

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker I was not present on July 12, 2004, due to a train and bad weather. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Holt Amendment to the Legislative Appropriations bill (rollcall 359), "no" on the Hefley Amendment to the Legislative Appropriations bill (rollcall 360), "yes" on the Motion to Recommit (rollcall 361), and "yes" on final passage of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill (rollcall 362).

IN RECOGNITION OF LAURA DOMINGUEZ

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Laura Dominguez, a very special young woman whose life can teach us all about the power of perseverance and love. Laura is a bit quiet until you get to know her, but once you do, you find that she is smart, witty, and brave. You also learn of her loving family: her parents, Rosie and Abel, and her older brother Abel Aaron.

In July 2001, Laura and her brother were driving home from summer school. There was an oil slick in the road that made the car uncontrollable. Laura broke her neck at the C-6 level, qualifying her as a quadriplegic. At that time, doctors told her that she would never walk again. Laura was undaunted by this prognosis.

Ever since that day, Laura and her family have demonstrated an unbelievable amount of fortitude and perseverance. They have consulted with a number of spinal cord specialists with the hope of watching Laura walk again. Laura spent six months in St. Louis and one year in California so that she could receive the best treatment available. It was in California that the Dominguez family learned of a surgery being done in Portugal in which tissue from one's sinus area is transplanted into the spinal cord at the injury sight. In March 2003, Laura traveled to Portugal and became the tenth person in the world, and only the second American, to undergo this surgery.

By July 2003, 70% of the lesion in Laura's spinal cord looked like normal spinal cord tissue. Since that phenomenal surgery, Laura has also regained feeling down to her hip level and she has begun to regain some feeling and movement in her legs. Now Laura, once seen as a lost cause by some members of the medical community, has regained her ability to stand with the use of a walker.

Laura is in Washington, D.C., today to share her story, so that we may put a face to the abstract debates that occur in Congress regarding the benefits of stem cell research. Laura is also a living symbol of hope for the more than 200,000 people in the United States who are living with a spinal cord injury. Her story demonstrates the seemingly unattainable feats that can be accomplished when one has faith in oneself, and the unwavering love and support from family and friends.

I wish Laura and her family many blessings as she continues to push her body and her mind to overcome her physical challenges.

HONORING JAN PERKINS, CITY MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jan Perkins, City Manager for the City of Fremont, California, a community of 208,000 people. Jan has provided exemplary service during her more than 26 years in city management. She will soon retire from her position as Fremont's City Manager and she will be sorely missed.

In addition to serving Fremont, Jan's city management included Morgan Hill as City Manager, Santa Ana as Assistant City Manager, and as Assistant City Manager in Grand Rapids and Adrian, Michigan.

Jan received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Kansas. She also received a certification for the Program for Senior Executives in State & Local Government from the acclaimed John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

A member of the International City Managers Association, Jan has chaired several committees within the Association, including the International Committee, the Awards Committee, Innovations Advisory Committee, and Conference Planning Committee. She is President of the California City Management Foundation, is a member of the Executive Board of the City Manager's Department of the League of California Cities, a Fellow with the national Academy for Public Administration and a member of the Niles Rotary Club in Fremont.

Jan's dedication, expertise in city management, and her proficient leadership abilities have greatly benefited the city of Fremont and beyond. I applaud Jan Perkins for her contributions and wish her well in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF COLENIA CANFIELD

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of Colenia Canfield who has spent the last four years hand crocheting lap robes for veterans at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC).

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Center is one of the best veteran health centers in the nation. Last year alone they logged over 650,000 outpatient visits. Most of these dedicated veterans are from Houston and south-east Texas.

As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 305 of American Legion Post 305 in The Woodlands, TX. Ms. Canfield wanted to express her appreciation for the service these veterans have rendered to this country. She wanted them to know that she and thousands

of the others in our community are grateful for their sacrifice that has kept our country free.

A good friend suggested Colenia should use her talent to crochet as a way to bless area veterans. In October 2000, she started to crochet lap robes for the veterans receiving care at the DeBakey Medical Center. Colenia hasn't stopped crocheting since.

Colenia Canfield completed her first robe on October 14, 2000 and has recently completed her 200th robe. Each robe consists of 81 squares that are eight inches by eight inches and takes 80 hours of hand crochet labor each to complete. She intends to make the lap robes as long as we have veterans. Colenia Canfield's dedication and love of this country and the brave veterans who have dedicated their lives to defending it should be an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Colenia Canfield. All of the residents of The Woodlands, Texas, and the 8th Congressional District are grateful for her dedication and service to our nation's veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall numbers 359, 360, 361 and 362. I was unavoidably detained and was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall numbers 359, 360, 361 and 362.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. On Monday, July 12, I was unavoidably detained on Amtrak for over 7 hours, due to bad weather, while traveling back for votes on rollcall Nos. 359-362. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 359, "no" on rollcall vote 360, and "yea" on rollcall votes 361 and 362.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. I was unavoidably detained on rollcall votes 359-362 due to a prior obligation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 359, "no" on rollcall 360, "yea" on rollcall 361, and "yea" on rollcall 362.