

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (H.R. 4909)

Each year, the National Defense Authorization Act provides a framework for our armed forces in the fiscal year ahead. Crafting and considering this legislation is a serious matter, one that has earned strong bipartisan support in the past. This year, House Republicans have instead decided to intentionally violate last year's Bipartisan Budget Act and abdicate this Congress' solemn responsibility to sufficiently fund our troops.

H.R. 4909 takes \$18 billion from Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), the account that pays for our country's fight against ISIS and other important military efforts, in order to fund base budget items that the President and the Department of Defense have not requested. This funding shift breaks the spirit of the Bipartisan Budget Act reached last October and degrades our military's readiness. Furthermore, H.R. 4909 stops authorization for OCO funding next April, long before the fiscal year ends, and places our servicemen and -women squarely in the middle of a partisan budget fight just months into the next president's term. This is reckless and irresponsible, and Congress owes it to our troops to authorize a full year of funding.

H.R. 4909 also includes several disturbing Republican ideological stances that I find highly objectionable. This legislation fails to uphold President Obama's protections for LGBT Americans who work for federal contractors and grantees and allows for discrimination against them. This outrageous partisan rider has absolutely no place in a bill that authorizes the funds necessary for our servicemen and -women to do the jobs they have bravely volunteered to do. Additionally, H.R. 4909 once again includes provisions that prevent President Obama from responsibly closing the prison at Guantanamo Bay, ensuring that the detention center will remain an extremist propaganda tool and a threat to our national security. Now that President Obama has put forward a plan to close the detention center responsibly, Congress should move immediately to enact it. The closure of this facility is long overdue.

House Republicans owe it to our servicemen and -women to put forward legislation free from partisan ideological riders and ade-

quately funds them for a full fiscal year. Unfortunately, H.R. 4909 falls far short of this.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (H.R. 4909).

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4974) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4974, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

Although I strongly support the bill's funding for programs that support our nation's service members and veterans, the legislation contained too many harmful provisions to earn my vote. Regrettably, the bill included language allowing federal contractors to discriminate against LGBT employees, as well as language to prevent the closing of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. I was also concerned by the adoption of anti-labor amendments that will jeopardize the rights of workers on military construction projects.

Though I oppose the final bill for those reasons, there were several provisions in the legislation that I support, including greater investments in providing care to our veterans, and funding for military housing, infrastructure, and other services to give our men and women in uniform and their families the facilities and care they deserve. I hope to work with my colleagues to improve this legislation as the appropriations process continues.

DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to urge our Republican colleagues to stop their reckless assault on the right to vote in America.

First, let me thank my colleagues, Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY and Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES, for organizing this important special order and for their dedicated leadership in ensuring equality and liberty for all.

I'd also like to thank Chairman G. K. BUTTERFIELD for his mighty leadership of our caucus as we work to ensure all Americans have an equal voice at the ballot box.

At the signing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, President Johnson told the American people: "The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men."

And Dr. King, our drum major for peace and justice, agreed saying: "Voting is the foundation stone for political action."

I am proud to say that we have come a long way in the 50 years since the signing of the Voting Rights Act. In April, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld "one person one vote" with its 8-0 ruling, in *Evenwel v. Abbott*. The ruling affirmed that legislative districts must continue to be drawn based on total population, not just the total number of voters. This will ensure that the concerns of all constituents will be equally represented.

However, we must confront the fact that our voting rights are once again under attack. There are many working to turn back the clock, so we must continue working to ensure that each man and woman has an equal voice at the ballot box.

We cannot allow the victories of the Civil Rights Movement to be undone.

In 2013, the Supreme Court opened the door to these voting rights attacks. In its *Shelby v. Holder* decision, the Court carelessly and callously gutted the milestone the Voting Rights Act.

In the three years following this ruling, we've watched Republican state legislatures fall over themselves to erect new and undemocratic barriers to the ballot box.

This year, 16 states instituted new restrictions for the first time

Let me repeat—for the first time, during a presidential election year, 16 states instituted new voting restrictions. And the clearly partisan nature of these voting rights attacks is not lost on the American people.

These new barriers range from unnecessary voter ID laws, to ending same-day voter registration and reducing or completing eliminating early voting.

Since 2010, 21 states have implemented new restrictions.

Mr. Speaker, this is a crisis; our democracy is in crisis.

While states have put up barriers, Speaker RYAN, Judiciary Chairman GOODLATTE and some Congressional Republicans have ignored the clear, bipartisan conscience to fix the Voting Rights Act and restore voting rights protections for all Americans.

Republican Congressman JAMES SENSENBRENNER has introduced the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act (H.R. 885), which I am proud to co-sponsor with 105 of my colleagues, including 14 Republican Members representing 11 different states.

But let me be clear—simply fixing the Voting Rights Act is not enough.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

We need to empower voters and Congresswoman SEWELL'S bill—the Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 2867)—would do just that.

Now—we often talk about how states in the south like Alabama have laws threatening voting rights. But this is still an issue around the country, including in California.

While California has implemented many policies that improve access to the ballot box, including vote-by-mail, automatic voter registration and expanded absentee voting—we are not perfect.

Three California counties—Kings County, Monterey County and Yuba County—were covered by the section 5 of the Voting Rights Act before the Shelby decision—meaning they needed preclearance from the Justice Department before changing voting rules or jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, we must restore the preclearance process to prevent voter discrimination and disenfranchisement before it happens—not after.

It is clear—our democracy is in a crisis. There is an assault against voting rights and we must come together to stop it.

My Democratic colleagues and the Congressional Black Caucus are serious about protecting voting rights and pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act. It is past time that all Republicans in Congress join our efforts to protect the foundation of our democracy: the right to vote.

Our work is not over until the voice of EVERY American is equally heard.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5055) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chair, let me thank the Ranking Member and Chair for including language to recognize the importance of workplace diversity in the Department of Energy's National Laboratories and directing the Department to provide a detailed plan on the recruitment and retention with minority-serving institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

I am also pleased that the bill includes language on Energy-Water Nexus initiative that I worked on with our Ranking Member MARCY KAPTUR. This language encourages the Department of Energy to enter into an agreement with the Department of Agriculture at various national labs to work on development of affordable and efficient food production systems for our most food insecure communities. This is a critical step towards addressing food insecurity and poverty.

Lastly, I'm pleased that the Advanced Light Source program is fully funded in this bill at the level of \$64.95 million in FY2017. This \$2

million increase over FY 2016 enacted levels will ensure that these facilities remain fully operational, including the Advanced Light Source and Molecular Foundry at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab in my home district.

However, I remain deeply concerned regarding the many poison pill policy riders and low funding levels included in this spending bill.

We know that California is experiencing an unprecedented drought coupled with the real effects of climate change. The fact that most of H.R. 2898, the Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015, has shamefully been inserted into this bill is a disgrace. This harmful rider fails to adequately address critical elements of California's complex water challenges and will only worsen the effects of the drought. It would also violate existing laws protecting salmon and other endangered fish in California's Bay-Delta estuary.

I am also concerned regarding the other harmful policy riders that would shamefully allow guns on Army Corps of Engineers land and prevent implementation of the administration's Clean Water Rule.

Mr. Chairman, instead of trying to roll back vital environmental protections, we need to be proactive about preserving our environment for the health and safety of future generations. We need to make more investments in clean energy like solar, wind, and geothermal. Unfortunately, this bill does not do that.

I hope that as the process moves forward, these terrible policy riders and low allocations are resolved.

CLARIFYING CONGRESSIONAL INTENT IN PROVIDING FOR DC HOME RULE ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ardently oppose H.R. 5233, wrongfully entitled the "Clarifying Congressional Intent in Providing for DC Home Rule Act of 2016." H.R. 5233 seeks to repeal a District of Columbia referendum, approved by a super-majority of D.C. residents, 83 percent, to allow the local D.C. government to implement its own local budget. To be clear, implement its own local budget after a 30-day congressional review period. This legislation does not preserve the authority of Congress, the 30-day congressional review period already does that, rather it subjects the local D.C. government to the arduous appropriations process to use tax dollars from its own residents.

