

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 436, 437; YEA on Roll Call No. 438, 439; YEA on Roll Call No. 440, 441; YEA on Roll Call No. 442, 443; and YEA on Roll Call No. 444, 445.

CHINA IS CHEATING ITS WAY TO THE TOP

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Communist China is a growing threat to the United States and global peace. Its values and interests do not match our own. This is evident by recent reports of a atheist China imprisoning thousands of Muslim Uighurs in reeducation camps and the ongoing persecution of Tibetans and Chinese Christians. China's interests completely conflict with our democratic principles and the international order that has kept the peace since the end of the Second World War. China is cheating, stealing, and bullying its way towards great power status. It is our duty to stand up to Beijing's bad behavior.

Two decades ago, America, as the leader of the free world and the largest economy on Earth, gave the People's Republic of China a chance to prove itself as member of the global economy. We believed they were making free market reforms and potentially ending their communist system which had kept millions in poverty. By granting Beijing permanent normal trade relations, many in Congress hope that opening the global market to China would encourage further liberalization within the repressive state. But instead of the world changing China, China has been working to change the world to get ahead. While it did embrace some elements of capitalism, it bent the rules using state-owned enterprises and corruption to cheat. It made investments in innovative American companies so it could steal technology. It forced American companies wanting to do business in China to surrender certain rights, including intellectual property. And Beijing instituted a widespread cyber theft campaign to steal trade secrets and cutting-edge research. Beijing made the decision to cheat the international system it was invited into so that it could gain strategic dominance.

Until now, China's deception worked. It even tried to export its unfair business practices through the Belt and Road Initiative. But this too proved to be a giant debt trap that Beijing sold to developing nations. Countries like Sri Lanka and Malaysia have ended their participation in China's ambitious plan because they realized that all of the projects the People's Republic was building in their countries benefited only China. Even the workers employed to construct Belt and Road infrastructure in these countries were Chinese rather than local workers. Instead they were left with were roads to nowhere and crushing debt to China. Fortunately, the world is waking up to Beijing's modern colonialism.

But China's ambition to pull ahead at others expense did not end there. Within all of Beijing's economic malpractice, it has aimed to seize technology and strategic positioning that would also give it a military edge over the United States. By stealing American technology, China has been able field advance

weapon systems before our own forces. Meanwhile through Belt and Road, China acquired ports and airports around the globe that can be used as military bases that then enable them to control strategic chokepoints and resources without firing a shot. We have most evidently seen this in illegal island building in the South China Sea. Combined with its rapid military build-up, which will give China a fleet that outnumbers the U.S. Navy by 2020, we are quickly losing our military supremacy to China. The ramifications of such a dramatic shift in power from the U.S. to China will be devastating to our way of life.

Against an authoritarian China that can overmatch our own forces, American will be severely limited in how it protects its interests abroad and respond to Chinese aggression. Principles such as freedom of the seas and free flow of trade will be in jeopardy, having a direct impact on the daily lives of Americans. We must also remember that throughout history such major shifts in geopolitical power rarely came peacefully. In humanity's enduring battle between tyranny and democracy, America has played a decisive role in creating world where freedom preserved over evil. That world is now again in danger.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REV. DENNIS WAYNE WOOD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Rev. Dennis Wayne Wood.

Dennis served in the United States Army Military Police Corps for 21 years and retired as First Sergeant. He was married to Judy for 53 years and was blessed with three daughters: Kim, Lori and Misty and nine grandchildren.

Dennis owned and operated American Awards in Anniston, Alabama, for over 30 years. He served as pastor of several churches in Calhoun County and was a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Weaver. Dennis served as a deacon there and one year as chairman of the deacons. He taught Sunday School, lead the Operation Christmas Child Program at the church and served as a volunteer chaplain at Regional Medical Center.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Rev. Dennis Wayne Wood.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on Wednesday, December 19, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444 and 445.

TRIBUTE TO DARRIN SCHRADER

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and thank Darrin Schrader, who has served this House proudly for over 25 years. He began his career in the office of Representative Bill Baker (R-CA), and then transitioned to my office in 1997. Darrin has been by my side, as my aide-de-camp, for the last 22 years, and I would have it no other way.

