

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I missed several votes this week to attend some services for Lieutenant Walsh and Firefighter Kennedy. I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present: rollcall No. 149—"yes"; rollcall No. 150 "yes"; rollcall No. 152 "no"; rollcall No. 153 "no".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, I recorded an erroneous vote on the vote to approve the resolution H. Res. 530. I intended to vote "no" on rollcall vote No. 153, on agreeing to resolution H. Res. 530.

A REAL TASTE OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every morning for the past fifteen years, Southeast Texans have turned on their radios to AM 700 on their morning drive and heard my good friend, Edd Hende. On his show, Edd talks about everything from hot political topics to the Texans. It's hard to believe that his time on Houston radio will soon come to an end. Edd will be missed on the airwaves, but I have no doubt that he will continue to impact Houston.

Edd is a fourth generation Texan, skilled entrepreneur, brilliant business owner, patriot and Texan to the bone. Edd Hende and his wife, Nina, operate the best steak restaurant in Texas, the Taste of Texas. The Hendees opened the doors of the Taste of Texas in 1977. Today, over three decades later, the Taste of Texas is a Houston landmark. The restaurant is known not only for its outstanding, high quality food but also its first rate service and superb wait staff of mostly young Texans.

The Hendees are remarkable business owners who know that a hard working staff is key in the hospitality business. Since the restaurant first opened, the Hendees have employed more than 10,000 people—young adults—at their restaurant. Over the years, the Hendees have learned some valuable lessons on management and mentoring. They don't just treat their staff like employees; they treat them like family. But, then again, Edd and Nina are not your average employers. They treat their employees well but require that their employees live their lives to certain standards: be polite, be punctual, study and prepare for school, work hard and stay away from drugs. Edd and Nina serve as mentors for their employees, requiring them to make certain grades and helping them stay on track in

school. They also hold their employees accountable, drug testing them regularly. The Hendees not only teach their employees how to work in a professional setting, but they also teach them how to succeed in life through hard work and dedication. It is certainly remarkable and rare for employers to care that much about their excellent employees. The Hendees go above and beyond for their extended family.

I always enjoy the opportunity to visit with the Hendees at The Taste of Texas. In the kitchen, one can see where the magic happens. They have an impeccable, efficient operation that is built upon the finest quality beef, an abundant salad bar and friendly Texas service. It's name—the Taste of Texas—is well-suited because it really showcases Texas' finest.

As a Texas history lover, perhaps my favorite part about the Taste of Texas is its extensive collection of historical Texana documents and artifacts. Over the years, the Hendees have given almost daily tours to hundreds of thousands of young Texans, including many school children. Nina, a Texas Historian, also gives Texas history lessons almost every Saturday to different groups. Of course, it is a requirement for my staff to go hear one of Nina's Texas talks. A visit to the Taste of Texas is simply a journey through the long, glorious history of Texas highlighting Texas' 9 years as an Independent Nation. (Some say we are still an independent country).

I have always appreciated Edd's perspective and radio commentary because as a business owner, he has seen it all. In his fifteen years on the radio, he has spent each morning advocating for issues that are important to Texans. Like me, he often pontificates on issues, such as the Second Amendment, individual liberty, a secure border and a limited federal government. As an entrepreneur, he is a strong advocate for lower taxes and a smaller, more accountable government because he has seen firsthand how the government can stand in the way of business. And, as the husband of Nina, Edd's commentary often touches upon Texas history and explanations as to why things are the way they are. That's why Houston loves listening to Edd in the mornings.

Edd's voice will be greatly missed on the airwaves, but he and his wife's impact on Houston will continue because of their devotion to the community, their commitment to their employees and the well-deserved success of the Taste of Texas. As proud Texans who want to give back to their nation, I am also grateful that Edd and Nina serve on my Service Academy Advisory Board, helping to interview and nominate some of Houston's best and brightest to attend our nation's military academies. These are the people who will defend our nation in the future. I congratulate Edd on his fifteen years of on-air success and wish him all of the best in his next chapter of Texas History.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING EXXONMOBIL FOR ITS RECOGNITION BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKFORCE BOARDS FOR ITS ROLE IN JOB CREATION IN TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the outstanding and proactive leadership in Texas by ExxonMobil and its recognition by the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB). NAWB works to create a relationship between businesses and Workforce Investment Boards to coordinate and maximize employment potential for employers and workers. ExxonMobil was recognized at the Annual Excellence Awards in Washington D.C. for creating training programs and high-paying careers for over 10,000 Texans.

This large job growth is made possible by the billions of dollars of capital investment in the Texas economy. ExxonMobil has established partnerships with local workforce boards to find unemployed workers that would be best suited for immediate employment or training. In line with training, they have also committed \$500,000 to fund the Community College Petrochemical Initiative, expanding training programs to quickly recruit workers to long-term careers.

In addition to creating jobs, ExxonMobil has partnered with schools and other community collaborators to improve primary and secondary education in Texas. For instance, "Introduce a Girl to Engineering" provides 180 middle school girls with hands-on activities that help them learn about career opportunities in the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematical (STEM) fields. STEM education is important, as the number of job openings is expected to grow nearly twice as fast as the number of jobs in non-STEM sectors in the next 5 years. Another program, called the Advancement Via Individual Determination helps more than 400 students improve their academic and organizational skills, increasing their chances of attending college. ExxonMobil has also partnered with Lee College to provide paid internship opportunities. An impressive 100% of students that completed the internship program to date have been hired by ExxonMobil.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring this recognition from the National Association of Workforce Boards.

THE REPUBLICAN FISCAL YEAR
2015 BUDGET

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to the Republican budget for fiscal year 2015.

This Republican budget is yet another attack on America, especially our seniors, students, workers, and middle class families.

