

HONORING BRIANNA HALLER OF
THE FATIMA COMETS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brianna Haller of the Fatima Comets for her first place win in 3200 Meter Run at the 2015 Class 3 Track and Field State Championship.

Brianna and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Brianna Haller of the Fatima Comets for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was detained with business in my district and missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"No" on roll call no. 379, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 33, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016 and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2042) Ratepayer Protection Act; and,

"No" on roll call no. 380, On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 333, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016 and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2042) Ratepayer Protection Act.

THANKING FATHER ALAN HUNTER

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Father Alan Hunter for his years of service in the St. Mary's parish in my hometown of Taylorville, Illinois.

Having served 13 years in Taylorville and 22 years in Christian County, Father Hunter has captured the true essence of what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

Alan has not only been a great leader for all of the parishioners at St. Mary's, but he's also been a close personal friend of mine as well.

He married my wife, Shannon, and I twenty years ago and has helped educate all three of my children through grade school at St. Mary's.

I've been fortunate enough to work with Father Hunter as a volunteer athletic director and serve on his finance advisory committee.

He will be greatly missed at St. Mary's, but I know our loss is St. Jerome's gain and I wish

him the best in his new parish. I also welcome Father David Lantz as he makes Taylorville his new home.

Father Hunter, thank you for the many years of spiritual guidance and leadership you've provided, not just my family and the parishioners at St. Mary's, but to the entire Taylorville community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE RUSSELL

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 378 I was absent due to travel for personal reasons and in connection with my official duties. Had I been present, I would have voted *Yea*.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on June 24, 2015 I mistakenly voted "yes" on rollcall 384, the Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015. I strongly oppose the bill and intended to vote "no".

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AN OUTSTANDING NEW HAMPSHIRE GRADUATE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Meaghan Six, an outstanding recent graduate of Manchester Memorial High School, located in New Hampshire's First Congressional District and a future graduate of Daniel Webster College in Nashua, New Hampshire.

As a dedicated student and an active individual, Meaghan Six quickly distinguished herself as an influential leader amongst her peers. Meaghan was the captain of her high school volleyball team, as well as being named as an alternate to the Women's Jr. National A1 Working team, placing her in the top 100 volleyball players nationwide for her age group. She was also a competitor on the spring track and field team and nominated for the female in spring sports award. She was awarded the single Crusader award for her graduating class. Meaghan's talents do not only set her apart athletically, but also in the classroom. Along with completing 28 consecutive quarters on both the Honor Roll and High Honors she was inducted into the National Honor Society; which recognizes students for their exemplary character, commitment to scholarship, and their dedication to service outreach in their community.

This coming fall Meaghan will continue her impressive career as a notable student-athlete at Daniel Webster College on their women's

volleyball team; she serves as an inspiration to all young people in New Hampshire and throughout the nation. She is proof that hard work and dedication can certainly pay off. I am proud to recognize her accomplishments and look forward to witnessing her future successes.

Congratulations to Meaghan Six for all of her achievements.

TRIBUTE TO MAUREEN VIOLA
PERCIVAL WILLIAMS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Florida and myself, I rise to offer a tribute to the life and accomplishments of a great American, Maureen Viola Percival Williams, who has, and continues to act as a mentor, devout Christian and loving mother. On July 1, 2015, Maureen will celebrate her 71st birthday. We exalt Mrs. Maureen Viola Percival Williams first for the determination and perseverance that she has exhibited throughout her life. Maureen has been no stranger to hard work. At an early age the importance of hard work and dedication were introduced to Maureen on her father's agricultural farms in the mountains of Molyneux in St. Kitts West Indies. Arriving at the farm at 5:00 a.m., Maureen would weed the land and feed the livestock before school each day. These displays of commitment were not reserved solely for the weekdays. Mrs. Maureen Viola Percival Williams would spend Saturdays by her mother's side assisting in the selling of produce at the local market. Few would be able to handle the manual labor of Maureen's day-to-day activities, let alone balancing academics alongside of it. Mrs. Percival Williams' rigorous work schedule did not deter her from successfully completing Primary School and obtaining her certificate, which is equivalent to a high school diploma. Maureen Viola Percival was then enrolled in typing classes at the Catholic Church of Molyneux, where she completed a one year program. After marrying Ralph J. A. Williams in 1964, the family moved to the U.S. Virgin Islands where her life as a public servant and model citizen continued. She became the first member of her family to have children born as citizens of the United States after giving birth to her seven children: (Vallyn J. A. Williams, Artlyn K. J. Williams, Ralph J. A. Williams, Jr., M. Louisa Williams, Barbara N. Williams, Maura F. Williams and Jayar D. Williams). In spite of challenges faced balancing motherhood and her career, Maureen continued to dedicate her life to the church and bettering the lives of others.

Volunteering as a member of the AFM—Cottage Meeting Group, Maureen also spent time as a phone intercessor for the sick and disabled. This sort of selflessness is primarily the reason for which I deem this tribute necessary. Unfortunately, life often proves to not be as fair and just as Mrs. Maureen Percival Williams.

In 1987 her husband and two daughters were involved in an automobile accident which rendered them incapacitated. Yet, amidst Maureen Williams' personal struggles, she

persevered. Determined to become a citizen of the United States, on July 1, 1998 she fulfilled the requirements for naturalization and received her Certification of Naturalization.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer tribute to Mrs. Percival Williams because she represents a group of citizens that are more deserving of recognition than any other. Men and women like Mrs. Percival Williams are what silently hold this nation together. Those who struggle and persevere and those who give back are exactly what this country needs. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Percival Williams acts as a representative for all of these groups. Simply put, Mrs. Williams is a model citizen.

