

A lifelong resident of Florida's First Congressional District, Mrs. Simmons was born to Easter and Bennie Harris and was raised in Chumuckla, Florida. After graduating from Chumuckla High School, she attended Pensacola Junior College and began working for her father's business, Harris Masonry. After gaining valuable experience at Harris Masonry, Mrs. Simmons and her husband, Bobby, established Simmons Masonry, which they successfully operated for ten years.

In 1982, the IFAS Santa Rosa County Extension Office welcomed Mrs. Simmons to its team. Mrs. Simmons served as the Jay Office Secretary for nearly thirty-three years and assisted the office in a myriad of ways. Throughout her career, whether it was through her work with the Santa Rosa Pest Management Association, her assistance with local farmers in processing their applications, bookkeeping, providing financial management, or maintaining permit files and regulations, her diligence never wavered, and she proved to be an invaluable asset to the Santa Rosa County Extension Service.

IFAS employees will forever remember Mrs. Simmons for her willingness to help others and her famous spaghetti meals. As she leaves behind a career that has touched the lives of thousands in Northwest Florida, Mrs. Simmons looks forward to continuing to serve her church, Ebenezer Church, in a greater capacity, gardening, and most of all, spending time with her grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate Janis K. Simmons on her retirement and thank her for her service to Northwest Florida. My wife Vicki and I wish her and her husband, Bobby; sons, Steven and Dale; and grandchildren, Lela, Brayden, and Makenna all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, due to an unavoidable absence from the House floor, I was unable to vote on the bills under consideration Wednesday, January 14, 2015. I would like to submit how I would have voted.

On final passage of H.R. 37, the Promoting Job Creation and Reducing Small Businesses Burdens Act, I would have voted no.

On final passage of H.R. 240, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act and the five amendments offered by the Majority I would have voted no. While I strongly support the underlying bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security, I could not support the bill after the Majority added amendments that would put our nation's security at risk in order to make political points.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER MILLER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jennifer Miller, who

has worked tirelessly both in my personal office and for the Appropriations Committee for the last twenty-five years.

Jennifer returned to her Kentucky roots when she began her career in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1989 by joining my personal office staff. In 1996, she was asked to join the staff of the Appropriations Committee and since then she has worked diligently for various subcommittees, as well as in the front office. Most recently she has been responsible for the oversight of the intelligence community's budget for the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Jennifer is a dedicated and passionate professional. She knows the Congressional rules and the legislative process better than anyone. She has always been willing to put the Committee first and has sacrificed countless hours, weeks, and years to further enhance the work of the Committee. Nothing better exemplifies her dedication than when in March 2007, Jennifer remained at my side in the Committee hearing room during a mark-up of a supplemental bill for two hours longer than planned, leaving her short on time to catch a flight to Italy—for her wedding! Thankfully she made it to the airport in time, and now has a supportive husband, Pete, as well as a cherished daughter, Emma.

More recently, Jennifer again displayed her true dedication to the Committee during the first several months that I was Chairman, by not only working for the Defense Subcommittee but also in the front office, aiding with the transition process and assembling the current fiscal year's consolidated appropriations bill. To this day she continues to use her indispensable knowledge by assisting other subcommittees through the legislative process and particularly when Committee bills are being debated on the House floor.

I have said before, and I will say again, the Appropriations Committee has the best staff on Capitol Hill. However, hopefully just this once, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is gaining traction by hiring Jennifer away from us. I will miss Jennifer's contributions and leadership; but we thank her for her dedication and wish her well in her future endeavors.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 240) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, America is a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation built on the rule of law, and those who enter our country illegally disregard those laws.

Unfortunately, our President does not feel the same way.

Upon discovering he could not get support from Congress, he decided to circumvent the legislative branch through executive action

and grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants.

He disregarded the separation of powers that our Founding Fathers laid out for our government, but more importantly he disregarded the American people.

That is why I am proud to stand here today with my colleagues to put a stop to this executive overreach, and to tell this President that he is not above the law.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD O. "DICK" DEIGNAN

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute an extraordinary Hoosier, Richard O. "Dick" Deignan, who passed away on January 13, 2015. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his and his late wife Joan's leadership and service in my hometown of Munster, Indiana, in the Indianapolis, Indiana community and in other parts of our state.

First, Mr. Deignan was willing to put the welfare of his fellow Americans above his own self interests. His service aboard the USS *Hugh Purvis* as a sailor in the United States Navy remained one of his proudest achievements and an obligation he was happy to undertake to ensure that our nation remained free and his children and grandchildren were afforded the same liberty promised by our Founding Fathers.

Mr. Deignan was an astute businessman and well known in our community, not only as a Burger King franchise owner, but for the way he trained his employees, many of whom were seeking their first job. He sought to hire high-quality employees, train them well and empower them. In doing so, what he really did was help grow responsible members of the community.

Dick built his business from nothing. Starting out, he had very little wealth or other resources. But what he, and so many others who have helped build and maintain this great country had, was a dream and the tireless work ethic to make it reality. He also recognized that what he and Joan built couldn't be done just anywhere in the world. Dick understood, and always promoted, our exceptionalism as the reason the United States had the ability to be the freest, most prosperous nation world history had ever seen, and the greatest force for good on earth.

In his free time, he was a staunch advocate and supporter of the Munster Booster Club, aiding the purchase of athletic and scholastic equipment and supplies for the Munster School System.

As a close friend of the Deignan children, Kerry and Owen, I quickly came to know the entire family, who lived on Chestnut Lane in Munster for years. They were typical of the best of American families, having and practicing the values we often talk about on this very floor.

Joan Deignan was one of the best teachers I had in grade school. And Dick was the very first community leader to support my successful bid for Indiana Secretary of State. They believed in me as a product of a community in which they believed even more.