His loyalty and dedication to the job of serving the people of Southern California is unsurpassed. As my special assistant, Darrin personally oversaw millions of constituent correspondence; a task that grew exponentially with the advent of email. He also helped secure millions in funding for important infrastructure and homeland security projects.

My office has been served well by Darrin's encyclopedic memory and masterful research skills. He has often known the answer to my question before I even ask it. Few can match his resourcefulness or reliability.

While sometimes presenting a stoic façade, Darrin's subtle charm and hidden humor have permeated my office for the last two decades. He has earned the respect of his peers and become an integral and irreplaceable member of Team Royce.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Darrin Schrader for his selfless sacrifice to public service.

IN HONOR OF MRS. PEARL SEIDMAN FOR HER DEDICATED CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and show my utmost gratitude to a deeply valued member of my staff, Mrs. Pearl Seidman. On Friday, December 21, 2018, Pearl will bid her final farewell after a year as my Brookings Legislative Fellow to continue her career at the National Security Agency. Since her first day on the job in January, Pearl has overseen a legislative portfolio that includes: healthcare, energy, environment, natural resources, labor, pensions, social security, and postal issues, some of the most critical issues facing my constituents. Over the past year, Pearl has dedicated her time to serving the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri with nothing short of unconditional integrity and drive. Now, I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks on behalf of myself and the constituents she has served so honorably.

Pearl was born in Newark, New Jersey, however, she spent the majority of her upbringing split between Philadelphia and Baltimore, respectively. Following her graduation from high school, Pearl would embark on a lifelong commitment to learning and serving others. Pearl would go on to receive her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Maryland, a Masters in Applied Behavioral

Science from Johns Hopkins University, a masters in human and Organizational Systems from Fielding Graduate University, and a Doctorate in Human and Organizational Systems from Fielding Graduate University. That passion for knowledge has continued with her time in my office, as she regularly attends briefings, seminars, and classes. Now you can see why I was so pleased to have her join my staff.

Professionally, Pearl has spent 37 years working for the National Security Agency, doing various jobs for a critical agency in the federal government. Born to two Holocaust survivors, Pearl has always had a passion for helping others. At the NSA she primarily served in roles that pertained to workforce development, working to evolve and advance the skills of future leaders of America. Over the year she has worked on my staff, I can say I have seen personally her passion and talent for developing young minds. The way she has worked with congressional interns and junior staffers to not only help them serve my congressional district, but to cultivate abilities that will serve them down the road has been remarkable to watch.

Personally, Pearl has spent the past 42 years married to Alan Seidman. She has two very fortunate children, Lee and Ross, who are impressive men in their own right. Having the curious mind that she does, Pearl loves to spend her time traveling, going to museums, trying new activities, and, of course, sharing all of her experiences with those who "just need to try it!" A perfect example of her love for expanding her horizon is her decision to move to England, where she wound up living for nine years, until home came calling. For the sake of myself and my constituents, I'm certainly glad she did return.

Having known Pearl for a year now, I can say she is one of the most kind-hearted, passionate, and curious individuals I have ever had the pleasure of having on staff. Her perpetual upbeat attitude and friendly nature have been a tremendous asset to the office, and something that we will all work to carry on as a legacy to her impact on me and my staff. We are sad to see her move on to other endeavors, but so thankful for the opportunity to have worked with her for the past year. Mr. Speaker, please join me in showing our appreciation for the fantastic work Pearl Seidman has provided, not only to the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, but to the nation as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO GREG GALLION

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Greg Gallion on his retirement after a long, fruitful career as CEO of Houchin Community Blood Bank.

Greg was born and raised in Bakersfield, completing his education at Marymount College in Salina, Kansas. Greg's future in bettering the lives of others was foreshadowed when he moved to Albany, New York, to work with delinquent children at the St. Francis Homes for Boys and Girls. He would make his return home to Bakersfield in 1975, working

for two years at Three-Way Chevrolet and then an impressive 24 years in the title insurance industry. For all of Greg's successes, his greatest impact came with his hiring as Houchin Community Blood Bank's Chief Executive Officer. As CEO, Greg worked tirelessly for 17 years to help local healthcare providers meet the needs of the Kern County community.