Why, Mr. Speaker, would we choose to overturn the will of the local D.C. electorate to spend their tax dollars as they choose? Optically, it does not look right. Substantively, it is not right, and, legislatively, we are on the wrong track.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5233 is a move in the wrong direction away from granting the residents of D.C. increased self-determination and home-rule.

ISAAC MONTANO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Isaac Montano for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Isaac Montano is a 9th grader at Pomona High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Isaac Montano is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Isaac Montano for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

REMEMBERING THE PALESTINE FLOOD VICTIMS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in somber tone. I wanted to take a moment to remember six lives that were recently lost in Texas' 5th Congressional District.

On April 29th, East Texas experienced a storm system that swept through during the latter part of the day into the evening and night. During the early Saturday morning hours, the city of Palestine in Anderson County, Texas had reports of 7.5 inches of rain that fell in less than an hour. Several homes were destroyed in the neighborhoods, businesses flooded and ultimately lives were changed forever.

I would like to take a moment to remember Lenda Asberry and her great-grandchildren: Jamonicka Johnson, 6, Von Anthony Johnson Jr., 7, Devonte Asberry, 8, and Venetia Asberry, 9. Also, Giovanni Olivas, 30, who leaves behind a wife and two children. Spouses, children, parents, aunts, uncles, friends, neighbors, teachers, all left to grieve for these loved ones.

Let us all remember in our thoughts and prayers these families, businesses and the city of Palestine's people as they rebuild their property and lives.

FY17 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment with the way the Majority has undermined the welfare of our troops

by inserting poisonous language into the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2017.

Last week I unfortunately had to vote against the FY 17 NDAA. I want to state that it pained me to take that vote. Throughout my career I have supported our service members in every respect. I have worked tirelessly on veterans issues. I have worked closely with Department of Defense leadership to ensure our troops on the front lines have had every resource they needed to be successful and that our troops and their families at home were well taken care of.

Last week, the Majority injected their reckless ideology into the bill: a provision that would explicitly allow defense contractors to discriminate against LGBT employees. The language seeks to nullify an executive order prohibiting federal contractors from laying off or otherwise punishing employees because of their sexual orientation. Instead of passing a bill supporting our troops, they hid behind our troops in opposing LGBT Americans.

In doing this, the Majority placed the welfare of our troops in jeopardy, potentially robbing them of much needed resources, and undermined protections for LGBT employees of federal contractors created by a Presidential Executive Order.

As I stated earlier, this was a difficult vote to cast. However, I also know that this was the correct vote to cast. This body should not be risking national security nor sanctioning discrimination.

I urge the Republican Majority to delete this language in a House-Senate conference. They should not play politics with our national security.

RECOGNIZING THE 98TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 98th anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan, and to extend my best wishes to all Azerbaijanis as they celebrate Republic Day. May 28th marks the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, when the people of Azerbaijan first gained their independence from the Russian Empire in 1918. Although Azerbaijan's independence was ended by Soviet forces in 1920, it is noteworthy that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was the world's first secular parliamentary democratic republic in a predominantly Muslim nation—earning diplomatic recognition from the United States during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson. We also recall, with admiration, that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan granted universal suffrage to its citizens in 1918, making it the first Muslim country to give women the right to vote.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan restored its independence on October 18, 1991, when its Parliament adopted the Constitution Act on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The last twenty-five years of independence have not been without challenges for the peo-

ple of Azerbaijan. At the fall of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan found itself in an armed conflict over occupied territory by Armenia. In 1993, the United Nations Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding complete, unconditional and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Despite the U.N. resolutions, today, more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, remain under Armenian occupation.

Additionally, a 1994 ceasefire agreement has been breached over the years with the most recent provocation occurring in 2016 while the Azerbaijani President was en route to Azerbaijan following a successful nuclear summit in the U.S. I am pleased that Azerbaijan immediately called for peace in the aftermath of the skirmish and remains committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict with Armenia.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. As an active member of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States in countering terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and narcotics trafficking. Azerbaijani troops serve shoulder to shoulder with U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan, as they previously did in Kosovo and Iraq. In support of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights as well as regularly providing landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Azerbaijan also plays an important role in the Northern Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan, by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities.

Azerbaijan has emerged as a key player for enhancing global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline are the main arteries delivering Caspian Sea energy resources to global markets, and completion of the Southern Gas Corridor—which will run from the Caspian Sea through Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, and Albania into Italy—will increase the energy security of key American allies by increasing the amount of natural gas from the Caspian Sea to European markets.

Notably, Azerbaijan also provides roughly 40 percent of Israel's oil consumption. What may be more surprising to some is that Azerbaijan—a predominantly Muslim country—enjoys friendly ties with Israel beyond oil sales. Jews have resided in Azerbaijan for 2,500 years without persecution and today, the Jewish community in Azerbaijan numbers over 12,000. Azerbaijan is also home to Christian communities and has been praised for its religious tolerance by the European Parliament.

As co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan on the monumental occasion of Republic Day in their national history. May the partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan progress and continue to benefit both of our nations.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF MR. NORMAN BEATTY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Norman Beatty who is retiring after 32 years of service at First Hope Bank in Hope, NJ. During his tenure at First Hope Bank, Mr. Beatty served as Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and President. He graduated Blair Academy in 1958, the United States Military Academy in 1963 (BS), and the University of Alabama Graduate School of Business in 1971, where he received an MBA and an MS in Human Resources. Additionally, he served 20 years in the Army from 1963–1983. Retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1983, he joined First Hope Bank and worked with his father, Lewis C. Beatty.

Mr. Beatty played an essential role in the New Jersey Bankers Association, where he served as Chairman of the Agricultural Committee, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice Chairman, Chair, and on the Executive Committee.

During Mr. Beatty's tenure, New Jersey's two banking organizations, the Savings League and Bankers Association, merged in 2009. Mr. Beatty was then named the Co-Chairman of the NJ Bankers Association. Within the American Bankers Association he represented New Jersey on the Community Bankers Council and the Membership Council. From 2010 to 2014 he served as a member of the American Bankers Association's Board of Directors and Chairman of its Audit Committee.

Mr. Beatty is a charter member of the Hope Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors where he held the positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. The Township of Hope recognized Mr. Beatty as its Outstanding Citizen in 1998 and recognized him with the Founding Father award in 2009. The Warren County Chamber of Commerce selected Mr. Beatty as its Business Person of the Year in 2002. In 2011 Warren County Community College inducted Mr. Beatty into its Hall of Fame.

I am proud to have Mr. Beatty as a member of our community and want to recognize his decades of service to Northern New Jersey, to the banking industry, and to our nation.

BEAU MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Beau Martinez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Beau Martinez is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Beau Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels

strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Beau Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL SHARLENE M. PIGG, AS SHE PREPARES TO RETIRE AFTER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND TO OUR NATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the military service of Lieutenant Colonel Sharlene M. Pigg, USA, as she officially retires on September 1, 2016, after an exemplary 20-year career. Lieutenant Colonel Pigg is finishing her career as the commander of the Army's Jacksonville Recruiting Battalion which covers 45,079 square miles, 609 zip codes, 87 counties, and is in the jurisdiction of 377 public schools. In this role, she has matched our tremendously talented North-eastern Florida youths with rewarding careers in the United States Army.

First enlisting in the Florida Army National Guard in 1991, she served in communications and public affairs while earning her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science at Stetson University and also participating in the ROTC program at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Upon graduation, as a Distinguished Honor Graduate, she was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in aviation in the United States Army. She later completed the Army Command and General Staff College.

