

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF ARLENE SHERMAN'S
100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Arlene Sherman on her 100th birthday.

I join her friends and family in extending my best to her on this day and in celebrating her life and contributions to our great state. I hope she uses this momentous day to do the same.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Arlene on her birthday. May her year be filled with happiness and blessings.

RECOGNIZING HOLY FAMILY
ACADEMY AS A 2017 NATIONAL
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Holy Family Catholic Academy in Inverness, Illinois on being named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon Award winner. The National Blue Ribbon Award is presented to schools for outstanding academic performance making Holy Family Catholic Academy well-deserving of this recognition.

This year AdvancED, a non-partisan organization that reviews educational institutions, named Holy Family Catholic Academy as the first middle school in Illinois to receive STEM certification. Notably, the school's group-based learning environment prepares middle school students for STEM programs with confidence, curiosity, and enthusiasm.

The success of Holy Family Catholic Academy would not be possible without qualified teachers and the support of a robust Parent Association. Over 75 percent of Holy Family Catholic Academy teachers have advanced degrees. The Parent Association hosts a week-long Teacher Appreciation celebration that recognizes the trust, appreciation, and dedication of these consummate professionals.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in congratulating Holy Family Catholic Academy on being named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon Award winner.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS
NEGLECTED UNDER TAX BILL

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1, the Republican tax scam. I

voted against this bill a few weeks ago and again when it was brought before the House on December 19.

This bill was crafted behind closed doors, without regular order, and without thorough public input. The result is legislation that would dismantle our health care system, add significant complexity to the tax code, and harm my district's seniors, students, and virtually every middle-class family.

Many of my constituents suffered great economic hardship and are just beginning to recover from the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. This tax bill is not a way to bolster the recovery effort; it is a red herring that relies on the myth of trickle-down economics in order to give top earners more breaks.

Another way the Republican tax bill callously demonstrates a lack of concern for the average American that has been left largely out of the conversation, is the taxation of our citizens living abroad. I often hear from my overseas constituents and American expats I meet around the world about the burdens they face with the American citizenship-based taxation system. Like my constituents in Las Vegas, many of our citizens residing overseas are teachers, small business owners, and middle-class and working families who would be excluded from the benefits of the tax bill. They discuss being dually taxed under the current system: first by the local tax authority where they currently reside and again by the United States. This is a legitimate problem and unfair for the roughly 9 million Americans living abroad. No other developed nation has such a system.

As a member of the Americans Abroad Caucus, I have continued to support taking action so that U.S. citizens living abroad are not left with the choice of being drained of savings or having to renounce their citizenship due to unfair double taxation. Unfortunately, Congress has neglected to help this minority constituency for far too long. It is discouraging that the tax-writing committees would rather prioritize tax cuts on the foreign income of U.S. corporations than provide assistance to individual citizens abroad with tax reform.

I condemn my colleagues who voted for the tax scam conference report that will shift money from hard working families in Nevada and around the globe to the wealthiest in the nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 686 and YEA on Roll Call No. 687.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on December 18, I was not recorded on two Roll Call votes due to travel delays beyond my control. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 685 and YEA on Roll Call No. 686.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. FRANK WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Frank "Frankie" Williams, Jr., a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, who passed away on December 6, 2017 at the age of 50.

Mr. Williams was born on July 21, 1967 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was the oldest boy of six children to Mr. Frank Williams, Sr. and Mrs. Joan Williams. Mr. Williams received his education in the Orleans Parish Public Schools, graduating from George Washington Carver High School. He was employed by the Blue Crab Restaurant and Oyster Bar and a former employee of Margaritaville for ten years.

Mr. Williams went into the water near Lakeshore Drive to assist in rescuing two men. One of those two men died and another was hospitalized after their car plunged into a canal at West End, along with killing Mr. Williams as well. A co-worker of Mr. Williams stated that his actions that night were in line with his character.

It was said that, "Frank was the true definition of a selfless person who always looked out for his fellow man, co-worker or friend—the type of guy who would give you the shirt off his back. His large stature perfectly matched his large heart."

Mr. Williams loved the city and the people of New Orleans. His legacy will forever be a part of the city and his dedication to community embodies the spirit of New Orleans. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Mr. Williams, but surely we can try to match his sense of service. We cannot match his courage, but we can strive to match his devotion.

Mr. Frank "Frankie" Williams, Jr.'s survivors include his wife Doretha "Kim" Henry Williams, mother Joan Williams, son Frank Clark and two stepsons; grandchildren Adriana, Ma'Kye and Cam'ron Clark and two step grandchildren; and godchild Karionisha Polk. Siblings Karen Jones, Joan (Charles), Barbara (Will), Glenn (Chandra), Tyrone (Teidra) Williams and Jessie (Brenda) Brue; eight brothers-in-law; and four sisters-in-law. He is

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

survived by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Frank "Frankie" Williams, Jr. a beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and son.

**CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT
GENERAL DAVID E. QUANTOCK
ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 37
YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant General David E. Quantock, who is retiring after 37 years of exemplary active federal service in the United States Army on December 31, 2017.

