

our nation. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CURRENT
EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION ACT

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Current Employee Representation Act with Congressman BRADLEY BYRNE of Alabama and Congressman JOE WILSON of South Carolina. The Current Employee Representation Act would provide union members more representation as their views may differ from decisions made decades ago especially in the rapidly modernizing workforce of today. This legislation also gives union employees more power to be heard and hold the higher-up decision makers within unions more accountable to the rank and file.

The United States is seeing shifts every day towards a more modern workforce. Many current employees are locked into old and outdated union contracts, approved long before they were hired. All employees deserve a voice that is reflective of today's workplace. They should be given options and a voice in the structure of their workplace, and not be subject to the same union practices of the past. This legislation aims to allow new employees an option to elect new union representation. And if they deem the union unnecessary, it would give employees the right to decertify and represent themselves. Why should outdated union agreements set the rules for the 21st-century economy?

I thank my colleagues who have already supported this legislation and look forward to working with them to see this and other modern workforce policies advance in this chamber.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVING
OVERSIGHT OF WOMEN VET-
ERANS' CARE ACT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, women represent the fastest growing population in the veteran community. The Department of Veterans' Affairs reports that in 2016 women accounted for nearly 10 percent of the veteran population. This percentage will only increase in future years. It is vital that we ensure women veterans receive quality care in a safe and dignified environment, as well as in a timely manner.

According to the Government Accountability Office, the Veterans Health Administration does not have data and performance measures to determine women veterans' accessibility to gender-specific care delivered through certain community care programs. GAO also reports that VHA does not have accurate or complete data regarding VA medical centers'

compliance with environment of care standards for women veterans. Medical centers must conduct regular inspections and report instances of noncompliance, but sometimes these cases are not reported to VHA.

Therefore, I am introducing the Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act. This legislation will enhance the monitoring needed for effective oversight of women veterans' healthcare in and out of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. To accomplish this goal, the bill will require VA to report to Congress on women veterans' accessibility to gender-specific healthcare in any community of care program and require VA medical facilities to report to the Secretary on their compliance and noncompliance with quality care standards.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAM
TESTROET

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to honor my constituent and friend, Pam Testroet, as incoming President of the Louisiana REALTORS Association. Pam and her leadership team will represent over 13,000 REALTOR members and have proven to be exemplary and dedicated volunteers to the organization. Home ownership is an important goal for most Americans, and certainly for citizens of Louisiana. It bolsters our state and local economies and helps with job creation. More importantly, home ownership is not just an aspiration that is part of the American Dream; to many Louisianans, it is a dream come true. REALTORS remain at the forefront and work tirelessly to help their clients achieve that dream. At a young age, Pam braved adversity and helped champion diversity in the historic story of Ruby Bridges. This kind of example gives us all hope for a better tomorrow. Pam had an extensive career in the telecommunications industry before earning her real estate license in 2003. She is passionate about education and homeownership and has served on the local, state and national level in various committees and roles. Pam is a proud REALTOR member with a passion for advocacy, policy, and fostering relationships to protect homeowners. I look forward to working with her, the leadership, and all the REALTORS in the coming year.

WAYZATA SOCCER CHAMPS

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I offer congratulations to the Wayzata High School Boys Soccer team on winning the Minnesota State Championship Title.

The Trojans topped off their incredible 20–0–2 season by coming home with the state championship trophy. It is inspiring to see a team that shows up with their best every day, and consistently comes out on top. After los-

ing in the championship last year, they came back stronger than ever to win the state title in 2017.

After a scoreless first half, sophomore Patrick Weah netted a goal that eventually decided the match. The Wayzata keeper, Daniel Weshons delivered a shutout after facing thirteen shots. Just before the buzzer, Ethan Wagner put a second goal in the net to secure Wayzata's victory.

Mr. Speaker, the championship title earned by the Trojans shows how hard work throughout the season and the ability to play under pressure always pays off. These outstanding student-athletes have lived up to their obligations in the classroom and in the community.

Congratulations again to the players, coaches, and parents of the Wayzata High School Boys Soccer team on becoming state champs. Go Trojans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 6, 2017, I requested and was granted a leave of absence for the rest of the week due to the death of my sister.

For the information of our colleagues and my constituents, below is how I would have voted on the following votes I missed during this time period: on rollcall 607, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall 608, on passage of VA Management Alignment Act of 2017, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall 609, on approving the Journal, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall 610, on motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 3441 and H.R. 3043, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall 611, on rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 3441, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall 612, on approving the Journal, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall 613, on Democratic motion to recommit H.R. 3441, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall 614, on passage of H.R. 3441, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall 615, on passage of the Risk-Based Credit Examination Act, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall 616, on ordering the previous question for consideration of H.R. 2201, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall 617, on rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2201, Micro Offering Safe Harbor Act, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall 618, on the passage of the Veterans Crisis Line Study Act of 2017, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall 619, on the passage of Rush Amendment, which adds a new section to the Federal Power Act to improve the hydropower licensing process, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall 620, on passage of H.R. 3043, Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017, I would have voted "no"; and on rollcall 621, on passage of Veterans Fair Debt Notice Act of 2017, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE UNITY GIRLS
CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Unity High School Girls Cross Country Team, who are the 2017 Class 1A Illinois team cross country champions.