Greg saw nothing but potential in Houchin Community Blood Bank and quickly worked to build the company infrastructure and increase the scope of Houchin's presence across Kern County. Greg oversaw the construction of a new headquarters for Houchin in Bakersfield, doubled the number of employees and introduced the use of six-bed buses during blood drives. These actions not only helped put more Kern County citizens to work, but also increased the accessibility of the blood bank as well as better supplied local hospitals. Not content to rest on Houchin's laurels, Greg expanded the company's life-saving services, collecting and providing blood, plasma, platelets, and other blood derivatives. Where some CEOs would be content maintaining a status quo, Greg always strove to innovate for the sake of his employees, customers, and the community he served.

More than anything else, Greg will be remembered as a leader who put his community first, factoring the wellbeing of his patients and clients in every decision he made as CEO. As CEO, he established Houchin's slogan, "people live when people give," words that continue to inspire thousands across Kern County to donate blood each year. Greg's community involvement did not end at his desk, as he maintained an impressive community presence, having led as President of Bakersfield Downtown Rotary and Director of the Kern County Fair Board, as well as active involvement with the Executives Association of Kern County and the Kern Advisory Council for Valley Public Radio.

Greg Gallion departs Houchin Community Blood Bank a stronger and more impactful institution than when he joined it. Through his work, Greg left an unmistakable impression on our community that I know will be felt for years to come. It has been a pleasure getting to know Greg over the years both in his official capacity with Houchin and as a fellow member of Bakersfield Downtown Rotary. While it is the community's loss to see Greg leave Houchin, I know that that he will now have the time to enjoy the things he loves most, such as traveling with his beloved wife of 38 years, Sheryl. I wish Greg all the best as he and his family begins this new chapter of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, due to personal reasons, I was unable to vote on Wednesday, December 19, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 436; YEA on Roll Call No. 437; YEA on Roll Call No. 438; YEA on Roll Call No. 439; YEA on Roll Call No. 440; YEA on Roll Call No. 441; YEA on Roll Call No. 442; YEA on Roll Call No. 443; YEA on Roll Call No. 444; and YEA on Roll Call No. 445.

THANKING ANDREW GABRIEL RENTERIA

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Andrew Gabriel Renteria for his service to my office and the 21st Congressional District of California over the past three years.

Mr. Renteria was born in Fresno, California to parents Rudy and Yolanda Renteria on August 25, 1998. He attended Jackson Elementary and Sanger High School, both located in Sanger, California, where the Renteria family still resides to this day. It was Renteria's experience serving as Sophomore Class Vice President, Junior Class President, and ASB President, that he first became interested in politics. After graduating from Sanger High School in 2016, he went on to attend California State University, Fresno where he enjoyed cheering on the Bulldogs at every chance he got. In May 2011, Andrew graduated from Fresno State with Bachelor of Science in Political Science.

Mr. Renteria has been a member of my team since 2013, first serving as a Field Representative in my Hanford, California office. In 2015, he relocated to Washington, D.C. to serve as my Senior Legislative Assistant, analyzing and drafting public policy to benefit California's San Joaquin Valley. Dedicated to the success of the Republican Party throughout California, Renteria took a leave of absence in 2014 to serve as Field Director for the California Republican Party and again in 2016 to serve as my Campaign Manager. In March 2018, Andrew Renteria returned to Washington to serve as my Legislative Director. In this position, Mr. Renteria brought a wealth of legislative experience and professionalism to my team and has been a very dependable and resourceful advisor and friend. Throughout his career, Mr. Renteria has been an invaluable asset to Team Valadao and the people of the Central Valley.

On January 2, 2019, Mr. Renteria's time in my office will come to an end and he will begin his next chapter serving as Chief of Staff to Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK. While I know he is very excited about this opportunity, he will be greatly missed as a member of my team.

Knowing Mr. Renteria, his character, and his work ethic, I have no doubt that he will achieve many great things in his future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Andrew Renteria for his public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing him well in this next chapter of his life.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FRED M. FEHSENFELD, SR.

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Fred M. Fehsenfeld, Sr., a decorated World War II