

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 2016*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on 2/3/2016. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:  
NO on Roll Call Number 58;  
NO on Roll Call Number 59.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
KATHLEEN P. DEVINE**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 2016*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to honor the life of a great journalist and public servant from the state of Connecticut, and life-long friend, Kathleen P. Devine, who passed away in Groton, Connecticut after a brief illness last week. Kathleen was known to all who had the privilege of meeting her as a deeply principled, hardworking, and positive public servant with a distinguished career in both finance and journalism.

Kathleen served as the Treasurer of the City of Hartford, Connecticut from 1998 to 2011, during which time she advocated fiercely for the city's employees and pensioners. Her tireless work ethic and grasp of financial markets translated into positive results for the City and its workforce. When she left office she left behind a distinguished career in public service which began with her role as Deputy Treasurer to Denise Nappier and staff member for State Treasurer Frank Borges.

Before her many years in office, Kathleen was a well-respected journalist and member of the Editorial Board of the Hartford Courant. There, she spoke up for underrepresented voices, particularly women and minorities, to ensure that their stories were told. She was a trailblazing woman in a field that at the time was mostly dominated by men. Her poise, determination, and grit left a decades-long impact on her colleagues. One Courant colleague, Susan Campbell, recently recalled Kathleen's role as a mentor during her first months as a journalist, noting her humor and down-to-earth personality. Kathleen always made a point to recognize people for the good work that they did, even when most in the newsroom would keep their head down in self-interest.

Kathleen was an incredible mentor, public servant, writer, advocate and friend. Her tenacity and sense of justice will certainly be missed in Connecticut and in the lives of her many friends and family. As I said, Kathleen was a lifelong friend as a result of the closeness of my family and the Palm family that went back to the 1950s. She never failed to remind me, and anyone else I was with at social and political gatherings, that she babysat for me, and as a result I better shape up as a state legislator and Congressman or she would embarrass me with stories of early years. I never doubted for a moment that she would and did my best to live up to her high standards.

Kathleen's passing is a real loss to the world—she was a bright spirit who could light up a room and make you laugh and think at the same time. What a rare gift it was to have known her. I ask all my colleagues to please join me in sending my sincere condolences to those who will feel this loss most deeply: her daughter, step-son, sister, brother, sister-in-law, nieces and nephews, and grandchildren.

## HONORING RAUL R. RENDON

**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 2016*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Raul R. Rendon, a San Antonio resident who passed away on January 28 and whose life was marked by service to his nation. Born on September 14, 1928, Mr. Rendon served in the United States Marine Corps in the Korean War. On September 27, 1950, he was injured at Yudam-ni during the Chosin Reservoir Campaign. Mr. Rendon and his comrades in that battle were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, a decoration given to a unit that displays gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set it apart from other units participating in the same campaign. He was also a Purple Heart recipient.

Mr. Rendon was preceded in death by his beloved wife Elvia, parents Romana and Trinidad, and sisters Alma Vergara and Freya Mirta Rendon Garcia. He is survived by his brother Trinidad, and his legacy lives on through his children—Raul Jr., Robert, and Rosanna—and his grandchildren—Mark, Elyse, Justin, and Gianna.

It is brave Americans like Mr. Rendon whose patriotism and selflessness make our nation great and keep us safe. While the San Antonio community mourns this loss, we draw strength from our memories of Mr. Rendon's courage and kind spirit.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST FUND ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 2016*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, water infrastructure is a local issue—from a giant sinkhole in Gresham, OR, to poisoned water in Flint, MI. For too long, we've let critical water systems simply fall apart. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave our nation's wastewater and drinking water infrastructure a grade of "D" in their most recent report card. While our clean water needs are estimated to be nearly \$15 billion a year, appropriations for clean water infrastructure have averaged less than over \$2 billion a year since 2000. Drinking water infrastructure is in no better shape. The EPA estimates that we need to invest over \$19 billion annually to ensure the provision of safe tap water, while Congress appropriates less than \$1 billion.

As seen by the recent lead water crisis in Flint, MI, the costs of inaction are not just

numbers in a needs assessment. Our failure to adequately invest in aging infrastructure is having detrimental effects on our health and economy. Last year alone, Americans across the country suffered from more than 240,000 water main breaks and saw overflowing combined sewer systems—causing contamination, property damage, disruptions in the water supply, and massive traffic jams.

In order to address this, the Water Infrastructure Trust Fund Act will provide needed revenue for states and local governments to make overdue investments in wastewater and drinking water infrastructure and will also take a hard look at the systemic challenges affecting access to safe water in low-income populations.

The Water Infrastructure Trust Fund Act allows businesses to choose to place a small label on their products indicating their commitment to protecting America's clean water, contributing \$0.03 to the Water Infrastructure Trust Fund for each unit bearing the label. The Trust Fund revenue will be distributed to the states as grants and loans through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to help public water systems finance wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects. The legislation also commissions an EPA study of the water affordability gap facing low-income populations and an analysis of solutions to systemic barriers affecting access to safe water systems.

Congress must do more, not only to meet the huge need for water infrastructure investments, but also to understand why failing infrastructure hits the most vulnerable communities the hardest.

## RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING GARY FAULKNER, JR. FOR WINNING THE 2015 ROLLTECH PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS ASSOCIATION WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 2016*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gary Faulkner, Jr. of Memphis, Tennessee for winning the 2015 Rolltech Professional Bowlers Association World Championship at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada. In his first professional television appearance, Gary Faulkner beat top qualifier EJ Tackett to become the second African American ever to win a PBA Tour title in the PBA's 57-year history after George Branham III won the Brunswick Memorial World Open in 1986.

Gary learned the game of bowling at the early age of two when he bowled with his father, Pastor Gary Faulkner, Sr. of Cummings Street Baptist Church. As a sophomore at Germantown High School, Gary won the Division I Bowling Championship title in the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association individual bowling tournament. At that time, his best series bowling score was 833. While enrolled at Webber International University, Gary helped lead his team to the 2012 Intercollegiate Team Championship.

Gary Faulkner maintained his focus and determination to win the Rolltech Championship.