

order that is essential to the functioning of the House as a deliberative body and that is expected of every member of the House of Representatives including and especially the Speaker of the House. I would add that if such conduct is ignored and not addressed by the leadership of both Parties our ability to govern will be seriously compromised.

RECOGNIZING THE INCOMING 2020 OFFICERS OF THE OCCOQUAN-WOODBRIDGE-LORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the incoming 2020 officers of the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department. OWLVFD is located in Prince William County Virginia, 25 miles from our Nation's Capital. The OWLVFD goes on an average of 20,000 runs per year, aiding 80,000 residents in a 27 square mile area.

Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1938, the OWLVFD is comprised of committed community members who volunteer their time, energy, and financial resources to ensuring the safety of the families and property in and around Woodbridge. During its 80-year history, the Department has continued to expand and there are now three stations staffed by approximately 250 volunteers who serve and protect an ever-growing local population. From their bravery in action, to their presence with the youth in the community, OWLVFD is readily available for the families of Woodbridge.

It is with great honor I enter into the RECORD the names of the following Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department Officers:

Department Chief—Rick Michael
 Department President—David Williams
 Executive Vice President—George Smith
 Membership Secretary—Scott Shaw
 Treasurer—Debra Haight
 Board of Directors—Jonathan Baldwin, Mike Clark, Anna Smith, Rebecca Barnes, Michele Bauer, Melissa Payne, Zachary Wessolleck, Kevin Lewis
 Election Officer—Sabrina Brandon Ricks
 Sergeant-At-Arms—Thomas Hubbard
 Assistant Chiefs—Kurt Bolland, Ernest DeSantis, Steve Godin, Wayne Haight, Ryan Williams
 Rescue Chief—Edward Craig
 Fire Captains—Kody Perry, Justin Witt
 Rescue Captain—Sandra Williams
 Fire Lieutenants—Mark Chandler, Jonathan Baldwin
 EMS Lieutenants—Melissa Westphal, Sybil Meeley, Michael Yankaskas, Mark Powers.

While a new executive board has been elected and new officers sworn in, the mission of OWLVFD remains the same. The volunteers of the OWLVFD continue to put themselves in harm's way for the benefit of the residents of the area and have educated and mentored the youth in Woodbridge, not only teaching fire safety education, but also strengthening community relations.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleague join me in recognizing the men and women of

the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department for their service to our country and steadfast commitment to their community and in congratulating the newly elected officers and board members. I thank them for their dedication and to all I say: "Stay safe."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I was called out of the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 50.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Miss RICE of New York. Madam Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on Wednesday February 5, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 35, YEA on Roll Call No. 36, and YEA on Roll Call No. 37.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I was not present for votes on February 6 and 7, 2020 due to family medical matters in Alabama.

Had I been present on February 6, I would have voted YEA on the Motion to Table the Republican Privileged Resolution on H. Res. 833, YEA on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule on H. Res. 833, and YEA on H. Res. 833. During the second vote series, I would have voted YEA on the Stevens/Morelle Amendment, NAY on the Foxx Amendment, NAY on the Roe Amendment, YEA on the Wild Amendment, NAY on the Allen Amendment, NAY on the Meadows Amendment, YEA on the Jackson Lee Amendment, YEA on the Rouda Amendment, NAY on the Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 2474, YEA on Final Passage of H.R. 2474, and YEA on Agreeing to H. Res. 826.

I'd like to highlight that I am particularly disappointed that I missed the vote for H. Res. 826, a resolution to disapprove of the Trump Administration's Medicaid block grant scheme. Millions of Americans, including more than 1 million in Alabama, have access to the health care they need and deserve because of Medicaid. Most health care providers in my district and across the country are dependent on reimbursements from Medicaid to keep their doors open and to continue delivering care in our communities. I am proud the House Democrats took a strong stance against this Administration and their continued assault on health care access and coverage by passing

a resolution condemning the most recent attacks on Medicaid.

On February 7, I would have voted YEA on the Shalala Amendment, NAY on the Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 5687, and YEA on Final Passage of H.R. 5687.

RECOGNIZING AN HILL'S NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate An Hill for recently becoming a United States citizen.

An and her husband, Geoffrey, met abroad, fell in love, and married. With hopes of starting a family in the United States, they needed to first secure a visa for An and turned to my office in hopes of obtaining assistance.

After my office successfully helped the Hill family, An moved to Ohio with her husband and began the journey to become a naturalized citizen.

Just a few weeks ago, her journey was complete, and my staff was honored to join her and her family at the naturalization ceremony as she took her oath of citizenship.

To me, nothing is quite as beautiful than a naturalization ceremony. Congratulations, An, on all your hard work and dedication to becoming a United States citizen.

An, raise the American flag and know that it is your flag, and the United States is your nation—your home.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF JAMES McALLISTER AND HIS SERVICE TO THE OCCOQUAN-WOODBRIDGE-LORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the service and dedication of Chief James McAllister of the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department. Chief McAllister is retiring from the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department following nearly three decades of service to our community.

Chief McAllister joined OWLVFD in June of 1991. Throughout his years of service Chief McAllister has served the department in every operational role. He has been a Firefighter, Medic, and for the last 11 years he has led the department as its Chief. Under his steadfast leadership, the department has continued to grow and expand, along with the community it serves. The OWLVFD is one of the largest volunteer departments in the country with almost 300 volunteer members and three fire stations. It provides fire suppression, EMS care and rescue services to 80,000 residents who live and work in a 27 square mile area. Last year, the department responded to more than 8,000 911-emergency calls which resulted in nearly 20,000 runs.

