

Apprenticeships are crucial workforce development tools that yield positive returns for students, workers, and businesses alike, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to continue supporting these programs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures. If I were present for roll call votes, I would have voted "Aye" for the following votes:

Roll Call 610, November 12, 2019: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 4162, GI Bill Planning Act of 2019.

Roll Call 611, November 12, 2019: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3224, Deborah Sampson Act.

CONGRATULATING DR. ANDREW REISMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Andrew Reisman, a fellow Gainesville resident and my dear friend, for being sworn into office as President of the Medical Association of Georgia.

As President of the Medical Association of Georgia, Dr. Reisman will serve his fellow physicians, patients, and the state of Georgia by working to enhance patient care and the health of the public by advancing the art and science of medicine and by representing physicians and patients in the policy making process.

Upon being sworn in for his one-year term as president, Dr. Reisman remarked he plans to focus on tort reform, surprise medical bills, the "data entry crisis" and scope of practice, ultimately working to ensure Georgians have access to the care they need.

As a family physician with the Longstreet Clinic in Oakwood, Georgia, Dr. Reisman has served our community since 1996. He is the third-ever doctor from Hall County to serve as President of the Medical Association of Georgia.

Dr. Reisman previously served as Secretary for the Medical Association of Georgia. He is also a member of the Georgia Composite Medical Board, the Hall County Medical Society, the American Medical Association, and the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Reisman has a medical degree from the University of Miami and completed his residency at the University of Maryland.

Dr. Reisman has dedicated his career to bettering the lives of his patients and bettering the greater medical community as a whole. On behalf of the people of Northeast Georgia, I

want to commend my good friend for his remarkable work and congratulate him on being sworn in as President of the Medical Association of Georgia.

RECOGNIZING QUINTIN STEPHEN-HASSARD FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Quintin Stephen-Hassard of Dillon for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and his service in the community.

Mr. Stephen-Hassard is a U.S. Navy veteran and served in Vietnam. Mr. Stephen-Hassard received multiple commendations during his time in the Navy including the National Defense Medal, and the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V device.

Mr. Stephen-Hassard has been a leader in the American Legion Beaverhead Post 20, including leading the research and development of the new Veterans Monument to replace one destroyed in a storm. He serves on the color and honor guard for public event and works with the Legion Community Hospital Equipment Loan Program. Mr. Stephen-Hassard also presents a year-long Ocean Science Program in the community.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Quintin Stephen-Hassard for his service to his country and community.

CELEBRATING POLAND'S HISTORIC DEMOCRATIC BREAKTHROUGH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today we continue celebrating Poland's historic democratic breakthrough 30 years ago that led to its matriculation from dictatorship to democracy.

Today, we honor the bravery, tenacity, discipline and innate goodness of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lech Walesa and Solidarity.

Some time ago, I read Lech Walesa's powerful and riveting autobiography, "A Way of Hope." Filled with insight and brutally honest, the book walks the reader through a series of volatile events—personal and public—that have literally transformed the world.

In the book, we get a glimpse into Lech Walesa's deep faith—and the role his beloved mother, and her Catholic beliefs had on him; "Neighbors came to our house to say the rosary," he tells us in the book. The book is filled with remembrances of family—and his love for his wife.

On leadership he tells us: "I've never wished or prepared for a leadership role: paradoxically, it's because I never really wanted it, absorbed as I was by quite different concerns, different problems which needed solving, that I found myself out in front, leading the others—'leading the flock,' I call it with a smile."

He tells us of the strike of 1970. "All we wanted was to free our fellow workers, we wanted no violence." And that his worst fears were realized: "Poles had fired against Poles."

In the chapter "The Strike and the August Agreement" he tells us how the movement had matured:

"Until then I had been talking, bluffing, playing 'on credit.' Although we pretended to be holding all the high cards, our opponents knew our game inside out, they'd been playing against us for years! But what they didn't know was the nature of our very last card: the determination that had been maturing for ten years now, since the death of three of our colleagues right in front of the second entrance to the shipyard."

When His Holiness Pope John Paul II made his historic trip to his homeland in 1979, he counseled his flock and his country men and women, "Be Not Afraid." But Lech Walesa gave us additional insight into how Solidarity and Pope John Paul II were "inextricably bound together" and how it almost ended in 1981:

"It was in Japan that we heard of the dramatic attempt on the Pope's life. The news broke in the middle of the night May 13-14, 1981. We were in my hotel room in Nagasaki, discussing the events of the day, and our visit the next day to the museum set up in memory of the victims of the atomic bomb. The first news flash was terrifying: the Pope was dead! The next news flash retracted it: no, the Pope was still alive, he was fighting for his life. I was overcome by a feeling of immense loneliness; the whole world seemed to have turned upside down; with our lodestar gone, some of us were wandering in a wilderness without hope. The tragedy of the Polish Pope was also the tragedy of Poland and of Solidarity: they were inextricably bound together; this was just the beginning. Then the news changed, became less alarming; there was still hope."

In his chapter "Martial Law," Lech Walesa tells us how they decided that if the militia invaded the shipyard during the night, they decided on passive resistance: "Our greatest strength is precisely our weakness—our living bodies and empty hands confronting tanks and nightsticks."

His wife Danuta writes in the book how she was discouraged when he was locked up during martial law but "he seemed rather pleasant, . . . we had to be dignified about it all, become even in a place like this, we still had the upper hand; we not they were making history."

By 1989, Solidarity leaders sat across the table from General Jaruzelski, the same General who had imposed martial law in 1981. And they negotiated what had seemed to most of the world impossible: the peaceful transition from communism to free and fair elections. In August of 1989, less than a decade after the Gdansk shipyard strikes that gave birth to Solidarity, Poland would elect its first non-communist Prime Minister since the communist takeover.

Then Lech Walesa himself became President.

Lech Walesa tells us in the book that in his school years "history was my weak point."

Studying history does not matter when you are the one who makes history by bringing freedom, respect for human rights, and enduring democracy not only to your own country, but many other nations as well.