

I had the privilege of witnessing her admirable and dedicated efforts during these years. Her command of the office operations, getting cases ready for court, lining up witnesses, and executing judgments for trials, probation, and incarcerations was outstanding. Her ability to perform was also shown in Marie never making a single mistake in the thousands of files she worked on. I honestly do not remember Marie ever making a mistake in the thousands of files she worked on, dealing with very sensitive issues such as citizens' property and personal freedom. She is extraordinary.

I also want to express my admiration for the way she handled all of the stress, drama, and emotion that were part of the office environment, day in and day out. Marie was incredibly "cool, calm, and collected" in that arena, while at the same time always willing to listen and help visitors to the office, if she could. Marie always had a sense of humor—there were days when life in the Tolland Judicial District felt like a sitcom, with laughs and eye rolls.

Also, at the same time, Marie balanced family life as a devoted daughter, wife, and mother. When I talked with Marie about her family, it was clear to me that they appropriately always came first. Now, Marie embarks on this new chapter of her life, with the ability to spend more, well deserved, time with her family. I would like to thank her again for her outstanding service for 43 years and for setting an example of diligent, hard work for the public good for our state and region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen conflict, I unavoidably missed the following votes on June 21, 2016.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

On roll call No. 334, I would have voted "nay" (June 21) (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5525, "End Taxpayer Funded Cell Phones Act of 2016.")

On roll call No. 335, I would have voted "yea" (June 21) (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5388, "Support for Rapid Innovation Act of 2016.")

On roll call No. 336, I would have voted "yea" (June 21) (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5389, "Leveraging Emerging Technologies Act of 2016.")

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent due to a delayed flight into Washington. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on H.R. 5525 (Roll Call No. 334).

IN RECOGNITION OF ALDER CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL RECEIVING A SCHOOLS TO WATCH AWARD

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the students, faculty, and staff of Alder Creek Middle School in Truckee, California for receiving the 2016 Schools to Watch award, which is presented to the top 145 middle schools nationwide. This is a great accomplishment for Alder Creek and Northern California.

The Schools to Watch award recognizes Alder Creek's academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, and social equity after a rigorous review process to identify middle schools achieving excellence in each category.

Alder Creek has exemplified academic excellence by challenging its students and encouraging them to use their minds in ways that surpass typical middle school curriculum. The instruction and assessment at schools recognized for receiving the Schools to Watch award are aligned with ideals that focus on every student's understanding of essential concepts and skills that are applicable beyond the classroom. The teaching methods at Alder Creek involve a variety of engaging and effective activities, allowing students' talents to flourish.

Additionally, Alder Creek is praised for its ability to successfully address and accommodate the various developmental challenges of early adolescence and the needs of each of its students. Alder Creek provides each student with a personalized environment that supports unique ethical, social, physical, and intellectual aspects of development. Alder Creek's teachers support every student's curiosity and creativity in a well-organized, encouraging environment coupled with relevant curriculum catered to the personal interests of the adolescents.

Mr. Speaker, Alder Creek Middle School has earned a prestigious spot as one of the best in the country. I am honored to share this proud moment with the nation and congratulate Alder Creek's faculty, staff, and students on their tremendous accomplishment.

HONORING K-9 OFFICER DARA AND OFFICER ANDREW KALET

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize K-9 Officer Dara and her handler, Officer Andrew Kalet, of the City of Auburn Police Department, for their valiant actions in quickly apprehending and securing a dangerous and high risk suspect who fled police on February 26, 2013.

The fleeing suspect had attempted to dispose of valuable evidence, but thanks to K-9 Officer Dara's fearless and efficient actions, officers were able to recover this evidence, and no officers were hurt while working to apprehend the suspect.

Though K-9 Officer Dara is now retired, her actions secured the safety of everyone involved in a volatile situation and she deserves to be properly recognized for her heroic actions. I am honored to pay tribute to K-9 Officer Dara and Officer Andrew Kalet for their brave actions that led to a safe ending of a tense situation.

I would also like to recognize all K-9 Officers and their handlers for the extraordinary work they do each and every day. K-9 Officers approach every situation, no matter how dangerous with complete and total confidence and fearlessness to protect their human partners. K-9 Officers are an asset to all law enforcement and I am proud to recognize them for their service.

PERSONALIZE YOUR CARE ACT 2.0

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, one of the most difficult and challenging situations any family faces is dealing with circumstances surrounding end of life. From sweeping changes to how care is delivered, to the rise of personalized medicine, patients today have more treatment options than ever before. With these medical advances, the line between life and death can sometimes be blurred, which has changed the way we must talk about how we want to live and die.

There is substantial evidence that suggests the care individuals want to receive at the end of life is not necessarily the type of care they do receive. Oftentimes patients receive aggressive treatment that not only substantially shortens the length of life, but the quality. Other times, patients find the health care system undervalues the quality of their life, withholding treatments they would otherwise want to receive.

To this end, individuals should have the opportunity to participate actively in making decisions about their health care throughout their lives and receive care consistent with their values, goals, and informed preferences. Patients should feel empowered to make informed choice about the health care they want and to have their care decisions honored by their providers and family.

During the Affordable Care Act debate, I saw an opportunity to apply lessons learned in Oregon with its landmark comprehensive palliative care programs that give patients more of a say about the medical treatment they want at the end of life. I worked to ensure that Congress included a payment for doctors to talk to patients and families about advance care planning in the Affordable Care Act. Unfortunately, this provision wasn't included in the final legislation due to a breakdown of the legislative process.

Last year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a new benefit, allowing doctors to receive reimbursement to have voluntary advance care planning conversations with their patients. For the first time, the federal government has placed a value on these critical doctor-patient discussions.

Yet my work to improve end-of-life care is far from over, and it is for these reasons that