

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES B. RENACCI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 2, 2018*

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 45 and Yea on Roll Call No. 46.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE RUSSELL**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 2, 2018*

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, in connection with my official duties, I was not present for votes on January 29, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 45, and Yea on Roll Call No. 46.

## A TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN AND GENE EYBERG

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 2, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kathleen and Gene Eyberg of Atlantic, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on December 10.

Kathleen and Gene's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70 years together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued health and happiness.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AT 1:  
FAILING OUR NATION IN DIS-  
ASTER RECOVERY**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 2, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the need for prompt and effective disaster recovery for the United States.

I consider it a high priority to maintain the efficacy of our country's disaster recovery procedures, to help ensure the safety of the American people.

In 2017, this nation saw a very anemic response to disaster recovery from this Administration.

Four months ago, Hurricane Maria, a Category 4 hurricane, devastated the island of Puerto Rico, destroying infrastructure and leaving the island without power.

Puerto Rico, which produces more pharmaceuticals by dollar value for the nation than any of the 50 states or any foreign country, has been key to the supply of these intravenous (IV) saline bags and solution routinely used in hospitals and clinics.

Hurricane Maria halted production at Baxter International Inc., a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant that produces 43 percent of IV saline fluids for U.S. hospitals.

This year's flu season has been uncharacteristically aggressive, which makes the shortage of medical supplies caused by Hurricane Maria all the more problematic.

The American Hospital Association has urged the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to take "any and all steps possible" to resolve worsening shortages of small-volume saline solutions—sterile suspensions of drugs and lifesaving nutrients administered intravenously.

The FDA has responded by relaxing regulations on the importation of medical saline solutions from other nations.

Saline solutions are fundamental to patient care in hospitals, as over 200 million IVs are administered annually in the United States.

Critical small-volume saline solutions include: (1) Sodium Chloride 0.9 percent a solution that is used to absorb and transport nutrients, maintain electrolyte balance, and maintain blood pressure, and (2) Dextrose 5 percent, a form of glucose injected into a vein through an IV to treat low blood sugar, insulin shock, and dehydration.

Had it not been for our allies allowing IV saline to be sent to the U.S., we could have been in the midst of a public health crisis.

The lack of response by this Administration to Hurricane Maria is another example of how this Administration is failing the American people.

Another example of the shameful disaster recovery response of this Administration is the handling of the Hurricane Harvey, which devastated the nine-county, 9,444 square mile Texas Gulf Coast.

The effects of Hurricane Harvey have long outlasted the storm itself.

This Administration has not risen to the task of producing an effective recovery plan for the largest housing disaster to strike the U.S. in our nation's history.

Hurricane Harvey damaged at least 203,000 homes, of which 12,700 were irreparably destroyed.

There are 18,000 families who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey still living in hotels and motels six months after the crisis, with no resolution in sight.

A staggering 889,425 people, post Hurricane Harvey, have registered for assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The first tranche of emergency funding approved by Congress has yet to be distributed to Texas by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development because the agency has not published in the Federal Register the rules governing how housing funds made available may be allocated between state and local entities.

Each of this President's immediate predecessors has had to navigate our nation through many disasters.

President Bush had September 11th and Hurricane Katrina.

President Obama inherited the near-total collapse of our nation's financial system, but

thanks to his exceptional leadership, the Dow Jones is consistently breaking records, the economy continues to expand, and our American families are more financially stable.

Mr. Speaker, a prerequisite of leadership is the ability to solve problems and make critical decisions.

President Trump lacks the ability to inspire the nation and the fortitude to overcome adversity.

As we consider the President's assessment of the State of the Union, one fact has become abundantly clear: this Administration cannot handle disaster recovery.

This Administration's failure to effectively implement proper disaster recovery has left thousands of Americans with no clear path to reclaiming their lives.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 2, 2018*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend either vote series on January 30, 2018 due to a death in the family.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 47; yea on Roll Call No. 48; yea on Roll Call No. 49; and yea on Roll Call No. 50.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MENTOR  
MONTH AT BIG BROTHERS BIG  
SISTERS OF NORTHWEST FLOR-  
IDA**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 2, 2018*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize National Mentor Month and the impact Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida has had on the youth in our community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida facilitates one-on-one mentorship opportunities to provide short and long-term impact in the life of a child. Providing these relationships gives children a friend, someone to call on in times of trouble, and someone to love on them and show them endless opportunity all while having a good time.

This organization is unique in that the Bigs also benefit from the program as they watch their Little grow, learn, and inspire to achieve. There is no greater privilege than to watch a child grow and develop into the best version of themselves. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida provides the necessary opportunities to allow this development to be achieved through mentor relationships.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all the Bigs who have taken upon themselves to mentor a Little and to exhibit endless opportunity and compassion. I am deeply motivated by these individuals. I would also like to thank the staff and volunteers who work many hours to pair these individuals with the best possible match.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the outstanding Big Brothers Big Sisters organization