

professionals and Rotarians who volunteer countless hours of their time to this worthy endeavor. Multi-disciplinary teams of medical professionals travel around the world to provide free training to care for the children, in addition to the free reconstructive surgery. These volunteers help foster Rotaplast's mission of building goodwill among people from different countries, languages, cultures, and ways of life, and the education Rotaplast provides its patients and their families will help improve lives long after Rotaplast leaves.

Thanks to the support of Rotary International and the many Rotary Clubs and Districts around the world who have participated in this program, Rotaplast International's work in my district and around the world has been exemplary. It is therefore fitting to honor and thank Rotaplast for 25 years of success in changing children's lives and adhering to Rotary International's motto of "doing good in the world." I offer them my sincere congratulations and best wishes for many more years of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STATE STREET ART FAIR'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the organizers and artists of the Ann Arbor State Street Art Fair. For 50 years, the Art Fair has showcased work from thousands of artists around the country and helped establish Ann Arbor as a center of art and culture.

Originally established in 1967, the State Street Art Fair hosts approximately 300 artists and their works each summer in Ann Arbor for four days by the campus of the University of Michigan. As one of the four independently juried art fairs that operate concurrently each summer as the Ann Arbor Art Fair, the State Street Art Fair is a key part of the city's cultural scene and has helped establish the city as a nexus for artistic excellence. The State Street Art Fair and other Ann Arbor art fairs collectively attract around 400,000 visitors each year and serve as an exhibition of award-winning artists as well as the city at large. The State Street Art Fair's rigorous screening process for prospective exhibitions by a jury of artistic professionals, as well as its high standards for entry, have resulted in a renowned art fair that helps draw outstanding artists and visitors to the Ann Arbor area.

The work of the organizers and participants have helped make State Street Art Fair one of the nation's premier showcases of artistic talent. The fair continues to attract a vibrant community with expertise in traditional crafts of glass, painting and photography, as well as new innovative and contemporary mediums of expression. In addition to the merchant displays, the State Street Art Fair also offers live entertainment, food from local vendors and outdoor shopping. These offerings continue to help attract hundreds of thousands of individuals each year while supporting the local community, and it is my hope that the State Street Art Fair continues to build on its successful showings in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the organizers and participants of the State Street Art Fair on the 50th Anniversary of its establishment. The fair continues to attract outstanding artists and visitors from around the country.

**BORDER WALL**

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2017*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have a few questions for my colleagues across the aisle—what can we do with 1.6 billion dollars?

How many highways and roads could we fix?

How many Americans could we train for good paying jobs, for that amount of money?

And didn't the President promise that Americans wouldn't have to pay for a wall?

Now in one big bill that's out of regular order we are being asked to waste 1.6 billion dollars on a wall that would be ineffective and offensive to our neighbors?

In my district, we know that our border is our strength, not our weakness.

San Diego and Tijuana are two regions, but we are one community.

We have worked for years to create an efficient border that allows thousands of people to safely cross into our country every day; spending money in our stores, paying taxes that support our infrastructure, and bringing economic stability to our region.

We cannot allow fear and uncertainty to isolate us from the rest of the world, and building a wall along our expansive southern border would do just that.

**RECOGNIZING BYRON-BETHANY IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2017*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Byron-Bethany Irrigation District for being awarded the Association of California Water Agencies' 2017 Excellence in Water Leaders Award.

Byron-Bethany Irrigation District serves crucial farming communities in California's Central Valley including the city of Tracy, which is located in my district. The water they distribute allows their customers to cultivate successful farmland that both promotes a successful economy and feeds the world.

This award is in recognition of BBID's bold actions in defending the water rights of the farming communities within their area of service. In the face of the California drought, the State Water Resources Control Board issued curtailment orders for the local community that would drastically affect the crucial farmland that BBID serves. The District General Manager, Rick Gilmore, and the district's seven member Board of Directors launched an effective legal effort to protect the water rights of local farming communities. They argued that the state's analysis of available water was in-

accurate. The state's dismissal of the case against BBID in 2016 was a victory for small farming districts, and cemented the water rights that serve as a foundation for BBID's community.

The Excellence in Water Leaders Award is presented annually by the Association of California Water Agencies to an individual or group that has made a visible contribution to California water. ACWA is a statewide association of public agencies and their members are responsible for about 90% of water delivered in California. ACWA's recognition of Byron-Bethany Irrigation District's impact on the water rights for small farming communities is an immense honor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the Byron-Bethany Irrigation District for receiving this impressive award and for their exuberance and dedication to our local farming communities within California's Central Valley.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2017*

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on Monday I accompanied President Donald J. Trump to his speech at the 2017 National Boy Scout Jamboree and thus missed votes Monday night.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 408, and YEA on Roll Call No. 409.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BAN PRESIDENTS FROM PARDONING THEMSELVES**

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2017*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I joined as an original cosponsor of the Constitutional Amendment of AL GREEN of Texas. That Amendment states that a President may not pardon him or herself for violations of United States law.

I believe that the Amendment is likely unnecessary. I believe that the Supreme Court, in construing the existing Constitution, would reach the conclusion that the President's power to pardon does not include the power to pardon the President.

However it is always useful to provide a clarification of a meaning of a statute, or even a Constitutional provision, whenever any doubt its meaning or construction.

I doubt that the amendment could be adopted and ratified with sufficient speed to prevent the current President from pardoning himself. I believe the adoption of the amendment could still be useful in providing a clarification should this issue arise in future presidencies.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2017*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on July 26, 2017 I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on No. 414 and 415.

## HONORING MOZELLE REYNOLDS DOBYNS

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2017*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the life of Mozelle Reynolds Dobyns, who passed away on June 29, 2017 at the age of 102. Mozelle and her late husband Garner were always wonderful people, and they were always giving people. Mozelle loved Republican politics, but she loved her God more.

