

## 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 regretfully 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.