

States economy, and H. Con. Res. 112—Expressing the sense of Congress opposing the President's proposed \$10 tax on every barrel of oil.

Yes on H.R. 3826—Mount Hood Cooper Spur Land Exchange Clarification Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 271, I am not recorded.

Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I inadvertently voted "nay" on Roll Call No. 279, on Representative POLIS' amendment to H.R. 4775 that would adopt the text of H.R. 1548, the BREATHE Act, which would amend the Clean Air Act to repeal the prohibitions against aggregating emissions from oil and gas sources. As an original cosponsor of H.R. 1548 and a strong supporter of policies to protect the public and our environment from the dangers of Hydraulic Fracturing, or fracking, I duly intended to vote "yea" on this amendment and appreciate this opportunity to note my support.

HONORING BREALAND PENDLETON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Ms. Brealand Pendleton.

Brealand Pendleton is the daughter of Mr. Christopher and Aubrey Pendleton of Terry, MS. She is one of four siblings: Chris, Braydon and Aubrey Pendleton. Currently, Brealand is a Senior of Terry High School where she will be graduating 6th out of a class of 320.

Brealand Pendleton is a very outgoing young lady that has served in several capacities in her school; showing great leadership skills and the qualities of a great team member. Brealand has been a member of the Band, Flag Team (Senior Captain), Tennis Team (Senior Captain), Beta Club (Senior Secretary), National Honor Society (Junior Treasury, Senior Vice-President), Interact Club (Senior Secretary) and the National Society of High School Scholars. Brealand has over 40 hours of community service which varies from local school participation, helping at the Food Network, serving at Stewpot, working with the school blood drive, contributor to the Angel Tree and other various community projects. Brealand will further her education at Xavier University of Louisiana, where she will major

in Biochemistry. Brealand is a shining example for Terry High School and her community as she works to make it a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a remarkable student, leader and community volunteer, Ms. Brealand Pendleton, for her hard work and dedication at Terry High School and throughout the communities of Mississippi.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEROISM
OF CPL. PHILIP E. LOUR

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible heroism of one of my constituents, Cpl. Philip E. Lour, a veteran of World War II, a leader, and an American patriot. Mr. Lour first began serving our nation immediately after graduating from high school at the age of 17. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, in 1942, where he quickly developed an interest in communications, and eventually an expertise in Morse code. However, life had different plans for him.

After he was accepted into the Army Specialized Training Program, Mr. Lour soon found himself heading to the front lines due to the program being shut down. Mr. Lour fought in one of the war's most infamous battles, the Battle of the Bulge, where he survived the surprise Nazi assault that incurred the highest casualties for any operation in World War II in Europe. In January, 1946, Mr. Lour retired from the Army as a hero and patriot with the thanks of a grateful nation.

Mr. Lour's service to our nation did not end upon returning home. After graduating from Yale University with a degree in engineering, achieved through the GI Bill, he went on to work for the National Advisory Committee of Aeronautics (NACA). His work at NACA continued for eight years before he transitioned to operational analysis at Langley Air Force Base in Newport News, Virginia. He eventually retired as Deputy Director for the Concepts Analysis Agency in the Department of the Army.

Mr. Lour's long career of service to our nation speaks volumes of his character. He exemplifies hard work, leadership, bravery, and ambition in all aspects of his life, from his education to his service abroad. His dedication to the United States serves as a model for all Americans.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Lour today for his selfless contributions to our great nation. Whether it has been fighting on the front lines in WWII, or by making his neighborhood more beautiful with his extraordinary azalea garden, it is clear that Mr. Philip E. Lour has dedicated his life to improving the lives of those around him. He is respected and loved by many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting Philip E. Lour for his lifetime of service to the United States of America. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN MEMORIAM OF MICHAEL
RATNER

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, with my colleague Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, to pay tribute to Attorney Michael Ratner, a fearless champion for justice and peace, who passed away on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at the age of 72.

For nearly half a century, the talented and tenacious Michael Ratner brought cases with the Center for Constitutional Rights in U.S. courts related to war, torture, and other human rights violations. Throughout his decades of legal service, he was and remains a giant in the field on Constitutional law and the law of war.

He was born in Cleveland on June 13, 1943. His father, Harry, was a Jewish immigrant from Russia, and his mother, the former Anne Spott, helped resettle refugees after World War II, during which numerous family members of the couple were killed. After graduating in 1966 from Brandeis University, Michael Ratner earned his juris doctorate from Columbia Law School. He took a year off of law school to work for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund on a Baltimore school desegregation case. He then clerked in Manhattan for Judge Constance Baker Motley, the first African American woman to serve on the federal bench.

In 1971, Ratner joined the Center for Constitutional Rights, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Manhattan. From 1984 to 1990, he served as the Center's legal director and became the Center's president in 2002 serving until 2014. He was also president of the National Lawyers Guild and of the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights.

Ratner brought cases for war crimes and other human rights violations all over the world. Seeking to hold Bush administration officials accountable for torture, he filed cases under the Universal Jurisdiction principle in international courts, including in Germany, Spain, Canada, Switzerland, and France.

Ratner also oversaw litigation that successfully challenged New York City's stop-and-frisk policing tactic.

Under his leadership, the Center for Constitutional Rights was the first human rights organization to stand up for the human rights of Guantanamo detainees. Ratner was a founding member of the Guantanamo Bay Bar Association which grew to include more than 500 attorneys. This Association provided pro bono representation to prisoners at Guantanamo—one of the largest mass defense efforts in U.S. history. Michael acted as counsel in the landmark case *Rasul v. Bush*, which was the first successful Guantanamo case in the United States Supreme Court.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Ranucci, a video producer; his children, Jake and Ana; his sister Ellen and his brother Bruce.

Mr. Speaker, we ask that all our colleagues join us in honoring the life and work of Attorney Michael Ratner. He will truly be missed, but he will live on through the work of the countless social justice lawyers and activists he inspired.