

death in my immediate family that required me to remain in South Carolina.

Regarding the votes that I missed please see below for the way that I would have voted had I been present: rollcall vote No. 3—On Ordering the Previous Question—“nay”; rollcall vote No. 4—On Motion to Commit with Instructions—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 5—On Agreeing to the Resolution—“nay”; rollcall vote No. 6—On adoption of Title I of the Resolution—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 7—On adoption of Title 2 of the Resolution—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 8—On adoption of Title 3 of the Resolution—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 9—On adoption of Title 4 of the Resolution—“nay”; rollcall vote No. 10—On Motion to Commit with Instructions—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 11—On adoption of Title 4 of the Resolution—“nay.”

TRIBUTE TO PAULA STONITSCH

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor beloved teacher Paula Stonitsch of Petaluma, California, who passed away December 13 at the age of 90. Mrs. Stonitsch was that special kind of teacher who, like many wonderful educators across the country, is remembered for a lifetime by the children she inspired.

For over 40 years, Paula taught at Petaluma High School where my four children—and many others—learned to care about their government and to understand how it works. Her own children were also in her classes, where she reminded them that they must earn their grades like everyone else. She also taught night classes at Santa Rosa Junior College, SRJC.

Born in San Francisco in 1916 to German-speaking immigrants who had high ambitions for their children, Paula Gibrony went on to attend UC Berkeley, majoring in German and history, graduated from Valparaiso University in Indiana, and earned a teaching credential at UC Berkeley.

In 1941 she married Gottfried Stonitsch of Petaluma, whom she had met through friends of relatives there. She moved to Petaluma to join him and began teaching German and American history at the high school in 1951 and German classes at SRJC in the 1960s. In 1962, Paula Stonitsch won a Fulbright Exchange Teaching Scholarship which enabled her to teach for a year in Germany where she conducted her classes in German. She retired from Petaluma High School in 1990 but continued teaching at the JC until shortly before her death.

As the founder of a group called the Nut Ladies at St. John Lutheran Church in Petaluma, Paula was also known for her energies in supporting the church. Her group picked and sold walnuts, with the proceeds benefiting St. John.

Paula is survived by daughters Elizabeth Ravenscroft, Adrienna Rodgers, and Erika Stonitsch and sister Gisela Krueger.

Madam Speaker, teachers like Paula Stonitsch offer a rare gift to our young people, a gift that truly gives back to our country as these students grow up to become our citizens and our leaders. The generations of Petaluma children who were fortunate enough to study

with her will never forget the lessons she taught and the pride they learned.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in reluctant opposition to Title IV of H. Res. 6, adopting the rules of the 110th Congress. This title purports to uphold a commitment to fiscal responsibility, but in actuality it includes a mechanism by which the new majority may increase taxes for hard-working Americans. Ultimately, this title could facilitate tax increases while preventing tax relief measures for millions of Americans. Instead, the House should reaffirm our commitment to fiscal responsibility by passing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution so that Congress does not spend more than it takes in.

To be clear, I do support an important provision contained in Title IV—namely, the provision concerning the long-overdue reform for congressional earmarks. I have long supported measures to bring transparency and accountability to the earmarking process to ensure that the American people know their money is not being squandered. In fact, I proudly supported H.R. 4975, the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act, as well as H. Res. 1000, both of which passed last year to amend the rules of the House to address earmark reform. These two measures were the first steps in ending the abuse of earmarks by a few members and increasing fiscal trust in Congress. I fully support the continuation of these efforts to crack down on earmark misuse and improve the financial transparency of our budget.

Regrettably, the important earmark reform provision of this title was coupled with a measure that could potentially increase taxes for all Americans. This provision, known as pay-as-you-go, or PAYGO, seems like a beneficial tool to fiscal responsibility on its face. PAYGO budgetary rules require new mandatory spending be offset by either other equal reductions in mandatory spending or by revenue increases. However, with plans for new direct spending programs and budgetary rules that do not accurately score the effect of tax reductions on future economic growth, PAYGO is really a policy of “tax and spend as you go.”

