE LINE: OFFICER REGINALD GUTIERREZ

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our men and women in blue are the best we have. They are the thin blue line between good and evil. Each day these men and women head out into the field not knowing what they will face, not knowing if their day will be filled with routine traffic stops, or extreme dangers. Our peace officers face the unknown and stand up for the rest of us.

Reginald "Jake" Gutierrez was one of these men. Gutierrez was responding to a domestic violence call in Tacoma, Washington after a

woman approached animal control officers claiming her husband had locked her out of the house and taken her cell phone. Gutierrez and his partner entered the home. Shots rang out as he proceeded up the stairs to speak with the suspect. Two young children were held hostage inside the house, being used as human shields. His partner returned fire, taking the wife to safety. Gutierrez was shot multiple times, his life taken away by a vicious criminal.

Gutierrez gave his life to protect the young and innocent. As a veteran of the Department since 1999, 45-year-old Gutierrez was a model police officer. Each day he got up, put on the uniform and badge and dedicated himself to his profession and community. He is now the 132nd officer to die in the line of duty this year alone. At least eight of these deaths occurred while responding to reports of domestic disturbance and violence.

Hundreds of individuals came to honor Gutierrez as he made his way from the hospital to the medical examiner's office. The hospital was surrounded by fellow officers standing in support of their fallen brother. The King County Sheriff's Department ordered all Deputies to wear mourning bands in honor of the fallen peace officer.

The needless murder of our officers is absolutely unacceptable. These men and women work tirelessly, day in and day out trying to make a difference. It is time to put an end to the needless murder of our peace officers. Congress must stand up for those who work to protect the rest of us. The men and women behind the badge are some of America's best.

Officer Reginald "Jake" Gutierrez's life may be gone, but his memory serves as a reminder of all those who gave their lives for the thin blue line.

And that's just the way it is.

#### COMMEMORATING WORLD AIDS DAY 2016

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, World AIDS Day affords us an opportunity to reflect on our progress in the fight against the global AIDS pandemic and to rededicate ourselves to ending the disease once and for all.

We have come a long way since the first World AIDS Day in 1988 by dramatically expanding investments in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, and research.

Strong advocacy has paved the way for the Ryan White Act, the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS Initiative, growing investments in NIH research, and an end to the ban on federal funds for syringe exchange.

Beyond our borders, our efforts have extended care to millions in the developing world, through increased resources for PEPFAR and the Global Fund.

Our investments have saved lives—preventing millions of new HIV cases, expanding access to improved treatments, and enabling medical advances that help HIV/AIDS patients live longer and healthier.

Here and across the globe, AIDS deaths are on the decline, and studies are pointing the way to new approaches to limit the spread of the disease, with treatment as prevention.