

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

for their success in inspiring and cultivating extraordinary mentor relationships within our community.

A TRIBUTE TO LAURA AND
MILTON AMOS

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 Laura and Milton Amos of Griswold, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on November 25, 2017.

Laura and Milton's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th 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 50th year 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.

SUPPORTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 2, 2018

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of National Catholic Schools Week, and in recognition of the outstanding contributions that Catholic schools make to our educational system and our country. I am a proud graduate of St. Symphorosa Grammar School and St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago, and have been a lifelong supporter of Catholic education.

Earlier this month, I introduced H. Res. 692 honoring January 28th through February 3rd as National Catholic Schools Week. I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH for working with me on this resolution, along with 29 additional cosponsors.

This year marks the 44th anniversary of Catholic Schools Week, which, since 1974, has celebrated the important role these institutions play in America. They provide both a strong academic education, with a graduation rate of 99 percent, and strong moral grounding, while also teaching community responsibility and outreach. This year's theme—"Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."—highlights the values that are the centerpiece of a Catholic school education.

I urge my colleagues to take time this week to recognize the Catholic schools in your districts.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER
OF ELKS' 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 2, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.) upon its one-hundred and fiftieth anniversary.

Founded in 1868, the B.P.O.E. is a nationwide fraternal order comprised of nearly one million men and women who promote service, justice and fraternity through activities and charities supported by local Elks Lodges. Of the order's numerous lodges, which provide a place for neighbors to come together, the state of California houses the largest number. The B.P.O.E. is one of the premier charitable and patriotic organizations in the United States, raising billions of dollars in donations, which allow Elks to invest in their communities.

The California-Hawaii Elks Association (CHEA) is best known for its support of children with disabilities. The fundraising arm of the association allows the Elks to hire therapists and preschool vision screeners to provide disabled children with the care they need. In addition to its remarkable work with children, CHEA also donates to organizations that assist with recovery efforts for natural disasters like the recent hurricanes, fires and floods.

Another hallmark of the order is patriotism, as evident in CHEA's involvement in raising funds for the National World War II Memorial, as well as its emphasis on honoring the American Flag. A main focus of B.P.O.E. is to assist veterans, whether by adopting Veteran's Villages, performing at the United Service Organizations (U.S.O.), or building monuments to honor fallen heroes.

Through programs such as the Americanism Essay Contest, Hoop Shoot, Scholarship Programs, the Dictionary Project and Scouting, CHEA encourages our youth to exemplify leadership, patriotism and compassion. The Elks also promote a drug-free environment for our youth by working with the Drug Enforcement Agency to provide scientific-based prevention programs and drug awareness information.

The time, effort, and care that the Elks have given to the community is outstanding, and the residents of the San Gabriel Valley have benefited greatly from their dedicated work.

At this time, I ask all members to join with me in commending the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks for one-hundred and fifty years of committed service to the San Gabriel Valley.

CELEBRATING THE SARATOGA
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S
CENTENNIAL YEAR

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 2, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce in celebrating its 100th anniversary.

The Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce was founded by local business leaders in 1918 and has been making Saratoga County a great place to live, work, and play ever since. Comprised of over 2,700 businesses, the Chamber has experienced great success in fulfilling its mission of initiating and providing programs and services in support of its members and Saratoga County as a whole.

The Chamber celebrated its centennial year at its annual dinner on January 25, 2018, where nearly 1,000 members and supporters attended. At the event, the 2017 Chair of the Board, David Collins, was thanked for his year of volunteer leadership and the incredible contributions he has made that have fostered growth in Saratoga County. For its 100th year, the Chamber also began a new tradition of presenting the Joe Dalton Community Service Award, named after a longtime leader of the Chamber. The award was presented to Steve "Sully" Sullivan, owner of The Olde Bryan Inn and Longfellows Inn & Conference Center, for his extensive efforts in assisting those in need in the community.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to congratulate the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce and its dedicated leaders and members as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. I would also like to thank them for their years of hard work. I look forward to hearing about the Chamber's successes in Saratoga County in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO SHARON AND
LARRY HAYES

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 Sharon and Larry Hayes of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on November 24, 2017.

Sharon and Larry's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th 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 60th year 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTH-EAST TARRANT CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 2, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Northeast Tarrant Chamber of Commerce as it marks 60 years of service to the North Texas community.