

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE INCREASED TRANSPARENCY IN 501(C)(4) ORGANIZATIONS ACT OF 2020

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Increased Transparency in 501(c)(4) Organizations Act of 2020. This bill would require the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to make publicly available the forms organizations that self-declare under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) file with the IRS. Americans have the right to know which organizations are operating under this section of the IRC.

To be eligible for tax-exempt status under 501(c)(4), organizations, often referred to as “social welfare organizations,” must be “devoted exclusively to charitable, educational, or recreational purposes.” They can choose to apply for 501(c)(4) status from the IRS, or they can simply self-declare. Previously, organizations seeking to self-declare their 501(c)(4) status were not required even to notify the IRS of their existence. In 2015, however, the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (the PATH Act) was enacted into law. Under that law, an organization seeking to self-declare their 501(c)(4) status now must file a notice with the IRS that it is operating under this section. The PATH Act did not, however, make the filed notices, Form 8976, subject to public disclosure.

The IRS has opined that Form 8976 cannot be made available under the Freedom of Information Act or other disclosure laws. This opinion creates a discrepancy between those organizations for which the IRS must make publicly available information—all Section 501(c)(3) organizations and 501(c)(4) organizations that applied that for status—and self-declared 501(c)(4) organizations. This discrepancy appears to have been inadvertently created by the PATH Act.

My bill would correct this oversight and mandate that the IRS publicly disclose any filed Form 8976 upon request, thus allowing the public to know which organizations operate under 501(c)(4), as they do with 501(c)(3) organizations. In the aftermath of the Citizens United Supreme Court decision, which allows for unlimited expenditure in political campaigns from these “social welfare” groups, this bill is especially important to allow for greater transparency. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on roll call votes cast on February 7, 2020.

On Roll Call Vote Number 54, on the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote “Yea.”

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOMESTRETCH

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the 30th anniversary of Homestretch, a Falls Church organization dedicated to empowering homeless families in Northern Virginia to secure permanent housing and to attain the knowledge, skills and hope they need to achieve lasting economic self-sufficiency.

Homestretch has assisted substantially in the efforts of Fairfax County and the City of Falls Church to end homelessness by providing housing and comprehensive services to over 1,000 homeless families with over 3,000 homeless children since its inception in 1990.

The organization contributes to the goals of One Fairfax by equipping families to escape homelessness and poverty permanently through programs that help them acquire skills and education, reduce debt and repair credit, enter lucrative career paths and restore their health.

Furthermore, Homestretch significantly contributes to the economic empowerment of homeless parents with children in Northern Virginia by launching them into such careers as nurses, chefs, teachers, accountants, realtors, dental assistants, pastors, commercial drivers, social workers, business analysts, pharmacy techs, master plumbers, restaurateurs, and auto mechanics.

In addition to its wide array of services for homeless families, Homestretch also provides quality early education for homeless and low-income children through its licensed preschool, Kidstretch, and ensures the educational success for youth in their program through its dedicated collaboration with the Fairfax County and Falls Church City Schools.

Homestretch has achieved unparalleled success in equipping homeless families to secure and maintain long term employment and permanent housing, with 90 percent families completing the program by moving into permanent housing that they can afford on income they earn; and with 95 percent of its graduates never returning to homelessness.

The organization enjoys deep community support with over 800 volunteers over 1,400 donors each year and demonstrates that dramatic transformation of lives is possible, given the right structure, support and opportunity.

I commend Homestretch’s staff on their organization’s 30th anniversary, I am sincerely grateful for their tireless efforts to improve the lives of many of Northern Virginia’s most vulnerable families and for giving them the tools to succeed.

RACHEL CRANE MATHER SCHOOL

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rachel Crane Mather, the founder of Beaufort’s Mather School.

Rachel Mather moved to the Lowcountry in 1867 after the Civil War. She was a woman of faith and an educator. Mather hit the ground running as soon as she got to Beaufort and within a year, she opened her own institution. Her hopes and dreams came to life by serving others.

The book of Matthew, Chapter 11, verse 28 reads “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Led by faith and perseverance, Mather taught the weary and gave them food, housing, and rest during the southern Reconstruction Era.

The Mather School was a sanctuary for the young women in the Lowcountry and produced over a century of superior education in Rachel’s name. As the matriarch of this institution, we honor the culture and legacy she has left today.