Over the years, her career has led her to many and varied assignments both in the United States and overseas. They include: 160th Signal Brigade Adjutant at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; Aide de Camp to the Army Forces Command Deputy Commanding General; and Team Chief, Army Forces Command G-1 Strength Management Branch at Fort McPherson, Georgia; Aide de Camp to the Commanding General of the Combined Security Transition Command, Afghanistan; Recruiting Operations Officer for Georgia Tech Army ROTC, Atlanta, Georgia; Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/210th Aviation Regiment, Fort Rucker, Alabama; Battalion S-1, 1/52nd Aviation Battalion, K-16, Korea; Assistant Brigade S-2, 159th Aviation Brigade, Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Platoon Leader, A/5-101st, Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and Executive Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3/6 Cavalry Squadron, Camp Humphreys, Korea.

Prior to coming to Jacksonville, Florida, Lieutenant Colonel Pigg served at the Pentagon in two assignments: first as the Officer Policy Integrator for the Director of Military Personnel Management, Army G-1 and most recently, as the Women in the Army Branch Chief. In this position her team drafted the details of the Army's plans to integrate women into combat units.

She will join her husband Chad Pigg and their young son, Beckam, in Atlanta, Georgia, upon relinquishing her duties as Battalion Commander on June 3. I send Lieutenant Colonel Pigg my thanks for a job well done and a career of service in the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in congratulating Lieutenant Colonel Sharlene Pigg on her hard work and dedication to the country during her career in the Army. We wish her, her husband Chad, and son Beckam all of the best.

RECOGNIZING DR. GRAZYNA J. KOZACZKA

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Grazyna Kozaczka. Dr. Kozaczka is a native of Krakow, Poland, where she received her doctoral degree in American Literature from the Jagiellonian University. Dr. Kozaczka is a distinguished scholar and renowned Professor of English at Cazenovia College in Cazenovia, New York. Dr. Kozaczka is also the Director of the Honors Programs at Cazenovia College.

Dr. Kozaczka will be honored at the 2016 Syracuse, New York Polish Festival, receiving the "2016 Pole of the Year" Award. She will be recognized for her dedication to studying Polish American history and for all of her scholarly achievements.

Dr. Kozaczka has published scholarly essays, short fiction, as well as popular articles in both Polish and English. She is the President of the Polish American Historical Association, a member of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America, and a member of The Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America and the Modern Language Association.

I am honored to recognize Dr. Grazyna J. Kozaczka for her incredible scholarly accomplishments and for being named the "2016 Pole of the Year" by the Syracuse Polish Scholarship Fund, Inc.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT AND SERVICE OF MR. JAMES W. KEATING

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize the extraordinary service of Mr. James Keating. Jim, a lifelong resident of Warren, Ohio, recently announced his retirement from a remarkable career spanning 23 years as the Human Resources Director for Trumbull County.

Jim had previously been the Human Resources Director for Heltzel Steel and served 12 years as an elected councilman in Warren. During his tenure at Trumbull County, Jim managed labor relations with five bargaining units within the Sheriff's Office and four with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees units, including contract

negotiations and resolving grievances. In 2006, Jim established a county-wide committee to develop a personnel policy manual that could be adopted by all Trumbull County elected officials.

In leading this committee, Jim exhibited not only his extensive knowledge of human resources policy, but also his ability to lead and establish consensus among county officials. The result was a personnel policy manual that was adopted and is now followed by all elected officials and departments in Trumbull County government. This brings the entire county into legal compliance, fostering fairness and uniformity in human resources practices, and significantly reduces the county's liability exposure.

As a result of his success with the county-wide policy manual in Trumbull County, Jim was tapped by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio's County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA) in 2012 to be a member of the CORSA Personnel Policy Best Practices Panel. As a member of this Panel, which received the Ohio Public Employer Labor Relations Association and National Public Employer Labor Relations Association 2013 Pacesetter Awards, Jim helped take his success with a county-wide manual in Trumbull County to counties throughout the State. Ultimately, Jim's leaves a professional and productive labor-management environment he has successfully fostered at Trumbull County.

In addition to his knowledge of labor law, Jim is known for his common-sense, respectful approach to labor negotiations. His professional and logical demeanor brings out the best in both sides, and reduces the tendency for proceedings to become adversarial—rightfully earning Jim a reputation for fairness in negotiations. For his leadership in Trumbull County and for the example he has set for government hiring practices across State of Ohio, Jim was awarded the 2014 Ohio Public Employer Labor Relations Association's "Award of Excellence".

Jim has served his city and his county, and he has earned the respect of his peers. We have been lucky to have him in our community, and Jim will now have an opportunity to spend more time with his wonderful wife, Bernadette, his three children, Brendan, Ryan and Mary Kathryn, and three grandchildren, Justin, Alexis, and Donovan. Mr. Speaker, I wish Jim a great retirement.

CONVENING OF THE 'RELIGIONS AGAINST TERRORISM' CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the upcoming conference in Astana, Kazakhstan entitled 'Religions Against Terrorism.' I was honored to be invited to this conference by Chairman Tokayev, Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and regret that I will not be able to attend this important event.

The conference will bring together political and religious leaders from around the world who are dedicated to ensuring that religious

freedom is the rule rather than the exception. These leaders will also spend their valuable time discussing ways in which we can help defeat those who wish to pervert and twist religions into vehicles of hate and destruction.

Between 2003 and 2012, Kazakhstan was host to four important gatherings that drew senior members from many different religions including Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, and Taoism. By holding the upcoming conference, Kazakhstan once again leads its region and the world in working toward a time when all religions are respected and those wishing to do harm under the color of religion are undermined and stopped from doing so at every turn.

Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of President Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan has, since the earliest days of its independence, been a valued leader in promoting religious tolerance. This legacy continues with the upcoming 'Religions Against Terrorism' conference and will, I am sure, continue far into the future. I wish my friends a successful conference and applaud their laudable efforts.

HONORING MARY BABULA

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Babula from Madison, Wisconsin who passed away at the end of last year. Mary dedicated her life to advocating for the rights of children and teachers in her community. While her presence in our district is sorely missed, her legacy lives on in our community.

Mary Babula began her career in early childhood care as a volunteer at Christian Day Care Center in Madison while earning her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work at University of Wisconsin-Madison. After graduating, she became a teacher at the Christian Day Care Center and was later named its third Executive Director. Mary also served as Director of the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA), where she tirelessly devoted her time advancing positive policy changes for children by focusing on the needs of the professionals who provided child care for Wisconsin's families.

Under Mary's leadership, WECA established the Wisconsin Child Care Improvement Project, which launched Child Care Resource and Referral agencies statewide. Throughout her time as director, Mary helped develop and refine multiple programs, including TEACH, REWARD, YoungStar Conference and Training, and the Food Program, which continue to provide support services to child care centers around the state. In her spare time, Mary was also a relentless advocate for the rights of children and early child care professionals at the local, state, and federal level.

Mary's lifetime commitment to our community and her work as an activist has been invaluable to Wisconsin. Her legacy will live on through the services Wisconsin provides to its children and families.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Ms. Mary Babula today.

TESTIMONY OF CONGRESSMAN TED POE (TX-02) TO THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND CIVIL JURIS- PRUDENCE IN REGARDS TO CHARGE NO. 1

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a former Harris County Judge and prosecutor and the cofounder and chairman of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, protecting the most vulnerable in our society is a top priority for me.

I first learned about human trafficking when I was overseas in the Ukraine and soon discovered that modern day slavery occurs in the United States as well, including all around Texas, which is unfortunately a hub given its proximity to the border and many large highways, ports, and airports.

The United States views itself as a leader in the fight against human trafficking, even going as far as to grade other countries on their efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Yet, before the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA) became law, I heard about common issues from anti-trafficking organizations on the national, state, and local levels as well as law enforcement and local leaders:

The federal government barely funds efforts to combat trafficking in the United States.

Trafficking victims are often arrested and treated as criminals, but buyers are often not.

