

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIMMY GOMEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2017*

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 392.

## HONORING PARKER SWAGGERTY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2017*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Parker Swaggerty. Parker is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1360, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Parker has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Parker has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Parker has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Parker built a wheelchair accessible sidewalk for the Chapel of Family Promise in Kansas City, Missouri, which provides transitional housing for homeless families.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Parker Swaggerty for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SEVEN LAKES SENIOR SELECTED  
FOR INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas Xiong of Katy, TX, for being chosen to join Team USA at the International Biology Olympiad.

Thomas, a Seven Lakes High senior, was selected as a gold medalist in the 15th annual USA Biology Olympiad (USABO), qualifying him to represent the U.S. at the International Biology Olympiad this July in the U.K. He was picked out of 20 USABO National Finalists. To be chosen, he had to take practical and theoretical tests that followed 10 days of intensive biology instruction at Marymount University in Arlington, VA. The finalists studied with U.S. experts in the fields of cellular and molecular biology, plant anatomy and physiology, animal anatomy and physiology, genetics and evolution, ecology, ethology, and biosystematics. Thomas will represent the U.S. with Edward Lee of Austin, TX, Alexander Tsao of Fullerton, CA and Catherine Wang of Lexington, MA.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Thomas for being one of four to represent

the U.S. at the International Biology Olympiad. We know he will be a great asset to Team USA and will make TX proud. Good luck.

RECOGNIZING LT. COLONEL TED  
BALLARD**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2017*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to honor a true American hero who has continued to make a difference in the lives of many throughout his life. Lt. Colonel Arthur "Ted" Ballard Jr. was born in Spartanburg, South Carolina in 1932. He is a graduate of Spartanburg Senior High School, Spartanburg Junior College, and attended Clemson University.

In 1954, Ted joined the U.S. Air Force as an Aviation Cadet and received his silver pilot's wings and commission the following year. In 1955, he married the love of his life, Ruth. Their son, Kevin, was born in 1959.

In June of 1966, Ted was deployed to the Korat Air Force Base in Thailand to begin flying combat missions over Vietnam. On September 26, 1966, during his 68th mission, Ted's F-105 was shot down by ground fire, forcing Ted to eject the aircraft over enemy territory just north of Hanoi. He suffered a broken left leg and was captured and interned by the North Vietnamese. Ted remained as a prisoner of war for six years, spending time in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton."

Upon his release in March of 1973, Ted returned to the United States and underwent medical treatment and recovery until August of that year. He and his wife decided to finish their undergraduate degrees after his return. Ted went on to earn a master's degree and serve on the faculty of the USAF War College before retiring in 1975. He and his wife moved back to Spartanburg, South Carolina, where Ted became the instructor for the Air Force Junior ROTC program at Gaffney High School. He retired in 1997 after teaching for 22 years.

Sadly, Ted lost his son in 2009 and his wife in 2015. Upon his wife's death, Ted established the Dr. Kevin Dale Ballard 1980 Endowed Scholarship Fund at Wofford College, in South Carolina, in memory of both his brilliant son and loving wife. The scholarship will be awarded to a deserving Wofford College student studying science, technology, or medicine for the first time this fall.

On May 7, 2017, Ted was presented the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor, by Governor Henry McMaster for his admirable service to the citizens of South Carolina.

A truly remarkable man, Ted continues to share the extraordinary story of his life, his time as a POW, and his time in the armed forces. He has made South Carolina and our nation proud.

HONORING KEITH ANDREW  
WILLIAMSON, II

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2017*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Keith Andrew Williamson, II. Keith is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Keith has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Keith has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Keith has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Keith refurbished a council ring and fire pit at Immacolata Manor in Liberty, Missouri, rebuilding the trail to the ring, repairing the fire pit and constructing benches around the fire pit.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Keith Andrew Williamson, II, for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR PATRICK W.  
MILLER**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2017*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Patrick W. Miller for his outstanding acts of heroism and his dedicated military service.

Major Miller received his commission into the Medical Service Corps in 2003 from St. Bonaventure University and continued his service as Medical Platoon Leader for the 1st Cavalry Division in Texas. His battalion was soon deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, where he served for 13 months. Major Miller was promoted to Battalion Assistant Operations Officer and spent another 15 months in Iraq before returning home.

In 2011, Major Miller was assigned as Chief of Resource Management for U.S. Army Medical Activity at Fort Drum. He remained there until moving back to Fort Hood to act as Brigade Comptroller for the 1st Medical Brigade. It was there that on April 2nd, 2014, Major Miller heard gunfire outside his office. Miller faced the attacker and was injured while trying to impede the rampage.

Major Miller was able to get to safety and call 911, sounding the alarm on the attack. Despite the horrific circumstances, Major Miller continued to maintain his composure and conduct himself professionally, all the while remaining cognizant of the well-being of those around him.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Major Patrick W. Miller for his heroic actions and the dedication and honor with which he serves our country.