

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.