

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, June 11, 2014. On rollcall vote No. 302, on the amendment offered by Mr. ROYCE, providing \$10 million for local and regional purchase for international food aid programs, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 307, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall votes No. 298, 299, 300, 301, 303, 304, 305 and 306, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JENNIFER FOSTER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Jennifer Foster. The daughter of Edward and Linda Foster, Jennifer was born and raised in Hicksville, Ohio. She attended the University of Cincinnati where she earned an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. Jennifer went on to the University of Michigan where she graduated Summa Cum Laude, with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Business Administration.

In 1999, Jennifer founded Foster Productions, Inc. after years of freelancing in the Detroit, Michigan video production industry. Jennifer relocated the company to Orlando, Florida in 2001. She has written, produced and directed both industrial and broadcast projects for many of the most prestigious corporations in the world. Jennifer has produced a wide range of media including commercial, documentary, learning development, marketing, animation, and broadcast media. Her award-winning work can be seen everywhere, including Fortune 500 companies, museums, the worldwide web, broadcast television programs, and commercials.

In March of 2013, Jennifer founded Kids' Wellness Alliance, LLC (KWA!), a children's health and wellness "edutainment" company. KWA! is expected to launch its first program, YogaDog!, in the fall of 2014. Jennifer is the Chief Executive Officer and oversees all business and creative aspects of KWA!'s development projects.

Jennifer is a long-time member of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the Co-Founder of the local Orlando HRC community. During her eight years of volunteer leadership, Jennifer helped create one of the most vibrant and politically effective local HRC volunteer communities in the country. Serving on the Board of Governors for the national organization, Jennifer earned numerous awards during her time with HRC including the prestigious Founder's Award.

Jennifer is also a long-time member of the Metropolitan Business Association (MBA) of Orlando, Central Florida's LGBT Chamber of

Commerce. She was honored with the 2011 Debbie Simmons Community Service Award and named the 2014 Business Woman of the Year award recipient.

An active member of her community, Jennifer was twice nominated for the Orlando Business Journal "Women Who Mean Business" award. She supports a variety of local non-profit and political organizations including Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Florida, Florida Little Dog Rescue, Hope and Help of Central Florida, Libby's Legacy Breast Cancer Foundation, Planned Parenthood of Central Florida, and the Zebra Coalition.

Jennifer's greatest achievement is her marriage to her long-time life partner, Mary Anne Metaxas. They were legally wed in Washington, D.C. on December 13, 2013—their 10 year anniversary. They reside in Orlando, Florida with their three dogs, Matti, Maci, and Patrick, two cats, Graci and Kevin, and occasionally rescue puppies that they are temporarily fostering. I am happy to honor Jennifer Foster, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida Community.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4800) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to using the appropriations process to weaken federal child and school nutrition programs. Following the passage of the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, the United States Department of Agriculture proposed rules regarding implementation of meal standards in schools. Unfortunately, House Republicans are playing politics with our children's health.

The Agriculture appropriations bill now contains a proposal that would allow schools to take a waiver to opt-out of school nutrition programs. House Republicans say that schools are having financial trouble meeting new standards, but data show that 90% of schools are currently meeting these updated standards.

In a meeting with First Lady Michelle Obama, school officials from across the country stated that they have been successful in implementing these standards and serving students more grain rich products, fruits, and vegetables. The USDA and local officials have relied on feedback from students and school officials to formulate new menus.

Even though some schools cite financial troubles in meeting new nutritional standards, we should not allow any and all schools to abandon implementing new standards with a waiver. The majority of schools has implemented these changes and seen success.

For decades, Congress has based decisions regarding federal nutrition programs on science. I strongly believe that we must continue this practice for the benefit of our children. I urge my colleagues to oppose this provision and instead to support Congressman SAM FARR's amendment to strike the waiver from the bill.

THANKING CORPORAL KYLE CARPENTER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following in honor of the presentation of the Medal of Honor on June 19, 2014, by President Obama at the White House to Corporal Kyle Carpenter the United States Marine Corps, a poem in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

IN HONOR, IF?

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

In . . .
In Honor, if?
No greater gift!
Then all of this!
To lay down one's life. . .
No brighter light!
So sacrifice!
I but ones life!
The greatest treasure!
That Last Full Measure!
Whenever brave hearts endeavor!
To turn the dark into the light!
Oh this most brilliant sight!
So sacred rite!
I Honor, if?
As you Devil Dog,
shone bright!
Willingly to give up your life!
As Kyle,
your great heart took flight!
When, who lived and died. . .
so all depended on you!
As the angels cried!
While, watching your courage rise!
All in honor your so divine!
As yours grew!
All in your most brilliant shades of green
this hue!
Ooooh. . . rah. . .
you one fine United States Marine!
Right at the crossroads of death,
as your fine heart would crest!
And grew and grew!
As upon that grenade yourself you threw!
But for the greater good!
In all you could!
All in Honor's Light,
You Devil Dog so bright!
And what child may be born?
From your love now so warmed. . .
Who might save the world,
all in your love unfurled!
In Honor, If?
We choose this gift!
Because, moments are all we have!
Minutes, to turn the good from bad!
To make a difference with it all,
and answer that clarion call!
America's son,
on earth in Heaven as thy will be done!
And why on this day,
upon your strong shoulders this Medal of
Honor we proudly place!
All In Honor's grace!
For all you saved. . .
For your Valor so ready to die this day!
While, all In Honor you so led the way!