

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 Neuvar, and Student Trainer Grace Schubert, the team consisting of Freshmen players Molle Henicke and Karleigh Hill, Sophmores Brooke Yanta and Ashlyn Davis, Juniors Kassidy Nicholson, Amaya Brown, Kaci Hotz, Kelly 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.

He is the author of a variety of historical monographs and countless national security affairs articles. His most recent work, *War in the Chesapeake: The British Campaigns to Control the Bay, 1813–1814*, was published by the U.S. Naval Institute in 2015, and went on to win the prestigious Simmons-Shaw award in 2017 given by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation for the best scholarly work by a federal historian.

Dr. Neimeyer's service as the Director of the Marine Corps History Division has been marked with great success. During his tenure, he was able to increase the historical output of his division by over 1000 percent. He also reorganized the division's branches and sent historians "down range" to cover the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, thereby ensuring the preservation of the critical operational history of our nation's foremost fighting service, the United States Marine Corps.

In addition, Dr. Neimeyer established the Marine Corps University Journal at Quantico. This journal now publishes cutting edge scholarships and work from students, faculty, and outside authors. The journal is leading the way toward a greater understanding of today's complex national security strategies. Because of these endeavors, Dr. Neimeyer's historical expertise on the United States Marine Corps has been sought out over the years by senior level officials in both the public and private sectors.

Most recently, Dr. Neimeyer served as a member of the board of inquiry that reevaluated the Marines we formerly believed to have been two Jima flag raisers on February 23, 1945. Thanks to the professionalism of Dr. Neimeyer, and the other board members, the Marine Corps and the nation now know the identities of the actual flag raisers on top of Mount Suribachi on that fateful day. As a result of this experience, Dr. Neimeyer volunteered to serve as the staff historian for the two Jima Association of America—a veteran's organization dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for Dr. Neimeyer's service both as a Marine officer and as the Chief of Marine Corps History. Over the past several years, Dr. Neimeyer provided invaluable and relevant historical information to my office. His timely data was always on target and nothing short of the exceptional quality I would expect from the chief historian of the United States Marine Corps. I am very appreciative of Dr. Neimeyer's service to our nation and thankful for the outstanding support his wife, Janet Louise, daughter, Kelli Klein, and two sons, Patrick and Christopher, gave him throughout his life. I want to thank Dr. Charles P. Neimeyer once again for his 20 years of service as an active duty Marine, and 17 years as a federal civil servant. I wish his beloved family fair winds and following seas as he and his wife embark on a new chapter in life.

RECOGNIZING JERUSALEM AS CAPITAL OF ISRAEL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Holy City of Jerusalem is recognized as one of the

oldest cities in the world. It is also the eternal capital of the State of Israel and the Jewish people. Founded during the dawn of civilization, the city has been destroyed twice, captured and recaptured 44 times, and controlled by numerous great empires including the Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, and Ottomans throughout its 6,000 year history. Throughout the centuries, Jerusalem has always been the spiritual capital of the Jewish people.

The Jewish people's connection to Jerusalem is clearly recorded in the Bible, with the city being mentioned by name 811 times. King David, the Biblical and historic King of Israel, made Jerusalem his capital in 1,000 BC. His son, Solomon, built the Holy Temple that was the center of the Jewish faith on Mount Moriah in the Old City of Jerusalem. After its destruction by the Babylonians in 586 BC, it was rebuilt years later only to again be destroyed by the Romans in the year 70 CE. Remnants of the ancient temple still remain with the Temple Mount and its outer wall, known as the Western Wall, serving as the holiest site in Judaism today.

When the Romans destroyed the Temple and Jerusalem, it expelled its Jewish inhabitants, forbidding them from settling in the rebuilt city. Meanwhile, Muslim and Christian armies battled for the city, erecting their own shrines over top of the Jewish ones. We cannot ignore the importance the Temple Mount also holds to Christians and Muslims, being the location where Jesus prayed. Nevertheless, Jerusalem has for far longer been the center of the Jewish world. The city remained in political turmoil for centuries until the rebirth of the State of Israel and its unification under the Jewish State.

In 1949, the Jewish people declared Jerusalem the capital of their new nation. As David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, stated: "there has always been and always will be one capital only—Jerusalem the eternal. Thus it was 3,000 years ago—and thus it will be, we believe, until the end of time." The city has since flourished as the capital of Israel, being a place where all faiths can peacefully worship. While the future of the full city has yet to be decided, it cannot be denied that Jerusalem is the political, cultural, and spiritual center of Israel.

I applaud President Trump's courageous decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to relocate the U.S. embassy to the city. It is the obvious decision reflecting our strong commitment to the State of Israel and the Jewish people's historical ties to the land. The status quo of Jerusalem's holy sites should be maintained until a lasting peace agreement is decided on by the two sides.

JIM DOODY 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 Jim Doody. Mr. Doody's hard work led to the opening of the Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Park at the Fruita Visitor Center in Fruita, Colorado. Shortly after his work on the memorial, he went on to serve as a member of the Grand Junction City Council from

2005 to 2009 and as Mayor of Grand Junction for two of those years.

Mr. Doody was compelled to honor the brave men and women that sacrificed so much to fight for this country and wanted to permanently display that appreciation. To celebrate our veterans he worked to create the Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Park. His dedication to the project was clear when he drove across the United States to pick up a UH-1H 'Huey' helicopter for static display at the memorial, and his work led to the park opening on July 4, 2003.

Mr. Doody continues to work to maintain the memorial to this day. Mr. Doody helps fundraise for continued maintenance needs and has aided in designing the three bronze statues of a mother and father welcoming home their son at the memorial. On top of all this, he ensures that every November 11th there is a ceremony at the memorial where people can gather and recognize veterans.

I was fortunate to attend the ceremony on November 11, 2017. At the ceremony it was evident that Mr. Doody did not create this memorial for the purpose of commendation, but he nonetheless deserves to be recognized for his service to veterans and the community.

Mr. Speaker, just as Mr. Doody pays homage to our men and women that served, it is my honor to pay tribute to him for the work that he does on the Western Slope Vietnam Memorial Park. On behalf of the Third District of Colorado, I would like to thank Mr. Doody for his generous service to his community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAVE OUR COMMUNITIES FROM RISKY TRAINS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in light of recent train derailments across the country and ongoing transportation security threats, I rise to introduce the Save Our Community from Risky Trains Act, which directs the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to find ways to the greatest extent possible to reroute trains that are carrying certain hazardous materials from selected high-threat urban areas, including the District of Columbia. This legislation is needed now more than ever, especially given DOT's recent announcement that it will rescind a requirement that rail tank cars carrying crude oil be outfitted with an advanced braking system designed to prevent derailments.

D derailments of rail cars carrying hazardous materials are a serious concern and should be a priority of Congress. In 2016, 16 cars of a CSX freight train derailed in a dense residential neighborhood of the nation's capital, disrupting Metrorail, passenger rail, and freight rail service and putting families at risk. Among the derailed freight train cars, cars carrying sodium hydroxide, calcium chloride and ethanol—which is flammable and led to a Metrorail shutdown—spilled. The neighborhood was lucky that there were no injuries, but the continuing threat to the safety and security of urban communities is clear.

In 2007, the House passed the Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2007, which included my amendment to protect the