

Burkart, who died of injuries sustained in Baghdad, Iraq, on May 11, 2006.

Specialist Burkart was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, with which he served in Afghanistan and Iraq. As a high school student in Derwood, Maryland, Specialist Burkart participated in ROTC. He attended Lehigh University on an ROTC scholarship before enlisting with the United States Army in July 2000.

Specialist Burkart always dreamed of a career in the military, following in the footsteps of his two grandfathers, who were both retired Navy captains. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Christy, and a fine soldier.

It is with the utmost gratitude that I recognize Specialist Burkart's heroic service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENT JAROD DITTMAN

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and commemorate the service of Border Patrol Agent Jarod Dittman, who died from injuries sustained while on duty Sunday, March 30, 2008.

A Border Patrol agent since March 2007, Agent Dittman was assigned to the Brown Field Border Patrol Station in California. Agent Dittman's life-ending injuries were sustained in a vehicle accident while driving in the early morning to his assigned patrol area in Jamul, California.

Prior to joining the Border Patrol, Agent Dittman served 6 years in the Pennsylvania National Guard, where he achieved the rank of sergeant. While in the National Guard, Agent Dittman served in Kosovo and was deployed to Louisiana supporting relief operations following Hurricane Katrina.

Agent Dittman is the 18th U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agent killed in the line of duty in the San Diego sector. His unfortunate death is a reminder of the danger and risks these officers face as they work to secure our Nation's borders.

Agent Dittman will be remembered for his commitment to his job and country through his service in the United States military and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. May God bring peace to his wife, Paveline, their daughter, Angela, his parents, brother, sister, grandparents, family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time.

On behalf of the people of the United States, we honor and commemorate the life and service of Border Patrol Agent Jarod Dittman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from voting on April 1, 2008. Had I been present I would have voted

"yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 150, rollcall No. 151, and rollcall No. 152.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, I was unexpectedly absent from rollcall votes 164, 165, and 166.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 164, H. Res. 1084, ordering the previous question on H.R. 2016, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes.

On rollcall 165, on agreeing to H. Res. 1084, the Rule for H.R. 2016, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 166, H. Res. 1077, calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and to enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedom of all Tibetans, I would have voted "yea."

CELEBRATING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWIN OAKS ESTATE

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, nearly every longtime Washingtonian knows of a beautiful location on Woodley Road, the 18-acre compound known as the Twin Oaks estate. It was built in 1888 by Gardiner Greene Hubbard, founder of the National Geographic Society. The estate's 26-room house in the early Colonial, Georgian, Revival style and modeled after a New England frame summer house, is the only remaining example of that style in the District of Columbia.

The estate was rented to the Republic of China, ROC, Government in 1937 and was later sold to the ROC Government in 1947. In its heyday, the estate was the official residence of 9 ROC ambassadors, who used it to entertain senior members of the U.S. Government, U.S. Senators and Congressmen, including future President Gerald Ford, and other members of the diplomatic corps in Washington, DC. It began a tradition of hospitality and friendship at Twin Oaks that continues to this day.

Twin Oaks was also the place where the ROC's senior diplomat H. K. Yang negotiated with the U.S. administration and Members of Congress to chart a positive course for future relations between Taiwan and the United States, after the termination of official ties between our two countries in 1978.

The product and result of Minister H. K. Yang's negotiations was the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act in April 1979. The TRA set the framework for unofficial relations between the U.S. and Taiwan. For the last 29

years, the TRA has served both the U.S and Taiwan extremely well. We have continued our unofficial, but strong ties with Taiwan. Taiwan, in turn, has become one of the most prosperous and democratic countries in Asia. It is my hope that as we celebrate the 120-year history of the Twin Oaks estate, we also celebrate the 29th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act this April.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2016, NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Chairman, today I am pleased to rise in support of the National Landscape Conservation System Act. This bipartisan legislation, supported by the National Wildlife Federation, EarthJustice, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club and more, would officially establish America's newest conservation system. With 26 million acres of land under its jurisdiction, the National Landscape Conservation System, NLCS, protects our nation's crown jewels.

From the Lewis and Clarke National Historic Trail to Nevada's Red Rock Canyon, this legislation works to conserve the fabric of the West. In 2000, the Secretary of the Interior established the National Landscape Conservation System to protect the best of the lands and waters managed by the Bureau of Land Management. This bill provides statutory recognition of the existing National Landscape Conservation System as well as its permanent establishment as a land conservation system equivalent to that of the National Park Service. At no cost to the taxpayer, Congress has the opportunity to protect these lands for millions of Americans for generations to come.

Nothing in this legislation changes the way in which NLCS lands are currently administered, including hunting and recreation management. H.R. 2016 adds no land to NCLS, nor does it contain any provisions diminishing private property rights. Following in Theodore Roosevelt's footsteps, I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in passing this landmark legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. KATHLEEN WILBUR

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mrs. Kathleen Wilbur, who is being honored with the renaming of the Range Hill Elementary School to Kathleen H. Wilbur Elementary School. Kathleen was selected for this honor because of her dedication and service to the Delaware public school system for the last 48 years.

Kathleen has been instrumental throughout her years of service to the Delaware public