LTG Quantock is a resident of New York and a 1980 graduate of Norwich University, with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. He received Master's degrees in Public Administration from Troy State University, Computer Science from the Naval Postgraduate School, and Strategy from the United States Army War College. He was commissioned through ROTC and entered the U.S. Army as a Military Police Officer. LTG Quantock has served in multiple campaigns, including Operation Island Breeze in Grenada, Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

LTG Quantock culminated his distinguished career as The Inspector General, Office of the Secretary of the Army where he upheld the office's longstanding legacy as a fair and impartial organization. In all of his diverse assignments, LTG Quantock's dedication, integrity, and leadership had an immeasurable impact on the Army and our nation's allies.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank LTG Quantock for his 37 years of faithful service, and wish him and his wife Melissa all the best in the years ahead.

HONORING MR. MARTIN TRUOX,
JR.

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Martin Truox, Jr., of Ocean County as the 32nd driver in the NASCAR Cup Series history to be crowned Champion. Since his Cup series rookie season in 2004, Martin has racked up 15 wins, 67 top 5's and 160 top ten finishes with 6,519 laps led throughout his hard fought and resilient career.

Beyond his great success on the race track, Martin is committed to giving back to his community. In 2007, he and his longtime girlfriend, Sherry Pollex started the Martin Truox, Jr. Foundation to support children with pediatric cancer. When not driving for Colorado based Furniture Row Racing team, Martin and Sherry devote much of their time together to furthering cancer research and awareness. The Martin Truox, Jr., Foundation has committed over one million dollars in aid to help grow the

emergency room at the Southern Ocean Medical Center in Manahawkin, New Jersey. Additionally, their efforts contributed to the grand opening of a new Pediatric Care Center at Southern Ocean Medical Center, in August of 2013.

Martin was raised in Mayetta, NJ, a very small and not so populated area inside of Stafford Township in southern Ocean County. In 1998, he graduated from Southern Regional High School, while racing for the Modified Division at Wall Stadium in Wall Township, always striving to accomplish his childhood dream, which was to become a NASCAR Cup Series Champion.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously proud to have Mr. Martin Truox, Jr., as an involved member of their community. It is my honor to recognize his outstanding accomplishment of being crowned the 2017 Champion in the NASCAR Cup Series and his continued commitment to giving back to his community, before the United States House of Representatives.

THANKING THEODORE R.
BECHTOL, JR. FOR HIS DEDICATED
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals who works at the U.S. Capitol, Mr. Theodore R. Bechtol, Jr.

Better known to many of us as the Superintendent of the U.S. Capitol Grounds, Ted is responsible for preserving and maintaining more than 290 acres of the historic landscape and infrastructure across the U.S. Capitol campus.

Prior to being promoted to his current position in 2007, Ted served as the Deputy Superintendent for U.S. Capitol Grounds. As part of Ted's responsibilities, he ensures the routine and periodic landscape maintenance, comprehensive tree care, and upkeep of the supporting infrastructure, vehicles, and equipment are completed. Additionally, snow removal, trash collection, and support for major events, such as the annual December Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, are key responsibilities for supporting our U.S. Capitol campus. In total, Ted has taken part in 13 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree events.

Throughout Ted's years at the U.S. Capitol, he worked hard to bring recognition to the historical significance of the grounds and helped to produce cultural landscape reports. His depth of knowledge about Frederick Law Olmsted, the American landscape architect who designed the U.S. Capitol Grounds, has changed how each section of the grounds are cared for, with a focus on historical horticulture.

Ted has also consulted on historical horticulture work at many institutions throughout the east coast.

Under his leadership, the U.S. Capitol Grounds have received designation as an accredited arboretum, a notable industry standard.

On Friday, January 5, 2018, Ted Bechtol will retire from his position as Superintendent

of the U.S. Capitol Grounds for the Architect of the Capitol.

In retirement, he will be spending more time with his granddaughter, working on home improvement projects, and enjoy hiking and beach trips. He will continue to explore American history trails—he and his wife recently hiked Gettysburg and Civil War trails.

Although we are sad to see someone with Ted's accomplishments leave the service of the institution, I offer him my sincere best wishes in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF HELEN
MACKES FOR THIRTY YEARS OF
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Helen Mackes, who will celebrate her retirement in January from her position as tax collector for Kunkletown, Pennsylvania. Helen has been a life-long resident of Kunkletown, Eldred Township, Pennsylvania.

Helen Mackes was a realtor, an elected tax collector, and the go-to person for information and assistance in her community for close to thirty years, and she was the recording secretary for a local political association for three decades as well. In addition to her service in government, Helen has always been very involved in her community in civic organizations, helping to preserve local history and important historic sites. As head of the Eldred Township Historical Society, she led the effort to secure a grant from the Commonwealth Finance Authority to renovate and restore the Kunkletown post office on Kunkletown Road.

It is an honor to recognize Helen Mackes for all the years of service she has given to the people of Kunkletown. I am grateful for both what she has done and what she has meant to this unique community. I wish her all of the best as she looks forward to an enjoyable and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER AND
PARAMEDIC JAMES McDONALD
FOR HIS COURAGE AND HEROIC
ACTIONS

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the heroic actions of firefighter and paramedic James McDonald. His courage, calm demeanor, quick reflexes, and solution-based approach saved the life of Riverside County Sheriff's Deputy David Solis.

On the afternoon of May 25th, 2017, Mr. McDonald and the rest of the members of Fire Station 79 were dispatched across town to assist Deputy Solis who had been shot multiple times during a foot pursuit in the City of Coachella.

Mr. McDonald reacted immediately and medically assisted Deputy Solis. He assessed the injuries, directed the medical support, and requested an air ambulance to transport Deputy Solis to the nearest regional trauma center.