Mozelle was born in a Roanoke County farmhouse in 1915, in a farmhouse without electricity or running water. In an early sign of her tenacity, Mozelle proved wrong the doctors that had told her parents she would not live more than a few days. She attended Andrew Lewis High School in Salem and contributed to the war effort in World War II as a worker at Radford Arsenal. She then worked at Burlington Hosiery Mill until it closed in 1963.

Mozelle put her faith first. It guided how she lived and how she cared for others. She attended Ft. Lewis Christian Church in her early years, spent 65 years at Melrose Christian Church, and in 2014 returned to Ft. Lewis. While at Melrose, she served as the first female Elder, as Elder Emeritus, and as Chairman of the Board. She taught Sunday School for decades and worked along with Garner as a counselor for Christian Endeavor, a non-denominational youth group. Generations of young people benefited from her guidance.

Mozelle was not expected to live long at birth, but she kept going until near the end of her life. Even at 95 years of age, she still bought groceries for a neighbor. She drove until she was 96, and mowed her own lawn until she was 98.

Mozelle lived her life well, and many are better for it. I will miss this good woman, but as her many "children" from her Sunday school classes and youth groups will tell you, she always knew her Lord, Jesus Christ.

## HONORING CERES FIRE CHIEF BRYAN NICHOLES

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2017*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Ceres Fire Chief Bryan Nicholes, who just announced his retirement after 45 years in the fire service industry; 32 of which was spent with the Ceres Fire Department.

In 1972, Bryan began his lifelong career as an explorer scout with the Burbank-Paradise fire district. In 1984, he moved to Ceres, California to take on the only paid firefighter position within the department during this time. Chief Nicholes then returned to Burbank-Paradise as Fire Chief in 1987. After two years, he came back to Ceres as Fire Marshall.

Chief Nicholes has combined his professional experience with years of higher education in the fire industry. He obtained his Associates of Science degree in Electronics Technology and Fire Science from Modesto Junior College and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Saint Mary's College, as well as many other State and Federal certifications.

Community has always been a priority for Bryan and his wife, Becki. He has been involved in the Ceres Rotary Club, Ceres Lions Club, and was instrumental in coordinating the "Love Ceres" event for six years.

Additionally, he and his family have chosen a life of faith serving God and attending New Life Christian Church. In 2011, Bryan was ordained as a minister and has traveled on multiple mission trips to spread the word of God. They also volunteer to host a small group of married couples and Bryan leads a Men's Fellowship Group. They have one son, Colby, and Bryan is looking forward to spending more time with his family after retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to fire service in the City of Ceres by Chief Bryan Nicholes and hereby wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF BILLY MANES

**HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2017*

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life and legacy of Billy Manes. Billy passed away last week, far too soon, at the age of 45. He is survived by his husband, Anthony, and an entire community that admired him. With Billy's passing, Orlando lost an icon, and our nation lost a committed, passionate, and fierce advocate for equality.

In Billy's short time with us, he made an indelible impact on our city and our country. He was a prominent Orlando journalist and commentator, and the power of his words moved and amused central Florida. Billy broke barriers, becoming the first openly gay mayoral candidate in Orlando's history. After the tragic loss of his partner in 2012, Billy bravely told his story to the world, putting a human face on the pressing need for equal rights for same-sex couples.

Last year, when our Orlando family was reeling from the Pulse nightclub shooting, Billy gave voice to our city's grief. He relentlessly focused on the 49 beautiful lives we lost that night. Like them, Billy will never be forgotten.

If you ever had the privilege and the pleasure of meeting Billy, you couldn't escape his energy, his passion, and his endearing sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical this hallowed chamber carry on the work that Billy so val-

iantly championed. Though we have so much progress to celebrate, too many of the inequities that Billy's work spotlighted remain.

May his memory inspire us to redouble our commitment to equality.

## RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN VASSALL, M.D.

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. John Vassall II for his exemplary work in our community. For over thirty years, Dr. Vassall has made the greater Puget Sound Region a healthier and more equitable place.

Dr. Vassall has made many valuable contributions to Washington state's medical community. In 1978, he received his medical degree from the University of Washington. He then completed two competitive residency programs at Grady Memorial Hospital and Emory University Affiliated Hospitals. After his residencies, Dr. Vassall returned to the Puget Sound region in 1983, when he accepted an offer at Swedish Medical Center, where he has remained for 34 years. As Chief Medical Officer, he has been a key player on an outstanding medical team. In 2006, the Washington chapter of the American College of Physicians named Dr. Vassall the Internist of the Year.

Dr. Vassall's contributions to our community have not been limited to his professional work at the hospital. For 15 years, Dr. Vassall served as the vice-speaker and speaker of the House of Delegates for the Washington State Medical Association. He is a trustee at Seattle University and for the American Hospital Association, as well as a board member at the Washington State Hospital Association and the Washington State Medical Association. Through these roles, Dr. Vassall has shaped the future of medicine and has advanced quality care in Washington state. His long record of advocacy earned him the Alumni Service Award from his alma mater in 2008. Dr. Vassall's contributions to Washington's health care industry cannot be overstated.

It is because of physicians like Dr. Vassall that the Greater Puget Sound Region is now a global center for health care innovation and education. Again, I would like to thank Dr. Vassall for his contributions to Washington's 9th District, and I look forward to working with him in the future as we work for a healthier world.

## ROLL CALL 410, 411, 412, 413

**HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2017*

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on July 25, 2017, I missed four recorded votes on the House floor due to family commitments. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 410, YEA on Roll Call 411, YEA on Roll Call 412, and YEA on Roll Call 413.