Many Americans including those that interact with trafficking victims—law enforcement, educators, medical professionals, and others—do not know about human trafficking or understand how to identify victims.

A bipartisan, bicameral group of Members of Congress, led in the House by myself, a Texas Republican, and Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, a New York Democrat, and in the Senate by a Texas Republican, Senator JOHN CORNYN, an Oregon Democrat, Senator RON WYDEN, who came together, recognizing these issues, and wrote a bill to address them, relying a lot on what we learned from Texas, a trailblazer in addressing human trafficking.

A core provision of JVTA is the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund. It is clear that more resources need to be put towards human trafficking, but the question is where to get the money. The answer is to supplement current funding, which should be a priority through general appropriations, with financing from the criminals. Let those who harm vulnerable people pay for the damage they have caused. A \$5,000 special assessment is collected from those convicted of human trafficking and other related charges, which goes into the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund to finance grant programs that address trafficking including law enforcement operations, training, and victims' services.

A fundamental goal of JVTA is for victims of human trafficking to be treated as victims and not criminals. This is addressed in a number of provisions in the law, including a newly created community-based block grant. The grant promotes the use of a collaborative model (government and non-profits working together) by cities and states to address child trafficking through the enhancement of anti-trafficking law enforcement units, the creation or continuation of problem solving courts like the GIRLS court in Houston, and shelters and services for victims. The bill also changes statutory language that references child prostitution to child trafficking and encourages a safe harbor model in the states.

We also focus on the demand—buyers, those that exploit women and children. While many call these people "johns," I call them child molesters. John is a name from the Bible, a good guy, not someone who pays money to abuse a fellow person. JVTA clarifies that those who buy sex from trafficking victims are human traffickers, can and should be punished under federal law, and are subject to the same penalties as sellers. Gone are the days of boys being boys. We can no longer turn a blind eye to this crime.

These core provisions of the legislation guide JVTA as a whole as a victim-centered, tough on crime, fiscally responsible measure that makes certain that the United States is truly a leader in ending modern day slavery.

I commend the Texas Legislature for making our state a leader in fighting against the scourge of human trafficking. I appreciate the weight given to this important bill and look forward to continuing to work together to protect our children, the vulnerable in our society, and making sure the bad guys pay.

A society will be judged by how it treats the most vulnerable.

And that's just the way it is.

CALIE LINDEMANN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Calie Lindemann for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Calie Lindemann is a 7th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Calie Lindemann is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Calie Lindemann for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AND INCREDIBLE PERSEVERANCE OF THE DEWEYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2016

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives to acknowledge a group of inspiring young men and women—the 56 members of Deweyville High school's graduating class of 2016. From March 11 to March 28, 2016, Deweyville, Texas, was subjected to unprecedented rains and destructive flooding in which more than half of the student community lost everything.

In the face of this cataclysm, Deweyville's Senior Class of 2016 took selfless action to alleviate the suffering within their community, and strengthen the recovery effort. These seniors helped collect, distribute, and serve food to others across their community. They worked hard to relocate Deweyville elementary school equipment away from the flooding and served as guides for disaster relief personnel. And, after their community suffered the loss of their elementary school, Deweyville High School students set aside their own convenience and opened up their high school facilities to the elementary school students.

Mr. Speaker, the 2016 Deweyville High School graduating seniors are to be acknowledged and celebrated as paragons of servant leadership. Students across the United States can learn from their example.

I want to take this time to personally commend each and every one of the 2016 graduates of Deweyville High School, both for their academic achievement and for the hundreds of hours they labored to protect and restore their community and the 36th District of Texas. You have my sincere gratitude and my thanks;

Torianna Elizabeth Allard, Alahna Nichole Apodaca, Caleb Jordan Bass, Charlotte Christine Bates, Danna Marie Beecher, Jeridan David Brooks, Samantha Carol Burch, Dakota Cliff Buxton, Benjamin Brock Carpenter, Trent Michael Carpenter, Sarah Kathryn Carter, Kylie Zale Chance, Jillian Marie Davis, Spencer Allen Davis, Mallory Ruth Dotson, Shaylin Nicole Dupuy, Trent David Forse, Abigail Grace Gentz, Timothy Michael Gibbon, Triston Riley Gordon, Tiffanie Skylar Green, Mallory René Hand, Nolan Todd Haney, Kayla Nicole Hanks, Hope Isabella Hardin, Jared Shayne Hendrix, Jimmy Dale Hendrix, Mitchell Kyle Henson, Thomas Ryan Henson, Josey Myranda Hutto, Kobe Allen Jernigan, Brett Ryan Ladner, Ryan Russell Lee, Dalton Patrick Marsh, Megan Ashley Mathis, Taylor Michelle May, Taylor Elise McKay, Callie Jordan Nelms, Skylar Lee Nichols, Trey Allen Nicholson, Steven Brac Parkhurst, Dakota Taylor Pelt, Blaze Dean Rainwater, Jason Don Reider, Lindsey Renee Schaffer, Cherry Faye Seaman, Naomi Brienne Sims, Melynda Leanne Sizemore, Victoria Brooke Spell, Kaleb Gene Stephenson, Dylan Scott Talbert, Layne Ray Verdine, Aaron Walter Webb, Michael Montgomery Williams, Ryan Duane Williams, Zachary Taylor Wood.

Congratulations to each of you and thank you for your commitment to serving others. I

wish each of you the best in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. VERDELL TRICE, A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Verdell Trice was no ordinary man. He was born and raised in Mississippi almost a hundred years ago. He joined the military, returned home, got married, migrated to Chicago and lived a very active, involved and productive life. Mr. Trice had a business mind and developed, managed and operated several productive businesses.

At one time Mr. Trice is reported to have owned 5 service stations on the Westside of Chicago. He and his family were active members and leaders in the St. Paul CME Church, which he and his wife Mrs. Mattie Jennings Trice served with distinction.

Mr. Verdell Trice was an education activist and leader. He worked with Marshall High School and was also President of the local school council and a real advocate for students.

Mr. Verdell Trice was a "Black thinker" and community advocate. He helped to organize and sustain the 5th City Development Corporation, organized and managed the 5th City Automotive Center and was an active member of State Senator Rickey Hendon's political organization.

Mr. Verdell Trice and his wife owned and lived in their home on the southeast side of Chicago, but he was a true Westsider, and spent the majority of his time in the East and West Garfield Park areas of Chicago. He and his brother, who died from an accident not long ago, were like two peas in a pod. They both worked into their nineties and left their marks on the communities where they lived and worked.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FRANK HART, JR.

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American, Frank Hart, Jr. Mr. Hart was born in 1926 in Sharpsburg, Kentucky. While a student at Sharpsburg High School in January of 1944, he enlisted as a reserve in the US Army Air Corps. He graduated in May of 1944.

Mr. Hart entered the U.S. Army Air Corps for active duty on August 8, 1944. He was in training as an aviation cadet, but was physically unable to serve. He then volunteered for gunnery school and was shipped to Florida for training. As a new corporal, he was sent in June of 1945 for training on a B-29 bomber crew as a "Right Scanner" on an Overseas Training Unit. The training was to end on August 21 and all crews were set to be sent overseas. August 14 was V-J Day and the war

with Japan ended. Mr. Hart was promoted to sergeant and later earned another stripe as staff sergeant. Mr. Hart was discharged at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas on June 26, 1946.

Following his time in the U.S. Army Air Corps, Mr. Hart enrolled in the University of Kentucky along with many other veterans. The legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant began his first year at the University of Kentucky that same year.

Mr. Hart married Beulah Moore in 1947 and began his farming career. They have been married more than sixty eight years and have two adult children, three grandchildren, and a new great-grandchild.

Mr. Hart, now retired, farmed and raised tobacco crops for fifty years. He also worked in highway construction, ran a service station, and worked at the Lexington Bluegrass Army Depot.