In addition to his duties leading the department, he has served the county through his

participation on many committees, task forces, and the Prince William County Fire and Rescue Association. His achievements, successes and dedication are made even more inspiring by the fact that all of his work has been as a dedicated volunteer. In recognition of his commitment and his 28-year career, it is my great honor to recognize Chief James McAllister of the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me once again in congratulating Chief James McAllister for his 28-years of service to OWLVFD. His positive contributions, and dedicated service to our community can never be repaid. We thank Chief McAllister, and we wish him the best in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I was inadvertently detained during the vote on expressing disapproval of the Trump Administration's harmful actions towards Medicaid. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 51.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WASHINGTON, D.C. ADMISSION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the Committee on Oversight and Reform is preparing to hold the first markup of the District of Columbia statehood bill in either chamber of Congress since 1993, when I got the first-ever floor vote on the bill. I rise today to introduce a revised version of the bill, the purpose of which is to make technical and conforming changes and to address transition issues.

On January 3, 2019, the first day of this Congress, I introduced H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, which has 224 cosponsors, a record for the D.C. statehood bill and far more cosponsors than most bills passed by the House. The bill I introduce today includes the text of H.R. 51, but makes technical and conforming changes to the text, provides transition assistance to the new state and establishes a transition commission to assist with the orderly transition to statehood and to a reduced federal district. The D.C. statehood bill is well within the authority of Congress, and is in compliance with the Admissions and District clauses of the Constitution, as well as the 23rd Amendment.

While the Constitution does not establish prerequisites for admission of states into the Union, Congress has generally considered three factors: commitment to democracy, support for statehood and requisite population and resources for the state to support itself. The District meets each prerequisite. The District has a larger population than two states, pays more in federal taxes than 22 states and pays more in federal taxes per capita than any other state. D.C. has a higher per capita per-

sonal income and gross domestic product than any state. In November 2016, over 86 percent of District residents voted in favor of an advisory referendum requesting that the D.C. Council petition Congress for statehood.

Congress has two choices. It can continue to exercise undemocratic, autocratic authority over the 705,000 American citizens who reside in our nation's capital, treating them, in the words of Frederick Douglass, as "aliens, not citizens, but subjects." Or it can live up to this nation's promise and ideals, end taxation without representation and pass the Washington, D.C. Admission Act.

Since the founding of the nation, District residents have always carried all the obligations of citizenship, including serving in all of the nation's wars and payment of federal taxes, all without voting representation on the floor in either house of Congress or freedom from congressional interference in purely local matters. The bill I introduce seeks to end this unequal treatment and give the residents of the nation's capital their full rights as American citizens.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNDERSTANDING AND STUDYING AMERICAN (USA) CIVICS ACT OF 2020

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Understanding and Studying American (USA) Civics Act of 2020.

Today, only 32 percent of Americans can name all three government branches. That means two-thirds of the people in the U.S. are not equipped with foundational knowledge necessary to participate in and navigate our democracy. Investing in civics education is key to ensuring that future participants and leaders in our democracy are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to do so.

The USA Civics Act of 2020 would provide grants to establish and strengthen civics programs to promote more comprehensive understandings of the history, achievements, and global impacts of American constitutional and representative democracy. Specifically, the bill supports the efforts of social science teachers in primary and secondary schools. In addition to funding teacher initiatives and educational curricula and materials, the USA Civics Act of 2020 would provide funding to develop open educational resources and outreach activities.

The USA Civics Act promotes the study of American political thought and constitutional democracies globally, invests in opportunities for civics educators to deepen their knowledge of the field, and opens new doors for our young future leaders to learn how they can participate in the country's political life. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS RAILSBACK

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and remember the life of Congressman Thomas Railsback, who passed away on January 20, 2020, at the age of 87.

Born in Moline, Illinois in 1940, Tom displayed a natural gravitation towards leadership. He began his studies at Grinnell College in Iowa and then Northwestern Law School in Illinois. Not long after he finished his formal education, Tom served in the United States Army from 1957 to 1959. After the completion of his military service, Tom returned home to the Quad Cities to practice law.

Tom had a resilient passion for ethical leadership, which pushed his desire to hold public office promoting just ideals, supporting bipartisan solutions advocating for good constituent service. In 1962, he was elected to the Illinois General Assembly as a republican state representative, where he served for two terms. In 1966 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he represented Illinois' 19th congressional district for 16 years. While serving in the House, Tom played a key role in the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, which provides critical support for state programs that assist communities to take a comprehensive approach to juvenile justice. Tom was the second ranking republican on the House Judiciary Committee and a key member during the Nixon presidency.

Tom found joy in his life through his family and many lifelong friends. He and his first wife, Patricia (Sloan) Railsback, raised four daughters: Kathryn, Julie, Maggie, and Lisa. Tom married Joyelyn Railsback on Oct. 23, 1998. They enjoyed golfing together, playing word games, and traveling during their 21 years of marriage.

Congressman Tom Railsback's steadfast work to improve the lives of American citizens stands as a model for progress to further the greater good and prosperity of the union. He set the standard for the values and priorities which current—and future—public servants should strive to uphold in order to better our communities. It's my honor to commemorate his life and his tireless bi-partisan work to improve the lives of Americans and strive for ethical leadership. My deepest condolences go out to his wife, family, colleagues, and friends during their time of mourning.

PATHWAY TO STABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the human right of every person to have a safe and affordable home. As we know, our nation is faced with a staggering housing crisis. At least 600,000 Americans are experiencing homelessness in a given night—