

Claus' dedication to strengthening bonds among people of different racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Claus' leadership and the role he plays in making our community a better place. The Tidewater Region has significantly benefited from his presence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN CASTEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I missed Roll Call vote number 121. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: H. Res. 156, Calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov—Yes.

RECOGNIZING JIM ROBBINS

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jim Robbins, a veteran of the Marine Corps who honorably served our country and his community, and who passed away in January at the age of 90.

Upon graduating from Libertyville High School in 1946, Mr. Robbins immediately enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving in China and Guam in the years following World War II. During his service, Mr. Robbins was stationed in Tangku, China and was one of the Marines who defended the Hsin Ho Ammunition Supply Depot against attack in April 1947.

After returning to the U.S. in 1950, he served as Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8741's commander for several years and as the Post's quartermaster for 32 years. He was especially known for his work with young people and recent veterans.

In addition, Mr. Robbins was the primary leader in making the veterans' monument in Lakeside Cemetery in Libertyville a reality. Every Memorial Day, Jim read off the names of former Libertyville township residents who had died in service to our nation at a community observance ceremony. He viewed this as a great honor and carefully wrote down their names phonetically in a personal notebook to ensure he properly pronounced the name of each fallen hero.

In his professional life, Mr. Robbins was a contract glazing salesman for 30 years. He also worked with the Lake County Forest Preserve for many years at the Fox River Preserve. He leaves behind two children, five beloved grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

It is my great honor and privilege to recognize the life of Jim Robbins and thank him for his service to our country and tireless work on behalf of other veterans in our community.

RECOGNIZING RONALD E. POWELL

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Ronald E. Powell for a lifetime of vigorous and effective advocacy protecting the rights of workers in my home state of Illinois, and for working men and women across the United States.

Ron's service in the labor movement began in 1961, when he was hired as a Field Representative for the United Retail Workers Union (URW). Thanks to his effectiveness as an organizer, he rose quickly through the ranks, becoming a Supervisor of Field Staff in 1968, and the Vice President and Director of Field Operations in 1973.

In 1981, the URW, with a membership totaling 6,000 workers, affiliated with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and formed Local 881 of the UFCW. (The name "Local 881" was chosen to commemorate the date of its affiliation—August of 1981.)

Ron was elected president of Local 881 in 1983. Under his leadership, Local 881 has grown to represent 34,000 workers and is one of the largest affiliates in the UFCW family of unions that represent over 1.3 million workers across the world. While managing that growth, Ron found time to shoulder other responsibilities, including serving as Vice President on the International Executive Board of UFCW, Vice President of the state of Illinois AFL-CIO, Chairman of the Illinois State Investment Board, and as a member of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Advisory Board, the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority Board, and the board of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois.

Ron's distinguished resumé does not tell the full story of his service to our community. He has worked tirelessly to advocate for the men and women who provide essential but often invisible services in a world increasingly indifferent to their rights and needs. Countless families are grateful to Ron and the efforts of Local 881 for improved wages and safety conditions in industries that include food service and preparation, meat packing, groceries, chemical manufacturing and retail. I know Ron takes great pride in the part he played in the recent enactment of the City of Chicago Paid Sick Leave Ordinance, extending paid leave protection for the first time to thousands of workers (and UFCW members) who live in our community.

Both personally and in furtherance of his work for the UFCW, Ron has been civically engaged, serving as a Trustee on the Village Board of Mundelein, and as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Over the years Ron has supported countless candidates that were committed to protecting the rights of working men and women, including a young United States Senator named Barack Obama who ultimately served two terms as President of the United States.

Many charities owe thanks to Ron as well. Under his stewardship, the Local 881 Charitable Foundation has been a strong supporter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Ron also organized fundraising efforts for Jackson Park Hospital in Chicago and the Little City Foundation, which serves developmentally dis-

abled children and adults in the Chicagoland area.

Ron is blessed with four children—one of whom, Steven, currently serves as President of Local 881 and an International Vice President of the UFCW—and many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is held in esteem by numerous organizers and union officials he has mentored over the course of his career, and the thousands of workers whose lives have been made better through his efforts.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 34,000 members of Local 881 of the UFCW, and the millions of hard-working men and women of the state of Illinois who owe so much to Ron Powell, I offer my thanks for nearly 60 years of dedicated and selfless service to our community. Although Ron may have retired from his positions with the UFCW, I know he has not retired from his commitment to service, and on behalf of all Illinoisans and Americans I wish him great success in his next chapter.

TWENTY YEARS OF REPRESENTING SOUTH DAKOTA AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, it will be the 20th time Spearfish High School will represent South Dakota at the national "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition this spring.

The team won the state competition Thursday at Black Hills State University.

"It's commendable that you guys do this . . . I think this will be a memorable experience for you," Wes Brown, of the Vantage Institute, a nonprofit organization that provides education, training, and support for issues facing communities, said. He thanked the students for their hard work, the judges for their time, and everyone involved for making the event possible.

The We the People program promotes civic competence and responsibility for upper elementary and secondary students. The program was created in 1987, directed by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act.

During the competition, student units take on simulated congressional hearing questions, demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of the Constitution and Bill of Rights and current constitutional issues. Each unit prepares a four-minute statement to present to the panel of judges acting as a congressional committee, and they then answer follow-up questions posed by the committee members. The units are scored on understanding, Constitutional application, reasoning, supporting evidence, responsiveness, and participation.

The Spearfish team is made up of seniors Lily Dennison, Gene Glover, Paxton Klug, Rigel Roberdeau, Kenna Comer, Kennedy Kaitfors, Rylee Niesent, Taylor Hersch, Justin Steedley, Hannah Tysdal, Ana Buchholz, Peter Marich, Morgan Roberts, Zach Tipton, Sophia Caldwell, Nathan Davis, Thomas Friedrich, Ella Neiman, Tim Doerges, Izzy Drumm, Jay Saylor, and Chelsea Williams. Patrick Gainey teaches the class.