RECOGNIZING RONNIE RAKESTRAW

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Mississippian, Ronnie Rakestraw.

Ronnie Rakestraw formerly served the public as the Union County East Post Justice Court Judge for over 32 years. During his extensive career, Ronnie saw many changes in the Mississippi court system. He was present when Union County decided to divide justice court judges into East and West Posts. Ronnie always remained a dedicated public servant and continued to put Mississippi first. He also served as a municipal court judge for the town of Sherman, Mississippi, for over 20 years.

I thank Ronnie for his lifelong dedication to the law and for making Mississippi a better place. I wish him many years of good health.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING MASTER CAPTAIN
WILLIAM WARD

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Master Captain William Ward, of Florida, who passed away December 13, 2019 at the age of 57.

William was licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard as a Merchant Marine Officer in 1991. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida-College of Business in Accounting in 1994, and attained his Juris Doctor degree in 2013, from Barry University College of Law.

Mr. Ward was the President and C.E.O. of Captains Finest Seafood from 1994 to 2009, served on the Gulf Fisherman's Association board of directors since 2004, was the Vice President of Seafood Harvesters of America, and a board member with the Gulf Coast Leadership Conference. In addition, Mr. Ward was a member director of Fish for America, USA, representing and educating the millions of seafood consumers in the United States. His leadership and efforts earned him the title of Florida Businessman of the Year in 2001 and in 2004 as the National Business Council Chairman.

Mr. Ward advocated for sensible fisheries policy, including passage of the Port State Measures Agreement, which helped curb unregulated, unreported and illegal fishing. Additionally, Mr. Ward assisted in drafting legislation, advocating on its behalf, and consulting with state and federal governmental agencies in the development and implementation of protectionary natural resource regulations and rules. William also served as an expert consultant after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. He worked extensively on the passage of the Restore Act which provided the primary source of funding for the economic and ecological recovery of the Gulf States.

Mr. Ward represented the State of Florida as a two-time Gubernatorial Appointee to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission from 1999 to 2003. Further, William has served on numerous state and federal natural resources advisory panels, as well as two NOAA federal appointments serving on the advisory committees of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

Later in life, William worked as an attorney on several successfully litigated state and federal court cases during his time as managing partner of Ward Consulting Partners, LLC, and the William Ward Law Group, PLLC. He also testified as an expert witness on marine fisheries cases in federal court, one of which prevailed in the U.S. Supreme Court.

During his career, William has consulted or worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Washington D.C., NOAA, Southeast Headquarters, NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Florida Institute of Oceanography, University of South Florida-College of Marine Science, University of Miami-Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Regional Coast Guard Headquarters in New Orleans, Miami, St. Petersburg, and Clearwater.

William Ward was well respected and cherished on Capitol Hill, among his peers on the water, in the legal community and in the environmental community. He was a great friend and compassionate advocate who worked tirelessly to protect the people and waters he loved. Thanks to his contributions and advocacy, our coastal environment and fisheries are more sustainable than before.

NATIONAL COURT REPORTING AND
CAPTIONING WEEK

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, today, we recognize the Eighth Annual Court Reporters and Captioners Week. Approximately 48 million Americans are considered deaf or hard-of-hearing, and the captioning services that realtime writers and stenographic captioners ensure that all Americans have equal access to news and other vital information.

Realtime writers are highly trained professionals who share a unique ability to convert the spoken word to text that can be read, streamed, broadcast, searched, and archived. This specialization includes broadcast captioning and realtime translation services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, as well as providing near-instant translation in legal and other settings.

In the 116th Congress, I am proud to have reintroduced the Training for Realtime Writers Act, which reauthorizes the Training for Realtime Writers Grant Program and encourages careers in realtime writing and court reporting, provides scholarships for students, and modernizes curriculum to adapt to our changing world. I was proud to have my bill included in the 2008 Higher Education Act Reauthorization.

The Training for Realtime Writers Grant Program has been incredibly successful in training the current generation of captioners and court reporters and has aided in the rapid growth of these professions. By reauthorizing the Training for Realtime Writers grants, new students will have the opportunity to enter a technical, well-paid, and highly skilled career that will allow them to become court reporters and captioners immediately upon graduation.

