

and missed Rollcall votes 867, 868, and 869. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for each of the three measures.

HONORING CREAM CITY FOUNDATION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 25th anniversary of Cream City Foundation. Founded in 1982, Cream City Foundation serves as the leading foundation to mobilize philanthropic resources, build allied coalitions, effect positive change, and advance the dignity, worth, and health of every LGBT person in Southeastern Wisconsin.

This vision is realized through the organization's mission of building a strong foundation and infrastructure in the Southeastern Wisconsin LGBT community by distributing funds to emerging groups and programs that enhance the quality of life for LGBT people.

On the evening of September 22, the community will gather at the beautiful Milwaukee City Hall to note the incredible work of this vibrant foundation. The programs and interests that make up the work of Cream City Foundation are driven by a belief that philanthropy has an immense influence on creating long-lasting social change in our communities. Leadership from the LGBT community and our allies has been essential in bringing about that social change. We've come a long way, but our work is far from over. Despite all of our accomplishments over the years, homophobia is still all too pervasive.

Yet, with the continued help of Cream City Foundation, and the partnership of so many groups and individuals working in the community, there is no limit to what can be achieved in the years to come. These are historic times for the LGBT community. As we work together to build a community of acceptance and inclusion, Cream City Foundation will continue to lead the way.

It is fitting and appropriate that in the same year as the State of Wisconsin celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Nation's first Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act we take time to congratulate Cream City Foundation on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. Your efforts are truly changing the world. I'm delighted to join with all of Wisconsin's citizens in saluting Cream City Foundation.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA HONORAIR VETERANS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from South Louisiana.

On September 22, 2007 a group of 97 veterans and their guardians will fly to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these veterans from my home state of Louisiana to

visit Washington, DC on a chartered flight free of charge. During their visit, they will visit Arlington National Cemetery and the World War II Memorial. For many, this will be their first and only opportunity to see these sights dedicated to the great service they have provided for our nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their unselfish service.

ESTABLISHING A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1657, the Science and Technology Scholarship Program. H.R. 1657 will establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs. I support H.R. 1657 because it allows more students the opportunity to pursue careers in fields that are vital in preserving our world, and will further enhance the knowledge base of our country.

Mr. Speaker, we need to encourage more of our students to enter the meteorology and climatology fields. The young minds of this country are our greatest asset, and I support the effort today to encourage innovation, creative thinking, and academic competitiveness. I am confident we will reap major returns on this program long into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 1657 because it will provide for the recruitment and preparation of students for careers in the National Weather Service and in Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs. The legislation specifies a competitive program to select and award scholarships on the basis of academic merit, with consideration given to financial need and the goal of promoting the participation of individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act. Individuals selected under the program agree to serve as full-time employees of NOAA, for a brief period in positions for which individuals are qualified.

Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Science Committee and a strong supporter of higher education, I have been a champion of equipping young minds with the technological and scientific knowledge necessary to compete in a globalized economy. Further, within the context of globalization, I strongly believe that this country's ability to achieve and maintain a high standard of living is dependent on the extent to which it can harness science and technology. Thus, in order to enhance the international competitiveness of the country, it is therefore critical for us to promote and support students pursuing careers in meteorology, climatology and atmospheric research.

For these reasons, I am proud to support H.R. 1657 and urge my colleagues to join me.

AMERICAN HERO FINALLY RECOGNIZED

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it's never too late to say thank you and recognize a hero of our Armed Forces even if it is 62 years later. I had the opportunity to do this when I recently met William Oliver Sievertson, of Kingwood, Texas.

Sievertson served in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1945 during World War II and fought against the Japanese in the Battle of Sugar Loaf Hill in Okinawa, Japan. This battle included some of the fiercest fighting of the Pacific Theater in which his division, the Sixth Marine Division Reinforced, suffered 2,662 casualties.

According to Mr. James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy in 1945, "Units of the division withstood overwhelming artillery and mortar barrages, repulsed furious counter-attacks and staunchly pushed over the rocky terrain to reduce almost impregnable defenses and captured Sugar Loaf Hill."

Sievertson was wounded during this battle on May 19, 1945 and received the Purple Heart. After recovering in a Navy hospital in Guam, he returned to his unit and participated in the occupation of Japan after its surrender to the United States.

Many years later as a civilian, Sievertson learned from the West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars Newsletter that his division had been given a Presidential Unit Citation from President Harry S. Truman. The article described how another Marine had served in the same division during the same time period and had received the award from his U.S. Senator decades later. This inspired Sievertson to contact his Congressman to see if he qualified for the award also.

After some inquiries by my staff, we learned that Sievertson did indeed qualify for the citation and was long overdue to receive it. After 62 years, on August 20, 2007, I had the pleasure of personally awarding Mr. Sievertson the Presidential Unit Citation for the Battle of Sugar Loaf Hill. Along with his wife Joy Sievertson, their children and grandchildren, we held an award ceremony in my district office in Humble, Texas, to finally present the award to him.

Mr. William Sievertson is a shining example of America's Greatest Generation. He courageously served his country in a time of World War to battle America's enemies abroad. It is my honor to finally give recognition to this American patriot for his heroic service to our great nation.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND FRED AND JACQUELYN ROGERS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Reverend Fred and Jacquelyn Rogers. As the love between Fred and

Jackie grew throughout their fifty years of marriage, so did their love for the church and communities of Northwest Florida.

