

had the honor of performing at Carnegie Hall. She was also an avid reader, a sports fan and a lifelong golfer. She will be remembered by family, friends and colleagues for her laughter, her insight, her honesty and her vibrant spirit.

This evening, we salute and honor a great human being, Ms. Andrea Lewis. Our community is indebted to her life's contribution in countless ways. We extend our deepest condolences to Ms. Lewis's family and to all who were dear to her. May her soul rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit to the RECORD the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on December 14th. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

H. Res. 779—Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month, roll No. 969—"yea."

H. Res. 942—Commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup, roll No. 970—"yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 969, Runaway Prevention Month, rollcall No. 970, Real Salt Lake Soccer Club, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JAMES H. AND ELIZABETH GARBUTT SHAW

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 70th wedding anniversary of two American patriots residing in my District. Their deep dedication to this country founded in the commitment to each other is a testament to the strong values that have made this country and its people the model for the world to emulate.

James Henry Shaw married Elizabeth Garbutt on December 14, 1939 in Valdosta, GA. James is a former U.S. Marine who stormed the beaches of Yellow Beach with the First Marine Division on April 1, 1945 and fought long and hard in the entire 82-day campaign that saw over 50,000 American casualties including over 12,000 dead or missing. James was one of those casualties sustaining shrapnel wounds in his side earning him the Purple Heart. Once the island was secure, James and his fellow Marines began training exercises preparing to invade the main Islands

of Japan on their push to Tokyo until the Japanese surrendered on August 15, 1945. He was then part of the occupying U.S. forces in China before returning home in 1946. Elizabeth remained back on the home front contributing to the vital efforts supporting our troops abroad. She raised two children and is now the proud matriarch of a family that has grown into 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Her son was a career Air Force enlisted man with his children all serving proudly in the officer and enlisted ranks of the United States Air Force. Her daughter had two sons that attended the United States Naval Academy and are currently active duty officers in the United States Navy. Besides being a father and grandfather, James has been a career railroad freight man moving to trucking freight later in his life and retiring. James and Elizabeth are now in their 9th decade, still living unassisted, and until recently, served tirelessly and unselfishly as volunteers at their local polling precinct assisting others to vote.

This achievement allows for reflection on what it means to remain in a committed and loving relationship dedicated to the values and ideals that help shape and foster the citizens of this great country. On behalf of my colleagues, and myself, I extend to James and Elizabeth Shaw my gratitude, deep appreciation, and continued health for many more years to come. Thank you both for your service and commitment to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I missed 2 votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 969, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, to H. Res. 779, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 970, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 942, I would have voted "yea."

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE McALLEN MONITOR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the McAllen Monitor, which has served as a vital news source for the Rio Grande Valley of south Texas and our communities.

This newspaper has accomplished a "century of service" to our community over the years.

From copy boys in the past, to computers in the present, the Monitor has kept an unprecedented pulse on south Texas.

They've generated news and reports of historic people, legends, events, tragedies and accomplishments, that have served to shape the story of the Rio Grande Valley.

The first issue was released on December 11, 1909.

The Monitor was founded in a small facility at the corner of Beaumont and Broadway in McAllen, Texas.

It was "humble beginnings" for our neighborhood paper.

Now the Monitor has a 100,000 square foot building, equipped with modern equipment and journalists of all backgrounds.

Over the past 100 years, the Monitor has undergone change, along with changes in news on a daily basis.

The paper was even renamed four times. But the spirit of its content, unchanged through all the years.

For a century now, the Monitor has provided a steady flow of information as a trusted news source throughout the region.

The McAllen Monitor has covered groundbreaking news items that have shaped the Nation, State, and community.

From 1909 to 2009, the newspaper has covered landmark events including:

"Black Tuesday" when the Nation fell into the Great Depression;

1933 when a hurricane hit Brownsville to McAllen;

and in August 1957, a Russian spy was taken into custody in McAllen.

In 1968, Hispanics participated in a walkout at Ecouch-Elsa High School because of unjust treatment in the school.

Three years later, Cesar Chavez visited the Valley followed by the great late Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy who visited the Valley in October 1980.

These are landmark, local civil rights movements in our community.

For all these events in history, the Monitor was there.

That's why they are our trusted news source in the Rio Grande Valley, McAllen and in south Texas.

They are our local newspaper who understands the spirit of our City and the values of our People.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 100th anniversary of the McAllen Monitor newspaper.

The Monitor is celebrating 100 years of service, continuing its mission for the Rio Grande Valley of south Texas.

A century of news for our community, so I commend and congratulate the Monitor with the greatest gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF MUNDELEIN'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mundelein, a town in my district celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

Mundelein is celebrating its 100th anniversary. As early as 1650, the Potawatomi Indians were trading with French fur traders in the area now known as Mundelein. Nearly two centuries later, a group of English immigrants came to the area and named their new community "Mechanics Grove". In 1921, Cardinal George Mundelein of Chicago bought property

in the village to construct St. Mary's of the Lake Seminary. The village changed its name again in 1924 in recognition of Cardinal Mundelein's success with the new seminary. Today, Mundelein has grown to a residential community of over 30,000 residents.