Yet again, this irrational budget guts federal investments in education, research, innovation, and infrastructure.

It would dramatically slash the social safety net by privatizing Medicare, turning Medicaid into a block grant program, and cutting SNAP benefits.

With cuts like these, Mr. Speaker, everyone gets left behind and our economy only gets weaker.

Instead, our budget should present a blueprint toward prosperity.

Our government should be investing in programs that strengthen our economy, grow our middle class, lift people out of poverty, and help more Americans achieve the American Dream. This budget fails on all these fronts and should be rejected.

AZERBAIJAN TRAGEDY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the tragic events that began on February 25, 1992 in the Azerbaijan town of Khojaly in the Nagorno Karabakh region.

On that fateful day Armenian forces began a brutal attack on the 7,000 Azerbaijani citizens of Khojaly. During the attack 613 Azeris were killed, 1,275 were taken hostage, and 487 were seriously injured. Of the dead 106 were women and 83 were children. Many of those killed were first brutally tortured.

In blatant disregard of four UN Resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, Armenia continues to occupy Khojaly and surrounding territories. The occupied area constitutes twenty percent of Azerbaijan.

The Minsk Group, comprised of the United States, France and Russia, works with Armenia and Azerbaijan to reach a peaceful settlement to no avail. Nothing can change the tragedy that occurred at Khojaly but with a peaceful settlement and the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories, what remains of the 900,000 Azeris displaced from the entire conflict can return to the land they call home and rebuild their lives.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the victims of this tragedy and do all we can to further the Minsk Group's efforts so there is a peaceful resolution and the people of Nagorno Karabakh can return home.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENERGIZE EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my bill, the Energize Emerging Opportunities Act. My legislation simply requires the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to harmonize their rules for general solicitation and marketing with rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act, passed by the House and Senate and signed into law in 2012, directed the SEC to provide

an exemption for general solicitation and marketing for companies. My legislation simply corrects an oversight and harmonizes the rules of the CFTC with the SEC.

This alignment will allow companies to provide information to the public and enhance opportunities to grow our economy.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. economy is in a fragile state, any hurdle, fee, or foreign advantage, will cost the U.S. economy valuable jobs. It is time we act to remove barriers that hinder growth and unleash the economic engine in this country.

My legislation will clarify and harmonize the CFTC and SEC rules so emerging companies will have a clear understanding of the rules and the ability to fully participate in growing the economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the Energize Emerging Opportunities Act, in order to ensure clarity in the rules.

HONORING RAYFORD GUZARDO

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the 90th birthday of Mr. Rayford Guzardo of Nederland, Texas. Mr. Guzardo is a remarkable and respected member of our community on the Texas Gulf Coast. His life and career exemplify a selfless and tireless commitment to his family, community, and to our great nation. This weekend, Mr. Guzardo will gather with his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to celebrate a life of what is rightly called a member of our greatest generation.

Rayford Guzardo was born on April 6, 1924 in Nederland, Texas. He enlisted in the United States Air Force after the start of World War II, after he served in Italy. He flew heroically as a tail gunner on a B-24 "Liberator", and bravely weathered a year's captivity as a prisoner of war when his plane crashed during a mission over Hungary. Upon returning home from his military service, he married his lovely wife, Virginia, in 1949. Together, they built a family and a business in Nederland. Never opposed to honest, hard work, Rayford labored long hours as the owner of the family business; a local feed store that supplies the Jefferson County community with everything from livestock feed and garden necessities, to knowledge and know-how which he offered with traditional southern hospitality. Rayford has dedicated his life to family, community and to the Lord, our God. He has spent the past 90 years setting an example of courage, honor, loyalty and kindness to which we can all aspire.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Rayford Guzardo on this milestone. I thank him for his outstanding service to our nation. I am proud to join his friends and family in celebrating his 90th year, and I wish him continued health and happiness.

HONORING MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT JOEL D. ROGERS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Gunnery Sergeant Joel D. Rogers, who will retire this year from the United States' Marine Corps after 28 years of outstanding service to our country.

Upon completing recruit training, Private First Class Rogers attended Marine Corps Engineer School specializing in the Journeyman Electrical Equipment Repair Course. He completed training before being assigned to the Selected Marine Corps Reserve at Engineer Maintenance Company in Omaha, NE.

In January 2003, Master Sergeant Rogers deployed to Iraq serving as the Maintenance Chief of Combat Service Support Company-146 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following his tour overseas, Master Sergeant Rogers was assigned to the Pentagon serving a vital role as a Congressional Liaison to the Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.

After serving at the Pentagon, Master Gunnery Sergeant Rogers returned to Omaha and Offutt Air Force Base as a Protocol Action Officer before later serving as a Legislative Liaison for U.S. Strategic Command. As a member of the legislative staff, Sergeant Rogers served a crucial role interacting directly with members of Congress.

As a civilian, Rogers finished 24 years with the State of Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services before retiring in 2012 as an Administrator. He is an alumnus of Bellevue University where he holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Services Administration and a Master's in Organizational Leadership.

In November 2012, Master Gunnery Sergeant Rogers assumed his current role as Action Officer of Command Protocol. In this role, he coordinates and assists in visits for the command's various distinguished visitors including members of Congress, military and civilian leaders, as well as foreign government officials.

Rogers and his wife Felicia, who serves as my District Director, have seven children and live in Papillion, NE. Three of their sons have followed their dad's lead in serving our country by also enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps. Rogers and his family are outstanding members of our community and this past November received the Community Service Award from Heartland Family Service, an award given to those exemplifying strong family life and community service in the Omaha area.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Rogers is the recipient of various personal decorations including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Services Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Master Gunnery Sergeant Rogers for his outstanding service to our country and in particular, Offutt Air Force Base and STRATCOM.