From maintaining the integrity of our democracy to ensuring every citizen stays up to date on today's 24-hour news cycle, realtime writers are vital to Americans in all communities. Over the past decade, this program has encouraged a new generation of realtime writers to enter this vital field. I am proud to work with the National Court Reporters Association and with my friend Rep. Rodney Davis, to reauthorize this program so we can continue to increase awareness and interest in this profession.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK REITER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and a giant in the recycling industry—Mark Reiter.

Mark was born and grew up in the Bronx—the South Bronx as he would say. Mark was an avid Brooklyn Dodgers fan. He later became a Nationals fan as a result of spending most of his life in Washington, D.C.; but make no mistake about it, Mark was a New Yorker through and through and never let you forget it.

Mark originally came to Washington to work for the late Bella Abzug. Mark would often entertain people with stories about those years working in her office. Representative Abzug was proud of Mark and his tireless devotion to environmental issues, as well as his commitment to others, especially those who were less fortunate. Later, Mark worked for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, helping shape our nation's environmental policy at its earliest stages. While he was a reliable Democrat, many of his friends were very reliable Republicans. He knew how to get things done by working with others, understanding others, and of course, caring for others.

One of Mark's great accomplishments was the enactment of the Superfund Recycling Equity Act (SREA), which provided environmental clarity for recyclers facing potential liability under Superfund. Because of SREA, recyclers today conduct due diligence to ensure their materials are used again in an environmentally responsible manner. SREA was a monumental achievement for responsible recycling and Mark was instrumental in its enactment.

Mark was fiercely loyal and devoted to his family—his brother, nephews, nieces, and their children. Mark would visit them often wherever they lived and generously help whenever needed. He was very proud of them all. He often spoke of his admiration of his parents and how their hard work enabled him to succeed in ways they could never have imagined, especially as they were recent immigrants to this great country. Mark never forgot where he came from and the sacrifices his parents made for him and his older brother Eli.

Mark helped so many colleagues from his beginnings on Capitol Hill through his long successful career at the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries. Many of his colleagues have gone on to great careers of their own as a result of Mark's tutelage and deep caring for them. I know because I am one of those colleagues who learned so much and was helped by Mark over the years.

Mark was also a man of faith. His Jewish faith helped him become a caring man to so many, whether they be family, friends, colleagues or strangers. People were simply people in Mark's eyes. Mark cared about how others were treated in our society and would speak up for them without reservation. He felt he had walked in their shoes before them and wanted life to be better for them.

Madam Speaker, we lost a giant in the recycling industry, the environmental community, and the Jewish community. Mark was a great colleague, a mentor, and a friend to many. His family and friends are so proud of who Mark became and what he left behind—a world he helped make better through his devotion to others, his work and his actions. Mark will be missed by so many.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes during the week of January 27th to January 31st, 2020, due to an inability to fly while recovering from an upper-respiratory infection. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 23; YEA on Roll Call No. 24; YEA on Roll Call No. 25; YEA on Roll Call No. 26; YEA on Roll Call No. 27; YEA on Roll Call No. 28; YEA on Roll Call No. 29; NAY on Roll Call No. 30; YEA on Roll Call No. 31; YEA on Roll Call No. 32; YEA on Roll Call No. 33; and YEA on Roll Call No. 34.

CONGRATULATING SHALISHA THOMAS ON HER RECEIPT OF THE 2019–2020 MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Shalisha Thomas on being named a recipient of the 2019–2020 Milken Educator Award.

Described as “the Oscars of Teaching,” this honor is awarded to 40 educators nationally, and Ms. Thomas is the only winner from the State of Arkansas. According to the Milken Family Foundation, Ms. Thomas was given this distinct honor for her efforts to encourage her students through art.

Having received a degree in art education from the University of Arkansas in 2012, Ms. Thomas is also a valuable asset to the young people of the Pine Bluff community in her ability to encourage a high academic standard, build meaningful student-teacher relationships, and set students up for success in all aspects of life.

Ms. Thomas’ work is a shining example of the power of an educator in the lives of young people and the power of service to a surrounding community. I take this time to applaud her on her award and her further successes, and to thank her for her exceptional representation of Arkansas and Fourth District educators.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I regretably missed votes on Friday, February 7, 2020. I had intended to vote “yes” on roll call vote 52, “no” on roll call vote 53, and “yes” on roll call vote 54.