As an emergency room physician, I am aware that when an individual is severely injured by gunshots, every second is vital to save his or her life. Mr. McDonald remained calmed and focused throughout the operation, and his leadership was essential in saving Deputy Solis's life. His courage and agility of mind is commendable.

Throughout his two years working with the Riverside County Fire Department, Mr. McDonald has demonstrated a strong commitment to public safety, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues. Before becoming a firefighter, Mr. McDonald served our community as a paramedic since 2000. Mr. McDonald was recently recognized by the City of Coachella for his outstanding performance assisting Deputy Solis.

On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I am grateful for Firefighter and Paramedic James McDonald and commend his valuable contributions and arduous work strengthening our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM ERIC HERR, COLONEL, USAF (RETIRED)

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time to recognize my constituent and friend, Mr. William Eric Herr for over 40 years of federal service beginning as a Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet in 1977 and culminating on January 14, 2018 with his retirement from federal civil service.

Mr. Herr received his engineering degree from the University of Colorado and was commissioned in 1981. He excelled as an Air Force pilot with most of his flight time in the F-15 Eagle, single-seat, air superiority fighter. Mr. Herr reached the pinnacle of his tactical training by graduating from the United States Air Force Fighter Weapons Instructor Course; as in his other flying training courses, he received top academic honors and was recognized as a Distinguished Graduate. He served 26 years in the Air Force including command, combat time over Iraq, duty on The Joint Staff, and senior positions on The Air Staff and the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Staff.

Today, Mr. Herr serves as the Low Observable/Counter Low Observable (LO/CLO) Systems Program Director in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics. He is responsible for managing the Department of Defense process for focusing LO/CLO technology development and reviewing requests for the release of LO/CLO technologies to U.S. allies and foreign partners.

Mr. Herr has been an active and involved citizen of Stafford County, Virginia. He served five years on the county's Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission including multiple terms as chairman and vice-chairman. An active member of the Stafford County Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Mr. Herr currently serves on their executive board and as their political outreach chair. He has been a frequent speaker at meetings of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors and has been engaged at all levels of his local government and across the First Congressional District.

Mr. Herr and his wife Lisa will be moving to Texas after his retirement where he will continue to support our Nation's defense in a leadership role in the private sector. Both he and Lisa will enjoy being closer to family but will never give up their ties to the Old Dominion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Mr. Herr's service to Stafford County, to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to the United States of America, and wish him and his wife the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 18, 2017 I missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "NO" on Motion to Fix the Convening Times, and "YES" on H.R. 4375, STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 687.

HONORING DEPUTY LOPEZ ON BEING NAMED OFFICER OF THE YEAR FOR HER ALTRUISM AND HEROISM

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an outstanding member of my Congressional district, Riverside County Sheriff's Deputy Alicia Lopez. Because of her extraordinary altruism, she was recently named Officer of the Year by the Palm Desert Police Department. Her story is an inspiration and today, I want to recognize her exceptional dedication of service and sacrifice.

Deputy Lopez and Community Service Officer Angelina Castleberry became close friends when they were both working at the Palm Desert Police Department. In 2014, Ms. Castleberry gave birth to beautiful twins. Unfortunately, one of them was born with a kidney deficiency. For three and a half years, little Matthew has been subject to multiple dialysis treatments, 14 surgeries, and weekly visits to the Loma Linda University Kidney Center.

Throughout the procedures, doctors advised Ms. Castleberry that Matthew may not survive for too long without a kidney transplant. When Deputy Lopez learned about Matthew's troubles, she decided to participate in a blood drive to see if she could be a match. In March 2017, the results indicated that she was in-

deed a match. Without any hesitation, Deputy Lopez decided to donate her kidney to save the life of little Matthew.

When Deputy Lopez enthusiastically shared the great news with Ms. Castleberry, she was overcome with tears of joy. On July 31, 2017, Deputy Lopez donated her left kidney to little Matthew, and the transplant surgery was successful. Her selfless generosity saved Matthew's life, who is now recovering well with his new kidney.

Deputy Lopez has dedicated her life to serving the residents of the Coachella Valley. Her valuable contributions and arduous work strengthening our community are inspiring. As exemplified in this story, she goes above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I truly commend Deputy Lopez for her heroism and compassionate sacrifice. Her willingness to help little Matthew is an inspiration to us all. Her years of service and contributions to our community are an example of excellence and dedication that all should seek to emulate.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for voting on Monday, December 18. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted:

Nay on Roll Call No. 685 (On Motion to Fix the Convening Time);

Aye on Roll Call No. 686 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4375, STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act, as amended); and

Aye on Roll Call Vote No. 687 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3979, Keep America's Refugees Operational Act).

IN RECOGNITION OF BETH CHAPPELL FOR HER SERVICE AS DETROIT ECONOMIC CLUB PRESIDENT AND CEO

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beth Chappell for her distinguished leadership as the Detroit Economic Club's President and CEO as she leaves to begin her next chapter. She has been an effective leader and advocate for Michigan's businesses and entrepreneurs.

Born and raised in Michigan, Mrs. Chappell attended Michigan State University's Broad College of Business where she received her bachelor's degree in Marketing before entering the workforce. She spent 16 years at AT&T Corporation, where she served as Vice President of Global Services and cultivated relationships with a worldwide clientele. Mrs. Chappell also served as Executive Vice President of Compuware Corporation and led the Chappell Group before being named President and CEO of the Detroit Economic Club (DEC).