Madam Speaker, the village of Mundelein is unique in its history and adds to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of village of Mundelein for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Mundelein for reaching their 100th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I participated in an official trip to the Middle East to visit troops and commanders on the ground. As a result, I missed two votes on Monday, December 14, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 969 and 970.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DEBORAH K. CRAWFORD

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Deborah K. Crawford of Jacksonville, Florida who has dedicated over 35 years of her professional career towards the protection of individual rights and reducing the administrative burden on taxpayers.

Deborah Crawford began her career as a Collection Representative for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) working in Jacksonville, FL representing many low-income individuals who needed help accessing benefits that they may have been entitled to under the law.

Deborah later moved onto the Problem Resolution Program (PRP), as a collection technician. Her positive attitude and willingness to go the extra mile was extremely beneficial to the citizens of North Florida which earned her the selection as the Congressional Liaison in the PRP.

When the PRP was displaced by the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) Deborah continued on in her role as the Congressional Liaison. TAS is an independent organization within the IRS whose employees assist taxpayers who are experiencing economic hardships, who are seeking help in resolving problems with the IRS, or who believe that an IRS system or procedure is not working as it should.

Deborah also works with the Low Income Taxpayer Clinics to assure that the clinics operate within the guidelines and to provide representation to low income taxpayers with tax matters before the Internal Revenue Service.

Deborah continues her service to North Florida during her personal time with activities

that include volunteer work with the animal shelter, zoo, and church. I commend and congratulate the impressive career history of Deborah K. Crawford and her devoted service to the taxpayers of North Florida.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4173, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009.

Over the past year, we became aware of many financial practices which were abusive and reckless. We're putting an end to those practices and making "too big to fail" a thing of the past. Americans will no longer be responsible for the bad business calculations and irresponsible behavior that almost brought down our entire economic system. This bill effectively ends the notion of a government guarantee by allowing large, systemically risky institutions to fail at their own expense and in a way that doesn't jeopardize the whole U.S. financial system.

The legislation holds Wall Street accountable through increased transparency and regulation of risky practices. A new systemic risk regulator will monitor financial activity across the whole sector to identify risks and irresponsible behavior and prevent them from becoming a problem for individual investors and the entire economy. The bill also establishes an orderly process for dismantling large, failing companies—at their own expense, and requires that stockholders and executives take a financial hit if risky deals fall through, ensuring an end to taxpayer funded bailouts.

This bill effectively reforms our financial system without unduly restricting appropriate risk-taking. This is pro-business, anti-bailout legislation that aims to address the flaws in the current system in a targeted manner to minimize the burden on those who did not cause the crisis, like Community Banks and Credit Unions—most of whom will be exempt from additional oversight by the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, CFPA.

We are addressing the fractured oversight that exists in our current system. In creating a Consumer Financial Protection Agency, we will establish a baseline for consumer financial protection and target the appropriate financial institutions. If we are willing to demand that products used by our children are reviewed for safety, we should demand appropriate oversight for the financial products we use to pay for their college. More broadly, the CFPA will ensure that all consumers have a watchdog to protect them against financial institutions engaging in abusive or deceptive practices.

This bill focuses on reforming the system so that we maximize the good and minimize the harm, and I am proud to support it.

JASON HODGE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of Mr. Jason Hodge. A devoted son, brother, nephew, cousin, friend and colleague, Jason Hodge was taken from us too soon, on December 6, 2009. Today, let us find comfort in the joy he inspired and his wonderful spirit. He was a bright, confident, ambitious and kind man, who will be deeply missed.

After graduating from Skyline High School in 1992, Jason Hodge was accepted to the University of California, Berkeley. He soon learned how to overcome obstacles, however, when the local college funding program meant to help pay for his UC Berkeley tuition ran out of money. Although this was a terrible shock to Jason, he decided to utilize ingenuity and diligence to create a solution.

After attending Merritt College for two years, Jason was awarded a tuition scholarship from the Rotary Club of Oakland, enabling him to transfer to UC Berkeley as a junior. At this time, in addition to his studies and community involvement, Jason became the youngest person to ever win a seat on the Oakland School Board—he was only 21 years old.

Jason was elected to the School Board in 1996, after he offered fresh ideas and a student perspective in bringing change to local education programs. Although he had suffered disappointment as a result of the failed "Promise" college funding program, he wanted to do his best to provide opportunity and change for a new generation of Oakland students. He helped administer programs to protect children as they walked to and from school, and to provide transit passes for a safer commute. Jason was one of the first voices to decry the state's lack of funding for local public education, a problem which our community faces in even greater severity today.

Jason served two terms, and decided not to run for re-election to the board after the state took control of the district due to local financial troubles. For the last several years he served as the Vallejo City Unified School District spokesman, also serving as special assistant to Vallejo's superintendent and public information officer.

Jason will be remembered as a warm, compassionate person who was very close to his family. In his free time, he made sure to spend time with the people he loved, and also recently fulfilled a lifelong dream of traveling cross-country by train. He leaves behind his mother, father, three siblings, extended family and many loving friends. Although these days are difficult, I pray that our fond memories of Jason will bring us comfort and strength as we celebrate his life.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great human being, Mr. Jason Hodge. The contributions he made to others throughout his life are countless and precious. May his soul rest in peace.