

Madam Speaker, I will miss Lotte Schiller's activism and commitment. Her example inspire many of us and I will carry on, as she would have wished, to promote the causes we shared.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 21st, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 288, 289, 290, and 291 because of the graduation of one of my daughters from high school. The pending matter was H.R. 915, the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act. My constituents in Colorado's seventh congressional district deserve safe airways, convenient and affordable passenger aircraft service, and adequately maintained airports. H.R. 915 accomplishes these goals and many others. I am pleased to see it passed the House. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: on rollcall vote 288 (Burgess of Texas amendment) I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 289 (McCaul of Texas amendment) I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 290 (Motion to recommit) I would have voted "no"; and rollcall vote 291 (Final passage) I would have voted "yes."

HONORING 14 CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT WINNERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplished students who earned the Certificate of Congressional Merit for their exemplary citizenship and academic excellence. Fourteen students from Minnesota's Sixth District were nominated by their schools for this prestigious award and it is a great privilege to be able to share their accomplishments with this Congress.

These students have shown that they can set and achieve goals, work as a team member or a leader, contribute to a larger cause, all while making time for study and friendships as well. They have made significant contributions to their schools and communities and stand out to faculty and staff as students that would never ask for recognitions for their efforts.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to honor these fourteen students for their successful high school careers and to wish them all the best in their bright futures:

Mr. Chris Neumann of Winsted, Holy Trinity School; Mr. Joshua Putnam of Woodbury, New Life Academy; Mr. Kevin Capp of Andover, Andover High School; Ms. Jacqueline Lee of Becker, Becker High School; Ms. Mysee Chang of Corcoran, Buffalo High School; Mr. Michael Roth of Delano, Delano High School; Mr. Tyler Rausch of Elk River, Elk River Senior High School; Mr. Thomas Linn of Watkins, Kimball Area High School and ALC; Ms. Kayla Ruff of Monticello, Monticello High School; Mr.

Russell O'Fallon of Paynesville, Paynesville Area Secondary School; Ms. Tracy Skluzacek of Cold Spring, Rocori High School; Mr. Jacob Horn of St. Michael, St. Michael-Albertville High School; Ms. Courtney Ledo of Stillwater, Stillwater High School; and Ms. Rebecca Lauer of Albany, Immaculate Conception Academy.

It was best said by beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." These students are the bright future we have to look forward to in Minnesota and in our nation. We are looking forward to the successes they will have and the dreams they will follow and, the places they will go.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes due to illness. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

June 3, 2009: rollcall vote 298, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Con. Res. 109, Honoring the 20th anniversary of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in the Nation's Capital and its transition to the Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure on June 6, 2009, and for other purposes—I would have voted, "aye"; rollcall vote 299, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended—H. Res. 471, Expressing sympathy to the victims, families, and friends of the tragic act of violence at the combat stress clinic at Camp Liberty, Iraq, on May 11, 2009—I would have voted, "aye".

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION COMMENDING EFFORTS TO TEACH THE HISTORY OF BOTH ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS TO STUDENTS IN ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK IN ORDER TO FOSTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, RESPECT, AND TOLERANCE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, at a time when there is intense division between Israelis and Palestinians, it is vital that the historical perspectives of both people be taught to both sides. While forces and events pull people in the Middle East away from each other, dedicated teachers in Israel and the West Bank are helping their students to confront their apprehensions and prejudices through better understanding of the "other."

By teaching Palestinians about the Holocaust and Israeli-Jews about the Palestinian perspective of the 1948 war, the children in the region will hopefully grow to understand better, and fear less, those with whom they share the Holy Land. It is those kinds of initiatives that exemplify the small steps needed to be taken on the long road to peace. Let us

recognize them and encourage others to do the same. Thank you.

CO-SPONSORS OF LEGISLATION

The Honorable Brian Baird, The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, The Honorable Steve Cohen, The Honorable Keith Ellison, The Honorable Sam Farr, The Honorable Bob Filner, The Honorable Maurice Hinchey, The Honorable Michael Honda, The Honorable Dennis Kucinich, The Honorable Barbara Lee, The Honorable Jim McGovern, The Honorable John Olver, The Honorable Nick Rahall, and The Honorable Fortney Pete Stark.

HONORING NATHAN WHITLOCK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Whitlock a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan Whitlock for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA FAIRNESS RESTORATION ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the IDEA Fairness Restoration Act to clarify Congressional intent and help parents of students with disabilities ensure that their children have access to the free and appropriate education guaranteed by this Congress in 1975. I thank Mr. SESSIONS, who joins me in offering this bill, for his work on this important issue.

It is vitally important that parents and schools cooperate and collaborate to educate our nation's children. When Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, it recognized the value of this partnership in special education. For the most part, this relationship has worked very well. But occasionally, the school system cannot or does not provide an appropriate education. In those rare cases, the Congress recognized that parents should have the ability to challenge the school's decision and advocate for a new Individual Education Plan.

