

HONORING NOAH BECKERT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Noah Beckert. Noah is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Noah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Noah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Noah has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Noah Beckert for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, on January 23, 2019, I was unable to be present for the vote on the motion to recommit on H.R. 648, offered by Rep. GRANGER of Texas. Had I been present for roll call No. 48, I would have voted "NAY."

I was also unable to be present for the vote on passage of H.R. 648, offered by Rep. LOWEY of New York. Had I been present for roll call No. 49, I would have voted "AYE."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I had an unavoidable family commitment and so I missed Roll Call vote number 44 regarding the "NATO Support Act (H.R. 676)." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 45 regarding the "Hack Your State Department Act (H.R. 328)." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 46 regarding the "Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes (H.J. Res. 28)." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 47 regarding the "Rule Provided for Consideration of H.R. 648 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 and H.J. Res. 31 Making further Continuing Appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year 2019 (H. Res. 61)." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 48 regarding the "Motion to Recommit on H. R. 648 Con-

solidated Appropriations Act, 2019, I would have voted "no."

I missed Roll Call vote number 49 regarding the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.R. 648)." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING ZARIUS BUHARIVALA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zarius Buharivala. Zarius is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zarius has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Zarius has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Zarius has been an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, and a Fire Builder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Zarius has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Zarius designed and built an educational hydroponic and aquaponic exhibit for Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zarius Buharivala for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MICHAEL "BIG MIKE" PHILLIPS

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with great admiration to honor the efforts of a humble hero in San Diego and our LGBTQ community, Michael "Big Mike" Phillips.

Big Mike may have received his namesake due to his tall stature, but there is nothing bigger about him than his enormous heart. Those who have had the pleasure to cross paths with Big Mike know him as a warm, empathetic, and gregarious soul, dedicated to improving the lives of others. He has a unique way of welcoming total strangers and making them feel included, loved, and a part of our community.

Throughout over four decades working in all aspects of the hospitality industry, Big Mike has come to be an expert in the art of serving others. Whether he's serving food and beverages to friends or new friends, hosting a charitable event, or photographing history in the making, his main concern is always the happiness and fulfillment of the people around him.

Big Mike's selflessness may be what helps to make him such a talented photographer.

When he looks through a lens, his focus remains solely on the people and the moment. He has captured local historic LGBTQ events, multiple LGBTQ Marches on Washington, and even photographed four living U.S. Presidents and First Ladies at the opening of the Clinton Library.

In all endeavors, Big Mike gives one hundred percent of his head and his heart. He has contributed to so many charitable organizations that I could not possibly list them all. When Special Delivery San Diego, a nonprofit that provides meals to individuals living with HIV/AIDS, was in need of funding, he inspired 128 other bartenders to enroll in an effort to donate to the program. He has the rare ability to inspire others to be a part of something greater than themselves. Using this skill, Big Mike helped to found Ordinary Miracles and The Rob Benzon Foundation, two non-profits with the mission of welcoming individuals to add their own light to the world that when joined together, illuminates and eases the needs of the abused, sick, and hungry.

When leaders in our community search for a sense of direction and initiative, they often look no further than Big Mike—which can explain why he has been appointed to serve on community advisory boards under almost every single mayor in recent San Diego history.

Though he has lived an accomplished life, Big Mike is quick to give credit to his caring adoptive parents, his loyal friends, and all who have supported him along the way. It is exceptional to find a person who has carried out their career and lived their life almost entirely for the benefit of others, and I can honestly say that Big Mike is one of them.

Even on his birthday, he cannot help but use the opportunity to make the world a better place to live. Every year, Big Mike hosts his Birthday Fundraiser to boost awareness and support for various non-profit organizations and invaluable local resources.

On the 20th Anniversary of his first Birthday Fundraiser, I commend Michael "Big Mike" Phillips for his continuous and substantial efforts to lend love, hope, and a helping hand to all in need. I extend my congratulations and best wishes to him for a successful event and a wonderful year ahead.

Though Mike was born in Germany, and raised in Texas, I am so pleased that he adopted San Diego as his home. San Diego is an even finer place to live because Big Mike was born.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DARLENE HATCHER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Darlene Hatcher. Darlene was so many things to so many people: a committed mother, loving daughter, fiancé, sister, grandmother, aunt, and co-worker. She was a very strong family woman and a staple of our community for all of her professional life.

After graduating from Jupiter High School in Florida, she received her Associate of Arts degree from Palm Beach Atlantic Community