large shared space working long hours on difficult issues got to know each other about as well as you can with people assembled by someone else. In stressful moments full of ''pushback'' and ''red flags'', he could be counted on to pitch in to help, or simply remind his fellow staffers ''you love this song''.

Even after Rob left the Hill, everyone wanted to stay in touch with Rob, either through a ''pop-in'' to the Longworth office or to meet for a cup of coffee for some advice and a few laughs. He maintained his relationship with the Fifth District even after his former boss moved on to the White House, serving as a friend and mentor to my staff.

Rob brought that same joie de vivre to all of his work, on and off the Hill. It is no surprise that so many people in Washington and beyond have a story about Rob helping them out with a thorny issue, providing career advice or simply helping them during a challenging time. Rob will also be remembered by so many of us for how easy it was to become and stay good friends with him, and how we were frequently uplifted by his sense of humor, including his spot-on impressions, and his very infectious laugh.

Mr. Speaker, it's not often I find myself in the position of singing the praises of a Flyers fan, and while I'm still happy his team finished second in 2010, there's no question he's first in the hearts of his friends and family. A few years ago the derisive term ''little punk staffer'' became a badge of honor among the many who've toiled in tiny cramped spaces like 1319 Longworth. Rob was among the best little punk staffers this institution has ever seen.

He was taken from us prematurely, and so many people are devastated by this loss. But Rob wouldn't want us to be sad. He would say ''go out and enjoy your young life.'' He would want us to put on some Green Day, walk past the Capitol Dome and remember why we came to Washington in the first place. The best way to honor Rob is to do a great job while giving everything you have to some great friends. Rob, we miss you already.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 19, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes during this week:

On rollcall vote 354, on the passage of H.R. 2576, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall vote 355, on the passage of H.R. 1848, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall vote 356, on the passage of H.R. 2611, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall vote 357, ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 300, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote 358, on the passage of H. Res. 300, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote 359, on the Motion to Adjourn, I voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote 360, on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2667, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall vote 361, on passage of H.R. 2667, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote 362, on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2668, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall vote 363, on passage of H.R. 2668, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote 364, on ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 303, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall vote 365, on passage of H.Res. 303, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote 366, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall vote 367, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall vote 368, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote 369, I would have voted ''no.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 19, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 354 and 355, I missed these votes because my first flight was canceled, and my second flight was delayed.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on both.

17TH NATIONAL BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE

HON. DAVID B. McKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 19, 2013

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, this week close to 50,000 Boy Scouts and members of the Scouting community are gathering in Glen Jean, West Virginia for the 17th national Boy Scout Jamboree. This 10-day event features some of the most physically challenging events in its history, including rock climbing, rappelling, white water rafting and biking. The Jamboree is a monumental event for Scouting and is a highlight for the thousands of Scouts who attend.

The first Jamboree was held in 1937 in Washington, D.C. and featured more than 27,000 Scouts who camped on the National Mall under the Washington Monument. Since that time, the Boy Scouts of America has held National Jamborees at several locations across the country, with the most recent in 2010 in Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia.

As an Eagle Scout, I could not be more proud that the Mountain State is hosting the Jamboree for the very first time and will serve as the permanent home for the event in the coming years.

This week, thousands of Scouts from around the United States, their leaders and others have travelled to the new facility near the New River Gorge in beautiful Fayette County, West Virginia. The site, known as the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve, will house Scouts, staff and adult leaders, who will enjoy the outdoors and test their abilities in a number of ways. During the Jamboree, the Summit will be the third largest city in West Virginia.

Also, because of its location in the beautiful mountains of West Virginia, physical activities will be more intense and will provide a more diverse terrain for Scouts of all ages. The Summit will challenge Scouts with programs like BMX biking, climbing, whitewater rafting, and gliding along one of the fastest zip line courses in North America.

Construction of this permanent home for the national Boy Scout Jamboree has pumped nearly $170 million into the West Virginia economy over the past four years.

The new home for the jamboree, sitting on 10,600 acres in a world-renowned adventure sports region, will undoubtedly provide a huge economic boost for the state and hopefully the participants will keep coming back to enjoy all our stunning state has to offer.

But the greatest impact the Summit will have will be on the thousands of Scouts and adults who participate. This type of impact may be not measured immediately, but will be felt for generations to come. I know that, first hand.

As an Eagle Scout from Troop 6 in Wheeling, W.Va., I can say that the lessons I learned as a young man in the Boy Scouts have stuck with me throughout my life and guided my decisions in my personal and professional career.

My experience in Scouting has helped shape who I am today.

Sadly, many of the values held true by the Scouts are sorely missing in society today. Too often, duty to God and country are not valued in our culture. That is why it is so vital that we help the Boy Scouts continue their mission.

For over 100 years the Boy Scouts have made this country a better place. More than 2.6 million Scouts are continuing to build character, promote physical, spiritual and mental growth, and acquire leadership skills for generations of young men. You can look no further than the 300,000 hours of community service that will be performed during the Jamboree to understand the positive impact Scouting has on its members and the community as a whole.

Now, the Boy Scouts of America have a brand new home to carry on their jamboree tradition in the beautiful state of West Virginia. We are also excited that for the first time in 52 years, the World Scout Jamboree will be held in the United States at this same site in 2019.

While thousands of Scouts are here to ''Go Big, Get Wild,'' we welcome them to our beautiful country roads!

IN HONOR OF DAVE PLATT

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 19, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Dave Platt, the owner of the Newtown Swim Club, in Newtown Township, Bucks County, has provided thousands of families with healthful recreational activities since 1983. Dave is closing the business and in this next chapter of his life, he plans to concentrate on his family and his health. We congratulate Dave as a man who has contributed so much to area youth and the community, overall. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he is a past member of the board of directors of Frankford Hospital, Northeast Federal Savings, The George School and the Bucks County Planning Commission. For many years he was the owner of the Somerton Springs Golf Centers where he held