A native of Milton, Florida, Fred Rogers has devoutly served Northwest Florida as Pastor of Milton First Assembly of God since 1960. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club and a member of the Santa Rosa County Ministerial Association.

Out of her passion for teaching and love for children, Jackie Rogers has proudly served in the Santa Rosa County Florida school district, where she currently teaches Kindergarten and first grade Sunday school.

Fred and Jackie continue to demonstrate their strong family values and unwavering faith in God as loving parents and grandparents.

Through their leadership and dedication, Fred and Jackie honorably and spiritually served the church and the Northwest Florida community. Northwest Florida is truly blessed to have them as her own. Together, they have touched a number of lives, and the impact they have made on the community will leave a lasting impression.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is a great honor for me to recognize Reverend Fred and Jackie Rogers for their love and dedicated service to the communities of Northwest Florida. I would like to offer my sincere congratulations in celebration of their 50 years together and recognize that they serve as an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained and missed one of Tuesday's rollcall votes, No. 877. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3096, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN SCOTT SHIMP

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a brave man from my District, Captain Scott Shimp, a 1998 graduate of Bayard High School. Captain Shimp died last week when his Black Hawk helicopter crashed during training exercises in Alabama.

Scott was an enthusiastic young man who loved serving his country. A consummate soldier and a graduate of West Point Academy, he was a credit to the Bayard community—a community which has rallied around those he left behind.

My heart goes out to Scott's family and all affected by his death. We owe him a debt of gratitude we can repay by living up to the example he set in his personal and professional life.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANNY VARGAS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to call to the attention of the House the outstanding public service of Raul Danny Vargas to his fellow citizens of Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

Danny took the helm of my 10th District Hispanic Advisory Committee when it was created over 2 years ago. As its first chairman, he has directed the group's efforts in providing a forum for issues of interest to the Hispanic community in northern Virginia and advising me on ways to assist the community and respond to its unique concerns.

Through his extraordinary leadership, the group's membership as well as its outreach to the community have grown and advanced. Danny has led the committee in advising me on issues of importance to the Hispanic community, such as the infiltration of gangs in our community and how to respond. He led the advisory panel in organizing a gang prevention town hall meeting conducted in Spanish in the Herndon community. The committee also has addressed education and immigration issues of importance to the growing Hispanic population in northern Virginia.

Danny is living the "American Dream." He was raised in a single parent home along with three other siblings by his mother, who immigrated to America from Puerto Rico. Danny served his country as an Air Force intelligence officer before launching his own company, VARCom Solutions, a full-service marketing, sales, and communications support company located in Herndon. An active leader in the business, Hispanic and at-large communities, he has served as chairman of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce. He also was appointed as a board member for two nonprofit organizations in northern Virginia—Northern Virginia Family Service and the Fairfax Partnership for Youth, lending his expertise in marketing, communications, media, and public relations to these organizations and their missions to serve the needs of families and youth in the region.

Danny Vargas is a proven and respected business and community leader. As he turns over the reins of the 10th District Hispanic Advisory Committee, I want to thank him on behalf of the people of the 10th District for his hard work and dedication to making the 10th District a better place to live and work and raise a family.

HONORING CHARLES W. "WES" KEARNEY, SR.

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, Charles W. "Wes" Kearney, Sr. of Brandon, Florida, passed away on August 11, 2007, in the loving presence of his friends and family.

Wes was a well-known and respected member of the community, whose entrepreneurial

spirit and generous character not only defined him as a person, but played an important role in the lives of others.

During World War II, Wes served in the United States Navy, joining the United States in the fight to defend our Nation and to defend those who could not defend themselves. His service to this country is honored and greatly admired.

Following the War, Wes grabbed a hold of the American dream and eventually founded many companies under the Kearney name. Through generous philanthropy, Wes used the success of his businesses to improve his community and help others.

Wes will be best remembered as a man whose virtue and integrity is unmatched, as well as someone who was deeply dedicated to his family and friends.

He leaves behind a beautiful family, and is survived by his lovely wife Joanne, his son Bryan and wife Dawn and their children, Skye and Sean; son Barry and wife Susan and their children, Tara and Logan; and son Bing and his children, son Chad and his wife Shayna, Chase, Clay and Charlie.

As we celebrate his life, we know that he will be dearly missed.

IN HONOR OF THE A.I. DUPONT HIGH SCHOOL TIGER MARCHING BAND

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the A.I. DuPont High School Tiger Marching Band as they prepare for their fifth appearance in the Rose Parade. The school, located in Wilmington, Delaware, has worked hard to create a strong musical program, for which they should be very proud. The band's musical performances, which are selected and designed by the students, are always an exciting event for the entire community.

The band boasts an impressive record worthy of high praise. Their performances have inspired audiences at countless local, national and even international events. Some of these notable appearances include; two Orange Bowl Parades, two Presidential Inaugurations, the dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, a Peace Parade in Vatican City and four Rose Parades—soon to be five. They are currently the most televised high school band in America and have placed first in every marching competition they have entered since 1989. That is why it is no surprise that when I was asked to recommend a band to represent Delaware in the 2008 Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC, the A.I. DuPont Tigers quickly came to mind.

There are currently 265 members in the Tiger Marching Band, all of whom have worked tirelessly to carry on the strong Tiger tradition set before them. Their efforts are evident, which is why they have been invited to participate in the 119th Rose Parade this January in Pasadena, California. This makes them the only band outside California to march in the parade four times under the same director. I am confident they will represent Delaware well in California on New Year's Day.