

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2018*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 267 and 268 on Friday, June 15, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2018*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on June 15, 2018, I was on personal medical leave and not present for the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: on Roll Call Vote 265, on Passage of H.R. 5788, the Securing the International Mail Against Opioids Act, I would have voted Aye; on Roll Call Vote 266, on Passage of H.R. 5735, the THRIVE Act, I would have voted Present; on Roll Call Vote 267, on Agreeing to the Thornbury Amendment, I would have voted No; and on Roll Call Vote 268, on Passage H.R. 2851, the Stop the Importation and Trafficking of Synthetic Analogues Act, I would have voted No.

## HONORING MARY SIMS-JOHNSON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Mary Sims-Johnson who is currently the Executive Director of Madison County Citizens Services Agency in Canton, Mississippi, an Adjunct Graduate Professor at Jackson State University and an Independent Consultant.

Dr. Mary Sims-Johnson completed her Ph.D. in 2003 at Jackson State University in Social Work Administration, Policy and Planning. She earned her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Mental Health from Tougaloo College. She has over 40 years of Social Work experience in areas of Administration, Financial Management, Supervision, Field Instruction, Clinical, Grant Writing, Training and Program Development. She has received Regional and National Awards, Appointments and Special Recognitions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Mary Sims-Johnson.

IN MEMORY OF GOVERNOR  
GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN (1928–2018)

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2018*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, on May 8th, one of California's best governors passed

on. George Deukmejian as Governor showed us how to power up an economy, unleash private enterprise, keep taxes at bay, keep violent criminals behind bars while turning the Golden State even more golden.

Like many Californians, George didn't come from our state. Rather, he headed west from his boyhood in New York to find opportunity, to earn his living, to dream the big dream and create a life for his wife Gloria and his kids George Jr., Leslie and Andrea.

He took a risk to head west and make a new life. Once he got to California he quickly excelled as an attorney, then moved on to make laws as well as enforce them. He was first elected to the California Assembly from his home town, Long Beach. The voters then moved him on to the State Senate. From there he was elected statewide to the office of Attorney General. In 1982, the strong, yet quiet-spoken man was elected Governor of California.

With George at the helm, California enjoyed a surge of new economic growth: Silicon Valley came into its own, churning out more chips and computers; Hollywood pumped out more movies and TV and other entertainment, agriculture produced more food that fed the country and indeed the world. And all the while, the California aerospace industry built the rockets that took us into space, and created state-of-the-art aircraft and high-tech innovations that continue to keep our nation safe and economically superior to all enemies and competitors.

George Deukmejian, however, shouldn't be judged only by the state's startling economic record while he was Governor of California. His understanding and commitment to the rule of law and respect for our traditions and rules of civility defined him as a person and as a public figure. George Deukmejian knew that peace and safety were prerequisites of a happy life. He was, indeed, tough on crime, but his motives were based on protecting victims, and yes, the innocent. But even though his call sign was the "Iron Duke", he was a leader with a good heart and a strong belief in American democratic ideals. It is often overlooked, for example, that Governor George Deukmejian led a fight in California to divest the state of assets tied to the racist apartheid government of South Africa.

This commitment to freedom was not an anomaly. George's family were survivors of the Armenian genocide of Ottoman Turkey. From the first-hand accounts of his family of this monstrous crime, he opened his eyes to the evil that plagues the world. The Deukmejian family found refuge in America to start a new life. George learned from his family's experience to look forward with optimism and embrace the goodness and gifts that America had to offer. "True North" was George's moral compass in governance, while principles and integrity were his twin anchors. Folks across the political spectrum admired him as a great political leader. From humble beginnings he became one of California's great governors. Former Governor Deukmejian lived in retirement in his modest home in Long Beach. We shall miss him and we are grateful for his lifetime of service. He made California and America a better place.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARIJUANA IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING PARITY ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Marijuana in Federally Assisted Housing Parity Act. My bill would permit the use of marijuana in federally assisted housing, including public housing and the Section 8 housing program, in compliance with the marijuana laws of the state where the property is located.

Individuals living in federally funded public housing should not be denied admission, or fear eviction, for using a legal product. The use of recreational and/or medicinal marijuana is currently legal in 29 states and the District of Columbia, and over 90 percent of Americans support legalized medical marijuana. Under current federal law, the users of drugs that are illegal under federal law, including marijuana, are prohibited from being admitted into federally assisted housing. Moreover, federal law allows landlords to evict current residents for drug use. Even the Food and Drug Administration has recently supported approving certain medication made from cannabis, including Epidiole, which would be administered as a syrup. Epidiole is used to treat children who suffer from seizures. Notably, the drug does not contain tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive component in cannabis.

For the last several years, Congress has prohibited the Department of Justice (DOJ) from using federal funds to prevent jurisdictions from implementing their medical marijuana laws. This bill would similarly allow individuals to use marijuana in federally assisted housing in compliance with the state's marijuana laws.

Under my bill, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development must also develop regulations that restrict smoking marijuana in federally assisted housing in the same manner and to the same locations as the Secretary restricts smoking tobacco in federally assisted public housing.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, like the DOJ, should not be allowed to enforce federal marijuana laws where states have taken action to legalize marijuana. The Marijuana in Federally Assisted Housing Parity Act states that a person may not be denied federally assisted housing based on the use of marijuana in compliance with the marijuana laws of the state where the property is located.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2018*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal commitment, I was unable to vote on the following: Roll Call No. 267 and Roll Call No. 268.