As a part of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Hart is to be commended for his service to his country. Because of his willingness to sacrifice, and the willingness of his fellow men and women in uniform, our freedoms are secured. Mr. Hart truly is an outstanding American and an inspiration to us all. I am proud to recognize his service before the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 24, 2016, I missed the following votes: H. Res. 742, H. Res. 743, H.R. 2576, H.R. 5077, and H.R. 897.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on each of these roll call votes.

CHRISTIAN MUCILLI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christian Mucilli for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Christian Mucilli is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christian Mucilli is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christian Mucilli for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE EDISON 64

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Edison 64. These 64 former Thomas Edison High School students from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives fighting in the Vietnam War—becoming the highest number of casualties from the war experienced by any high school in the United States.

Honoring these former students has been an ongoing tradition. In 1989, through private funds and fundraising, staff and students dedicated a bronze memorial plaque for public display in the new Edison-Fareira High School. A memorial garden was also built on the school premises. Twenty-five years later, on November 8, 2014, a Pennsylvania Historical Marker was dedicated on the site of the original Thomas A. Edison High School located at 8th Street and Lehigh Avenue. This tradition of respect continues on to the present where annual candle lighting ceremonies are held to honor the young men whose lives were ended too early. The ceremonies are educational in nature, the focus of which is sharing Edison's proud legacy with the current student body and new staff. Ceremonies are held prior to the Memorial Day Holiday. Over a hundred veterans, some survivor families and many Edison alumni attend this very special assembly.

The newest honorarium for the Edison 64 will take place on May 27, 2016. In commemoration of the sacrifice of these young men and in recognition of the loss to the community, Luzerne Street between Whitaker Avenue and North 5th Street (in front of the new Edison High School located at 151 West Luzerne Street) will be renamed "Edison 64 Memorial Street."

Mr. Speaker, the unselfish sacrifice, courage and dedication to the welfare of our country will never be forgotten and I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the memory of the Edison 64.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 258 I mistakenly voted yea when I intended to vote nay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate that I inadvertently voted "No" on Roll Call 237. I intended to vote "Yes".

HONORING COLONEL BERT RICE

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Colonel Bert Rice—a United States veteran and dedicated civilian employee—on the occasion of his retirement after more than 60 years of service to his country.

A Montana native, Colonel Rice joined the U.S. Army Reserves as a private in 1956. He earned his degree from Montana State University and, as an ROTC distinguished graduate, was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of infantry in 1959. He went on to achieve his Master's Degree in supervision and management at Central Michigan University in 1977.

Colonel Rice's highly decorated active duty career spanned 30 years, including two tours of duty in Vietnam, where he flew armed helicopters and, in his second tour, commanded Company B, 25th Aviation Battalion, 25th Infantry Division. Colonel Rice also served in Iran during its revolution in 1979. His many stateside assignments include three years with the Pentagon.

In 2003, Colonel Rice was hired by the Department of the Army at Fort Meade, Maryland, where he worked until his recent retirement. He served as project officer and program manager for several important efforts that included infrastructure improvements and the major BRAC undertaking that brought thousands of new jobs to the base and the region.

While too numerous to mention in their entirety, Colonel Rice's military decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with OLC, Bronze Star with OLC, Joint Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal with OLC. He also has many civilian accolades.

Colonel Rice's many volunteer efforts reflect the servant-hearted manner in which he approached every aspect of his life. He served as Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of World Wars, an organization for retired military. In 2007, Colonel Rice was named Greater Odenton Improvement Association's Citizen of the Year for his community service.

Colonel Rice is a dedicated husband to his wife of 56 years and a committed father to two Army combat veterans. He also has four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of personally knowing Colonel Rice since his days serving on the Anne Arundel County Council. I know him to be a hard-working, patriotic and ever-helpful community leader. I ask that you join with me today to honor Colonel Bert Rice, whose life of service to the United States is deserving of our deepest gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him many more years of continued success and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 242 on the McNerney amend-

ment to H.R. 5055, I mistakenly recorded my vote as no when I should have voted yes.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AND POLITICAL PRISONER, TRAN HUYNH DUY THUC

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, for the past few days, I've followed President Obama's engagement with the citizens and government of Vietnam. It was a momentous occasion for the Vietnamese people to have their struggles acknowledged by the President of the United States.

I commend President Obama for emphasizing human rights and promoting freedom of speech, assembly, and expression; as well as internet freedom, education and economic reforms. Yet, I am disappointed that President Obama did not call for the release of all political prisoners and did not publicly name the human rights activists who were detained and prevented from meeting with him.

I would like to call attention to a courageous human rights defender and political prisoner, Mr. Tran Huynh Duy Thuc. As a blogger and entrepreneur, Mr. Thuc peacefully called for political and economic reform in Vietnam. In 2009, Mr. Thuc was arrested, and in 2010, during a one-day trial, he was prosecuted for "conducting activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration" under Article 79 of the Penal Code. The Vietnamese government sentenced him to 16 years imprisonment and 5 years house arrest upon release. To protest the ongoing injustices and mark the seventh year of his unjust imprisonment in the Nghe An prison, Mr. Thuc has begun an indefinite hunger strike.

I urge you to stand in solidarity with me to shine a light on Mr. Thuc's plight as he courageously fights for the basic freedoms and rights that Americans treasure.

CYNTHIA DOMINGUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cynthia Dominguez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Cynthia Dominguez is a 12th grader at Sobesky Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cynthia Dominguez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cynthia Dominguez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on roll call vote 242 cast on May 25, 2016.

On Roll Call Vote Number 242, on agreeing to Mr. McNerney of California's Amendment, I voted "No." It was my intention to vote "Aye."

THE WORST CASUALTY OF WAR IS
TO BE FORGOTTEN**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, we celebrate Memorial Day and across the nation Americans will gather to pay tribute to our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who go overseas and do not return. They are from every state and territory. They are from farms, ranches and cities. They are of all races and both sexes. They are rich and poor, but generally they are young. They are patriots, defenders of freedom and volunteers to serve our great nation. We remember all of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live freely.

It all started in 1868 when widows and girlfriends of soldiers killed in the War Between the States started putting flowers on the graves of Confederate and Union soldiers in Arlington Cemetery. And thus began what was initially called "Dedication Day," and now Memorial Day.

If we recall our history we must remember that during the War Between the States, there were 350,000 Confederates that were killed and 455,000 Union soldiers that were killed, and regardless of the politics, they were all Americans—America's youth. And thus began what we now call Memorial Day, the last Monday in May.

Memorial Day is a special event for people in Texas because, around 125,000 Texans are serving our nation, today and every day. Texans have always been willing to volunteer to support our country, and that says a lot about our country.

In another war, the war to end all wars, 5,000 Texans gave their lives. Boys who grew up on farms in Texas suddenly became men as they found themselves in the muddy, rainy, and bloody trenches an ocean away.

Life in the trenches was hard. Men were constantly bombarded with artillery and machine gun fire. And they often faced the danger of going over the trenches and crossing no man's land, trying to repel the enemy forces attempting the same.

In the midst of battle and in the face of the enemy, some men displayed tremendous gallantry and were awarded medals for their actions. However, the greatest casualty of war is to be forgotten. More soldiers died during World War I than in Korea, Vietnam, both Iraq Wars and Afghanistan combined. It is only fit-

ting that they are honored in our nation's capital.

After the long process of passing the creation of the WWI memorial and creating and funding the WWI commission through Congress, it was signed into law. Now, we have finally arrived at a design for the National WWI memorial at Pershing Park. The "Weight of Sacrifice" was chosen by the WWI commission. Soon, veterans of the war to end all wars will be properly honored in our nation's capital.

This Memorial Day, we remember those who served and who did not make it back home. On Monday, I will be honoring our fallen heroes at the Houston National Cemetery, as Americans across the nation observe this day of remembrance. We remember their sacrifices and that of their families. To those who gave their all to serve our country, America is eternally grateful. We remember each and every one of them because the worst casualty of war is to be forgotten.