Throughout her 12 year tenure as DEC President, Mrs. Chappell has increased the connectivity of Detroit's business community.

The Detroit Economic Club was founded in 1934 to serve as an organization committed to growing Michigan's business community and providing a platform for international leaders to address global economic change. Mrs. Chappell was successful in growing the DEC and expanding its accessibility to a diverse group of local and national leaders. She launched a young leaders group to ensure that students and young business leaders have the opportunity to learn from successful local leaders and receive mentorship from those who have walked in their shoes. Throughout her career, she has been recognized for her dedication to the Michigan community and continued innovation to best serve business owners and consumers. Mrs. Chappell is a member of multiple boards including Detroit Regional Chamber, St. Joseph Mercy Foundation, Michigan Economic Growth Authority and Citizens Research Council. She has had a tremendous positive impact on the Detroit Economic Club through her work as President, and I look forward to seeing her continued contributions in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Beth Chappell for her distinguished tenure as Detroit Economic Club President and CEO. She has worked diligently on behalf of Michigan's business owners throughout the years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on December 18, 2017, I was not able to cast my votes during the vote series due to a prior obligation in my District. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted: NO on the Motion to Fix the Convening Time; YES on H.R. 4375—STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act, as amended (Rep. Comstock—Science, Space, and Technology); and YES on H.R. 3979—Keep America's Refuges Operational Act, as amended (Rep. Jeffries—Natural Resources).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 685, YEA on Roll Call No. 686, and YEA on Roll Call No. 687.

HONORING DEPUTY DANIEL DIMAGGIO FOR HEROISM IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Riverside County Sheriff's Deputy Daniel DiMaggio for his heroic and swift actions which ultimately helped save the life of Deputy David Solis.

On May 25th, 2017, Deputy Solis was shot five times during a foot pursuit in the City of Coachella. Deputy DiMaggio rapidly responded to the situation and assessed Deputy Solis's injuries. Two weeks prior to the incident, Deputy DiMaggio attended training on Tactical Field Lifesaving, where he received the necessary medical materials to apply a tourniquet to Deputy Solis's arm. This technique helped stem the blood flow and reduce the shock from his wounds.

Deputy Solis is now alive thanks to the collective efforts of our community's first responders and public safety officials. However, Deputy DiMaggio's medical assistance was key in helping save his life. He took care of Deputy Solis until the paramedics arrived and remained with him while he was transported to the nearest regional trauma center.

Deputy DiMaggio's rapid response and decisive actions are truly commendable. He maintained a calm demeanor and a deep level of concentration that allowed him to execute the advance medical training he had received. He also had the needed medical kit ready to be used, which exemplifies his judicious thinking.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I want to honor and recognize Deputy Daniel DiMaggio. His courageous and decisive response saved help the life of one of the members of our community. I commend his admirable contributions strengthening our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for Roll Call votes 685, 686, and 687 on December 18, 2017. Had I been present, my votes would have been the following: Nay on 685 and Aye on Roll Call votes 686, and 687.

IN RECOGNITION OF WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE RENAMING THE PLANT OPERATIONS BUILDING IN HONOR OF A DISTINGUISHED STAFF MEMBER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Damon B. Flowers,

Vice President of Facilities, Development and Operations, and the recognition of his lifetime of work by Washtenaw Community College's which renamed a plant operations building after him. This building is being renamed in celebration of Damon B. Flowers' work at the school, so that his legacy will inspire generations of students to come.

Damon B. Flowers has served Washtenaw Community College in various capacities for over 23 years, including his current position of Vice President of Facilities, Development and Operations. Throughout his time at WCC, two campus master plans were implemented. These plans allowed him to oversee more than \$120 million in renovations and allowed for over 130 construction projects, including the Business Education Building, the Great Lakes Regional Training Center and the Health and Fitness Center. Vice President Flowers is known for his creative thinking and is recognized for the implementation of WCC's energy conservation campus standards and expanded recycling operations. Under his leadership, the campus has developed a partnership with the City of Ann Arbor and Ann Arbor Township to develop backup water resources and vegetated building roofs. He also secured WCC four Department of Energy grants through his dedication to implementing campus wide sustainability practices.

Vice President Flowers has received many awards throughout his tenure at Washtenaw Community College, including the Innovative Architecture and Design Award from Recreation Magazine, the Arbor Day Foundation Tree Campus USA Designation and the Grand Award from the Professional Grounds Management Awards Program. His years of hard work have impacted countless lives and forever bettered the design of WCC's campus. His leadership will be missed, and I look forward to seeing his continued contributions to our local community in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Vice President Damon B. Flowers for his outstanding service to Washtenaw Community College. His thoughtful leadership and influence will make a difference for decades to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday December 18, 2017, on Roll Call Number 685 through 687, The Motion to Fix the Convening Time, H.R. 4375, STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act and H.R. 3979, Keep America's Refuges Operational Act, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted: Motion to Fix the Convening Time: No; H.R. 4375: Yes; H.R. 3979: Yes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on December 18, 2017, I was in my district conducting official business and missed votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in support of H.R. 4375, STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act, and H.R. 3979, Keep America's Refuges Operational Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted in opposition to the Republican motion to fix the convening times.

