

workers alike. I wish my friend all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for his public service and his contribution to the industry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, January 24, 2019, I missed votes in the House due to a family commitment in Illinois. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 50; and "nay" on Roll Call No. 51.

INTRODUCTION OF CIVICS LEARNING ACT OF 2019

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Civics Learning Act of 2019, a bipartisan bill that focuses on increasing civic participation by ensuring that young people in our country receive a strong civics education.

It might surprise you to learn that, according to the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, in 2018 only 32 percent of Americans surveyed were capable of naming all three branches of government. Only 30 percent of Americans surveyed knew that the Senate is in charge of confirming Supreme Court nominees. In 2017, only 37 percent of Americans surveyed could name any of the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment. In 2014, only 23 percent of eighth graders performed at or above the proficient level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress civics exam. This startling reality makes it clear that civics education in this country is in need of renewed focus.

Madam Speaker, the Civics Learning Act of 2019 promotes new and existing evidence-based strategies to strengthen and prioritize innovative civics learning and teaching by encouraging innovative American history, civics and government, and geography instruction. Professional development activities, programming, and learning strategies would also be available to prepare teachers, principals, and other school leaders. Such instruction and programming would particularly benefit low-income students and underserved populations including students and teachers at high-need schools and low-access areas such as rural or inner-city communities. Recognizing that most civics programs focus on high school teachers and students, this bill would ensure funding for elementary, middle, and high school programs in order to create a lasting foundation for civic knowledge.

Madam Speaker, it is my sincere hope this body will expeditiously pass this measure. Doing so will reaffirm America's commitment to civics education, fostering a more informed citizenship that will only strengthen our democracy.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF DR. T. VAUGHN WALKER

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor and in loving memory of Dr. Thomas Vaughn Walker, who served not only his congregation but the greater community of my hometown of Louisville, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and more.

Dr. Walker spent his Sundays (and nearly every other day of the week) sharing God's word from a brick building near the corner of Seventh Street and Algonquin Parkway, where First Gethsemane Baptist Church has proudly stood since 1972. From March of 1984 on, Dr. Walker made First "G" his home, serving as its Senior Pastor for nearly 35 years.

Though he had a quiet and reserved demeanor, his words and his impact—from the pulpit and beyond—were incredibly powerful. When he spoke, you listened, and lives were changed. Because Dr. Walker not only shared the lessons of scripture, he also served as a mentor and teacher for countless more.

The first black professor to work full-time at a Southern Baptist Convention school, Dr. Walker retired after 30 years of teaching at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He earned a Ph.D. degree from Oregon State University, a Master of Divinity and Christian Education degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Master of Science degree from Eastern Illinois University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Hampton University. Education was an important part of Dr. Walker's faith, and he shared that knowledge far and wide.

Dr. Walker's family, including the love of his life and his Hampton University college sweetheart, Dr. Cheryl D. Walker; their three children, David, Mary, and Eryn; and their six grandchildren, Celeste, Celvion, Jai, Joi, Josiah, and Ella; will all remain in my continued thoughts and prayers, along with the entire church family of First Gethsemane Baptist.

Though his work on earth is now complete, I am confident that his words and his teachings will remain with so many of us, and will be carried on by all of those who were lucky enough to call him their friend and teacher.

I thank Dr. T. Vaughn Walker for a lifetime of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 52; "yea" on Roll Call No. 53; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 54.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEWISVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lewisville High School student leaders who have traveled to Washington, D.C. this week to study our nation's government. These twelve high school seniors, under the leadership of Principal Jeffrey Kajs, have continued Lewisville High School's strong legacy of leadership and service.

More than 60 years ago, the Lewisville High School Class of 1958 traveled to the U.S. Capitol for its senior class trip. Led by Senior Class President R.L. Crawford, students met with North Texas Congressman Frank Icard in April 1958.

Last summer, I had the privilege of joining Lewisville High School students past and present as members of the Class of 1958 presented a class photo with Congressman Icard to their alma mater. More than six decades later, their service to the school is paying dividends, particularly as the Class of 2019 follows in its footsteps.

The Lewisville High School Student Body Officers of 2018–2019 include:

- President—Braeden Kajs
- Vice President—Jordan Jackman
- Secretary—Brooke White
- Treasurer—Matthew Jimenez
- Parliamentarian—Cecil Ehirindu
- Historian—Jackie Hernández
- Community Service Officer—Yesenia Regalado
- LISD Liaison—Madison Jaegers
- Multicultural Officer—Par Hniang
- School Service Officer—Ariana Mata
- School Service Officer—Danny Hair
- Project Officer—Wesley Brewer

I appreciate these students' dedication to Lewisville High School and their North Texas neighbors, and wish them the best as they graduate this spring. Whether in six years or six decades, it is my hope that the Class of 2019 will return to Lewisville High School to continue this tradition for generations to come.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT EDWARD K. SLAVIN, U.S. AIR FORCE, ON HIS RETIREMENT UPON 22 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, today I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Master Sergeant Edward K. Slavin, a resident of York, Pennsylvania, on his retirement following 22 years of dedicated service to our Country in the United States Air Force.

MSgt Slavin currently serves as the Aircraft Mechanic Supervisor at the 193rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in Middletown, Pennsylvania. He entered the USAF in 1997, and served in numerous assignments and deployments throughout his distinguished career.

MSgt Slavin has shown not only outstanding leadership, but uncommon technical skill. His nine deployments in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom demonstrate tireless devotion and self-sacrifice on behalf of the American people. He was a vital part of joint exercises with allies around the world, and volunteered to train members of the Canadian Air Force and Indian Air Force in the operation and maintenance of their newly assigned C-130J aircraft. MSgt Slavin also quickly volunteered to support disaster relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina and the 2007 Peru Earthquake.

His numerous commendations and awards, include the Air Force Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters), among several others, and are a testament to his steadfast courage, personal integrity, unwavering work ethic, and impeccable character. His enduring legacy of service to our Nation is exceptional and sets the standard for all to follow.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Tenth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate my fellow brother-in-arms, Master Sergeant Edward K. Slavin, upon his retirement and for

his devoted service to the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. TOMMY
LEONARD

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Tommy Leonard, the founder of the Falmouth Road Race and a beloved member of the Cape Cod community.

Growing up in western Massachusetts, Mr. Leonard fell in love with running at an early age. Following high school, he joined the United States Marines and ran his first Boston Marathon in 1953.

Inspired by his community and Frank Shorter's historic victory in the marathon at the 1972 Olympics, Mr. Leonard brought his love for running to Cape Cod. Thanks to his dedication, the Falmouth Road Race was first held on August 15, 1973. Beyond the formation of

the race, Mr. Leonard worked tirelessly on the ground level to promote the event and recruit racers to inspire the next generation. Two years later, the seven-mile race was won by Frank Shorter.

What began as a fundraiser for the Falmouth High School girl's track team has now taken on a life of its own. The race began with just 92 runners working to fund travel expenses for the Falmouth track team. However, soon the race was helping local runners earn college track scholarships. Now with over 12,000 annual racers, the Falmouth Road Race has contributed millions of dollars to local charities. Mr. Leonard has become a pillar of his community and his dedication to helping those around him continues to live on with the Tommy Leonard Spotlight Award, which gives \$2,500 to a nonprofit each month.

Mr. Leonard passed away on January 16, 2019. However, his commitment will long be remembered through his growing family of runners and the legacy of his activism.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Tommy Leonard. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his many years of dedication to his community.