

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, on May 9th and 10th, I attended my son's graduation from Naval Academy Preparatory School and was therefore unable to cast my vote on several pieces of legislation. If present, I would have voted NAY on ordering the previous question to H. Res. 357 (Roll Call No. 189) and NAY on agreeing to H. Res. 357 (Roll Call No. 190).

I would have also voted on amendments to H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Pre-existing Conditions Act, in the following way: YEA on the Brown Amendment (Roll Call No. 191); YEA on the Holding Amendment (Roll Call No. 192); NAY on the Malinowski Amendment (Roll Call No. 193); and NAY on the Wild Amendment (Roll Call No. 194). I would have voted YEA to recommit H.R. 986 (Roll Call No. 195) and voted NAY on passage (Roll Call No. 196). Despite its title, H.R. 986 does nothing to protect preexisting conditions. Instead, I would have supported my colleague Representative GREG WALDEN's bill, H.R. 692, the Pre-existing Conditions Protection Act, if it were brought before the House for consideration.

Furthermore, I would have voted on amendments to H.R. 2157, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2019, in the following way: NAY on the Perlmutter amendment (Roll Call No. 197); NAY on the Sablan amendment (Roll Call No. 198); NAY on the Huffman amendment (Roll Call No. 199); and YEA on the Fletcher amendment (Roll Call No. 200). I would have voted YEA to recommit H.R. 2157 (Roll Call No. 201) and NAY on passage of H.R. 2157 (Roll Call No. 202). While I support targeted funding to help communities recover from flooding, especially in Minnesota, this bill carelessly adds to our growing national debt. Future generations will be forced to confront the over \$22 trillion in debt unless Washington can find a way to reform the appropriations process to address unchecked federal spending.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF ELLIS
"REED" PARLIER**
HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life of Ellis "Reed" Parlier, a young man from North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District whose life was taken much too soon on May 1st of this year.

Reed was full of passion, wit and intelligence. A top student and avid gamer, Reed planned to turn his love of video games into a Computer Science degree and a career as a game developer. He had the reputation of being gifted academically with a witty sense of humor, and had his whole life ahead of him as he finished his freshman year at UNC Charlotte.

It absolutely breaks my heart that Reed's life was taken from us during a tragic, sense-

less shooting on UNC Charlotte's campus. My years at UNC Charlotte made an indelible impact on who I am today, and I was shaken to my core when I learned of Reed's death last week. My thoughts and prayers are with Reed's family during this time of sorrow. As a father, I cannot imagine the depth of your grief.

I know I speak for the entire 49er community when I say we all share your pain and mourning—no one deserves to lose a child, especially on a campus like UNC Charlotte where so many terrific, transformative experiences take place for tens of thousands of students each year.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Ellis "Reed" Parlier.

**RECOGNIZING KATHY HAGGART
ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER 22
YEARS AT THE BOYS AND GIRLS
CLUBS OF BELLEVUE**
HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Kathy Haggart, the CEO and President of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue, on her retirement.

Kathy Haggart has had a remarkable career in the nonprofit sector—having worked in nonprofit management for nearly 36 years. Ms. Haggart has spent the majority of her nonprofit work with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue serving as the President and CEO for 22 years. She was appointed as the President and CEO in 1997 after a successful term as the Club's Director of Development. In her position as President and CEO, Kathy oversaw 12 Club locations and managed a multi-million dollar budget. Ms. Haggart is an incredible, high-performing leader with an exceptional ability to bring teams together.

During her time as President and CEO, Ms. Haggart fostered strong relationships between the Boys & Girls Clubs and the larger community. She strengthened partnerships with the City of Bellevue, the Bellevue School District, the King County Housing Authority, Youth Eastside Services, and other notable community organizations. She has helped shift the focus of the Clubs to include community outreach and services for parents as well.

Under her guidance, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue expanded from one clubhouse to over 12 program sites. Additionally, the Club received many awards for program excellence from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and local organizations. These include "Best of" recognition in several local publications, and selection as a "Community Treasure" by a local school. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue serve over 11,000 children and teenagers with educational programming, afterschool activities, summer programs, and athletics. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue thrived under Ms. Haggart's innovative leadership.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Kathy Haggart on her retirement from her longtime service to the adolescents of the Bellevue community.

IN HONOR OF HELENA SCHWARZ

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today with bittersweet sentiment and thanks to my Legislative Director, Helena Schwarz.

Helena has spent her career focusing on public service. Working in the Maryland Legislature, and eventually here in the U.S. House of Representatives, she has always found ways to support policies and people she believes in.

Helena joined my office more than four years ago after serving in the office of my colleague, Congressman SARBANES from Maryland. During her tenure on "Team Boyle" she has been a steady hand that provided guidance to the legislative team and substantive policy advice to me. She is thorough, dedicated, and always willing to advocate for policies in which she believes.

A Michigan native, Helena quickly adapted to the City of Brotherly Love. In her time here, she's worked tirelessly to elevate the voices of blue-collar workers and the shrinking middle class, and to ensure that all Americans have a fair shot at achieving the American Dream. The people we serve in my district have greatly benefited from her service to this institution.

Helena will still be part of the important policy debates we have ahead of us, as she leaves to lead an advocacy effort focused on America's infrastructure agenda.

I wish her the best of luck on this venture, and I look forward to seeing her package on the House floor in the future.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE WATER IN-
FRASTRUCTURE TRUST FUND
ACT**
HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, America's water systems are in crisis. While our clean water needs are estimated to be nearly \$14 billion per year for the next 20 years, funding has averaged less than \$1.5 billion annually since 2011. Drinking water infrastructure is in worse shape—the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that we need to invest over \$23 billion annually for the next 20 years to ensure the provision of safe drinking water, while Congress typically appropriates less than \$1 billion a year. Though most of our water and wastewater systems are 75–100 years old, these growing challenges are not due to age alone: federal investment has fallen more than 85 percent since 1977. Last year alone, American communities suffered more than 250,000 water main breaks and saw overflowing combined sewer systems. These problems will only increase with inadequate and inconsistent funding. That is why I am introducing the Water Infrastructure Trust Fund Act of 2019.

This legislation will provide a small, deficit-neutral source of revenue to help states replace, repair, and rehabilitate critical clean and