

Mary and Paul in Prague, and the Cathedral of St. Stephen in Vienna. Thomas has served as a guest conductor with the Ocean Grove Choral Festival Choir, at Reading's Music-fest, and for PMEA choral festivals throughout Pennsylvania. He has also toured and conducted in Russia, Finland, and Estonia with members of the State Orchestra of St. Petersburg and members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Choral Society. In 2016, he will be leading the Schuylkill Choral Society on a tour to Italy and France which will include performances in Rome, Florence, Paris, and Normandy. Dr. Thomas has appeared nationally on the NPR and PBS as well as local appearances on Comcast Tonight and Comcast Newsmakers. He has served as a music consultant for Maryland Educational Television and as an adjunct professor at Alvernia University, Penn State University, and Bucks County Community College. Thomas and his choirs are also featured performers of the Na-

tional Anthem for the Philadelphia sports community, including regular performances for the Phillies, Sixers, and Flyers.

Dr. Thomas is deservedly listed in the *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in Education*, and *Who's Who among American Teachers*. He has received recognition from former President Bill Clinton on behalf of a music program he designed honoring World War II veterans. He has also received recognition from the U.S. House of Representatives, the Pennsylvania House and Senate, the Schuylkill County Board of Commissioners, and the Austrian and German governments. Thomas was named by Philadelphia Magazine as "Best Choral Director" in the Philadelphia region. He has also been recognized by the St. David's Society as a "Citizen of the Year," was Pennsylvania finalist for "Teacher of the Year," and was the first musician inducted into the Upper Perkiomen Valley Academic Hall of Fame.

It is an honor to recognize Dr. Mark Thomas for his work in the musical arts. His passion for music is evident his impressive body of work, which has touched countless individuals over the years. I applaud him for his service to the greater artistic good, and I wish him continued success in the future.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 1, 2015*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed votes on Wednesday, April 29. Had I been present, I would have voted "No" on Roll Call 176, "Yes" on Roll Call 177, and "No" on Roll Call vote 178.