

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, in order to attend a funeral in my congressional district, I missed 17 votes on March 5 and March 6.

Had I been present I would have voted:

"Yea" on rollcall 91, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, to redesignate Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park in the State of Ohio as "Wright Brothers-Dunbar National Historical Park", and for other purposes;

"Yea" on rollcall 92, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Supporting Taiwan's fourth direct and democratic presidential elections in March 2008;

"Yea" on rollcall 93, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Condemning the ongoing Palestinian rocket attacks on Israeli civilians, and for other purposes;

"Yea" on rollcall 94, Will the House Now Consider the Resolution, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1014, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act;

"Yea" on rollcall 95, On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1014, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act,

"Yea" on rollcall 96, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1014, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act;

"Yea" on rollcall 97, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Cyndi Taylor Krier Post Office Building;

"Yea" on rollcall 98, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Expressing the sense of Congress that Earl Lloyd should be recognized and honored for breaking the color barrier and becoming the first African-American to play in the National Basketball Association League 58 years ago;

"Yea" on rollcall 99, On motion to table the motion to appeal the ruling of the chair;

"Nay" on rollcall 100, Motion to Recommit H.R. 1424, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act,

"Yea" on rollcall 101, Final Passage of H.R. 1424—Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007;

"Yea" on rollcall 102, H.R. 5400—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 160 East Washington Street in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, as the Sgt. Michael M. Kashkoush Post Office Building;

"Yea" on rollcall 103, H. Res 1015—Democratic Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on H.R. 2857—Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act;

"Yea" on rollcall 104, H. Res 1015—On Agreeing to the Resolution—Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act;

"Nay" on rollcall 105, on agreeing to the Flake amendment, H.R. 2857, Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act;

"Yea" on rollcall 106, on agreeing to the Inslee amendment, H.R. 2857, Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act; and

"Yea" on rollcall 107, Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair.

IN HONOR OF THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 47th anniversary of the Peace Corps and to commemorate the National Peace Corps Week from February 25–March 3, 2008. During the National Peace Corps week, many celebratory and educational events which acknowledge and honor the Peace Corps will take place across the country.

The Peace Corps is an independent Federal agency that was established by Executive order on March 1, 1961, by President John F. Kennedy. The Peace Corps currently actively deploys 8,079 volunteers at 68 posts serving 74 countries abroad to work with governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, NGOs, and schools to address issue areas of concern such as education, health, HIV/AIDS, agriculture, and the environment. Since 1961, more than 190,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 139 countries.

The Peace Corps mission seeks to, "Help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women." The Peace Corps also, "Helps to promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served," and "to promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans." The mission of the Peace Corps reminds us all as President John F. Kennedy said in his 1961 inaugural address, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

I would like to personally recognize Kyan Chuong, Austine L. Clark, David E. Horton, III, Alexander M. Kelly, Laszlo L. Liezkovsky, Nora C. Maresh, Sarah J. Mulligan, Allison N. O'Donnell, Randall M. Quinn, and Hana S. Schein all of whom are sworn-in volunteers serving in various countries abroad with the Peace Corps from the 11th Congressional District of Ohio. On behalf of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, I would like to express gratitude to the 8,079 current Peace Corps volunteers and trainees serving our country and congratulate the Peace Corps on its 47th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL "TO AMEND TITLE 11, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICIAL CODE, TO IMPLEMENT THE INCREASE PROVIDED UNDER THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008, IN THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE COMPENSATION OF ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING INDIGENT DEFENDANTS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, a core element of our unique democracy is the

right and requirement that all citizens, regardless of income or socio-economic class be afforded adequate counsel or representation when confronting judicial proceedings. In fact, one of the most important decisions in this area of law was handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1942 when it held that the sixth amendment required that governments afford indigent defendants with competent counsel.

Throughout America, legal representation for indigent defendants who have been charged in criminal cases and who are unable to pay for an attorney is most commonly provided by public defender attorneys. The State and Federal Government, respectively, pay for the public defender agencies to provide indigent defense. Appointed attorneys are required for anyone accused in a criminal case that may result in the likelihood of imprisonment.

An examination of the public defender services in the DC courts reveals that attorneys who participate in the District's Criminal Justice Act, CJA, and Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect, CCAN, programs are compensated at an hourly rate of \$65 for representing an indigent client. This rate was established in fiscal year 2002 and financed through an unobligated balance in the Defender Services account. However, attorneys representing indigent defendants in similar matters at the U.S. District Court are paid \$90 an hour. This increasing disparity in compensation makes it increasingly difficult for the DC courts to secure competent representation for the most vulnerable residents. Recent reforms to the CJA and CCAN programs, including revision of the CJA plan and the creation of attorney panels based on a comprehensive review of qualifications and experience, has prompted the DC courts to pursue an increase in compensation for CJA and CCAN attorneys in order to ensure they are attracting the best and the brightest lawyers.

Since the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 grants Congress the authority and oversight over the DC court system and matters pertaining to public defender services, I contend that it is essential that we take the necessary legislative action to ensure that DC CJA attorneys are compensated at a rate equal or close to that of their Federal counterparts. This bill would do just that by amending title 11 of DC Code to increase the hourly rate of pay from \$65 to \$80 for DC CJA attorneys charged with the important democratic duty of representing the indigent.

RECOGNIZING NANCY KANJORSKI AS THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize my wife, Nancy Kanjorski, for her dedication and outstanding work with the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women. As her husband, I could not be more proud to