MUSIC AT KOHL MANSION 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Music at Kohl Mansion concert series, conducted each year at Mercy High School, Burlingame. This is the 35th year of Music at Kohl Mansion. Built in 1914, Kohl Mansion's stunningly beautiful hall and associated rooms are the perfect setting for sparkling holiday lights and the joyous sounds of chamber music.

Music at Kohl Mansion has a national reputation for presenting chamber concerts of the highest professional standards, featuring local, national and international ensembles. The allied program of Kohl for Kids has instructed over 100,000 students in interactive music programs through 22 K–12 public schools. The instruction has also been offered through concerts, master classes, and coaching. Kohl for Kids also serves the public in public libraries, community centers and senior residences. Hundreds of students have received musical instruments through the year-long instrument drive for schools, and a partnership with the Young Chamber Musicians since 2011 has strengthened the education and performance opportunities for advanced, teenage musicians.

The holiday production of Music at Kohl Mansion and the year-round production of music through Kohl for Kids strengthen America. Despite different cultures, backgrounds and experiences, music is a unifying language that every person can appreciate without regard to race, heritage or training. Music connects each of us with our inner spark, and encourages all to unite around a common source of inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of being an alumna of Mercy High School, and the proud trumpeter of its ongoing mission to elevate the human spirit. Music at Kohl

Mansion and its allied program of Kohl for Kids have spent 35 years making my community a more hopeful place in which to live. This holiday season, while viewing the lights around us, I want to celebrate the light within that is brought forth by the music emanating from Kohl Mansion. There is no finer location for music than the hall of Kohl Mansion where the love of God and country are palpable in

the joyous renditions of this treasured winter festival in tiny Burlingame. Let the bells of this concert ring for as long as our human species have hope of joy and redemption.

IN RECOGNITION OF LINDA YOHN FOR HER DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH WEMU RADIO

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Linda Yohn for her outstanding career with WEMU Radio. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of Michigan's music community for the past 30 years.

After receiving her bachelor's degree from Otterbein College in Ohio, Ms. Yohn started working at WKSU, a TV station in Kent, Ohio, where she discovered that radio was her true passion. Ms. Yohn has been a lover of jazz music her entire life and then took a job as a jazz music publicist in New York City where she stayed until joining the WEMU Radio team in April of 1987 as Music Director. She hosted Café Du Jazz on weekday evenings throughout her first few years at WEMU before taking the morning jazz slot which she has held for the past 25 years. Through Ms. Yohn's work, the station saw a sizable growth in the station's audience and its relationships with jazz artists and record companies. Ms. Yohn has fostered deep relationships with members of the jazz community, both locally and nationwide.

Ms. Yohn's work at WEMU has been critical to the growth and success of the station as well as cultivating the community of dedicated listeners that WEMU is known for. Southeastern Michigan's vibrant jazz scene is attributed to Ms. Yohn's work at WEMU and the relationships that she continues to cultivate. Her work has been recognized many times over the years and she serves as a board member for the Southeast Michigan Jazz Association and attends panels at various conferences and conventions throughout the country. Ms. Yohn has been named National Jazz Programmer of the Year five times, has received the Duke Dubois national award for service and has been named Ypsilanti's Ambassador for Jazz. Over the past 30 years, she has served as a mentor to the entire WEMU team; though her title was Music Director, she was also the heart and soul of the station. Ms. Yohn leaves behind a generation of passionate jazz listeners and on-air hosts. Her advocacy, passion, and hard work have made her a beloved leader in our Michigan community, and I look forward to her continued positive impact on our Michigan community in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Linda Yohn for a distinguished 30 year career with WEMU Radio. She has made a lasting impact on southeastern Michigan's jazz community.

CONGRATULATING MELISSA BURNISON

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Melissa Burnison on her recent confirmation to serve as the Department of Energy's Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. Melissa is well known to Members of the House, and President Trump made an excellent choice when he nominated her for this important position.

Melissa Burnison is a native of Kentucky and she began her career on Capitol Hill working for Senator MITCH MCCONNELL. Melissa later worked for Congressman Zach Wamp of Tennessee where she focused on Department of Energy issues. She later served as a senior advisor at the Department of Energy and most recently represented the Nuclear Energy Institute as Director for Federal Programs. In that capacity, my staff and I have worked closely with Melissa to address challenges and opportunities facing the nuclear industry. Melissa also worked tirelessly to foster increased collaboration between the DOE national labs and the nuclear industry. I have especially appreciated her work in this area.

While Melissa Burnison is a respected and effective professional, she truly stands out as a wife and mother. Melissa is an adoring mother of three daughters and with her husband, Scott, they have formed a warm and close family.

One of the pleasures of serving in the U.S. House of Representatives is seeing young, talented people come to Washington to serve their country. I commend Melissa for her confirmation in this important position, and I expect we will be hearing more about this talented and gracious public servant in the years ahead.

TESTIMONY OF ANNA GOLDFARB

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD testimony of Anna Goldfarb.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished members of Congress and fellow citizens, good afternoon. My name is Anna Goldfarb and I am a student in the Council Rock School District. I am very honored to be speaking before you today about diversity and inclusion issues at my Bucks County, Pennsylvania school. I attend a school where most of the students look like me. I have heard many times from classmates and teachers that discrimination is not a problem within our district. It wasn't until the last couple of years, when I became old enough and opened my eyes and ears, did I see and hear that improvement is needed.

I do not think that most teachers and students are trying to be hurtful to students of color, different religions, genders, or sexual orientation. I also don't think that my friends who do not speak up in the face of discrimination are choosing to stand with those that discriminate.

