IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERKSHIRE THEATRE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Berkshire Theatre on the occasion of its 90th anniversary. It is one of the oldest continually running theatre groups in the country. Located in the heart of the Berkshire Mountains, the group is an exemplary representation of what Western Massachusetts has to offer.

Berkshire Theatre Festival was founded in 1928 in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Over the course of its storied history, it has been both a significant economic driver in the region and a home to people and events which have greatly contributed to the vibrancy of our country’s cultural heritage. In 2010, Berkshire Theatre Festival merged with The Colonial Theatre to form the Berkshire Theatre Group, combining two of Berkshire County’s oldest cultural institutions and icons of the American theatre tradition. Berkshire Theatre Group’s four total stages have featured many critically acclaimed actors and award-winning productions over the years, and constitute a priceless cultural resource for the community of Western Massachusetts.

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Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate that my state’s primary being held on 6/12/18, I missed the below votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “Yea” on Roll Call No. 258: Yea on Roll Call No. 259; and Yea on Roll Call No. 260.

KATY ISD POLICE OFFICERS RECEIVE CHIEF’S MERITORIOUS CITATION AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officers Christopher Pickering, Michael Seiss and Jose Gonzales of the Katy Independent School District for receiving the Chief’s Meritorious Citation Award.

Tragically, suicide is a growing problem with our youth today. Thankfully, we have heroes among us who choose to be in the right place at the right time. Officers Pickering, Seiss and Gonzales were credited with helping save the lives of two students who were thinking of committing suicide. On January 8, Officer Pickering was dispatched to a home amid reports of a possible suicide attempt by a Katy ISD student. This student was helped by Pickering’s crisis intervention training and after building a friendship with the officer, agreed to undergo a mental health evaluation. The student later told the Katy ISD Police Department that Officer Pickering’s actions and concern that day kept him from taking his life. Officers Seiss and Gonzales were dispatched to Cinco Ranch High School on March 7 after hearing reports of another possible suicide. They acted promptly and showed the true heart of heroes. The quick actions of these two officers helped save the student’s life. Katy ISD Police Chief Robert Jinks proudly claimed that these three men revealed their bravery, character, and heroism for their community. For their dedication to the well-being of the Katy ISD, we thank them for their service and heroism.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Officers Christopher Pickering, Michael Seiss and Jose Gonzales of the Katy ISD Police Department for receiving the Chief’s Meritorious Citation Award. I thank them for their commitment to our students. Their passion and heart for the Katy ISD community is priceless.

RECOGNIZING NORTHEAST GEORGIA’S SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

HON. DOUG COLLINS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Northeast Georgia’s 14 service academy appointees.

Emmi Schakat of Blairsville, Gavin Jones of Rabun Gap, A.J. Howard of Toccoa, and Owen Brown of Commerce will begin their careers at the U.S. Military Academy. Cole Wright of Blairsville will begin a similar path at the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School. The U.S. Naval Academy will welcome Chase Nufer of Gainesville and Jared Ford of Danielsville. Jack Haller of Cumming and Lorettu Strickland of Blue Ridge will attend the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School.

Two rising midshipmen who will attend the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy are MacKenzie Raiston of Blue Ridge and Timothy Leurart of Ball Ground, and the U.S. Air Force Academy will open its campus to Michael Herrington of Flowery Branch, Cameron Sturdivant of Gainesville, and Audrey Weiner of Gainesville.

I proudly nominated each of these students for their service to our community and dedication to our country. Over the next several years, these Northeast Georgia students will further their education and develop the leadership skills needed to best serve our country as military officers.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud these young leaders as they prepare for the challenges ahead, and I will keep them in my prayers as they enter a new season at America’s military service academies.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT TAYLOR
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, as a result of my state’s primary being held on 6/12/18, I missed the below votes.
Our nations are also bound together by immigration, travel, and trade. More than 350,000 Taiwanese live in the United States, and an estimated 4,000 Americans live in Taiwan. Nearly 3,000 of my constituents were born in Taiwan. Additionally, Taiwan is the United States’ 11th largest trading partner, and in 2017, Taiwanese businesses invested $34 billion in the United States. Travel, especially air travel, helps to further strengthen the bonds between the United States and Taiwan. In that sense, I am very pleased that the Ontario International Airport, located in California’s 35th district, now offers direct flights to Taiwan.

This is a relationship I am proud to support, and I am committed to working with my colleagues to find additional areas where our two countries can partner to our mutual benefit. This week’s opening ceremony is an important step, and I am confident that it will contribute to the strengthening of the U.S.-Taiwan partnership.

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HONORING ALYSSA YARCK

HON. DOUG COLLINS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alyssa Yarck. A student at the University of North Georgia, my alma mater, Alyssa recently earned the Girl Scout Gold Award—the highest honor that leadership organization awards.

Alyssa joined the Girl Scouts as a kindergartener, entering into the Daisy ranks and deepening her commitment to the program enrolling later graduating from Chestaste High School.

She received the Girl Scout Gold Award for modernizing a system to equip first responders with important health information about students in Hall County.

The new database, Assisting Special Kids’ Needs and Other Technologies (A.S.K.N.O.T.), centralizes students’ individual health needs and contact information within Hall County Central Communications, preparing emergency responders to better care for children in the event of an emergency.

Whether an emergency occurs at school or home, first responders now have access to medical information for students who have enrolled in A.S.K.N.O.T. and can then respond accordingly.

Alyssa started this program in 2015 and completed it last September. Her tireless service through the Girl Scouts has left a lasting impact on children in our community—I want to thank Alyssa for her dedication and congratulate her on this significant honor.

HON. NORMA J. TORRES
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the grand opening ceremony for the new compound of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) this week. The United States and Taiwan have enjoyed a fruitful partnership for decades, and I am confident that our partnership will only grow stronger with this new facility.

Our two countries’ partnership has flourished because of our shared commitment to democratic values and constitutional governance. Taiwan serves as a strong example of democracy, not only for the region, but also the world. We must never take democracy for granted; we must remain vigilant in protecting and strengthening it.

HONORING CAROL AND GERALD CLARK

HON. DOUG LAMBORN
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gerald and Carol Clark, who have long been the driving force in Teller County, Colorado and champions for the cause of liberty. For many years, the Clarks have been devoted servants to countless civic leaders throughout Teller County and have always been highly regarded for their steadfast commitment and dependability. Teller County will never be the same without the Clarks.

The following testimonials speak to their personal character and the standard they set for generations to follow:

“Carol and Gerry have always been synonymous with the term ‘American Patriots.’”—Hon. Robert C. Baldwin

“It’s difficult to describe Carol’s love for this country and how valuable her contributions have been over the years to the cause of freedom. She is always looking for ways to make things better. We will miss her tireless efforts immensely. Needless to say, Gerry has been her constant companion for many, many years, supporting her in every step of the way.”—Norm Thompson

“Carol has been an awesome leader... due in part because she was always such a ‘doer’. We have all been blessed because of you.”—Carolyn Fairchild

“Carol and Gerry were the backbone of Teller County and I, along with many others from far and wide, am proud there is such young talent in our community.”—Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Easton Bianchi, a senior from Newman Central Catholic High School, for his 1A state title in the 100 and 200 meter dash in track and field.

RECOGNIZING EASTON BIANCHI FOR HIS 1A STATE TITLE IN THE 100 AND 200 METER DASH IN TRACK AND FIELD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Easton Bianchi, a senior from Newman Central Catholic High School, for