SUPPORT FOR THE LEE OF CALIFORNIA HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 550—TO REPEAL THE AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION OF 2002

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, authorizing military force is the most sobering responsibility Congress has.

Washington’s 10th District includes Joint Base Lewis-McChord, where over 40,000 servicemembers are stationed. I am very aware that every decision I make can affect their lives and the lives of their families. I take that responsibility very seriously.

In 2001, Congress passed an Authorization for the Use of Military Force only three days after the September 11th attacks. Because the country was still trying to determine exactly how we had been attacked, that AUMF was written broadly. In the time since, the 2001 AUMF has been used dozens of times to justify military action.

Subsequently, Congress passed another AUMF in 2002, which authorized military action in Iraq. President Trump cited the 2002 AUMF as justification for his decision to kill Qassem Soleimani in early January, more than 17 years after the AUMF’s passage.

I have advocated for the end of the 2002 AUMF since 2014, during my first term in Congress. But it was only when I joined the House Intelligence Committee last Congress that I fully appreciated the scope and scale of our missions around the world.

I would have joined my colleagues in voting to repeal the 2002 AUMF, and I was proud to cosponsor the underlying resolution. I strongly believe that Congress must reassert its role in decisions of when to use military force. The 2002 AUMF has been used to justify military action that had not been contemplated by Congress. By repealing it, Congress will bring grave decisions about war and military action closer to the people whose lives will be altered by them. I am glad the House voted for such an outcome.

HONORING LILIAN SMITH OF COEUR D’ALENE IDAHO

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Lilian Smith of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. At a young age, Lilian found she had a love for mathematics and a passion to share her knowledge with her fellow students. As she entered high school, Lilian created a non-profit to organize competitive math teams and peer mentoring programs at over 12 local schools in the Coeur d’Alene area. When first starting, Lilian convinced a local elementary school to start an after-school math team, and it grew from there. Through her work, Lilian has recruited dozens of student coaches, mentors, and has even secured

funding for the future growth of her organization, “Growing the STEM.” In just three short years, Lilian has helped over 400 students develop a meaningful skill set in mathematics and undoubtedly many future careers in major STEM fields. Her initiative is seen every day—through her fellow students—and through the community of Coeur d’Alene. As the head math coach at her local high school, Lilian continues to help fellow students excel in mathematics. While it may be difficult to measure the impact she has made, it is clear that this is just the beginning of Lilian’s impact on our community. I thank Lilian for her hard work and dedication to the future of so many Idaho students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I was inadvertently detained and was unable to make votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 41; YEA on Roll Call No. 42; YEA on Roll Call No. 43; NAY on Roll Call No. 44; YEA on Roll Call No. 45; YEA on Roll Call No. 46; YEA on Roll Call No. 47; NAY on Roll Call No. 48; YEA on Roll Call No. 49; NAY on Roll Call No. 50; and NAY on Roll Call No. 51.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF IRA LEWIS

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Chief Ira Lewis, USCG (Ret.) of Harker’s Island, North Carolina, who passed away recently at the age of 101. Mr. Lewis began his career as a fisherman, and then joined the Coast Guard in 1938. He served 21 years on the south shore of Long Island, New York, the final 3½ years as lighthouse keeper at Montauk Lighthouse. After retiring from the Coast Guard and returning to Harker’s Island, Ira worked for 9 years at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station as a civilian. He continued fishing, and tended the local veteran’s memorial, making sure flags were flown and grounds were well groomed.

In 1940 Ira married the love of his life, Maggie Hancock, whom he had met in the second grade. They had two children Ann and Phil, and eventually grandchildren, great-grandchildren, a great great-grandson. Unfortunately, Maggie preceded Ira in death in 1999 after battling cancer.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this veteran, patriot and public servant, Chief Ira Lewis who valiantly carried on the storied tradition of courage, faithfulness and service that characterizes our United States Coast Guard. May we never forget the sacrifices made by those in uniform, past and present, and always keep our dedicated service members in our thoughts and prayers.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE
SURVIVORS WEEK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, this week we honor the second National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

I rise today to lift the voices of survivors who live with the impact of gun violence each and every day.