And that is just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. BOSIE EDWARDS**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Bosie Edwards was no ordinary man, he was multi-talented, seriously focused and good at practically everything that he did. I have known him for many years because he was always intimately connected and actively engaged in the community. He was an excellent social worker and was recognized as one of the top gang intervention and youth violence prevention specialists in the city. Of course that was only one aspect of his being. When it came to music he was top of the line, a maestro, a band leader, a choreographer, a smooth jazz, rhythm and blues music man, gentleman of leisure, and the top band in town. I have heard them many, many times and never got enough.

Finally Bosie has been a regular on cable television with his own very interesting show which has been watched religiously by thousands of individual on a regular basis.

Yes, Bosie Edwards made a great impact on the lives of those who knew and/or came into contact with him.

I extend condolences to his family, friends and all who knew and loved him.

DOMINIQUE SARTIRANA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dominique Sartirana for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Dominique Sartirana is a 12th grader at Stanley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard

work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Dominique Sartirana is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dominique Sartirana for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING CAROL SHIMIZU ON
HER RETIREMENT**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Carol Shimizu on the occasion of her retirement after 48 years of dedicated public service as an educator.

Carol's educational career began in 1968 as a preschool and kindergarten teacher in Germany. She moved to San Jose where she went on to become a high school English and childhood development teacher and later an administrator. Shimizu was hired as principal of Dublin High School (DHS) in 2004.

Under her stewardship, both the physical and academic environment at DHS has been transformed, and the school is now widely regarded as one of the top high schools in California. The rate of students heading to four-year colleges has risen dramatically, with graduates going on to the nation's most prestigious colleges, universities, and postsecondary programs.

DHS saw its Academic Performance Index (API) climb every year during her tenure, jumping from 793 to an all-time high of 880 in the last year the API was measured by the state. The number of honors and AP courses offered increased from 12 to 24, while both enrollment and scores for students taking AP, SAT, ACT, and PSAT rose dramatically, earning DHS AP Honor Roll status from the College Board.

Carol successfully initiated Academies and Pathways in Engineering, BioMedical, Culinary Arts, Visual and Performing Arts, and Digital Media. DHS also implemented a comprehensive College and Career Readiness program for all students, including the addition of the "Gael Period", Freshmen Seminar, and the Freshmen Mentoring Program.

In addition, under Carol's leadership DHS's facilities have been extensively modernized, remodeled, and rebuilt to support 21st century learning. The \$120 million of renovation and expansion overseen by Carol has successfully accommodated a campus population that has nearly doubled during her time as principal.

Carol has fostered lasting, productive partnerships in the community and has laid the groundwork for an ever-expanding offering of programs and opportunities for all DHS students. I wish to congratulate her on a long and distinguished career, and wish her health and happiness in retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RMS "QUEEN MARY"

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 80th Anniversary of the maiden voyage of the RMS *Queen Mary*.

On May 27, 1936, over a quarter million spectators were on hand in Southampton, England to experience the magnificent world debut of the *Queen Mary*. At the time, the *Queen Mary* was the most advanced ship ever built, but its long storied history is what we are truly celebrating this month.

The *Queen Mary* was the grandest ocean liner in the world carrying dignitaries like Prime Minister Winston Churchill, royalty like the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, and Hollywood celebrities like Bob Hope and Clark Gable.

When World War II began, this luxury ocean liner was transformed into a key vessel for our Allied forces. The ship carried over 16,000 American soldiers from New York to Great Britain. It continued operating throughout the war, and due to the *Queen Mary's* high speed it was difficult for German U boats to catch it.

On numerous occasions, the ship carried Prime Minister Winston Churchill across the Atlantic for meetings with our fellow Allied Forces. The ship was a key asset in assuring our ultimate victory.

After our victory in Europe, thousands of our brave soldiers traveled home onboard the *Queen Mary*, and were given a hero's welcome as the vessel returned to American ports.

Today, the RMS *Queen Mary* is proudly docked in Long Beach, California. It serves as a treasured attraction where guests can come aboard and learn more about the history of this extravagant vessel. The ship features a full service hotel and hosts school groups, conventions and tourists from all over the world. To date, the *Queen Mary* has welcomed over 60 million guests.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to help celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the RMS *Queen Mary*. I am proud to represent the City of Long Beach in my district, which has the great honor of having this truly magical vessel permanently docked in its harbor.

freight train derailed in a densely residential neighborhood of the nation's capital, disrupting Metrorail, passenger rail, and freight rail service and putting families at risk. Among the derailed freight train cars, cars carrying sodium hydroxide, calcium chloride and ethanol—which is flammable and led to a Metrorail shutdown—spilled. The neighborhood was lucky that there were no injuries, but the continuing threat to the safety and security of urban communities is clear.

In 2007, the House passed the Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2007, which included my amendment to protect the District and similar communities nationwide from dangerous hazardous material shipments by mandating that federal regulations and penalties be developed to increase security and safety for the shipment of these materials through high-threat urban areas. My amendment was not included in the final bill signed into law. While freight companies have begun working with DOT to voluntarily reroute the shipment of certain materials that are toxic by inhalation, poisonous by inhalation, or explosive from these communities, there is no federal law requiring them to reroute the materials.

This bill would require the DOT Secretary to issue regulations to require enhanced security measures for shipments of security-sensitive materials. The bill also requires railroad carriers to use the most secure route and storage pattern to avoid moving certain hazardous materials by rail through selected high-threat urban areas. These security sensitive materials include a highway route-controlled quantity of a Class 7 (radioactive) material; more than 25 kilograms of a division 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3 explosive; more than one liter per package of a material poisonous by inhalation; shipment in other than a bulk packaging of 2,268 kilograms gross weight or more of one class of hazardous materials for which placarding of a vehicle, rail car, or freight container is required; and select agents or toxins regulated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

High-profile derailments in North Dakota, Virginia, West Virginia, and Canada demonstrate the need for this legislation. Ethanol, which is flammable, still travels through big cities, and even within a few blocks of the U.S. Capitol. This bill will protect our communities from the risk created by trains carrying hazardous materials.

I urge support for this bill.

on June 5, 2016 to honor the 86th anniversary of this historic decision.

The struggle for legal clarity on whether or not African Americans could continue to practice the tenants and principles of the Mystic Shrine began in 1914 after a lawsuit was filed in Georgia and a judge granted an injunction, barring African Americans from using the names, titles, emblems, and regalia that were also used by Caucasian Shriners in the state. Several more lawsuits and injunctions in other states further limited African Americans abilities to participate in Masonic fraternities until a case in 1918 expanded these restrictions nationwide. In 1926, the Texas Supreme Court affirmed a lower court's decision that barred African Americans from practicing Masonry in state and that decision was appealed to the United States Supreme Court. Finally, after 15 long years of fighting a costly legal battle for the right to exist and to legally practice, the United States Supreme Court handed down a unanimous decision on June 3, 1929, granting African Americans the right to continue their participation in Masonic fraternities similar to those of Caucasian Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the tremendous contributions made by our local Prince Hall Shriners to make our communities better places. These selfless individuals give countless hours of service to our communities, provide generous college scholarships to economically disadvantaged youth, and contribute significant funds to hospitals and research institutions. All of these things would not be possible without the Supreme Court's decision in June 1929.