I do believe that when we know better, we do better. I have made it my mission to call out discrimination when I see or hear it. I will always link arms with those being targeted and stand up for them when they are scared to do it alone.

I would like diversity and inclusion training to be added to our curriculum. We won't always attend school in this district, in this "bubble." We need to be prepared to become global citizens. We need to be prepared and empowered to stand up and link arms.

IN RECOGNITION OF ILLINOIS'
BICENTENNIAL

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my fellow Illinoisans in celebrating 200 years of being the Land of Lincoln, the Prairie State, the heart of the Midwest, and the true microcosm of America.

With our varied landscape and diverse population, our location in the dead center of the country, and our historical significance, Illinois is home to the hard-working and the kind-hearted. On December 3, 1818, Illinois became the 21st state admitted to the Union.

Today, Illinois is the fifth most populated state in the country and the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery. Our proud state leads the nation in agriculture, manufacturing, specialized license plates, and is home to superheroes. Yes, we boast about having the highest number of personalized license plates produced in the country, and the home of Superman really exists in Southern Illinois. We are home to the beloved 2016 World Series Champions, the Chicago Cubs, and the recently beleaguered but still beloved, Chicago Bears.

U.S. Presidents Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, and Obama all lived in Illinois. In fact, Ronald Reagan's boyhood home of Dixon is located in the district I represent. Illinois' 16th Congressional District is also home to the First Lincoln-Douglas Debate, which took place on August 21, 1858 in downtown Ottawa's Washington Square.

We're proud to celebrate this rich history, fortunate to call Illinois home, and honored to serve our communities here in Congress. As we kick off this bicentennial celebration of our Great Pumpkin State, we have a lot to be proud of and a lot of history to look back on.

Mr. Speaker, today I stand here to wish Illinois a very happy birthday and a wonderful bicentennial celebration all year long. Here's to our state sovereignty and national union.

HONORING ANDRE LACY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend, Andre Lacy, who passed away this week on a trip in Botswana, Africa at the age of 78.

Andre was a well-known entrepreneur and philanthropist throughout Indiana and the na-

tion. He served as Chairman of the LDI, Ltd. Board, a family business which evolved over the years into a successful business innovation solutions firm. With his business expertise, Andre devoted his time to Butler's Business Accelerator program by mentoring students and graciously donated to Butler's business school to promote their continued success. Throughout his life, Andre made a profound impact on countless Hoosiers by providing his guidance to many boards, commissions, and civic organizations.

On a personal note, Andre Lacy was my friend. He was a strong leader and a straight shooter that you could count on to be candid with you. Andre will be mourned most by those who knew him best, and he will be missed by all.

REMEMBERING HAROLD WEBB

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Harold Webb—Tuskegee Airman, North Carolina Director of Personnel, Wake County Commissioner—one of North Carolina's most distinguished leaders. Harold died this past Friday at the age of 92 after a lifetime of devoted public service. My wife Lisa and I extend our condolences to his wife Lucille, their family, and all Harold's extensive network of colleagues and friends as we express gratitude for his extraordinary life.

Born and raised in Greensboro, North Carolina, Harold attended public schools in Guilford County. Upon graduation, he served as a pilot with WWII's legendary Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American unit to fly and maintain American combat aircraft. His unit received a Congressional Gold Medal in 2007 for its military achievements and was instrumental in paving the way for full integration of the Armed Forces. As the Raleigh News & Observer editorialized yesterday, "Webb was proud to be a member of the Greatest Generation, and it may fairly be said that he was among those who made it the greatest."

After the war, Harold received a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a Masters Degree in Education from N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University. He then became a teacher and principal in Orange County Schools and served in a variety of state-level education positions, including administrator of Chapter I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in North Carolina schools.

In 1977, Harold was appointed by Governor James B. Hunt to be Director of State Personnel, the first African-American to serve in this position. He then served on the Wake County Board of Commissioners from 2003 to 2010, and was Chairman from 2008 to 2009.

Harold Webb's board service included The University of North Carolina Board of Governors, Shaw University Board of Trustees, Wake Technical Community College Board of Trustees, Wake County Planning Board, and the National Association of State Personnel Executives. He received an honorary doctorate from NC A&T University and, with Lucille, was inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame in 2011. Harold was a faithful member

of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, where he held numerous leadership positions.

Harold Webb made life in Raleigh and North Carolina better for all of our citizens. I and many others valued him as a friend, collaborator, and colleague: a man you wanted on your team. He was a leader who got things done but was quick to share the credit, a kind and generous man skilled at bringing people together, and a great source of encouragement and inspiration. We join with Harold's family, his many friends and admirers, and members of the communities he served, in mourning his passing and honoring his exemplary life of leadership and public service.

TESTIMONY OF ASHTON NOONAN

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD testimony of Ashton Noonan.

Hello, my name is Ashton Noonan, I'm 13 years old and I'm transgender.

Throughout my life I always felt and said I was a girl. I loved Ariel and Wonder Woman; not Batman and Superman. People would make fun of me on the playground, or ask why I wanted to be a girl, but to me it just felt right.

Every year I got older, I felt more and more uncomfortable in my own skin. I couldn't look on the outside like who I felt I was on the inside. That was always very confusing, because why not? After all, this is MY identity.