Every year, over 36,000 Americans are killed in acts of gun violence and approximately 73,330 more are shot and injured.

Every day in America, one hundred people die and hundreds more are wounded by gun violence. Even more are threatened or witness gun violence.

America's gun death rate is 11 times greater than that of other developed countries.

This is why House Democrats have passed commonsense legislation like H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act, and H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Check Act, to help End Gun Violence to keep our communities safe. Yet Leader MCCONNELL continues to block a vote on this crucial step forward.

This is SHAMEFUL.

The American people deserve ACTION. Not political gamesmanship.

We must stop the bloodshed and the tears. Our children and our communities deserve more than just thoughts and prayers—they deserve action.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, due to traveling with President Trump to North Carolina, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 52; Yea on Roll Call No. 53; and Nay on Roll Call No. 54.

HILLSBORO CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, the City of Hillsboro, and Washington County on the 125th anniversary of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce. The City of Hillsboro has grown from its agrarian roots to emerge as an economic engine in the State of Oregon.

Since the Hillsboro Chamber was founded in 1895, it has worked tirelessly with local business and community leaders to bring greater opportunities to the people of Hillsboro. When the Southern Pacific Railroad arrived, the ability to export wheat, hops, berries, onions, and dairy helped expand a commercial district in the community that eventu-

ally led to the formation of the Chamber. The Chamber emerged as an advocate for farmers and community members and, over time, the economic prospects of a once sleepy agrarian town expanded. During the Great Depression, the Hillsboro Chamber committed itself to unifying the community in difficult financial times, helping to lift spirits with celebrations such as Happy Days, Hillsboro Bargain Days, and the Harvest Festival. The Chamber also helped the local economy survive by partnering with the City of Hillsboro to administer funds that were used to employ workers to expand runways at the airport, build a post office and hospital, and improve a municipal water system. These early investments in infrastructure have helped make Hillsboro and the surrounding region a hub for the semiconductor and high technology industry. Silicon Forest, as it is known today, will continue to lead the way in development of new technologies and innovative thinking.

Even with the expansion of the economy and growth of modern industry, the Chamber has continued to support small business owners and community members, making sure they have the opportunity to participate in the growing economy. In 1995, The Hillsboro Chamber created the School to Career Program, which has developed an important workforce pipeline to connect high school students from schools throughout Washington County to career opportunities in their communities. By connecting employers to educators and community leaders, the Hillsboro Chamber is also at the forefront of rethinking post-secondary opportunities for its community members.

The 125th anniversary of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce is a testament to how a collaborative commitment between multiple stakeholders makes a community better for everyone. Although Hillsboro and the surrounding region look very different now, the spirit of collaboration and seeking opportunity in Hillsboro remains the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Thursday, February 6 and Friday, February 7. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: NAY on Roll Call No. 38; NAY on Roll Call No. 39; NAY on Roll Call No. 40; NAY on Roll Call No. 41; YEA on Roll Call No. 42; YEA on Roll Call No. 43; NAY on Roll Call No. 44; YEA on Roll Call No. 45; YEA on Roll Call No. 46; YEA on Roll Call No. 47; NAY on Roll Call No. 48; YEA on Roll Call No. 49; NAY on Roll Call No. 50; NAY on Roll Call No. 51; NAY on Roll Call No. 52; YEA on Roll Call No. 53; and NAY on Roll Call No. 54.

RECOGNIZING LAUREL WALSH

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Laurel Walsh

of Greenville, North Carolina. For more than 35 years, she has been the first face people would see at St. Peter Catholic School. She answered the phone, led tours, maintained enrollment records, helped handle billing, and also served as school nurse. For 20 years she even served as athletic director. Not only that, but for all those jobs, and for all those years she never once brought home a paycheck. Although a few people in leadership were aware, most in the St. Peter family thought Mrs. Walsh was a paid employee. Her secret was safe until about two months ago when the school established an endowment in her honor. In announcing the creation of the Laurel Walsh Fund, school officials revealed that this longtime employee was, in fact, a volunteer.

Teacher Joe Hughes who has worked with Walsh for three decades said: "She's just so kind to everyone. She's just a fine person, just a good example of what a human being should be, what Christ called us to be."

