

themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 579, 580, and 581 on October 23, 2019 due to my attendance at a funeral. I would like the Record to reflect how I would have voted: On roll call vote number 579, I would have voted YES; On roll call vote number 580, I would have voted YES; On roll call vote number 581, I would have voted NO.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR STACIE FIDLAR FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Stacie Fidler for her 20 years of ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church in Rock Island, Illinois. Pastor Fidler has demonstrated her commitment to inclusivity, social justice and environmental responsibility, as well as her deeply personal investment in each parishioner as a member of the church family.

Pastor Stacie Fidler is a native of Cordova, Illinois, and a graduate of Riverdale High School. She earned her B.A. degree, *summa cum laude*, from Augustana College, majoring in religion with a concentration in Asian Studies. After completing seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, she was ordained in 1995 and served churches in Forreston and Seneca, Illinois before joining St. John's in 1999. She has since devoted her time to helping and building the community. She is in charge of the W.O.W. program for after-school study help and meals, the establishment of the Free Little Pantry and the designation of St. John's as a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Pastor Fidler also oversaw the church's major building expansion project and aided a partnership to create the Micah House, a community of students practicing intentional living in which faith questions were explored through conversation and outreach projects. In addition, she serves on several boards around the community and her work has led her to be named a Leader Under 40 by the Black Hawk College Foundation, Professional and Overall Citizen of the Year by Rock Island, and a Heart of Gold recipient by the YWCA.

It is because of strong community faith leaders such as Pastor Stacie Fidler that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Pastor Stacie Fidler on her 20th Anniversary with St. John's Lutheran Church.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I regretfully missed a vote on Wednesday, October 23, 2019. I had intended to vote "yes" on vote 584.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIONEL "LEE" GODBOUT

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Lionel "Lee" Godbout, an active member of the Weymouth, Massachusetts community, consummate volunteer in local and state politics, and dedicated friend to all who knew him.

Lee's passion for service began after high school, when he joined the Navy. It was there, while stationed in Newport, Rhode Island, that Lee met his future wife Kathy. A proud union carpenter by trade, Lee worked tirelessly to support Iris family for many years before retiring in 2002. After retirement, Lee continued to serve his community by volunteering with the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Margaret's Hospital and at Murphy Primary School where he helped children practice their reading.

Lee would continue to work tirelessly to promote progressive values for the rest of his life. Utilizing his carpentry skills, Lee created signs for numerous campaigns and advocated for causes close to his heart. His work with MassEquality helped Massachusetts become the first state in the nation to see marriage equality fully implemented.

Those who knew Lee knew him as a good man, full of kindness and the desire to help others. His memory and spirit will live on through his loving wife Kathleen, his three sons Kevin, Keith, and Wayne, and his grandsons Ryan and Rylan.

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

RECOGNIZING TECHNICAL SERGEANT FLETCHER SHARP, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2019 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor twelve distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored quali-

ties of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Technical Sergeant Fletcher Sharp of Plano, Texas.

Technical Sergeant Fletcher Sharp joined the United States Air Force in 1963. Following technician training school, he worked as an aircraft crew chief supporting the 436th Military Airlift Wing at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware and volunteered as a member of the base honor and color guards. In 1966, he was transferred to the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing at Naha Air Base in Okinawa in support of the F-102 Delta Dagger and was later deployed on C-130A resupply sorties to bases in Vietnam and Thailand. For his efforts, he awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Ribbon, Texas ANG Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal, and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

Upon his discharge, Mr. Sharp joined the Pennsylvania Air National Guard as a flight engineer on C-121 Super Constellation aircraft performing aero-medical evacuations. During the next twenty-three years, he would also serve in the Air National Guards of Maine, Vermont, and Texas. Most recently, he was deployed with the Texas Air National Guard from 1992 to 1995 to support the United Nations humanitarian missions to Sarajevo and throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For over thirty years, Fletcher has been active in a variety of service organizations including the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Post 321 where he has held leadership positions including Sergeant at Arms, Judge Advocate, and Vice Commander. Mr. Sharp has also held the role of Post Honor Guard Commander, providing military funeral honors for veterans and participating in local Veterans Day and Memorial events. Mr. Sharp has also taken a lead to ensure that an American flag is placed on every veteran grave in the Plano Mutual Cemetery every Memorial Day to pay tribute to those who served. Further, as an active member of the Civil Air Patrol, Mr. Sharp has held a variety of leadership positions including his work with the cadet program where he assists with developing leadership skills, character development and aerospace education. Finally, as an active member of the Seidel Chapter of the Air Force Association, Mr. Sharp acts as a Liaison Officer between the organization and CAP to promote the scholarship program for cadets participating in flight academies.

Mr. Sharp displays the qualities of a true patriot who has selflessly served our nation and who continues to mentor our next generation of military leaders.

Today, a grateful Nation thanks Technical Sergeant Sharp for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

CELEBRATING SPEAK UP, STAND UP, SAVE A LIFE CONFERENCE AND MOVEMENT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the impact created by the Speak Up, Stand Up, Save a Life conference and movement.

In Arizona, much like the rest of the country, student deaths from suicide have increased substantially, and research has shown, many youth related deaths have been found to be preventable, if only people had the tools to make a difference. Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux, superintendent of the Pendergast District, and Gina Godbehere, attorney, and Bureau Chief of the Maricopa County Attorney's office, met in Leadership West Class XXII, and worked collaboratively to create the Speak Up, Stand Up, Save a Life Conference in 2017, the only conference of its kind in Arizona.

