

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I missed the following votes: H.R. 2835—Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill. H.R. 2786—Cross Border Rail Security Act of 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I attended the funeral of Deputy William B. “Bill” Myers, a law enforcement officer in my district who was killed in the line of duty, and I missed the following rollcall votes: Nos. 519 and 520, today, September 28, 2015. If present I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 519—H.R. 2835—Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015, as amended, “aye”; and rollcall vote No. 520—H.R. 2786—Cross-Border Rail Security Act of 2015, “aye.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Monday, September 28, 2015. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 519 and 520.

RICKY'S WHEELS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a nonprofit organization in my district that is providing a valuable service to the region.

The organization, Ricky's Wheels, is dedicated to providing electric wheelchairs to those in need.

Rick Worthy and his wife, Diane, created Ricky's Wheels after the death of their son Ricky in 2009, following a brief battle with melanoma.

After donating Ricky's wheelchair to a local couple, Rick and Diane noticed a need across their community, especially since Medicare will not pay for a chair once someone is accepted into hospice.

Since its founding 6 years ago, Ricky's Wheels has grown from a few donated electric wheelchairs in the Worthys' garage to a warehouse filled with mobility assistance devices, along with push chairs, walkers, and baby strollers.

Mr. Speaker, Ricky's Wheels recently was named a local Jefferson Award recipient, after being nominated by the local television station, WJAC. This award, which was created by the American Institute for Public Service, honors ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Rick and Diane are more than worthy of recognition for their efforts.

JEB BUSH SHOULD CONSIDER THE POPE'S CALL TO PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have continually reminded us that they are not scientists. We have also heard this from several of the Republican candidates seeking our Nation's highest office.

As a scientist myself, I appreciate their candor. But what I don't as much appreciate is when they use this mantra of “I am not a scientist” to preface statements that are factually wrong. Facts are stubborn things, and they don't only apply to those in the scientific community.

Last week Pope Francis challenged us to take courageous steps to combat climate change, a call to action that made many Republicans uncomfortable. When asked about the Pope's statement, Governor Jeb Bush dismissed it, saying that Pope Francis is “not a scientist, he's a religious leader.” In fact, Pope Francis is a former chemist, and, as such, he has more scientific training than many of our elected officials.

I was hoping that, when the Pope addressed Congress in his remarks, he would have explained to my Republican colleagues the effect of the infrared absorption spectrum of carbon dioxide on the radiation balance and equilibrium temperature of the Earth, but time did not permit.

I encourage Jeb and my colleagues in Congress to consider the Pope's call to preserve our environment.

HONORING OUR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's firefighters sign up for the job knowing the dangers they will often face in order to keep their communities safe. Tragically, we have seen these first responders give their lives in service to others.

This past Sunday the 2015 Minnesota Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service took place on the State Capitol grounds to honor the 9 Minnesota firefighters—and 216 nationwide—that have passed away in the line of duty this year.

The event honors the sacrifice that these firefighters have made and also provides support for their families who are coping with a profound loss.

As policymakers, it is important that we recognize what our first responders go through on a daily basis and support them. Earlier this year Congress passed my legislation, which is now law, that ensures that survivor benefits for families of those killed in the line of duty are not taxed.

Mr. Speaker, we are blessed that so many men and women sign up to put themselves in harm's way to keep others safe. For those that give their life, we must not forget their sacrifice.

PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and as a proud cosponsor of the National Prostate Cancer Plan Act, H.R. 2730.

As the most common cancer in men, prostate cancer is a national epidemic. This year alone one in seven men will be diagnosed and 28,000 men will die from prostate cancer.

Last week, while hosting a community conversation in my district in Whitehall, Ohio, I met with two constituents, Linda and Ray Hoetger, an inspiring husband and wife team who tirelessly dedicate themselves to raising awareness about prostate cancer.

Linda and Ray are members of the national organization ZERO, the End of Prostate Cancer, and are spearheading a campaign to raise awareness of prostate cancer throughout Ohio.

I stand here today to commend their work. As Ray and Linda remind us, many of us have either been personally affected by this disease or have lost a loved one.

So during this Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, let us reaffirm our commitment to increase the quality of care in order to eliminate the pain and suffering once and for all.

HONORING SPEAKER BOEHNER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise out of respect and admiration for our tremendous Speaker, the incredible leader of our Republican Conference and my friend, JOHN BOEHNER.

He has stayed true to his home State of Ohio for well over 20 years, serving his constituents with pride and integrity. His distinguished career was marked by an honest pursuit of what is best for the American people as well as the inclusion of more folks under the big tent of our GOP.

He has worked in a bipartisan manner to help create jobs and restore America's leadership, all the while maintaining a hard line on the Castros' despotic rule in Cuba, being supportive of our strong relations with Israel, as well as remaining a tough opponent of the weak and dangerous Iran nuclear deal.

JOHN's decorum, grace, and patience are his hallmarks, and they will be greatly missed in our Nation's Capitol. Only in America can the son of a barkeep rise to make a lasting positive contribution to our history as Speaker of the people's House.

I wish JOHN, Debbie, the entire Boehner family, including his new granddaughter Alistair, all the best. Godspeed, Mr. Speaker.

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PUGET SOS ACT

(Mr. HECK of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, to explain the significance of the Puget Sound in 1 minute is impossible. But I will tell you this: With every 60 seconds that goes by, the Puget Sound is being damaged more than it is being fixed. With every minute that goes by that we fail to collectively do something, we are all losing money.