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this incredible volunteer, but more importantly, a wonderfully faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, and my personal friend, Laurel Walsh.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances directly related to the betterment of the community I serve, I had to miss voting on H.R. 5678 and all accompanying amendments. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 52; Yea on Roll Call No. 53; and Nay on Roll Call No. 54.

IN HONOR OF GENE AND PEGGY
RADIN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gene Radin and Mrs. Peggy Radin of Jessamine County, Kentucky. Both Mr. and Mrs. Radin are honored veterans of our great nation.

Mr. Radin joined the United States Coast Guard in 1948. He served for 43 years and earned the rank of CWO4 prior to his retirement in 1991. Chief Petty Officer Peggy Radin served in the Coast Guard for 20 years. Between the two of them, they devoted 63 years of service to America.

Following retirement from the Coast Guard, Mr. and Mrs. Radin began serving their fellow veterans by volunteering at the Thomshood Veteran Center in Wilmore, Kentucky. Mr. Radin recently completed 25 years of volunteer service. In addition, for many years Mr. Radin has placed American flags at the graves of Coast Guard servicemen and women at Camp Nelson National Cemetery on the Saturday before Memorial and Veterans Days.

Mr. Radin turns 90 years old today, February 10. It is fitting to honor on this day such dedicated veterans and proud Americans as Mr. Gene Radin and his wife Mrs. Peggy Radin. They exemplify the American spirit and patriotic service that make this the greatest nation on earth. Mr. and Mrs. Radin are to be commended for their service both in the Coast Guard as well as to the veteran community in central Kentucky.

It is my honor to acknowledge the lives of these great Americans, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Radin, before the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Financial Services, I am deeply committed to strengthening consumer protections through legislative action. I was proud to vote in support of each of the bills in H.R. 3621—Comprehensive CREDIT Act of 2020 in committee, and I commend my colleagues for passing the package out of the House. While I was unfortunately unable to vote on House passage, I would have voted in support.

HOOSIER YOUTH CHALLENGE CLASS 25

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, this past December, I had the honor of serving as the keynote speaker for the graduation of Class 25 of the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy.

Since 2007, the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy has helped change the lives of many young men and women between the ages of 16 and 18, who, for one reason or another, were headed down the wrong path. Many cadets who take part in the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy program are either dropouts or have been expelled from school.

For five and half months, the cadets of Class 25 participated in a quasi-military modeled training and education program that teaches and instills in them a sense of discipline, responsibility, achievement and positive behavior.

Among the group of graduates included an impressive 17-year-old from Indianapolis named De'Von Bates. As the Distinguished Honor Graduate, Cadet Bates spoke to his peers as a leader, a role model and a changed young man now filled with confidence, pride and strength. A sense of accomplishment and hope washed over the faces of he and his fellow graduates upon completion of this rigorous program, and I would like to include in the RECORD Cadet Bates' remarks:

"Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to start off by saying welcome to the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy's 25th graduating class. It is an honor and a privilege to represent this class of 60 as the

Distinguished Honor Graduate. It is truly inspiring to look out at my fellow cadets and see just how much we have changed, both physically and mentally. In the beginning, on Day Zero, I remember waiting in line to get a haircut thinking, "This is not where I want to be." By the looks around the room everyone else had the same exact mindset as me. All we had in common that day was a uniform and an I.D. card, and trust me: those pictures were not pretty.

During Acclimation Phase we were introduced to a lot of concepts and ideas we weren't used to: for some it was early wake ups; for others it was the physical training. A few of us had problems with organization. I think I speak for us all when I say that one of the most challenging aspects of Acclimation Phase was the time hacks. Everything, no matter how trivial, had a time associated with it. Meeting these time hacks was absolutely crucial because if we failed to do so we got rewarded with PT, with plenty to spare. This made us realize that to succeed we needed to work as a team, and that we were only as strong as our weakest link. We could no longer act as individuals, but had to operate as a team, giving us a "one team, one fight" mindset. Thinking back to 5 months ago, I remember how great it felt to receive mail from family and friends. Those 2 weeks were extremely demanding, both physically and mentally, but because of the encouragement from each other, and the constant uplifting notes from our loved ones, we were able to make it through Acclimation Phase and graduate with flying colors.