Mr. Speaker, even after the Supreme Court's decision in 1929, the struggle for equality and recognition continued, and it continues in many places to this day. In my home state of North Carolina, it took until November 21, 2008 for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Jurisdictions, Inc. to gain the acceptance and official recognition of their white Masonic brothers of the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 41st Imperial Potentate of Prince Hall Shriners, Rochelle J. Julian, in commemorating the 86th anniversary of the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine et al. v. Michaux et al, and in wishing a joyous celebration to everyone that will be in Washington, D.C. participating in the festivities for the National Jubilee Day Celebration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAVE OUR COMMUNITIES FROM RISKY TRAINS ACT OF 2016

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in light of recent train derailments across the country and ongoing transportation security threats, I rise to introduce the Save Our Community from Risky Trains Act of 2016, which directs the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to find ways to the greatest extent possible to reroute trains that are carrying certain hazardous materials from selected high-threat urban areas, including the District of Columbia. Just this month, sixteen cars of a CSX

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL JUBILEE DAY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the very important Supreme Court decision in Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine et al. v. Michaux et al. that was handed down on June 3, 1929. The Court's unanimous decision in this case affirmed the legal right of African Americans to participate in fraternal orders similar to those of Caucasian Americans. I also rise to celebrate the second annual Jubilee Day Celebration that will occur here in Washington, D.C.

BRITTANY VALENCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brittany Valencia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Brittany Valencia is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brittany Valencia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and

perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Britany Valencia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARTIN
EUGENE (GENE) CAMPBELL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Martin Eugene (Gene) Campbell, who died on May 17, 2016. Mr. Campbell was a pioneering member of the Florida Legislature and later became an essential figure in Belle Glade, Florida, where he served as Assistant Principal of Glades Central High School for over 20 years, working hand in hand with the late Dr. Effie C. Grear.

Mr. Campbell was born in Gadsden, Alabama and earned a B.A. from Auburn University. His teaching career began in Germany, where he met his wife Carmen. They returned to Palm Beach County where he taught American history at Howell Watkins Junior High School.

After serving as president of the Palm Beach County Classroom Teachers Association, Mr. Campbell, a lifelong democrat, was elected to non-consecutive terms in the state legislature in 1974 and 1978, representing West Palm Beach.

While in Tallahassee, he earned a reputation as a good-government reformer and as a relentless champion for public education. Known as "Casino Geno," Mr. Campbell introduced legislation to expand gaming to Florida as early as 1975. Ahead of his time, Mr. Campbell was motivated solely by increasing teacher salaries and improving the quality of Florida's education system.

Upon retiring from politics, he dedicated himself to the Glades Central community and became an unapologetic cheerleader for Belle Glade and the western Palm Beach County region.

Mr. Campbell was married to Carmen Campbell, a longtime fellow educator. The couple had three children, Carmen, Donald and Daniel, each of whom have dedicated themselves to education as well. They are blessed with four grandchildren.

Mr. Campbell was a towering figure who engendered respect and love among everyone in the political process and educational field. He was a good friend and mentor to many and will be dearly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that on Monday, May 23, I unfortunately missed two roll call votes in order to at-

tend my daughter's graduation. Had I been present I would have voted:

1. No—motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4889 (Roll Number 229). Had I been present, I would have voted no on H.R. 4889 (Roll Call 229).

2. Aye—motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3998 (Roll Number 230). Had I been present, I would have voted aye on H.R. 3998 (Roll Call 230).

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF PURPLE STAR RECIPIENT PAUL GOINS AND HIS TEAM

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of Paul Goins and five of his brave team members who lost their lives in support of America's mission overseas.

Paul's path was defined by an abiding desire to serve his country and seek out opportunities to drive positive change—he answered this call his entire life. After serving in the United States Marines, Paul worked with the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the private sector before serving his country at the Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan. On February 10, 2014, Paul (Goins was training and equipping allies of the International Military Coalition in Kabul when he was killed in an explosion. My prayers and condolences go out to Paul's family; his children, grandchildren and his loving wife.

I also honor five other members of Paul's team who were called abroad and gave the ultimate sacrifice as they worked to make the world a safer place. These six recipients of the Purple Star receive an honor of the upmost distinction for making the ultimate sacrifice while helping the United States of America accomplish vital security and foreign policy objectives across the globe.

RECOGNIZING THE MEDAL OF
HOPE SOCIETY

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Medal of Hope Society, an organization in Ohio's Second District committed to honoring civilians among us who proudly serve our wounded and fallen veterans.

Founded by one of my constituents, Mr. Richard Lynch, the Medal of Hope Society is an organization comprised of wounded military combat veterans & Gold Star family members. Every year, these men and women recognize a special civilian who demonstrates great dedication to our nation's heroes, both living and deceased, who have taken up arms in the War on Terror.

As a veteran of this war, I have seen firsthand the heroism and sacrifice of members of our military. I've witnessed the bloodshed and loss of life. So I sincerely thank those who

dedicate their lives and work tirelessly to make sure our returning troops are receiving the care and support they need. And thank you, Medal of Hope Society, for recognizing their noble commitment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call no. 248, had I been present, I would have voted Aye. On Roll Call no. 250, had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,223,047,535,897.31. We've added \$8,596,170,486,984.23 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CELINCE GALLEGOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Celince Gallegos for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Celince Gallegos is a 12th grader at Stanley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Celince Gallegos is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Celince Gallegos for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING NED WATERS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere appreciation that I recognize Ned

Waters for his extraordinary vision to establish Operation Outdoor Freedom which is sponsored by Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, Adam Putnam. Recently, Mr. Waters announced his retirement from service with Operation Outdoor Freedom.

Mr. Waters and his wife realized the need for a program to give back to wounded warriors coming back from war. By encouraging all of his friends to donate time, money, property, and gifts, they started the program that was then called the Wounded Warrior Sportsman Fund. Operation Outdoor Freedom provides wounded veterans with outdoor activities that they enjoy at no cost. This program has evolved from the first single outing to over 70 chapters statewide. Operation Outdoor Freedom grants wounded veterans a unique opportunity for recreation and rehabilitation. By creating an atmosphere so that wounded warriors can spend time with like-minded veterans, Operation Outdoor Freedom has changed many lives for the better.

I am truly grateful for Ned Waters' work to provide opportunities to wounded veterans and Purple Heart Recipients who have fought to defend our freedom. Our community and our state are better due to his service.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CHUCK KAVANAUGH

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Charles J. "Chuck" Kavanaugh as he retires after 20 years as Executive Vice President of the Building Industry Association of Greater Louisville, formerly the Home Builders Association of Louisville.

For two decades, Chuck has helped construct and remodel houses throughout Louisville—places where families can build their own foundation for a successful future. He has also worked with businesses large and small to help grow and expand their factories, office buildings, and workspaces, creating jobs and significantly impacting our local economy.

Under his leadership, the Building Industry Association of Louisville has become second-largest of the nearly 700 homebuilders groups affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders. And his hard work and success have not gone unnoticed by the NAHB, who have previously named him "Executive Officer of the Year" and President of the Association's Executive Officers Council, a position he attained after being elected by his peers.

Throughout his career at the Building Industry Association of Greater Louisville—and previously as Vice President of the former Louisville Area Chamber of Commerce—Chuck has spent his life helping others. He is also a Founder of the Building Industries' Charitable Foundation, where he has dedicated his time and effort to their important partnership with YouthBuild and Kosair Charities.

I want to thank Chuck for his dedication to our community, his service to homeowners and business owners throughout our city, and—above all—his advice and friendship during all these years. On behalf of the people of Kentucky's Third Congressional District and

the City of Louisville, I extend my best wishes to Chuck as he begins his much-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted 'aye' for the Clarifying Congressional Intent in Providing for DC Home Rule Act of 2016 (Roll Call No. 248) when my intention was to vote 'no' on the legislation. I support local budget autonomy for the District of Columbia.

RECOGNIZING DR. STEPHEN HANKE ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Stephen Hanke on the occasion of his retirement after 44 years of dedicated public service as an educator.

Dr. Hanke served as a teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent in four school districts before being appointed as Superintendent of the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) in 2006. Under his stewardship, DUSD has attained unprecedented levels of achievement.

DUSD saw its Academic Performance Index (API) climb every year during his tenure to an all-time high of 904 in 2013, the last year the API was measured by California. As the new Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) scores were released last fall, DUSD was once again among the highest-performing school districts in the state.

