

On behalf of the First District of Kentucky, I am honored to recognize Mr. Gayron Ferguson as an outstanding leader in service to our troops and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call votes held on December 12, 2017, I was inescapably detained handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 3971, and NO on Final Passage of H.R. 3971.

TESTIMONY OF JAYLA JOHNSON

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD, the testimony of Jayla Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished members of Congress and fellow citizens. I am from Council Rock North High School located in Newtown Bucks County. I am Jayla Johnson. I come from an area that's majority white and upper middle class. I am the model minority. Let me tell you all about it. Last year during spirit week on pride day I was in school when I saw a student walk around with a confederate flag draped on him. I hope you're wondering WHY and HOW that happened. The school allowed the student to walk through the halls for more than half the day due to their first amendment right. Now what about my safety? I reported the incident to my administration in which they said they could kindly ask the student to remove it in due time. I confronted the student within minutes and in their response was that he got it from his parents. To me that basically said he did not know the hate behind it, and did not see it as a problem. This conversation led to my family and I having a mandatory meeting with my superintendent, in hopes to change the school's policy handbook. I was somewhat not satisfied because I wanted more action to be done and take place than just words on a piece of paper, that is easily not read by many. From then and the hate that is shown in my school I started a club called V.O.I.C.E. meaning, Voices Of Inequality at Council rock north Everyday. This club is for students who want to make a difference and have dialogue on topics that we are not familiar with whether that is with where we live and or who we interact with. Be an up stander rather than a bystander. So I propose this question to you all in Congress, how can you make a change? Does that come from making a policy for ALL schools regarding no tolerance for racism, bigotry, and so many other isms? Let's rather make it mandatory students take a class to help them learn and be better United States Citizens? We are here at school to learn and leave to serve but how can we serve the world when we are not taught about it in school and or familiar with all races and ethnicities. I hope to hear back from Congress in hopes to change the

world for us since we are the leading future. Thank you for listening and please take this into consideration. Once again I am Jayla Johnson and I speak for the unheard voices and will continue to.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 672, and YEA on Roll Call No. 673.

GUS KENWORTHY OLYMPICS 2018
TRIBUTE**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gus Kenworthy of Telluride, Colorado. Mr. Kenworthy will be one of hundreds of other athletes competing in the 2018 Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea as part of Team USA.

Mr. Kenworthy is an accomplished freestyle skier who has competed in slopestyle and halfpipe competitions for most of his adult life. His hard work and dedication has led to numerous commendations. From 2011 to 2013 he won the Association of Free-skiing Professionals World Championships overall titles. In 2013 while competing in the X Games he was awarded the bronze medal in slopestyle skiing as well as two silver medals in 2016 for the superpipe and slopestyle competitions.

Next years' Olympics won't be the first time Mr. Kenworthy is competing in the Olympic Games. In 2014, he represented Team USA in the Sochi Olympics and won a silver medal in the slopestyle event. His qualifying events for the 2018 games in the halfpipe will take place at Copper Mountain December 6 through 8, and for slopestyle in Breckenridge on December 15.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that Mr. Kenworthy will be representing not only the United States but the people of Telluride, Colorado in the 2018 Olympics. I stand with the people of the Third District in recognizing him for his achievements and wishing him luck in next years' Olympic events.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for Roll Call votes 672 and 673 on Monday, December 11, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 672 and 673.

HONORING THE GOLIAD HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Goliad High School Varsity Volleyball team. On November 18th, the Goliad Tigerettes won their second consecutive UIL Class 3A Texas State Volleyball Championship. They defeated the Callisburg Wildcats with an impressive 3-1 game record.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Dave Plymale, Goliad High School Principal Brenda Gohmert, Athletic Director Bobby Nicholson, Athletic Trainer Gary Hobbs, Head Coach Jess Odem, Assistant Coaches Lindsey Youngblood and Kelly Hill, Manager Kylie Neubar, and Student Trainer Grace Schubert, the team consisting of Freshmen players Molle Henicke and Karleigh Hill, Sophomores Brooke Yanta and Ashlyn Davis, Juniors Kassidy Nicholson, Amaya Brown, Kaci Hotz, Kely Thomas and Maddie Council, and Seniors Kaitlyn Duval, Mallory Hermes and Savannah Shaw have cemented themselves as one of the top athletic teams in Texas.

The Tigerette's success reflects an impressive level of skill and teamwork, and I applaud the coaches, administrators, families, and friends who supported the Tigerettes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this impressive accomplishment. On behalf of Congress and the Goliad community, we extend our congratulations on consecutive state titles and wish each player success in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE HONORING OF DR. CHARLES P. NEIMEYER, U.S. MARINE CORPS

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today and pay tribute to Dr. Charles P. Neimeyer. A great American, Dr. Neimeyer will be retiring from Federal Service this month after serving 11 years as the Director and Chief of Marine Corps History, Quantico, Virginia. Prior to his time at Quantico, Dr. Neimeyer had an accomplished career as the Dean of Academics at the Naval War College, Forrest Sherman Chair of Public Diplomacy in Newport, Rhode Island, and the former Vice President of Academic Affairs at Valley Forge Military Academy and College. During his 20 year career as a military officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, Dr. Neimeyer served in a variety of posts and stations, including tours in all three active U.S. Marine Divisions and service at the White House under Presidents George H.W. Bush and William J. Clinton. He retired from active duty at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1996.

Dr. Neimeyer is a graduate of the University of Maryland and successfully earned distinguished graduate degrees from Georgetown University and the U.S. Naval War College.