A wave of relief washed over us as we graduated Acclimation Phase, became cadets, and enjoyed the weekend. To finally get a phone call home for the first time since being gone was like a bottle of ice cold water on a hot summer day. These incentives that we had worked so hard for were a privilege, as compared to back at home where we took everything for granted. Acclimation Phase tore us down, but built us back up even stronger.

After those two grueling weeks, we entered the Challenge Phase of the program. Throughout the next 5 months we were being shaped, shifted, and molded into the best individuals that HYCA could produce. We started going to school learning our 8 core components, essential life skills needed to succeed in our time here and outside of HYCA. Then more options opened up to us: activities such as basketball, Color Guard, yearbook, and Art Club were made available to us to spend some extra free time we had. An early highlight in the program was Family Day where we were allowed to spend a few hours with our loved ones. Everyone had an amazing time, and it was a huge stress reliever for all of us after being here over 2 months.

Soon after there were even more opportunities presented to us: we took the ASVAB test, earned college credit, created a resumé, participated in a mock interview, learned job skills, and had a job fair to give us insight into which career interests we could potentially have. We also gained experience by going on Service to Community trips. We learned how to be selfless by investing time in others, not just ourselves.

In October we had the Tri-State Challenge, something exciting and different from previous classes. We were able to interact with other people our age and learn about some of the other Challenge academies. To end such an eventful weekend, we also had Mentor Match, followed by weekly visits from our mentors. We received guidance, emotional relief, and plenty of advice from our mentors. You have played an important role in our success here at HYCA and we would like to thank you for spending precious time with us.

Finally, here we are at graduation today. After 5½ long months, I am proud to say that you are looking at a group of successful young men and women. During our time here life-long friendships have been made, relationships with family members have been strengthened, and we have found a driving factor in our lives. A lot of us will leave with our high school equivalency, along with our Building Trades and Retail Sales certifications. We also take with us the confidence and discipline instilled within us during these 22 weeks. To the cadets, I want to say to you: congratulations! We've done it! We've made it through something that most people our age wouldn't dare think about doing. Take great pride in yourself knowing that you have succeeded where others have failed. To the staff of the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy, a huge thanks to you all for being there when we needed you. Thanks for being here through the good and bad days, during the ups and the downs, and for motivating us to be the best that we could be when we couldn't find the motivation from within ourselves. Thank you for being such a critical part of our success, for making us who we are today. Lastly, a special thanks to the family, friends, mentors, and loved ones: you stood on the sidelines, gave your best support possible through letters, phone calls, and constant engagement. Without you, some of us wouldn't have come here to make a positive change in our lives, let alone be here on graduation day ready to start anew with a different, but hopeful outlook on our futures. Thank you again.

President Theodore Roosevelt defined success as "the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm." Don't be discouraged by your failures, but be motivated by them. We all have the ability to succeed; we just have to find it. I leave you with these words from sportscaster Ernie Harwell: "It's time to say goodbye, but I think goodbyes are sad and I'd much rather say hello. Hello to a new adventure." This is the first day of the rest of your lives. May you all continue to be successful in your own adventures, wherever they may take you! Thank you.

Class 25: On your feet!
HYCA Creed on 3
1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . "

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF PLANO POLICE OFFICER ARTHUR PARKER

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, upon his well-deserved retirement this month, I rise today to recognize Plano Police Officer Arthur "Art" Parker on his thirty-four years of dedicated service to the City of Plano, Texas.

During his tenure as a school resource officer, Art made headlines for his incredible ability to memorize the names of over 20,000 students. A true public servant, and man of many talents, Officer Parker was often seen playing extravagant harmonica solos, making balloon animals, and most impressively, making people laugh from their cars while stuck in school traffic.

In 2015, Officer Parker was the first ever school resource officer to be named as Plano Officer of the Year. This came as no surprise to many inspired by his power to make others feel valued.

Officer Parker has made a lasting impact on the Plano community and although he will be missed, we know the future has wonderful things in store for him. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Officer Art Parker on his successful career and wishing him luck as he begins his next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS JAVIER J. GUTIERREZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of United States Army Sergeant First Class Javier J. Gutierrez who died on February 8, 2020, in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Sergeant First Class Gutierrez is from my hometown of San Antonio, Texas and is survived by his wife Gabriela Gutierrez, four children, and parents Sylvia and Javier Gutierrez. I am deeply saddened by his passing but also confident that his memory will live on through his many loved ones and our entire community.

