

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

Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2019 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities 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 Staff Sergeant Jim Skinner of Melissa, Texas.

Staff Sergeant Jim Skinner's history of service began in 1979 when he entered into the United States Air Force, quickly earning the title of Security Police Military Working Dog Handler after completing the rigorous patrol and drug dog handler training. He would spend the next seven years in the role of dog handler, investigator, and SWAT team operator in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and New Mexico. For his dedicated efforts in defense of our nation, Staff Sergeant Jim Skinner would receive the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, and Outstanding Small Unit Award.

While Skinner would leave the military in 1987, his desire to protect the innocent would continue, leading him to pursue a Juris Doctorate from the University of Houston Law Center in 2001. Upon graduation he would work as a civil rights lawyer, representing child victims of sexual abuse. In 2007, he was appointed as an Assistant District Attorney and Special Prosecutor of the Collin County Criminal District Attorney's Office and later served as the Second Assistant District Attorney and Chief of the Special Prosecutions Division.

Jim further developed his passion for serving the public when he was elected as the 39th Sheriff of Collin County in January 2017. His drive to protect the most innocent led to the creation of the Child Exploitation Unit. Additionally, Sheriff Skinner was responsible for bringing together the Sheriffs of seven counties to form the North Texas Sheriff's Office Criminal Interdiction Unit, which targets criminals who are illegally transporting narcotics, weapons, cash or persons involved in human trafficking on our highways.

Sheriff Skinner has found countless ways to serve our community including his role as a board member for the Child Advocacy Center of Collin County, as a Trustee for Collin County Meals on Wheels, as a former board member for the North Texas Crime Commission, and as the Judge Advocate for the Bill Bryant Post 110 of the American Legion. Jim Skinner is a devoted public servant who has spent his entire life giving back to the community and working towards ensuring the values that we hold dear as Americans are maintained and he is to be commended for work to improve our nation.

Today, a grateful Nation thanks Staff Sergeant Skinner 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.

## RECOGNIZING THE HONOR FLIGHT OF THE QUAD CITIES FOR ITS 50TH FLIGHT

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 28, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Honor Flight of the Quad Cities for its 50th flight.

The Quad Cities formed a local chapter of the Honor Flight Network, called Honor Flight of the Quad Cities (HFQC) in 2008. The mission of HFQC is to fly America's veterans to Washington, D.C. in order to honor their sacrifices by allowing them visit memorials dedicated to their service. I especially extend my gratitude to Robert "Bob" Morrison, the founder of Honor Flight of the Quad Cities, for his dedication to serving local veterans and ensuring they can travel to visit the memorials. Mr. Morrison passed away October 7, 2019. He was the first Hub Director and took more than 3,000 veterans on 33 flights to see the memorials in our nation's capital. His memory and impact on our community will be well regarded for generations to come. Thank you again to this organization for its commitment to our veterans over the course of the 50 flights they have organized.

It is because of organizations such as the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities on its 50th flight.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RON ESTES**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 28, 2019*

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 581 on the Lesko Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 4617. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 582 on the Republican Motion to Recommit H.R. 4617 with Instructions. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 583 on the Final Passage of H.R. 4617, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 584 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 777. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## HONORING THE GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY ON THE OPENING OF ITS NEW FACILITY

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 28, 2019*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor The Galway Public Library on the opening of its new facility.

Over the past decade, the entire community of Galway has been contributing to the effort

to construct the new library. This new facility is more than three times the size of the old one, which was founded in 1997, and will act as a holistic community center. It will offer venue space and technology resources for all the residents of Galway to use and benefit from in addition to the collection of books and other media. The library has been supported not only by tax dollars but also by private donations, grants and bonds approved by the voters. Further, the move from the old library was supported by over one hundred volunteers who worked hundreds of hours ensure that the transition was successful. This level of civic involvement highlights everything that makes the North Country so vibrant and makes me proud to be its representative in Congress.

On Behalf on New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to congratulate the residents of the Town of Galway on this amazing accomplishment. I look forward to the success of the new Galway Public Library as a centerpiece of the community long into the future.

## CONGRATULATING THE MATER DEI GOLF TEAM

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 28, 2019*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Mater Dei Knights golf team, which recently brought home the Illinois Class 1A State Golf Championship.

It was a very tense tournament. At the end of the first round the Knights found themselves tied for first with the Althoff Crusaders. However, with a great deal of grit and determination the Knights eventually pulled out a hard-fought one stroke victory over rival Althoff to claim the state title.

My hearty congratulations go to team members Grant Goebel, Carter Goebel, Nathan Rivera, Blake Kloeckner, Ian Benderson, Tanner Gerdes, head coach Dennis Trame, athletic director Ron Schadeegg, and school principal Dennis Litteken.

Madam Speaker, these student-athletes and their coaches have represented themselves, their school, and their community in the best tradition of high school athletics. I am pleased to join with the other Members of this House in congratulating them on their victory and wishing them all the best in their future academic and athletic careers.

## RECOGNIZING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT BARNETT WALKER, 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