The world is changing, and with your help we can change the perception people have of the whole LGBTQ community, but especially LGBTQ youth. WE need a safe space where we can be supported, loved and accepted. We can and need to make ALL schools that safe space for ALL children. We need YOUR support to model for everyone else in the world what it is to love and accept others for who they are. We could all live every day for better or for worse, but together we can thrive.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 18, 2017, I was unfortunately not present for roll call votes 685 through 687. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted: Nay on roll call vote 685 on the motion to fix the convening time; Yea on roll call vote 686 on passage of the STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act (H.R. 4375); and Yea on roll call vote 687 on passage of the Keep America's Refuges Operation Act (H.R. 3979).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on December 18, 2017, I missed

rollcall vote No. 685, No. 686, and No. 687 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay, Yea, and Yea, respectively.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for Roll Call votes 685, 686, and 687 on Monday, December 18, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted “Nay” on Roll Call vote 685 and “Yea” on 686 and 687.

TESTIMONY OF MARGARET ZHENG

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD testimony of Margaret Zheng.

As a Chinese American, I may be hurt by affirmative action, but as a citizen of the global 21st century, I also feel that diverse representation in work and education is necessary to foster a sense of unity underlying diversity.

From this apparent contradiction of feelings, I have concluded that just like how it's difficult to cure advanced-stage cancer, we can't solve discrimination only after harm is done. Rather, we must treat the sickness of hate early on.

In school, we rarely study social minorities except as victims of history, omitting the positive, active roles that females, Muslims, Chinese, LGBTQ+ persons, etc. have had in culture and innovation. Liberal/Democrat students and conservative/Republican students tease and even taunt each other in school, and as a political independent, I often feel swallowed up in tribalized politics, afraid to be labeled a heartless conservative or naïve liberal.

The lack of discussion of socially and politically diverse perspectives in school perpetuates prejudice and endangers individuality, upon which value America was founded. That combined with the inequitable funding of schools and the billions of dollars wasted in high-stakes assessments that label rather than help struggling schools is what caused the need for affirmative action in the first place.

Educate us holistically, on citizenship and collaboration and empathy, and we will not only have diversity, but also a nation thriving.

REMEMBERING JAMES THOMAS
“JIM” BEVIS

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Jim Bevis, a friend

and constituent from Mississippi's Fourth District.

Jim grew up, just down the beach from Mississippi, in Pensacola, Florida. He attended the University of West Florida earning a degree in banking and finance. In 1980, Jim launched what would become a longstanding career in finance and budget analysis at NASA Headquarters (Washington, D.C.), in the Budget Operations Division. Later, he spent a year at Goddard Space Flight Center, in Greenbelt, Maryland. Over the next decade, Jim's career would soar to new heights as a budget analyst responsible for the Office of Space Science programs, then as the lead analyst for the Comptroller for all of NASA's space science programs, with a budget of nearly \$1.5 billion. From 1993 to 95, Jim served as a special assistant to the Chief Scientist at NASA, managing budget analyses for a variety of agency topics—Earth, space, microgravity, and life sciences.

Thankfully, Jim's success landed him a position at Mississippi's Stennis Space Center where, in 2002, he was named Chief Financial Officer. He was still serving in that position at the time of his unexpected death in November.

Jim earned numerous awards for his excellent performance and dedicated service to the NASA and Stennis communities. One especially memorable one, unique to our Gulf Coast, was the NASA Commendation Award for Hurricane Katrina Recovery.

Jim carried with him a passion for exceptional work and a rock solid commitment to serving well in his career at NASA. His full comprehension of the public's trust, as Chief Financial Officer, drew the respect and appreciation of NASA's leadership.

Regrettably, Jim's life was cut short just days before his 62nd birthday. I also wish to honor his sons, Nolan & Nicholas today, along with their mother, Sherri Carr Bevis, who is also a public servant and Gulf Coast friend.

Jim enjoyed playing tennis and strumming Beatles tunes on his guitar. He was also deeply involved in his beloved Jacob's Well church family. The life that was Jim Bevis is greatly appreciated and will be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COLONEL WILLIAM DAVID BARTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Colonel (COL) William David Barton's thirty-one years of service in the Mississippi Army National Guard (MSARNG). COL Barton began his military career on August 13, 1986, when he enlisted as a Cannon Crewman in Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery in his hometown of Kosciusko, Mississippi. He later received his commission through the ROTC program at the University of Mississippi, where he graduated with a degree in marketing in 1990.

COL Barton has served the MSARNG in staff positions at the battalion, brigade and state staff levels, and held command positions

at the platoon, company and battalion levels. In 2005, he was deployed to Iraq with the 155th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) where he first served as Brigade Personnel Officer for the 155th BCT, and then served as the Battalion Operations Officer for 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery. He has held the position of Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel since February 1, 2015.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Achievement Medal (with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with one Silver and three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), the National Defense Service Medal (with one Star), the Iraq Campaign Medal (with two Campaign Stars), the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Gold Hourglass, M Device, and Numeral 2), the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Combat Action Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the National Guard Basic Recruiter Badge, the Mississippi Magnolia Cross (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Mississippi Magnolia Medal (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Mississippi Commendation Medal, the Mississippi War Medal (with one Star), the Mississippi Emergency Service Medal, the Mississippi Service School Ribbon (with one Silver and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Mississippi Longevity Medal (with one Silver and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Mississippi Recruiting Medal.