Unity, in Tolono, won the meet with 108 points, as its three All-State finishers, Caroline Bachert (13th), Jordan Harmon (21st), and Evelyn Atkins (25th), powered the team to victory. But this was a team effort and a team victory as every runner contributed to Unity's razor-thin two point victory.

I would like to congratulate the entire Unity Girls Cross Country Team on their victory: Evelyn Adkins, Caroline Bachert, Mackenzie Brunk, Caroline Cousins, Savannah Day, Kylie Decker, Miranda Fairbanks, Audrey Hancock, Jordan Harmon, Chelsie Helmick, Elizabeth Hulick, Taylor Joop, Rachael King, Natalie King, Riley Millsap, Taylor Millsap, Eveyenia Pyle, Lily Styan, as well as Head Coach Kara Leaman, on a superb end to a great season. And with only one senior in the group who ran at the state meet, Unity can look forward to continued success with its program.

Mr. Speaker, today it is an honor for me to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Unity Girls Cross Country Team in winning the 2017 state cross country title, and I wish the team and their coach all the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING MR. MICHAEL E.
STORY OF THE CITY OF RIALTO

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Michael "Mike" E. Story of the City of Rialto in my district on the occasion of his retirement from a lifetime of civic service to the communities of the Inland Empire.

Mr. Story has been the City Administrator for the City of Rialto since 1985 and has been a resident of the city since 1981. Prior to being named City Administrator, his previous positions included Associate Planner, Senior

Planner, and Director of Development Services for the City of Rialto.

His long time commitment to civic service and contributions is not limited to the city of Rialto. Mr. Story previously worked for the cities of Fontana and Duarte as a Planner. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration from Cal Poly Pomona.

Mr. Story has been a dedicated public servant during his time working for the city of Rialto where his efforts have resulted in improvements to the quality of life for all residents. His extraordinary skills in planning and collaboration have created new and improved opportunities for the booming city.

Along with being dedicated to his civic employments, Mr. Story is an avid member of his church's community. He now serves as an Elder for the Rialto Sunrise Church, a church with multiple locations that serves the Inland Empire communities. And as a former board member, he was and is well respected for his continued participation and selfless dedication.

Today, Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Mike Story for his unmatched commitment and civic employment to the City of Rialto for over 30 years, and to the contributions he has made to the greater community of the Inland Empire.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. KAZIA
CAPENER

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ms. Kazia Capener for her service to my office and the people of California's Twenty-First Congressional District.

Ms. Capener was born July 13, 1993 in Provo, Utah while her parents, Lars and LeAnn Capener, were attending Brigham Young University. As a baby, her parents moved to northern California, first to Davis then to Redding, where she lived until she was eight. Her family then moved Kazia, her brother Leif, and her sister, Anja, to Aurora, Illinois where her brother Kai was born. Throughout her childhood, Ms. Capener was an active tennis player and worked as a coach while in both high school and college.

After graduating from Waubonsie Valley High School in Aurora, Illinois, Ms. Capener went on to attend Brigham Young University,

Idaho, in 2011. While in college, Kazia served an eighteen-month mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Seattle, Washington. While in Seattle, she served as a full-time volunteer teaching about the church, organizing and performing community service, and teaching English as a second language. In 2015, Kazia studied abroad at Université Paul Valéry Montpellier—III, where she participated in an intensive French language immersion program in Montpellier, France.

Kazia joined my team as an Intern in my Washington, D.C. office in March 2017 and quickly became Staff Assistant a month later in April 2017. As Staff Assistant, Ms. Capener was instrumental to my team through managing my D.C. internship program, assisting my constituents by planning tours in the nation's capital, and helping staff with day to day tasks. As a member of my team, Ms. Capener was greatly respected by her peers for her professionalism and dedication to her work. Outside of work, Kazia is an avid music lover and enjoys attending concerts, videography, and learning about other cultures.

Ms. Capener's time with my office will come to a close November 9, 2017 when she leaves to begin a new career as an Employment Specialist at the Ethiopian Community Development Council in Washington, D.C. In conjunction with the United States Department of State, Ms. Capener will be responsible for helping refugees with special immigrant visas from all over the world create resumes, prepare for interviews, and ultimately, find employment. She will also teach American culture classes to new arrivals to help refugees integrate into their new communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Ms. Kazia Capener for her public service to the people of California's Central Valley and wishing her well as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 612.