

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to recovery from being sick, I was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 126; "nay" on Roll Call No. 127; "yea" on Roll Call No. 128; "yea" on Roll Call No. 129; "nay" on Roll Call No. 130; "nay" on Roll Call No. 131; "yea" on Roll Call No. 132; "yea" on Roll Call No. 133; "nay" on Roll Call No. 134; "nay" on Roll Call No. 135; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 136.

HONORING BARRY BIERMANN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Barry Biermann for his years of dedicated service as a member of the Cal Fire community and as the Napa County Fire Chief.

Mr. Biermann is a Napa County, California native. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from California State University, Chico and has served Napa County as a CalFire employee since 1986. He began his tenure with CalFire as a seasonal firefighter. In 2007 he became a Battalion Chief and in 2014 was promoted to be the County Fire Chief for Napa County. Additionally, Mr. Biermann is a Hazmat specialist and is a fifteen-year member of the CalFire Incident Management Team. Some of his responsibilities have included managing the Oroville Spillway Emergency, the Valley Fire, and the Atlas Fire/Napa Complex Fires of 2017.

Mr. Biermann is known for remaining calm during emergencies and has a disposition that puts others at ease during difficult situations. He is an important member of and asset to our community. He is also a loving husband to his wife and dedicated father to their two sons.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Biermann is the committed community member we should all strive to be. He has dedicated his career to helping our community and diving head first into dangerous situations to protect others. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Barry Biermann here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF MASSACHUSETTS MILITARY SUPPORT FOUNDATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation for its commendable service to its community and country during the recent government shutdown.

Started in 2014, the Cape Cod Military Support Foundation now provides programs and

services that support the thousands of service members and their families at Joint Base Cape Cod. In 2017, founder Don Cox and his team saw a larger need to expand across the Commonwealth to support active duty military, coast guard, national guard, veterans, and their families, creating the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation.

The recent government shutdown brought the loss of paychecks for members of the United States Coast Guard. The Massachusetts Military Support Foundation took immediate action, opening an empowerment center on the Cape to provide food, groceries, and baby supplies to members of our Coast Guard and their families. Soon they had opened a center in Boston and others across the Commonwealth to ensure no family was without food. The Massachusetts Military Support Foundation worked tirelessly to manage food deliveries from Maine to Rhode Island and went above and beyond for our community in a time of need.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation for its dedication to serving our community and members of the United States Coast Guard. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the foundation for its incredible work and wishing it all the best as it continues to support our service members and their families.

ELLYSIA VEGA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ellysia Vega for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ellysia Vega is a student at Jefferson Jr/Sr. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ellysia Vega is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ellysia Vega for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF ITC(SW)

MICHAEL S. HAMMER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the active duty retirement of ITC(SW) Michael S. Hammer, a brave and honorable man who dedicated his life to the U.S. Navy.

ITC(SW) Michael S. Hammer enlisted in the Navy in 1994 and shipped out the day after

graduating high school. His first overseas deployment was with the Commander Submarine Group Seven in Yokosuka, Japan. There he supported telecommunications to deployed and shore based units. ITC(SW) Hammer then went back to school but soon returned to Japan on his assignment to the Commander Seventh Fleet which embarked on the USS *Blue Ridge*. ITC(SW) Hammer then served a shore duty assignment with the Naval Security Group Activity, as a computer network analyst and an assistant Command Master-at-Arms in Fort Meade.

His third tour took ITC(SW) Hammer back stateside to the Naval Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic, where he served as both the Joint Forces Tactical Operations and Communications Officer and Operations Administrative Leading Chief. He next was deployed back out to sea on the USS *Mahan* as the leading Chief for the Radio Division as well as the Command Information Assurance Manager. ITC(SW) Hammer spent his following shore duty at the Navy Yard, serving as the Field Support Activity. Finally, ITC(SW) Hammer was deployed on his last tour on the USS *Truxtun* with the USS *George H.W. Bush* Carrier Strike Group to the Middle East and Mediterranean. While there, he performed the duties of Radio Leading Chief and the command's Information Systems Security Manager.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the incredible accomplishments of ITC(SW) Michael S. Hammer. Words alone cannot express our gratitude for his service. May God bless ITC(SW) Michael S. Hammer and the U.S. Navy.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF KLUGER, KAPLAN, SILVERMAN, KATZEN & LEVINE, P.L.

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the law firm of Kluger, Kaplan, Silverman, Katzen & Levine, P.L. on celebrating their 10th anniversary.

Kluger Kaplan was founded in 2009 by attorneys Alan J. Kluger and Abbey Kaplan. Since opening, they have expanded their offices from Miami and Boca Raton, Florida to Minneapolis, Minnesota. The firm focuses on a range of disciplines and industries, including business and corporate litigation, real estate litigation, securities and financial fraud, corporate governance, bankruptcy litigation and debtor and creditor's rights, appeals in state and federal courts, professional liability, intellectual property law, entertainment sports law, fashion law, class actions, and complex matrimonial litigation.

Kluger Kaplan has always taken great pride in the work that they do on behalf of their clients and has rightly earned national recognition for that work.

As a firm, they have made giving back to their community a top priority. Organizations they are working with include: The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), America's Second Harvest, Boy Scouts of America, Chapman Partnership for Homeless,