Puget Sound is a resource, but it is more than that. It is an American treasure. Puget Sound is a body of water that deserves national recognition.

Congressman KILMER and I have brought together numerous stakeholders that agree on very few things to agree on this: We need to do more. The Federal Government needs to step up to the plate to get recovery moving.

The Puget SOS Act is that plan. We do it for the Great Lakes. We do it for the Chesapeake Bay. Now is the time to bring forth this effort for our Puget Sound, the largest estuary in America. Let's clean the Puget Sound up.

Join us in cosponsoring this bill, along with Mr. REICHERT, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. RICK LARSEN, Mr. ADAM SMITH, and Ms. DELBENE. Clean up the Puget Sound.

AMERICAN HERO DR. SIDNEY PHILLIPS, JR.

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember an American hero, Dr. Sidney Phillips, Jr., who passed away in Mobile over the weekend at the age of 91.

Dr. Phillips was a veteran of World War II, where he served in the Marine Corps. At the young age of 18, Sid Phillips took part in the famous battle of Guadalcanal in the Pacific.

Dr. Phillips was one of the most well-known and respected veterans in Alabama. His career was profiled in Ken Burns' PBS documentary "The War" and Steven Spielberg's HBO series "The Pacific."

To many of us from the Mobile area, we remember Sid Phillips as a local family doctor, a patriotic family man, and a strong advocate for our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of my constituents in Southwest Alabama, I want to share my condolences with Sid Phillips' family and friends. He embodied the American spirit, and he will be sorely missed.

PUGET SOS ACT

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and cofounder of the Puget Sound Recovery Caucus, Representative HECK, for his partnership on the Puget SOS Act.

As you heard from him, the Puget Sound is truly a gift that we need to restore and protect. Generations have enjoyed the ability to swim, fish, and dig for clams in this iconic body of water. They have built lives and made livelihoods on the Puget Sound.

But for the millions of residents that call Puget Sound home and for future generations, we absolutely have to take action to fight for the Sound.

That is why I invite my colleagues to sponsor the Puget SOS Act. This bill raises the profile of Puget Sound by naming it a nationally significant body of water. It enhances the Federal Government's coordination in addressing these issues. It respects tribal treaty rights. This bill is an important step.

I look forward to continued work for Puget Sound. Our kids, including my two little girls, are counting on us.

CONGRATULATING TROOPER J.D. BERRONG

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Trooper J.D. Berrong, who recently won the Jimmy K. Ammons North American Inspectors Grand Champion Award.

This is the first time a North Carolina trooper has ever won this competition, which recognizes the Nation's top roadside inspector. Berrong, who resides in the community of Mulberry, competed against 51 other roadside inspectors representing jurisdictions across the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Trooper Berrong is stationed in Wilkes County and is a 14-year veteran of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. He is currently assigned to the motor carrier enforcement section, troop F, district 9.

Troopers who perform motor carrier enforcement duties ensure that all modes of travel, including commercial motor vehicles, are consistently monitored in order to improve highway safety.

Congratulations, Trooper Berrong, and thank you for serving the public good and helping maintain the safety of the highways of North Carolina.

A TRIBUTE TO AMELIA BOYNTON ROBINSON, CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES, AND JULIAN BOND

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I am very privileged tonight to lead the Special Order

of the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Let me thank our chairman, Chairman G.K. BUTTERFIELD, for continuing this tradition and for his continued leadership, encouragement, and avocation for Members and for the stories of those who have been such leaders in our Nation and such major issues that we have been able to contribute to for the understanding of our colleagues.

Let me also make mention of my colleagues, Congresswoman KELLY and Congressman PAYNE, who have led us on this Special Order for the Congressional Black Caucus. I thank them for their leadership and service.

A very special thanks to those of you who are watching at home and have often watched at home and have followed the Congressional Black Caucus through social media, social network, and also know that our major issues of criminal justice reform, civil rights, the restoration of the Voting Rights Act, and many others have been to speak to the vulnerable. Tonight we again speak to you, but we speak of those heroes that we have lost over the last couple of months.

Tonight we pay tribute to Amelia Boynton Robinson, Congressman Lou Stokes, and, of course, Julian Bond. Our Nation was built on the values of dealing with the issues of freedom, justice and equality, values and principles that were perfectly embodied by the service and sacrifices of these three leaders.

Mr. Speaker, over the last week we have watched the Pope make his way through a number of American cities and use words that are music to the ears of Members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Let me take just one of many citations that I will utilize to characterize these three individuals:

"The complexities of history," said Pope Francis, "and the reality of human weakness notwithstanding, these men and women, for all their many differences and limitations, were able, by hard work and self-sacrifice, some at the cost of their lives, to build a better future."

I would offer to say that Amelia Boynton Robinson, Congressman Lou Stokes, and Julian Bond, through the sacrifice of their individual families and their lives, were able to make a better future for us.

We know the civil rights activist Amelia Boynton Robinson, 1965, was a leader of the Bloody Sunday march and personified the optimism, determination, and courage that are at the heart of the American spirit. She truly made our lives better.

Known as the matriarch of our Nation's civil rights movement, Ms. Boynton Robinson fought courageously to ensure that every American citizen had the right to vote. Her drive to secure universal voting rights was amazing, and certainly she risked her life when she crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge. In her words, her son said civil rights was her entire life.