

On Roll Call vote 93, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 4406, I would have voted Aye.

On March 6, 2018, I was not present for votes due to flight delays. If I had been present, I would have voted:

On Roll Call vote 94, on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions to H.R. 4607, I would have voted Aye; and

On Roll Call vote 95, on Passage of H.R. 4607, I would have voted No.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 92, and Yea on Roll Call No. 93.

HONORING COMMANDER
CHRISTOPHER A. WEECH

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Commander Christopher A. Weech of the United States Navy. Commander Weech has made a career of defending our nation's freedom on the high seas for the past 34 years. Commander Weech was born and attended school in Key West, Florida, the southernmost point of Florida's 26th District and the United States. CDR Weech's military service has taken him far and wide. He has crossed the Equator four times and was initiated into the Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of Shellbacks on 9 October 1990. His commitment and dedication to serving our nation have earned Commander Weech the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (5 Gold Stars) and the Navy Achievement Medal (1 Gold Star). CDR Weech's final assignment was as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Training and Exercises on the staff of Commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. TENTH Fleet.

Now, after 34 years of service Commander Weech has decided to retire from the Navy. His leadership will certainly be missed, but we look forward to Commander Weech becoming an active part of the community as a civilian.

His wife Jennifer and two daughters Jenna and Britain have a lot to be proud of. I am honored to recognize individuals such as CDR Weech who have given so much in service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS SAMMY L. DAVIS

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant First Class

Sammy L. Davis and congratulate him on receiving the Sagem Award. The Sagem Award, our state's highest honor, is given annually to a Hoosier with a lifetime of excellence and moral virtue that has brought credit and honor to the state of Indiana.

Sergeant First Class Davis has certainly met the criteria for this prestigious award. As a cannoneer with the 4th Artillery Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division, Sammy was stationed in South Vietnam in 1967. One day, his unit fell under heavy machine gun and mortar fire from the Vietcong. Without hesitation, Sammy manned a howitzer to provide cover for his unit. The howitzer caught fire and Sammy was blown into a foxhole after being struck by an enemy rifle round. Sergeant Davis courageously returned to the burning artillery piece to continue returning fire on the enemy. Although he sustained serious injuries from an enemy mortar round, Sammy picked up an air mattress and crossed a nearby river to rescue his wounded comrades.

For his actions, President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded Sammy the Congressional Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism at the risk of his life in 1968. Additionally, Sergeant First Class Davis was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal for his actions.

I would like to congratulate Sammy and his wife, Dixie, on receiving this important award. Hoosiers are proud of the accomplishments of Sergeant First Class Sammy L. Davis and thank him for his service to our nation.

HONORING MS. MONICA MALPASS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Philadelphia staple Monica Malpass. A leading figure in her industry and inductee to the Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame, Monica has been a vital contributor to the Philadelphia broadcasting world. Since 1988, the people of my district have enjoyed watching her co-anchor the Action News at 5 p.m. Throughout her time in Philadelphia, Monica has been an active citizen in her community, raising her three kids in Center City.

With a BA from UNC Chapel Hill in journalism and an MA in Political Science from Villanova, Monica brings a wealth of knowledge to her interviews and roundtables. Just as impressive, Monica was a Rotary Scholar to the University of Puerto Rico, a graduate from the Brookings Institute's "Inside Washington" program and a member of the World Affairs Council. This unique combination of education and experience has made Monica a distinguished and esteemed broadcaster.

Monica's credibility has allowed her to interview some of the most important leaders in our nation's modern history. That list includes President Barack Obama, President Gerald Ford, Vice President Joseph Biden, Vice President George H. W. Bush, Secretary Clinton, and most astoundingly every U.S. senator, congressman, governor, state senator and representative from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware for the past 30 years.

Beyond interviews, Monica has been involved in conferences, panels and award shows and has exceeded the PA Conference for Women numerous times.

Her leadership and skill will continue to be a crucial asset not only to the Philadelphia community, but to the entire media industry. Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Monica's years of service to the city of Philadelphia.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
MARFAN AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as National Marfan Awareness Month with the hope that increased awareness of Marfan syndrome and related heritable connective tissue disorders will save lives.

Marfan syndrome is a rare genetic condition. About 1 in 5,000 Americans carries a mutation in a gene called fibrillin-1 which results in an overproduction of a protein called transforming growth factor beta, or TGFβ. The increased TGFβ impacts connective tissue and, since connective tissue is found throughout the body, Marfan syndrome features can manifest almost anywhere. Patients often have disproportionately long limbs, a protruding or indented chest bone, curved spine, and loose joints. However, it is not the outward signs that concern Marfan syndrome patients, but the effects the condition has on the body's internal systems. Most notably, the aorta, which is the large artery that carries blood away from the heart, is weakened and prone to enlargement and potentially fatal rupture.

An early and accurate diagnosis, regular monitoring, and medical interventions are necessary to prevent cardiac events. This is why I believe it is important to develop a program to support, assist, and encourage states to incorporate Marfan syndrome testing into their sports screening criteria for at-risk young athletes. Few states include Marfan syndrome testing in their sports screening for high school athletes which leads to Marfan syndrome-related thoracic aortic aneurysm and dissection, claiming the lives of young athletes across the country each year.

I am proud to know the nation's foremost organization working to support the Marfan community, the Marfan Foundation, through their strong advocacy work on Capitol Hill. The Foundation was founded in 1981 and has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of individuals affected by Marfan syndrome and related connective tissue disorders by advancing research, raising awareness, and providing support.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me and reflect on the work that needs to be done to ensure that patients with rare conditions can expect to see sustained and meaningful improvements in their health and care over the next 30 years. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and recognize National Marfan Awareness Month.