

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2017*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on April 5, 2017, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency and missed roll call votes 217–220. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll call vote 217: On ordering the previous question: NAY

Roll call vote 218: On agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 242: NAY

Roll call vote 219: On Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair: NAY

Roll call vote 220: On final passage of H.R. 1304—Self-Insurance Protection Act: YEA

38TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT (TRA)**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2017*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a very important day in U.S.-Taiwan relations. April 10th marks the 38th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). This important statute has been critical in defining the diplomatic, economic, and strategic relationship we have enjoyed with Taiwan over the last four decades. In 2017, Taiwan is the United States' tenth largest trading partner. The TRA has strengthened our relationship and helped encourage a particularly strong economic partnership.

The growth of Taiwan is a living breathing example that trade benefits humanity, and not just economically. Particularly in light of the scheduled meeting between President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, it is important for our nation to remember and commemorate the special relationship between the United States and Taiwan, a thriving and innovative economy that most countries envy. In this new and exciting era for our two nations, one that promises to emphasize bilateral trade agreements, I impress on the administration that a strong relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan is key to sustaining peace, stability and liberty in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a continuing successful cooperation between the United States and Taiwan. I am also confident that if we continue to enhance our economic relationship, this dynamic partnership that we've built together will continue to thrive in the future.

## HONORING MR. BERVIN HARRIS

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2017*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, this past February, I was honored to recognize outstanding members of the Bronx community during my office's annual Black History Month Celebration. During that time, we gave pause to com-

memorate the innumerable contributions that African Americans have made—and continue to make—to our Nation. Today, it gives me great pleasure to rise in honor of one of those exceptional individuals, a trailblazer in youth civic engagement through the power of music. It is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you to honor Mr. Bervin Harris.

Mr. Harris is the Co-Founder and CEO of Renaissance Youth Center in my district. He has over 30 years of social development experience in the areas of youth services and community development, and cofounded the Youth Center in 2001. As CEO, he has created and managed several successful programs throughout the Bronx community. Renaissance Youth Center serves close to 4,000 youth a week at multiple sites, providing children in the Bronx with educational programming, tutoring, and musical lessons. Mr. Harris also manages, writes and directs for the center's Music With A Message (MWAM) Band, performing with them in close to 100 shows a year. Mr. Harris is also the director of the center's citywide youth council, Youth In Power, with more than one thousand teens participating.

Under the direction of Mr. Harris, the youth council participates in precinct, community board, and mayoral meetings by partnering with community organizations and advocating for their peers and neighborhoods. Recently, the council led the charge to hold a local slaughterhouse owner accountable for properly disposing of their trash and keeping the surrounding area clean. Their efforts brought this quality of life issue to the attention of the health department and local elected officials which in turn forced the business owner to address the community's concerns. Mr. Harris has built many partnerships for Renaissance including with the New York Police Department, Carnegie Hall, NYC Parks Department, Berklee College of Music, and many more.

Prior to Renaissance, Mr. Harris was the program director at a Beacon program where he more than tripled the annual budget and was recognized as one of the 4 "Model Beacons" by the Department of Youth and Community Development.

Mr. Harris is also an artist on Capitol Records where as an accomplished musician, singer, song writer he has produced and written songs for a wide variety of musicians, ranging from Hip Hop artists like KRS-1 to R&B artists like Mary J. Blige to Jazz artists like Herbie Hancock. Mr. Harris has also written the music score for the stage play *I Sing 4 Luv* and recently co-wrote and directed the stage play *Bronx Side Story*. Mr. Harris received his undergraduate degree from Old Westbury College and management certificate from Fordham University.

Mr. Harris is an incredible advocate for the youth of our community, and he has made our borough a much better place because of his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Bervin Harris for his passion for uplifting the youth in our community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FAMU  
WOMEN'S SOFTBALL HEAD  
COACH, VERONICA WIGGINS**HON. AL LAWSON, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2017*

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of FAMU Women's Softball Head Coach, Veronica Wiggins. Coach Wiggins and her team celebrated her 700th career victory earlier this month in the Puerto Rico Collegiate Softball Classic.

Coach Wiggins reached this impressive milestone in her 26th season at Florida A&M University. With this win, Coach Wiggins is now the longest serving head coach in the school's 100-plus year of athletic history and ranked 44th on the NCAA's Career Coaching wins list for active coaches. Known as an intense competitor, master psychologist and mother hen, Coach Wiggins is a true leader in the Rattler Community.

Since the beginning of her career at FAMU in 1990, Coach Wiggins has been the architect of one of the more respected mid major Women's Softball programs in NCAA Division One. She has led FAMU Softball to a 226–76 record all-time in Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference play, while guiding her charges into postseason play eight times. Coach Wiggins was inducted into the FAMU Sports Hall of Fame, won the MEAC Outstanding Tournament Coach Award eight times and is a four-time MEAC Coach of the Year. She has served with a spirit of love and patience that has carried her into victory.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire FAMU Rattler community, I am proud to honor Coach Wiggins. She is an inspiration to many across northern Florida both on and off the softball field. Her enthusiasm and passion for her team have not gone unnoticed.

I look forward to watching FAMU Women's Softball Team future success and I wish Coach Wiggins well as she continues to lead the mighty rattlers to victory.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-  
EN MISSISSIPPI NAVY SEAMAN  
(SN) KATRINA RENEE GRADY**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi Navy Seaman (SN) Katrina Renee Grady who died of an intracerebral hemorrhage on April 18, 2002, during Operation Enduring Freedom. She had been onboard the USS *Port Royal* when she became ill. She passed away at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, MD.

SN Grady was the youngest of six children raised by her mother, Mary Grady, in Greenville, Mississippi. She graduated from T.L. West High School in 1992. Following graduation from Mississippi Valley State University in 1998, SN Grady enlisted in the U.S. Navy. It was her desire to follow in the footsteps of her grandfather who served in the military and her brother, Charles Grady, who joined the Mississippi National Guard.