As both school systems and parent build their cases, they bring expert witnesses to assess the student and testify about the quality of the education plan. In 1986, when Congress amended IDEA, it explained in the Conference Report that when parents win their case, a judge could award attorney's fees, including, and I quote, "reasonable expenses

and fees of expert witnesses and the reasonable costs of any test or evaluation which is found to be necessary for the preparation of the parent or guardian's case." For years, prevailing parents were awarded expert witness fees, as Congress intended. But unfortunately, while Congress was very clear in its explanation of the bill, it did not include this provision in the legislative language. In 2006, the provision was challenged and the Supreme Court ruled that because Congress did not make its intention explicit in statute, courts could no longer award these fees.

IDEA guarantees students with disabilities a free and appropriate education. But, as a result of this decision, parents can be faced with many thousands of dollars of expert witness fees in order to ensure their child gets the education plan he needs. A single expert witness can charge anywhere from \$100–\$300 per hour. Confronted with these costs, parents are discouraged or outright barred from bringing meritorious cases to secure the rights of their children. Low-and middle-income families are particularly hard hit.

Today, I introduce a bill to clarify Congress's intent and restore the expert witness fee provisions. It will allow parents to recover the high cost of expert witnesses if, and only if, they win their dispute with the school district. I want to be very clear—this bill does not impose any additional costs on school districts that comply with IDEA. The provisions apply only when a school system has been found, after an impartial hearing, to have wrongfully denied a child an appropriate education as defined in IDEA.

Madam Speaker, we must ensure that we keep the promise of IDEA and provide every child with a free and appropriate education. This bill will level the playing field and help parents be effective advocates for their children's best interests.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded vote for rollcall 293, H.J. Res. 40, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" for this measure.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DECALOGUE SOCIETY ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker I rise today to thank and congratulate the Decalogue Society of Lawyers, which this year celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Founded in 1934 to fight anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination and intolerance, the Decalogue Society has a proud record of achievement. It is the oldest Jewish Bar Association in the United States, representing the values and concerns of the Jewish community

while working to protect the rights and privileges of all Americans.

All of us are proud to be a nation of laws, and we strive to ensure that "equal justice under the law" is not just a motto but a reality. The Decalogue Society recognizes that lawyers play an essential role in maintaining a free society committed to equal justice. It works to ensure that we as a nation understand and value the role of the legal profession in reaching that goal, even as its lawyers participate in social action and cooperate in diverse movements for the public welfare.

Access to competent legal representation is an essential ingredient for making sure that the laws of the land are just and fairly enforced. The Decalogue Society extends critical educational and financial support to those lawyers who work to end discrimination and represent the rights of the most vulnerable among us. The Decalogue Foundation was created in the 1960s to provide scholarships for deserving law students. It has established nine endowment funds at the Hebrew University Law School and six Chicago-area law schools. It also provides free continuing legal education to assist members and non-members alike in becoming better informed lawyers.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Decalogue Society for its commitment to the ideals of religious freedom and racial tolerance and for its efforts to encourage and assist those women and men who want to pursue future legal careers in public service. Chicago, Illinois and the United States all benefit from its activities and from its commitment to the principles of law and equality.

MARISSA GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marissa Garcia who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Marissa Garcia is an 8th grader at Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marissa Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Marissa Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

IN MEMORY OF F. P. SIEDENTOPF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am honored to have this oppor-

tunity to recognize the life and service of Frederick Paul Siedentopf. A 31-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Siedentopf passed away on May 25th, Memorial Day. He served with honor and distinction as an avionics technician throughout the later part of the 20th Century including active roles during the Vietnam War and the Cold War. His service and commitment to this Nation earned him broad respect by his fellow Marines as well as the Good Conduct Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Following his retirement as a Master Gunnery Sergeant in 1990, Siedentopf was determined to continue to give back to his country. He remained active in numerous community organizations as well as being an avid contributor to local newspapers with his frequent letters to the editor. The people of Beaufort, South Carolina were honored to have had an individual of Siedentopf's character as part of their community for several years.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Judy, their two daughters, Cindy and Debra, two grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. As we paused to recognize the service and sacrifice of so many brave Americans on Memorial Day, it is fitting that we remember the lifetime of service by Frederick Paul Siedentopf. Our Nation is blessed to have men and women of such commitment and love for their country.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF THE REGIONAL WINNERS OF THE AMERICAN ADVERTISING FEDERATION'S 2009 NATIONAL STUDENT ADVERTISING COMPETITION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the regional winners of the American Advertising Federation's 2009 National Student Advertising Competition.

Of the 142 schools that participated in this year's contest, 18 regional winners are gathering during the first week of June in our nation's capital for the final competition. The teams proudly represent the following distinguished colleges and universities: the University of California, Berkeley; Johnson & Wales University; The George Washington University; Syracuse University; University of Virginia; Florida State University; Ohio University; Columbia College Chicago; Northwood University; The University of Alabama; University of Minnesota; the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Texas Tech University; Portland State University; Art Center Design College-Tucson; Hawai'i Pacific University; Chapman University; and Texas Christian University.

This highly respected contest is the nation's leading competitive program to showcase emerging student talent in the advertising field. Each year, student advertising clubs at colleges and universities across the nation compete to create a winning integrated advertising campaign for the competition's sponsor.

The 2009 competition challenge is particularly innovative. For the first time in the 36 year history of the competition, the students