Javier Jaguar Gutierrez was born in Jacksonville, North Carolina, on August 12, 1991. At an early age he demonstrated an interest in joining the military and following in his father's footsteps. His father, Javier S. Gutierrez, served in the United States Marine Corps as an enlisted combat engineer during the Gulf War. His great-grandfather, Thomas Ortiz, served in the Army Air Forces as a bombardier during World War II. He was a prisoner of war, taken by the Nazis after his plane was shot down.

Shortly after graduating from Luther Burbank High School in 2009, Gutierrez enlisted in the United States Army, where he was stationed at the 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He later went on to attend Special Forces assessment and selection, graduating in 2015 as a Communications Sergeant and assignment at the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Airborne Group at Eglin Air Force Base of Florida.

Sergeant First Class Gutierrez was a person of high quality whose humility was only matched by his commitment to service. During his 11 years of remarkable service, he received several awards, which included the Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Expert Infantry and Parachutist Badges; and the Special Forces Tab. Sergeant First Class Gutierrez was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, and promoted to the rank of Sergeant 1st Class.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the life and service of a person who dedicated themselves to family and country above all else. The entire San Antonio community mourns the loss of an American hero. We will be forever indebted to this true patriot whose sacrifice cannot be measured. I thank Sergeant First Class Gutierrez for his service, his

bravery, and for his unending commitment to our great country.

HONORING RANDY ROUTON

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Mr. Randy Routon for his nearly thirty-four years of dedicated service as the Executive Director of LifePath Systems.

Created in 1986 as the community MHMR for Collin County, LifePath Systems serves as the Local Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Authority and Local Behavioral Health Authority for Collin County. Under Mr. Routon's steadfast leadership, the organization provides community-based services for over 1,100 infants, toddler, and families in Collin, Rockwall, Kaufman, Grayson, and Fannin Counties through their Early Childhood Intervention program. Further, each month the organization provides Behavioral Health services to approximately 3,800 Collin County residents and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services to over 1,700 individuals.

As the CEO for LifePath, Randy supervises over 450 hardworking employees and over 350 private contractors stationed in 11 facilities and homes, tasked with interfacing with state and local agencies.

Mr. Routon previously served as the Executive Director of Mental Health Services in Collin County, as a former administrator at Children's Hospital of New Orleans, and as an instructor at Texas Women's University in Denton. Randy also served multiple terms as an elected Regional Representative and Treasurer on the Board of Directors for Texas Community Solutions, as a Regional Director for the National Therapeutic Recreation Society Board, and is currently serving as the Texas Council of Community Centers Executive Directors Liaison to Texas Early Childhood Intervention Providers.

Randy has helped shape Collin County through his work on the Advisory Board for the Health Care Committee, the Collin County Special Task Unit for Adult Protective Services, the Executive Board of the Coalition for Behavioral Health, and as a grant writer for various public and private organizations. Additionally, Mr. Routon has inspired countless others as a Paul Harris Fellow and Community Services Director for the McKinney Rotary Club.

Randy and his wife, Diane, are the proud parents of six children and six grandchildren, with whom he looks forward to enjoying a restful retirement with.

As Randy prepares to begin a new season of life, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Randy Routon for his selfless and dedicated career as the Executive Director for LifePath Systems and to wish him well in his future endeavors.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all

meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 12

- 9 a.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine home health care in rural America. SD-366
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine protecting the United States from global pandemics. SD-G50
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Semi-annual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress. SD-538
- Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine space missions of global importance, focusing on planetary defense, space weather protection, and space situational awareness. SH-216
- Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Leonard Badalamenti, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Anna M. Manasco, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Drew B. Tipton, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, and Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims. SD-226
- 10:15 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine United States-Libya policy. SD-419
- 1 p.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of the Treasury. SD-215
- FEBRUARY 13
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Northern Command and United States Strategic Command in review of

the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-215

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jessie K. Liu, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, Department of the Treasury, and Judy Shelton, of California, and Christopher Waller, of Minnesota, both to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

SD-538

FEBRUARY 25

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on public transportation stakeholders' perspectives.

SD-538