

RECOGNIZING TED HILLMER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ted Hillmer, Jr.'s 17 years of service as superintendent of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Greene County, Missouri. The park commemorates the Battle of Wilson's Creek, first major American Civil War engagement west of the Mississippi River on August 10, 1861. Hillmer's first experience at the park was in 1988, whereas project engineer he oversaw the construction of a brand-new visitor center for the 2,100-acre national park, southeast of Republic, Missouri.

Hillmer later returned to the park in 2003, where he worked for 17 years as park superintendent. He leaves the historic battlefield knowing that a new, vastly-improved, and expanded visitors center, which he oversaw the design and planning, is scheduled for completion sometime in summer. The expanded visitor's center will include a wider array of artifacts from the battle and a far more expansive retelling of the almost 5-hour long battle that claimed 2500 lives.

Hillmer has overseen a great increase in visitors and interest to the park since he became superintendent. Last year saw 220,067 people visit the historic park, including 3 classes from the Fort Leonard Wood. Without Hillmer's oversight, or the staff and experts working to meticulously maintain the surviving documents and artifacts of the battle, these lessons would have been lost to history.

Madam Speaker, the passion and hard work shown by Ted Hillmer, Jr. should be an example to all of us. The legacy Ted Hillmer leaves behind will not be forgotten, both by the staff of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield as well as the surrounding communities who cherish the historic site. I hope we can all join together in remembering him for his service, not only to the community, but to the continued remembrance of the victims of our civil war.

THE TEMPORARY REAUTHORIZATION AND STUDY OF THE EMERGENCY SCHEDULING OF FENTANYL ANALOGUES ACT (S. 3201)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 3201, The Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act.

Synthetic opioids such as fentanyl have caused tens of thousands of deaths in recent years and Congress has an obligation to continue to offer solutions to this ongoing public health crisis. Unfortunately, the measures taken in S. 3201 go too far in expanding mandatory minimum sentencing and would place further burdens on our already-strained criminal justice system.

S. 3201 extends the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) "class-wide" scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, causing more

individuals to be prosecuted seeking burdensome and ineffective mandatory minimum sentences. This expansion of DEA authority raises civil liberty concerns and has the potential of reversing meaningful criminal justice reform.

In 2018, I was proud to vote in favor of the First Step Act (P.L. 115-391), bipartisan reform that overwhelmingly passed Congress and was eventually signed into law. Among other things, this bill addressed the growing bipartisan consensus that mandatory minimums are unsustainably costly and counterproductive. Rather than building on this success, S. 3201 expands outdated mandatory minimum sentences even for those caught with trace amounts of illicit fentanyl-related substances. This issue is particularly burdensome because according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, roughly 85 percent of individuals charged with trafficking fentanyl were unaware that that they were in fact in possession of the illegal substance.

All levels of government must continue to strive towards removing illicit fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances from our communities. However, any legislation that addresses this issue cannot simply overcorrect the problem and must instead form a sustainable drug enforcement strategy.

Madam Speaker, I urged my colleagues to vote against The Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HOWARD SKAVDAHL

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I honor the life of Howard Skavdahl, who recently passed away.

He was a native of Harrison, in Nebraska's Third District, and is laid to rest with the select men and women of our armed services buried in Arlington Cemetery.

He earned this honor through his valued service to our nation in World War II.

During World War II, Howard Skavdahl served our country in England, France, and Germany as a meteorologist in the Army Air Corps.

He continued in the Reserves until retiring in 1965 as a Major.

Major Skavdahl truly embodies our "greatest generation." He had a lifelong passion for aeronautics.

After completing his active duty military service, he completed his Masters Degree at the California Institute of Technology, and brought his aeronautical expertise to the private sector at the Rand Corporation and Boeing.

While at Boeing, he was chief technical engineer for two NASA airplanes, and worked on propulsion systems for the 747, 757, 767, and 777.

He retired in 1990 as the head of Boeing's Propulsion Research Department.

Besides his accomplishments, Mr. Skavdahl was known for his compassion for his family and friends.

Throughout his life, he touched countless others, and is survived by his three sons, ten grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

We are grateful for his service to our country.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANCES ANN LUTCHER THEATER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Frances Ann Luther Theater for Performing Arts on its 40th anniversary. The 1,500 seat, world-class, non-profit performing arts center was opened by the Nelda C. and H.J. Luther Stark Foundation on February 7, 1980, with a sold-out performance by the great pianist Liberace!

I am proud to say that this outstanding theater is located in the 36th Congressional District in the beautiful city of Orange, Texas. The Luther Theater is the largest Performing Arts Series from Houston to New Orleans, with annual attendance of approximately 30,000 adults and children. In its first 40 seasons, the theater has brought 1,026,285 patrons through their doors to experience a variety of events from Broadway to dance recitals, Willie Nelson to Blue Man Group, Riverdance to local reading and declamation contests.

A recipient of multiple grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Luther Theater most recently received a grant to produce a professional theater event for secondary students from Southeast Texas. This event will allow students to experience the performing arts world and potentially discover a life-long love of theater. Students can see the literature from their classrooms in action, for a full 'page to stage' experience, featuring professionally trained actors and actresses. The Luther Theater creates the opportunity to share the love of art and literature with the next generation.

This theater is only one of four theaters in Texas having received with the Kennedy Center Partners in Education designation. The Kennedy Center Partnership was established in 2003 to bring nationally accredited teaching artists to work with local educators, training them how to integrate the arts into their classroom curriculum.

Embracing their mission, Luther Theater is committed to providing professional entertainment for the enlightenment and cultural growth of residents living in Southeast Texas.

For 40 seasons, the Luther Theater has enriched the region with invaluable resources and opportunities for the study and enjoyment of the performing arts. I thank them for their continued support and dedication to both the city of Orange and Southeast Texas.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF EIZO KOBAYASHI

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of long-time