

SPECIAL OLYMPIAN, “BEEBO”

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once Brendan West picked up a basketball, he was never able to put it down. Nicknamed “Beebo,” Brendan is a 22 year old Special Olympian from Houston, Texas, who has become an aficionado of the game of basketball.

Beebo has Roberts Syndrome, a genetic disorder that delays the growth of limbs and facial features. He was born without arms, so naturally he learned to do everything with his feet. His father, Ray, and his mother, Ann, adopted Beebo when he was 6 weeks old. Doctors told his parents he wouldn’t be able to do anything other than eat and go to the bathroom. His diagnosis didn’t keep Beebo down for long, continuing to defy the odds.

Just about anytime and anywhere, you can find a smile on Beebo’s face and a basketball between his feet. Beebo first learned how to play basketball when he was in Jr. High. With just his feet, he is able to dribble and shoot the ball with deadly accuracy. His basketball skills have earned him multiple titles and propelled him forward as an award winning Special Olympian. Beebo was even honored with an honorary ESPY, the Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly Award, last year. The basketball star has shot hoops with NBA player James Harden and even played with the world-renowned Harlem Globetrotters. Beebo is not only an amazing basketball player, but also an exceptional bowler and tennis player, winning gold medals in both events.

Perhaps the most shining quality Beebo exudes is his personality. When you step onto a basketball court, you can hear Beebo’s laugh echoing from every corner. His enthusiasm for the game of basketball and life is infectious, and he inspires everyone around him.

I am honored to be able to spread the inspiring story of Beebo. His resiliency, determination, and grit all are to be admired and something we should all seek in our lives.

He is the perfect embodiment of what it means to be a Special Olympian and Houstonian. Keep playing basketball, Beebo, we will all be cheering him on.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed votes on Monday February 26 and Tuesday February 27, 2018. I had intended to vote “yes” on Roll Call vote 81, “yes” on vote 82, “no” on vote 83, “no” on vote 84, “no” on vote 85, “no” on vote 86, “no” on vote 87, “yes” on vote 88, “no” on vote 89, “yes” on vote 90, and “yes” on vote 91.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to an excused absence on February 14, 2018, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Vote Nos. 72 through 78. Had I been present I would have voted in the following matter:

On Roll Call Vote No. 72 on ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 736 I intended to vote NAY.

On Roll Call Vote No. 73 on Agreeing to the Resolution for H. Res. 736 I intended to vote NAY.

On Roll Call Vote No. 74 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 3542, Hamas Human Shields Prevention Act, as amended, I intended to vote YEA.

On Roll Call Vote No. 75 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 129, Calling on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States, I intended to vote YEA.

On Roll Call Vote No. 76 on Motion to Recommend with Instructions H.R. 3978, TRID Improvement Act, I intended to vote YEA.

On Roll Call Vote No. 77 on Passage of H.R. 3978, TRID Improvement Act, I intended to vote NAY.

On Roll Call Vote No. 78 on Passage of H.R. 3299, Protecting Consumers Access to Credit Act of 2017, I intended to vote NAY.

IN HONOR OF HOWARD AND JOAN KUNESH’S 71ST WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Howard and Joan Kunesh on the celebration of their 71st Wedding Anniversary.

This significant benchmark is a symbol of their commitment to each other and to their family. I am happy to join their friends and family in extending my best to them on this special occasion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Howard and Joan on the celebration of their 71st Wedding Anniversary. I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

PI KAPPA ALPHA 150TH ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and to recognize the Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity—a values-based men’s fraternal organization with more than 225

chapters in the United States and Canada, approximately 16,000 undergraduate members, and over 290,000 lifetime members. In 2018, Pi Kappa Alpha celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding on March 1, 1868 at the University of Virginia when six young men joined together and resolved to form a fraternity for the establishment of friendship on a firmer and more lasting basis. Their commitment to high ideals of scholarship, leadership and gentlemanly behavior remain strong to this day.

In 1868 there were 38 states. Pi Kappa Alpha predates two rows of stars on the American Flag. The nation of Canada, home to several Pi Kappa Alpha chapters, was founded one year earlier in 1867. The first organized baseball and football games were played in 1869. Coca-Cola was founded in 1886 and basketball was first played in 1891.

Pi Kappa Alpha has persevered and grown through world wars, generational and cultural changes, depressions, recessions, and other challenges on college campuses that have at times threatened its existence. Its members have explored space, served as leaders of business and industry, filled the ranks of public servants in the arenas of education, government and the military; authored books; performed on athletic fields and entertainment venues.

Throughout its history Pi Kappa Alpha has answered the call to arms to preserve and protect the United States of America and its friends and allies. More than 600 Pi Kappa Alphas are recognized as Gold Star Heroes, making the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts dating back to the Spanish American War and including the War on Terror today.

Pi Kappa Alpha has prepared nearly 300,000 men to lead on their campuses and in their homes, communities, and businesses. It has endured and it thrives today because valuing friendship, showing love for your fellow man and defending the truth of its ideals are timeless, lifelong virtues.

Nearly 16,000 PIKE student members are impacting and influencing their campuses and communities today, serving as leaders in student government, Interfraternity councils, sports teams and student organizations. Collectively, PIKE chapters annually perform over 360,000 hours of community service and donate more than \$3.6 million to philanthropy.

These student leaders are supported by 2,500 men (and women) who volunteer to serve on advisory boards and house corporations. Over 150 alumni associations ensure that the admonition, “Once a Pike, Always a Pike,” remains true, inspiring the lifetime fraternal experience for its members.

Pi Kappa Alpha seeks to enrich the undergraduate experience and the quality of its volunteer support through a comprehensive, industry-leading educational program that incorporates all aspects of the Fraternity including scholastic performance, personal development, leadership training, innovative learning, community engagement, campus involvement and participation.

Today, in its 150th year, Pi Kappa Alpha calls upon its members to live anew its legacy, to reflect on the principles of its Founders and to commit to a strong future for its great brotherhood. As a proud member of the Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity, I would like to congratulate the fraternity on its 150 years of success.