

Windsor High School will receive almost \$300,000 in additional school funding due to efforts of teachers and officials dedicated to securing resources for their students. Other grants will assist the school in developing a pre-med core health program, digital design classes, and a vineyard academy as well as work on sustainable energy.

Madam Speaker, we are fortunate to have teachers like Amy in our schools. She understands that our children are our most important resource for the future, and we must do all we can to provide them with the best opportunities. I am proud to honor Amy Zigler and all the teachers who make our country a better place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I missed several rollcall votes on Monday, July 23, 2007 and Tuesday, July 24, 2007. I would like to enter into the record how I intended to vote on these rollcall votes:

On Roll No. 687, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 404; the Federal Customer Service Enhancement Act, I would have voted "yea."

On Roll No. 688, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 553, I would have voted "yea."

On Roll No. 689, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 519, I would have voted "yea."

On Roll No. 690, On Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 558, I would have voted "yea."

On Roll No. 691, On agreeing to the Mica amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 692, On agreeing to the Bachmann amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 693, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 694, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 695, On agreeing to the Chabot amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 696, On agreeing to the Westmoreland amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 697, On agreeing to the Sessions amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 698, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 699, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 700, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 701, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 702, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 703, On agreeing to the Hastings amendment, I would have voted "aye."

On Roll No. 704, On agreeing to the Frelinghuysen amendment, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber yesterday. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 687, 688, 689 and 690.

COMMIT TO FULLY FUND RESEARCH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to clarify a statement from my earlier remarks regarding life expectancy in the United States versus other nations. Cuba does not rank ahead of the United States in life expectancy. A person born in the U.S. can expect to live 78 years and those born in Cuba 77.08 years. Cuba's life expectancy rates are comparable to rates for the United States despite the fact that their spending on healthcare, per capita, is less than \$50 and the United States' spending per capita is almost \$7000.

We also have a comparable ranking on World Health Organization's list for over all health, with the U.S. ranked 37th and Cuba ranked 39th.

We spend more money on healthcare than any other nation in the world and yet the United States ranks 23rd in infant mortality among industrialized nations, behind nations like Germany, Canada and Cuba.

We used to be first in life expectancy in 1945, now, according to the Central Intelligence Agencies World Fact Book, we rank 45th. We must act to reverse this downward slide in the health of our Nation and the most vital step is to revitalize our commitment to universal access to healthcare, primary care and a healthcare home for every single person in America.

RECOGNITION OF ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE US-VISIT PROGRAM, P.T. WRIGHT

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a talented leader and individual, Mr. P.T. Wright. P.T., who currently serves as Acting Deputy Director of the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program, is retiring from the Federal government after 34 years of distinguished service.

Since P.T. began his career with the former U.S. Customs Service in 1973, he has served with distinction in a number of key positions at the Departments of the Treasury and Homeland Security. In his management roles with U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas; El Paso, Texas; Nogales,

Arizona; and Washington, DC, P.T. was intricately involved in the development of customs policies for cargo examination and processing, drug interdiction and traveler processing.

Most recently, P.T. brought his track record of outstanding leadership to the Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT program. The program benefited from his oversight and management of day-to-day operations.

P.T.'s familiarity with the communities surrounding our land borders has been a tremendous asset to US-VISIT. P.T. understood that active engagement with border stakeholders was critical in creating a foundation of trust and support upon which to build positive long-term relationships. He tirelessly traveled Southwest border communities to inform and educate border constituents about border management developments and initiatives. As a result of his in-depth knowledge of the land border environment and his ability to speak with clarity and conviction, P.T. earned the affection of border community leaders and gained instant credibility. And when P.T. returned to Washington, he took what he heard from border constituents and helped make real, on-the-ground improvements to US-VISIT.

While not yet completed, US-VISIT is now the world's most innovative and integrated biometrics program. This is in no small part due to leaders like P.T. Wherever he went, P.T. spread the message that biometrics are a powerful tool to improve the integrity of our immigration and border management system, to make us safer, and to facilitate legitimate travel and trade. I have no doubt that US-VISIT is on a path to continue to drive the innovative use of biometrics for identity management. P.T. deserves a great deal of credit for that success.

Mr. Wright's accomplishments and leadership were recognized last year with the prestigious Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive for his extraordinary contributions to our Nation's welfare and security over the course of a U.S. border management career spanning 34 years.

P.T. Wright is beloved within the US-VISIT program and around the many federal agencies that have worked with him. All who have had the opportunity to work with P.T. are better off for the experience. His candor and infectious sense of humor will be missed, but we are grateful for his long service and many contributions.

Madam Speaker, I urge that my colleagues join me in honoring P.T. Wright for his exceptional achievements and his commitment to excellence. P.T. has been an outstanding ambassador for US-VISIT. I commend P.T. for his service to the United States and I offer him best wishes in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF GENEROUS CITIZENS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise in acknowledgment of the extreme generosity of some of my constituents. I wish to recognize the kindness of Marble Rock Unit 387 of the American Legion Auxiliary, from Marble Rock, Iowa.