When asked about his years in the MSARNG, COL Barton said, “I have been blessed to serve with some of the finest people in the world over the last 31 years. It has been an amazing experience and I am glad to have been able to serve my country and my state in both peacetime and during war. The service members I have served with truly embody the National Guard motto of ‘Always Ready, Always There’ and I could not be more proud of my service alongside them.”

Throughout his career and in preparation for his upcoming retirement, Colonel Barton has been supported by his loving family, including his parents, Gerald and Peggy Barton; his three sisters; his wife, Jennifer Barton; and his four daughters, Brittany Burnham, Ashley Smith, Kelly Barton and Hannah Kelly.

I am thankful for Colonel Barton's many years of military service, and I am proud to call him my friend. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes No. 685 through 687 due to a death in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted “Nay” on the motion to fix the convening time, “Yea” on H.R. 4375, STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act, and “Yes” on H.R. 3979, Keep Americas Refugees Operational Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, on December 18, 2017, I missed three Roll Call votes because I was detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted:

NO on the Motion to Fix the Convening Times—House GOP Leadership has offered a motion to change tomorrow's convening time to 10:00 a.m. (Roll Call No. 685);

YES on H.R. 4375, the STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act (Roll Call No. 686); and

YES on H.R. 3979, the Keep America's Refuges Operational Act (Roll Call No. 687).

TESTIMONY OF ALIYAH SALLEY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD testimony of Aliyah Salley.

Hello, my name is Aliyah Salley and I am from Bucks County, PA. First let me start off by saying Thank you. Thank you to Congressman Fitzpatrick, and his colleagues for giving us this opportunity to be heard today. I also want to thank Barbara Simmons of the Peace Center, my mom, Necole Salley and my grandmother, Linda Salley who is the president of the African American Museum of Bucks County. If it wasn't for these 3 ladies along with Congressman Fitzpatrick I believe my story as well as the stories you will hear today will have gone unheard. As I said earlier my name is Aliyah Salley. I was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, lived in Virginia for a few years and then moved to Bucks County, PA in 2011 with my mom and my sister. We move to Bucks County because my mom talked about how nice of a place it was to raise her children because of the experience she had living there when she was young. For all the years I lived down south, I never once had to deal with racism or the discrimination until I moved to Bucks County. My sister and I went to school in the Neshaminy school district and I am a proud graduate of the 2016 class of Neshaminy & I have been attending BCCC for the past 2 years. While attending Neshaminy High, I

experienced many offensive situations. I've seen racists slurs written on school property, my friends and I have been called the N**** word to our faces by students, there has been students wearing a confederate flag throughout the school and no one says anything to them. Two months ago, I became a victim of a hate crime. I have a part time job that I have worked for the past 4 years. As I was walking to my car to go to work I saw handwriting on the car. As I approached the car I could see that the n*** word was carved on the front and back of my car. Imagine how hurtful this is, coming from the south, never having to deal with anything like this before and having it in your face every time you walk out of the door to go to school. It is out of control. We can't allow this to continue. Living in a small town is not meant for one race it is meant for all people. We need help. We have to educate the misinformed. The people that don't know any better. We have to figure out a way to teach people that diversity makes our community stronger. We have to open the doors to allow diversity to feel welcomed into the community. I went to a school with over 4000 students, but the faculty has only 1 African American principal in the entire building. Imagine what that feels like to as an African American student seeing only ONE African American faculty member in a school of thousands of students and hundreds of teachers. It hurts, it's sad, and we have to correct it. I am looking for change, annual diversity trainings for the teaching staff, more history of different cultures within the curriculum, a day of culture and food, counseling for the victims or even articulate a clear statement of expectations regarding racism within the schools, but don't ignore it and act like it is not happening because it is happening all the time. Today you will hear testimonies from other students from different school districts in Bucks County who had to deal with similar things such as myself. Please have an open heart and listen to these stories and then let's create true change for the next generation to grow in confidence of who they are and what they have to offer, regardless of the color of their skin. As the Constitution states, and I agree like all of you, that "All men are created equal" & all we want is equality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKY ROSEN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, on December 18th, on roll call votes 685, 686, and 687, I

was not present because I was tending to my husband, who is recovering from major spinal surgery. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on roll call vote 685, YEA on roll call vote 686, and YEA on roll call vote 687.

CONGRATULATING GEORGE AND RUTHIE EDWARDS ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate George and Ruthie Edwards on their 50th Anniversary this Christmas Eve, December 24, 2017. Marriage is one of the oldest institutions ordained by God; and George and Ruthie have proven to have endured fifty years as proof. George and Ruthie married in 1967 before his deployment to the Vietnam War in 1968. Upon his return from war, the Edwards' were blessed with five children; the late George, Jr., Vincent, Tomika, Yul and Corinthia. In addition, George and Ruthie are the proud grandparents of Jasmine, Devan, Danielle, London, Jordan and great-grandparents of Carter & K.T. Edwards.

George retired from the Georgia Pacific Corporation and Ruthie retired from the Texas Independent School District. They both are faithful, life-long members of the New Zion Baptist Church, spending countless hours in church-related activities to improve the New Town community. They enjoy traveling, spending time with family and friends, eating out at local restaurants and most importantly reading the Bible.

With age comes wisdom and with wisdom comes truth. Many years ago I recall some friends saying to me, "to keep a marriage brimming, with love in the loving cup; whenever you are wrong—admit it; whenever you are right—shut up!" I am most certain; every married couple understands this philosophy.

I congratulate you on achieving this milestone and wish you many years of happiness and joy in the future.