

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on June 9, 2014 and June 10, 2014 as I participated in a primary election on June 10th. Listed below is how I would have voted had been present.

Roll Number 272—H.R. 4412—To authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes—“aye.”

Roll Number 273—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Broun of Georgia Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 274—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Chabot of Ohio Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 276—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Gohmert of Texas Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 277—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Nadler of New York Amendment—“nay.”

Roll Number 278—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Capito of West Virginia Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 279—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Broun of Georgia First Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 280—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Broun of Georgia Second Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 281—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Broun of Georgia Third Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 282—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Hartzler of Missouri Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 283—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Daines of Montana Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 284—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Gosar of Arizona First Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 285—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Gosar of Arizona Second Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 286—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Fleming of Louisiana Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 287—H.R. 4810—To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts for the provision of hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for Department of Veterans Affairs patients with extended waiting times for appointments at Department facilities and for other purposes—“aye.”

Roll Number 288—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Denham of California Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 289—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Blackburn of Tennessee Amendment No. 1—“aye.”

Roll Number 290—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Schock of Illinois Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 291—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Gosar of Arizona First Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 292—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Gosar of Arizona Second Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 293—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Schiff of California Amendment—“nay.”

Roll Number 294—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Sessions of Texas Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 295—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Gingrey of Georgia Amendment No. 29—“aye.”

Roll Number 296—H.R. 4745 on Motion to Recommit with Instructions—“nay.”

Roll Number 297—H.R. 4745—Making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes—“aye.”

HONORING AL AND DEE DELBELLO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, countless communities across our great nation thrive thanks in part to the selfless service and dedicated commitment of individuals like Al and Dee DelBello. The DelBellos epitomize the very meaning of the words “public service.”

I have known Al and Dee for many years. Al is a distinguished public servant who represented our community with dignity and integrity. His record of hard work and commitment to ensuring that government serves all is truly remarkable; he’s a leader whom I have strived to emulate.

Al started serving our country in the National Guard after graduating from Fordham Law School. He returned to New York once he completed his service, and later ran for City Council in Yonkers. His sense of civic duty did not end there. He was elected as Mayor of Yonkers in 1970, served as the Westchester County Executive for three consecutive terms, and then became Lieutenant Governor in 1982.

While serving in public office, Al worked together with those on both sides of the aisle to the benefit of his constituents. Al was fundamental in building a medical center in Westchester, creating the first State Office for the Disabled and an Office for Women, and establishing a countywide bus system, among other things. Al continues to serve his fellow New Yorkers as the Chairman Emeritus of the Westchester County Association.

Dee DelBello joins her husband in being an exemplary public servant, dedicating her life to lend a helping hand. Dee received her Master’s Degree from Seton Hall University, and while her husband was in office, she advanced the cultural aspects of Westchester County through her amazing work advocating for the arts.

Dee impressively served as Commissioner of the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct for 17 years, and continuously breaks the glass ceiling for women with her service on the advisory board of The Women’s Business Development Center, her membership in The National Association for Female Executives, and as a co-founder of Women in Communications.

Al and Dee DelBello have both won numerous awards throughout the years for their immense work on behalf of all New Yorkers, and I want to continue recognizing them by expressing my gratitude and appreciation for all of the contributions they have made.

HONORING ANDY AND BETTY BECKSTOFFER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andy and Betty Beckstoffer, the recipients of the Land Trust of Napa County’s Acre by Acre Award. Andy and Betty have dedicated their lives to the preservation and conservation of land in Napa County, which is both honorable and deserving of recognition.

Andy is the founder and owner of Beckstoffer Vineyards and its subsidiaries, which own approximately 1,000 acres of vineyard land in Napa County, 1,000 acres in Mendocino County, and 1,000 acres in Lake County. Andy and Betty have permanently preserved over 400 acres of Napa County land by placing nine separate properties in conservation easements with the Land Trust. From the 44-acre Carneros Creek and Las Amigas conservation easements, which protect rural viewshed and watershed areas in the Carneros area, to 181 acres of their Georges III vineyard in prime Agricultural Preserve area, the Beckstoffers have provided us with outstanding examples of the use of conservation easements to preserve the natural values of land. Andy once said of his work, “we started as farmers, then became grape growers, and now are stewards of the land.”

Andy and Betty Beckstoffer are the recipients of numerous awards for their grapegrowing, including Grower of the Year from Napa Valley Grapegrowers and Agriculturist of the Year from the Napa County Farm Bureau. They were also awarded the Award for Wine Industry Leadership by the U.S. Congressional Wine Caucus, and the Wine Award from Copia, the American Center for Food, Wine and the Arts. Andy and Betty Beckstoffer have five children together, David, Dana, Tuck, Kristin, and Steven.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Andy and Betty Beckstoffer for their commitment to our community and to preserving our beautiful lands. Their unyielding dedication to philanthropy and land conservation is inspirational and a testament that two people can make a significant difference in our community.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition of the proposed cuts to the Transportation Infrastructure

Generating Economic Recovery Program (TIGER) and the policy rider to TIGER included in the Fiscal Year 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill.

One of the primary objectives of TIGER is to invest in transportation projects that better connect communities to centers of employment, education, and services and that hold promise to stimulate long-term job growth, especially in economically distressed areas. TIGER has been traditionally open to all governmental entities from cities and counties to port and rail authorities and universities.