Now in its fourth year, over 5,000 students, counselors, law enforcement, parents and education advocates came together in a January 2019 conference, to eradicate the stigma and consequences of bullying and to prevent teen suicide. Due to their efforts to help Arizona be a better place for this and future generations, police chiefs, and law enforcement officers from agencies throughout the state joined the effort and attended the conference, along with students, counselors, teachers, education advocates, and caring adults.

The daylong event inspired attendees to connect and create lasting solutions they can implement at their schools. The conference offered students an opportunity to hear from local and national speakers on the difficult issues they face on a daily basis, both inside and outside of school. The conference is free of charge, thanks to sponsors and in-kind donations. What makes this youth conference unique is the outreach offered to the adults through the conference, implementation at the school sites, and follow-up to family resource nights in the communities.

This vital project is now active in 38 school districts in Arizona with a total of 158 schools participating. The upcoming January 2020 conference will inspire youth and adults to be empowered, and make a difference in their schools, districts and communities.

The objective of this vital movement is to create tools for students in schools with diverse populations and community partners to take back to their campuses and communities with the goal to prevent suicide by inspiring over 380,000 students to speak up, stand up, and save lives.

RECOGNIZING AL BURTON

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, joined by Representatives Jackie Speier and Anna Eshoo, I rise to recognize legendary television producer Al Burton, who died last week at his home in the Bay Area at the age of 91.

Born in 1928 in Columbus, Ohio, Al graduated from Northwestern University in 1948. Then it was off to California where he made his mark.

Al initially focused on shows and events targeted at teens, becoming known as the Teen Dean of Television, with shows like Tele-Teen Reporter and Spotlight on Youth. He also created the Miss Teen-Age America pageant (which became Miss Teen USA).

During this early period Al worked with a young Johnny Carson on the game show Do You Trust Your Wife? (later retitled Who Do You Trust?) and produced as well as directed a weekly talk show, The Oscar Levant Show.

In the 1960s, Al put on live and broadcast musical concerts. This included the first live television performance of The Beach Boys, the first appearance in the U.S. of The Rolling Stones, as well as concerts by The Doors, Cream, and The Four Seasons.

Then, starting in the early 1970s, Al worked with Norman Lear to revolutionize and change the very face of television. He worked on such iconic shows as All in the Family, The Jeffersons, One Day at a Time, Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman, Diff'rent Strokes, and The Facts of Life.

Al went to work on his own in 1983, continuing to produce television shows. These shows included Charles in Charge, The New Lassie, and Win Ben Stein's Money.

During Al's long career his positive attitude and steady demeanor helped manage difficult talent to allow the show to go on. For many of his television shows he even wrote and published the theme song as well.

Al's contribution to American culture is immeasurable. Millions of Americans, and indeed people around the world, have him to thank for helping to expand their horizons and for countless hours of pure enjoyment.

Our deepest condolences go out to his wife, Sally Burton, and their daughter, Jennifer Burton Werbe.

INTRODUCTION OF THE McINTIRE-STENNIS ACT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EQUALITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the McIntire-Stennis Act District of Columbia Equality Act, which would amend the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act (Act) to make the District of Columbia eligible for funding. The District is treated as a state under federal programs, with a few exceptions, most of them simply oversights or failures to update. This legislation would rectify the exception in this Act, ensuring equitable treatment for the District and allowing the District to benefit from the funding opportunities available under the Act.

The Act provides U.S. states and territories with formula funds to support state-designated institutions' cooperative forestry research programs. The Act defines "State" to include Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. The District's notable, but faulty, absence from this definition makes it ineligible for grant funds that would support research at the District's state-supported university, the University

of the District of Columbia's (UDC) College of Agriculture, Urban Stability, and Environmental Science, a program that complements the city's ongoing forestry efforts. UDC is the nation's only urban land-grant university.

We appreciate that Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam are included under the definition of "State," even though, unlike the District of Columbia, their residents do not pay federal income taxes. It would be particularly troubling if the District, whose residents pay the highest amount per capita in federal taxes, which support farm and other federal programs, were to continue to be excluded.

It has been argued that the District should be excluded because of its lack of local timber production. However, the Act says, "[i]n making such apportionments, consideration shall be given to pertinent factors including" local timber production. Proximity to timber is, therefore, only one in a non-exclusive list of factors that are part of the larger analysis regarding the apportionments. Excluding the District from the definition of "State" merely because it is not located in an area with a timber industry runs counter to the intent of the Act. While timber production can be a factor in determining the amount of state allocations, there is no reason that the District should be excluded from the Act.

We believe, therefore, that the omission of the District must have been the result of an oversight during the original drafting of the Act. However, as you can imagine, this omission has serious consequences for the District, rendering UDC ineligible for these formula grant funds. Passage of this bill would allow students and researchers in the nation's capital to take part in this important forestry program.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote because I was in my district to participate in an official event with the Vice President.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 579; NAY on Roll Call No. 580; YEA on Roll Call No. 581; YEA on Roll Call No. 582; NAY on Roll Call No. 583; and YEA on Roll Call No. 584.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT JIM SKINNER, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2019 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor twelve distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their