In 1999, Maureen once again displayed her caring nature when she rushed to the aid of her son in Orlando, Florida who had recently experienced an aneurism. These extenuating circumstances are what brought Mrs. Maureen Percival Williams to my district. Her love and care brought her to our country and the values of perseverance and determination instilled to her on her father's farm in the West Indies have aided her in face of recent struggles. Mrs. Percival Williams has endured the loss of family members, and overcome her own near death medical challenges and yet, she perseveres.

Though Maureen is celebrated for her persistence and determination, the title that suits her best is that of which she is most proud; caregiver. Mrs. Percival Williams holds her relationship with her children with the utmost regard, and prides herself on being a mother not only to her own but for the children of others. The lives of those directly and indirectly affected by the actions and care of Maureen Viola Percival Williams are undoubtedly better. Today we pay tribute to a woman of God. Today we recognize Mrs. Maureen Viola Percival Williams, a humanitarian, a woman, a wife, a mother, and a citizen of the United States of America. Simply put, Mr. Speaker, we are here to pay tribute to a hero.

SUPPORT OF THE "PRIVILEGED" RESOLUTION CALLED BY REP. BENNIE THOMPSON (MS) TO REMOVE ALL SYMBOLS BEARING THE CONFEDERATE FLAG FROM THE HALLS OF THE HOUSE WING OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my brothers and sisters of the Congressional Black Caucus, to stand in support of the "privileged" resolution called by Rep. BENNIE THOMPSON to remove the Confederate Flag where ever it may be represented within the House wing of the U.S. Capitol.

It is with great remorse that what took place on June 17, 2015 at the Emanuel AME bible study in Charleston, S.C. that claimed the lives of Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Cynthia Hurd, Tywanza Sanders, Myra Thompson, Ethel Lance, Daniel Simmons, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Susie Jackson, and South

Carolina State Senator Rev. Clementa Pinckney had to be the catalyst to drive this motion after 150 years when this symbol was first surrendered.

For many Americans, this symbol has stood as a symbol of heritage under which their family has dug deep roots into our country.

But, this symbol was created in a time where our nation struggled to understand the very words written in our own Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Furthermore, troubled individuals and groups have taken to the symbol of the Confederate flag as an icon to portray their racist expression and actions against all groups whether in regards to their gender, sexuality, or race.

Much like the creation and defamation of the swastika in Europe, this symbol of hatred must not be a symbol in our present, but a symbol in our past.

I urge my colleagues in the House Administration to act in due diligence to bring this issue back to the House Floor for consideration so that we may do our duty as elected Representatives and respond to the voices of this great nation.

HONORING ALLISON HINSON OF THE ST. CLAIR BULLDOGS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Allison Hinson of the St. Clair Bulldogs for her first place win in Shot Put at the 2015 Class 4 Track and Field State Championship.

Allison and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Allison Hinson of the St. Clair Bulldogs for a job well done.

THE TIME TO REAUTHORIZE THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND IS NOW

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last year, I spoke in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). There are now less than 100 days until the expiration of the program, and I rise today to urge timely reauthorization of this critical conservation program.

LWCF, which is paid for entirely by royalties collected from oil and gas companies, has fi-

nanced generations of projects, bringing parks and open spaces to the hearts of our urban areas and protecting our natural lands, outdoor recreation opportunities, and working forests at the local, state and federal levels. Since its creation, the LWCF program has conserved more than 5 million acres of parks, recreation, forests, and other lands through the federal program and more than 2.6 million acres in communities throughout every state in the nation.

My home state of North Carolina has received more than \$200 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, which has helped protect some of our state's most treasured places, such as the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. LWCF funds have also helped conserve land to preserve viewsheds along the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail. I was particularly pleased that one such project included the Rocky Fork tract in the Cherokee National Forest in my native state of Tennessee.

But LWCF does more than simply add to our public lands. Investing in LWCF is also an important way to grow our economy. In North Carolina alone, active outdoor recreation contributes more than \$7.5 billion annually to the state's economy, supports 95,000 jobs, generates \$430 million in annual state tax revenue and produces \$6.1 billion annually in retail sales and services. Overall, outdoor recreation contributes more than \$1.06 trillion annually to the U.S. economy. Every \$1 invested in LWCF has been found to yield \$4 in economic value. Without LWCF funding to stimulate matching investments from state, local and private entities, this crucial economic engine will be lost.

These numbers prove the program's success, but I would note that the program is also extremely popular. In recent polls, more than 80% of voters expressed support for continuing to deposit fees from offshore oil and gas drilling into LWCF—this broad support extends from every geographic region of the country and every political persuasion. Supporters include governors, mayors, sportsmen, industry leaders, conservationists, Civil War enthusiasts, historians, recreationists, small businesses, forest owners, and the many Americans who see firsthand the tangible benefits this program has had on their communities and families. I know many of my colleagues represent states and communities that have benefitted greatly from LWCF funds.

Although LWCF has a dedicated revenue stream from offshore drilling royalties and takes no taxpayer money from the general fund, large portions of this funding have been diverted over the years to non-conservation purposes. Even at last year's appropriated level of \$306 million, we were a far cry from the \$900 million that is annually authorized for conservation work.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the bipartisan legislation, H.R. 1814, that would permanently reauthorize LWCF. I strongly believe Congress should uphold its decades long commitment to land and water conservation and reinvigorate LWCF, thereby expanding opportunities for all Americans to have access to parks and natural areas for outdoor recreation. With the expiration coming in September 2015, the time to reauthorize Land and Water Conservation Fund is now.