For this reason, I must reluctantly oppose this title. Instead, I will support the motion to commit, which will ensure Americans are not squeezed in their pocketbooks by requiring a three-fifths vote to pass any congressional tax hike.

The three-fifths requirement was an important reform of the Contract with America, instituted in 1995 to protect Americans from unfair tax increases. By failing to guarantee this requirement, millions of American families and small businesses could be threatened by money grabs from greedy tax writers. This is not right. Over the past several years, our economy has seen levels of unprecedented growth as a result of the 2003 tax cuts. Today, with over seven million payroll jobs created and the Dow Jones Industrial Average at record highs, it would be irresponsible to jeopardize the economic progress we have made.

In addition, I call for the House of Representatives to consider H.J. Res. 1, which proposes a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States. I have joined over 100 of my fiscally responsible and forward-thinking colleagues in cosponsoring this bill, which is a real solution to deficit spending. For the first time ever, this amendment would put it in our Constitution—in the very fabric of our democracy—that taxpayers’ money belongs to them and that Congress has the obligation of spending it carefully and responsibly. I wholeheartedly support this vital amendment and I sincerely hope this House will uphold our commitment to our constituents by considering and passing H.J. Res. 1.

Again, I cannot support Title IV of H. Res. 6 because it allows for a needless increase of the financial burden on all American families. Instead, I support the motion to commit and the Balanced Budget Amendment as real steps forward in reducing the tax burden on American families and committing ourselves to true fiscal responsibility. Our obligation to hardworking taxpayers deserve no less.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the legacy of former President Gerald R. Ford.

Although I never served with President Ford personally, I admire him for his record as a leader in the House of Representatives, and later for accepting one of the greatest challenges an individual can assume—the Presidency of the United States of America.

In the past couple of weeks, we have heard many historians talk about President Ford’s legacy of healing our nation in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal. At the time, he was sharply criticized for his decision to pardon President Richard Nixon, but now he has been lauded for moving this country forward. I think they are right. I admire him for the courage he had in making what was arguably one of the most difficult decisions a sitting president has ever made.

As a Midwesterner myself, I would like to think that it was some of the values and experiences that President Ford had while growing up in Michigan that helped shape him into the courageous and good-natured leader that he later became.

While President Ford played football for what we Ohio State University fans refer to as “the team up north,” he demonstrated his good-natured personality the day that he gave the university’s 1974-commencement address. It was just a few weeks after he became president and legendary football coach Woody Hayes was still at OSU. According to a recent story in The Columbus Dispatch, he said: “We just had our picture taken together and when that picture appears in today’s Dispatch, I’m pretty sure what the caption will say,” Ford said. “Woody Hayes and friend.”

President Ford loved our country, and he served it with integrity, which helped restore the public’s confidence in the presidency.

I proudly join my colleagues in honoring him with this resolution, and expressing our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Betty Ford and her family.

21ST ANNUAL CHILI BOWL MIDGET NATIONALS TULSA, OKLAHOMA

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, this weekend marks the 21st Annual Chili Bowl Midget Nationals held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This great event, which was founded in 1987, is organized by Emmett Hahn and Lanny Edwards, recent inductees into the National Midget Auto Racing Hall of Fame. The Chili Bowl is referred to as midget racing's answer to the Super Bowl.

This annual event draws thousands of people to the Tulsa area from around the country and will bring in an estimated \$12 million to Tulsa's economy. The Chili Bowl itself, held in the Tulsa Expo Center, is an exciting four nights of super powered midget vehicles racing on a quarter-mile clay oval track.

The Chili Bowl draws everyone from amateur drivers to NASCAR champions, who view this event as a great way to spend their off season. This year's event will feature Kasey Kahne, who drives for Evernham Motorsports in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series, and Tony Stewart, who drives for Joe Gibbs Racing in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series and was the Chili Bowl champion in 2002. In addition, reigning Chili Bowl champion Tim McCreadie will be there to defend his title.

I would like to welcome all the fans and participants to Tulsa and hope that they have a fun, safe event.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH NELSON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotism and military service of Mr. Keith Nelson of Fleming, Colorado.