Dr. Hanke successfully transformed the culture and defined DUSD's core values by creating and implementing the Vision 20/20 Strategic Plan. DUSD became focused on continuous improvement through the development of a Professional Learning Community. As a result, six schools earned the distinction of being named a California Distinguished School.

Under Dr. Hanke's leadership, DUSD also created a STEM Enrichment Academy and emerged as a regional leader in putting technology in the classrooms. The infusion of STEM combined with some of the state's most rigorous graduation requirements have made students more prepared for college and career success than ever before.

In addition, Dr. Hanke's tenure coincided with a period of rapid expansion, as he oversaw 40 modernization projects and the addition of three elementary schools and a middle school. The signature enhancements were \$120 million of renovation and expansion at Dublin High School, which is now regarded as one of the premier campuses in California. Despite the pressures of managing growth, DUSD maintained financial stability even through the most difficult times.

Dr. Hanke has fostered lasting, productive partnerships in the community and has laid the groundwork for an ever-expanding offering

of programs and opportunities for all Dublin students. I wish to congratulate him on his long and distinguished career, and wish him health and happiness in retirement.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND MEMORY OF WORLD WAR II SOL- DIER SECOND LIEUTENANT OWEN BAYLISS COFFMAN

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and memory of World War II hero and soldier, Second Lieutenant Owen Bayliss Coffman of Palm Springs, California. His remarkable life was cut short when he answered our nation's call to service in the Second World War. It is my intention to honor the memory of this hero by recording the history of his service to our great country.

Owen Bayliss Coffman was born on February 1, 1920 in Palm Springs, California to Owen Earl and Helen Ann Bayliss Coffman. Owen attended school in Palm Springs, completing his primary school education at Frances Stevens School. For four years, Owen rode a bus from Palm Springs to Banning High School, where he graduated in 1938. He left our Coachella Valley to attend Stanford University where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1942. Owen strongly desired to serve his country in uniform, and a bad back that never healed correctly after breaking it at the age of 20 almost kept him from military service. While at Stanford, Owen enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and came to active duty in 1943. Owen completed his basic training in Santa Ana, California and completed his flight training at March Field. He earned his wings in Yuma, Arizona and was awarded the rank of second lieutenant. Owen and his crew shipped off to Peterborough, England. On his second bombing mission over Poland, his crew was recalled over the North Sea. His plane went down due to inclement weather. Of the ten men on his plane, seven were killed and three parachuted to safety. Owen sacrificed his life in service to our country.

Owen was buried at the American Military Cemetery near Cambridge. His grandmother wished for his remains to stay in England, saying, "Leave him in the land of my ancestors, where he will forever be honored with his fallen comrades."

Mr. Speaker, Owen Bayliss Coffman is an American hero whose life and service deserve to the fullest extent our abilities to honor him. It is with my deepest respect that I commend and remember this brave young man from Palm Springs. Owen joined hands with countless other patriots to safeguard the freedoms we enjoy. He is a shining example to all of us, and it is my sincere hope that by preserving his memory, we inspire a new generation to look to Second Lieutenant Owen Bayliss Coffman's shining example of self-less service, patriotism, and dedication to freedom.

COURTNEY CONERTY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Courtney Conerty for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Courtney Conerty is an 8th grader at Woodrow Wilson Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Courtney Conerty is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Courtney Conerty for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes on Monday, May 23, 2016 and Tuesday, May 24, 2016 due to my son's graduation from high school.

Had I been present for roll call vote number 229, H.R. 4889, the Kelsey Smith Act, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for roll call vote number 230, H.R. 3998, the Securing Access to Networks in Disaster Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for roll call vote number 231, Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 743, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for roll call vote number 232, H. Res. 743, Adoption of the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 5055, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for roll call vote number 233, Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 742, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for roll call vote number 234, H. Res. 742, Adoption of the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 897 and H.R. 2576, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for roll call vote number 235, H.R. 5077, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for roll call vote number 236, the Democrat Motion to Recommit H.R. 897, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for roll call vote number 237, H.R. 897, the Zika Vector Control Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for roll call vote number 238, Passage of the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2576, the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, I would have voted "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF CORPORAL
ROBERT L. SNOW**HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Corporal Robert L. Snow and his many years of service to the state of Delaware.

When Mr. Snow first joined the New Castle County Police Department in 1968, he made history as the first African American police officer for the NCCPD. His addition to the force came at a time of upheaval in Wilmington, as violence and anger engulfed the city following the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Despite these circumstances, Mr. Snow was able to break down barriers by committing fully to his duties as a police officer, where he earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues. Throughout his career, he demonstrated a keen understanding of the importance of building lasting, positive relationships in the community through compassion, respect and professionalism. Most importantly, Mr. Snow has always shown a willingness to put the safety and security of others above his own.

Corporal Snow's efforts have made a difference for future generations by paving the way and setting an example for police officers across our state. Many continue to be inspired by Mr. Snow's bravery and ability to conquer racism in becoming an exemplary member of the law enforcement community for 20 years. As Delaware's lone member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I am grateful for his dedication to public safety and I'm honored to join in recognizing his distinguished career.

Once again, I'd like to thank Corporal Snow for his service, and to congratulate him on the dedication of the Community/Training Room at the Cpl. Paul J. Sweeney Public Safety Building in his honor.

IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CONNECTICUT
BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Connecticut Beekeepers Association, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this weekend. The Connecticut Beekeepers Association is vital to promoting and protecting honeybees in communities across Connecticut. The appreciation our state's beekeepers receive doesn't come close to matching their impact on our health and our economy.

Honeybees pollinate one-third of the food on our plates and roughly 90 crops found in the United States. To give you an idea of the role honeybees play in our food security, picture walking into your local grocery store and finding the produce aisles half-empty. That's what a future without honeybees would look like.

Unfortunately, honeybees are dying off at an alarming rate, due to Colony Collapse Dis-

order and stressors such as disease, habitat loss, and pesticides. The Connecticut Beekeepers Association is working tirelessly to save our pollinators. It's bringing together beekeepers, farmers, businesses, and consumers and educating the public about the importance of honeybees.

The Connecticut Beekeepers Association knows that the best way to engage people in this important work is to keep it fun. They even brought live bees to a New Britain Bees baseball game to show kids how hives work.

I am proud to support the Connecticut Beekeepers Association's efforts for a healthy, sustainable honeybee population in the future. On this historic anniversary, I commend the Connecticut Beekeepers Association on 125 years of excellence in beekeeping and environmental stewardship.

TRIBUTE TO HILLIARD, OHIO POLICE
OFFICER SEAN R. JOHNSON**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Hilliard, Ohio Police Officer Sean R. Johnson who passed away last week in a tragic training accident.

Officer Johnson's dedication to public service was evident as he made the decision to join the Air Force after graduating high school in 1988. After serving in the military and earning the rank of Senior Airman, Officer Johnson was Honorably Discharged and soon brought on at the Fairfield County Sheriffs Department in 1995. At the Fairfield County Sheriff's Department, he graduated from the Police Academy and worked as a Special Deputy until 1997.

After working in court security and as a liquor control agent, Officer Johnson joined the Hilliard Division of Police in October 1999, and would stay with the department for the next 16 years. Throughout his time with the Hilliard Division of Police, he was distinguished as one of the most valuable members of the department, earning numerous Achievement Citations for his service above the normal call of duty in dangerous circumstances.

He was also active in the community as a Crisis Intervention Team Officer, where he was well known for calming and talking to people during difficult times in their lives. While serving, Officer Johnson earned an Associate's Degree in Law Enforcement from Columbus State Community College. All of this, he did while also being a father to two children.

I'm extremely thankful for the service of Officer Sean Johnson and all first responders.

DESTINY MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Destiny Martinez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Destiny Martinez is a 12th grader at Stanley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Destiny Martinez is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Destiny Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.