The House FY15 THUD bill includes \$100 million for TIGER grants. This is an 80% decrease from current funding levels. In the current (FY14) grant application round, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has received nearly 800 applications requesting a total of \$9.5 billion, with only \$600 million to invest—that's a request of more than 15 times what can be awarded.

The House FY15 THUD bill also includes a worrisome policy rider, with language that would restrict TIGER eligibility to roads/highways, bridges, freight rail and ports. This would be a major change to the grant program, which has traditionally attracted a wide variety of innovative projects including public transportation and passenger rail, bicycle and pedestrian projects.

These policy riders and severe cuts to TIGER are troubling. From the Durfee Avenue rail-highway grade separation project in Pico Rivera, to Artesia's proposal to build a public parking structure and expand sidewalks in the city's commercial district, to the City of Cerritos' request to facilitate the reconstruction of the Del Amo Boulevard Bridge, which is outdated and presents significant capacity, safety and accessibility problems. Substantial funding for TIGER grants is crucial for my District.

I ask that my colleagues join me in opposing the 80% cuts to TIGER grants and language restricting TIGER eligibility in the House FY15 THUD bill. Providing funding for these and other TIGER projects are about the safety, economic development, and services that communities deserve.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,555,165,805,212.20. We've added \$6,928,288,756,299.20 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RABBI SANDY EISENBERG SASSO FOR 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE INDIANAPOLIS COMMUNITY

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Sandy Sasso for her 36 years of service to the Indianapolis community. The people of the Fifth Congressional District and the entire City of Indianapolis are forever grateful for Rabbi Sasso's nearly 4 decades of community leadership and spiritual guidance.

Over the years, Rabbi Sasso's leadership has been a critical part of so many people's religious journey. Her dedication in guiding Congregation Beth-El Zedeck is a model for community and religious leaders everywhere. As the first female to be ordained from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Rabbi Sasso has been a trailblazer for women of faith all over the country. Her journey proves to young women everywhere that through hard work and discipline, their dreams can become reality.

Rabbi Sasso's path to becoming an accomplished theologian wasn't without critics. Many thought that the traditional role of men in the rabbinate should be upheld. However, Rabbi Sasso never let the naysayers deter her from fulfilling a lifelong dream. After completing both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Temple University, she continued to relentlessly pursue her goal, eventually becoming just the second female ever to be ordained in the United States.

However, Rabbi Sasso's accomplishments are not just limited to her admirable work in the synagogue. She is also a mother, an award-winning children's book author, a major organizer for the Indianapolis Spirit and Place Festival, and so much more. While her time as the leader of Beth-El Zedeck may be coming to a close, I am certain that her tenure as a pillar in the Indianapolis community is nowhere near its end.

On behalf of the grateful constituents of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I congratulate Rabbi Sasso on the occasion of her retirement. Thank you, Rabbi, for your decades of dedicated leadership with Beth-El Zedeck. Best wishes to you as you pursue new challenges in the many bright years ahead of you.

HONORING TRAVIS TAYLOR FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LOGGING INDUSTRY

HON. VANCE M. McALLISTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. McALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Travis Taylor of Winn Parish for his numerous accomplishments and contribution to the logging industry.

Mr. Taylor, a Louisiana native, became a successful logging contractor after earning a degree in forestry from Louisiana Tech University.

Mr. Taylor's devotion of time and effort to the logging industry is second to none having been recognized at the national level for his progressive influence in the United States Forest Service. Aside from being the founder of Southern Loggers Cooperative and Wood Products Development Foundation, Travis has also been recognized as "Louisiana Logger of the Year," served as President of the Louisiana Logging Council, and served on the board of directors of The Timbermen's Self-Insurance Fund.

Mr. Taylor exemplifies a strong character of leadership, hard work and dedication. He has earned the respect and admiration of everyone he has met along his journey. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Taylor and his years of commitment and achievements.

IN MEMORY OF DON DAVIS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazer in business, music, and philanthropy from the great City of Detroit: Mr. Don Davis.

Mr. Davis—who passed away on Thursday, June 5—at the age of 75, was the CEO of the First Independence Bank as well as a Grammy-winning record producer and a celebrated musician. He brought both joy and prosperity to his community and to all those around him.

Mr. Davis started his career as a session guitarist for Motown in the 1960's and eventually rose to become owner of the legendary studio known as United Sound. While his musical career spanned numerous studios and labels, Mr. Davis's musical legacy will forever be associated with Motown. This musical legacy includes guitar work in Barrett Strong's "Money (That's What I Want)" and Mary Wells' "Bye Bye Baby". Since its founding, Motown has been a cultural cornerstone of the United States, and it has been an honor to call Mr. Davis—one of Motown's original musicians—a friend.

As a Detroit and a public servant, I have admired Mr. Davis not only for his music but also for his trailblazing accomplishments in business and philanthropy. After retiring from his career as a professional guitarist in 1970, he founded what would become Michigan's only African-American owned and operated commercial bank: the First Independence Bank. Over time, this institution would rise to become the 12th largest African-American owned bank in the nation, holding nearly 5 percent of all assets in the nation's African-American banking community.

Mr. Davis never saw business as a means to advance personal interests. Instead, he led his business to maximize the expansion of economic opportunity for underserved people. He was a fervent believer in bringing entrepreneurial prospects and quality jobs to people in desperate need. A renaissance man, Mr. Davis brought the passion he displayed as a Motown musical artist to the fields of finance and economic development.

I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of my dear friend, Mr. Don Davis. He will live