Mr. Nelson was born in Sterling, Colorado, and served in the Army in the Pacific theater during World War II from 1944 to 1946. During his military service, he witnessed an incredibly significant moment in history, the end of the Battle of Okinawa. I believe his story is most worthy of being preserved in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

It was close to the end of the fighting in Okinawa, when L Company, 32nd Regiment, 7th Infantry Division had been assigned the task of taking a grove of trees near the southern tip of the island, one of the last pockets of Japanese resistance. Mr. Nelson's platoon was led by a former marine who wanted the glory of reaching the ocean first. As they entered the trees, an American flame throwing tank came up behind them; it had probably been assigned the job of burning the brush and flushing out any concealed Japanese soldiers.

Being the scout of the platoon, Mr. Nelson was assigned the job of stopping the tank. He

went warily back, and walked up very close to the tank, and shouted at the soldiers inside. They hadn't seen Nelson, and when they heard him, they threw the flamethrower in his face. He jumped back and began yelling so they would know he wasn't the enemy and, fortunately they calmed down.

When Nelson got back to his company, his platoon leader rushed them through the grove as fast as they could go. If enemy soldiers had been in there, they would all have been dead.

They kept moving until they could see the edge of the cliff bordering the water; their leader had achieved his objective. As platoon scout, Mr. Nelson was the first to look upon that glorious scene, the end of the Battle of Okinawa. And though he didn't know it at the time, that made him the first to see the end of fighting in World War II.

After the war, Keith returned to Colorado and married Wanda Moncrief in 1948. They had four sons, Dennis, Brett, Elon, and Gary. Mr. Nelson currently resides in Fleming, Colorado.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Nelson's selfless service to our Nation. His story should be preserved for posterity. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, Mr. Keith Nelson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll call No. 13; On agreeing to the Resolution (H. Res. 35). Had I been present, I would have voted "No."

RECOGNIZING BRAD BAILEY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brad Bailey, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

I join with his family and friends in expressing best wishes on his significant achievement. I commend Brad on attaining such a high honor and his superior contributions in his community. In addition, Brad has shown much patriotism by serving me in two of my offices as an intern. I am sure he will continue to hold such high standards in the future.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Brad Bailey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Brad in the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING REBEKAH FRIEND FOR HER APPOINTMENT AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ARIZONA AFL-CIO

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate Ms. Rebekah Friend for her appointment as the new executive director of the Arizona AFL-CIO. In this capacity she will manage the day-to-day operations of the organization. Through this appointment, Ms. Friend is once again making history in Arizona's labor movement by being the first woman appointed to this position. Previously, she was the first female president of the Arizona AFL-CIO chapter.

Ms. Friend began her labor career in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers over 25 years ago. During her time as president of the Arizona AFL-CIO, Ms. Friend led numerous initiatives aimed at advancing the working conditions of Arizona's workers, such as improving unemployment insurance and worker's compensation for union members. Additionally, Ms. Friend has worked arduously to raise awareness of the plight of immigrant workers. During this past election season, she also chaired the Minimum Wage Coalition, which successfully helped pass proposition 202 to increase Arizona's minimum wage.

Apart from her work at the Arizona AFL-CIO, Ms. Friend has also served in official capacities with the Arizona Consumer Council, Arizona Citizen Action, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Southern Poverty Law Center, Habitat for Humanity, and Emerge Arizona. She was the YWCA's 2004 Woman of the Year and was presented with a lifetime achievement award by the Arizona Democratic Party in 2002.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Rebekah Friend for her recent appointment and to express my gratitude for her determination in fighting for the rights of all of Arizona's workers.

HONORING RALPH MOORE

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Ralph Moore of Visalia, California, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on January 14, 2007.

Mr. Moore has devoted his life as an innovative agriculturist. He founded Sequoia Nursery in Visalia, California in 1937 with \$800 and a dream of hybridizing miniature roses. His dream became reality, and it continues to thrive today.

Mr. Moore's achievements go beyond his entrepreneurial accomplishments. He has introduced more than 500 roses onto the market, mainly miniatures. He has received the American Rose Society's "Award of Excellence" for 20 of his miniature rose introductions, as well as being honored with other prestigious national and international awards over the years. In 2004, the City of Visalia