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HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF CAPTAIN VANESA GILBERT OF HENDERSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, FOR COMPLETING FBI ACADEMY TRAINING

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable North Carolinian. On December 12, 2008, Captain Vanesa Gilbert became the first woman in Henderson County history to have completed FBI Academy training.

According to Henderson County Sheriff Rick Davis, only six local law enforcement officers, including Gilbert, have completed the intensive 11-week course at the academy in Quantico, Virginia. "Captain Gilbert is a superior leader by any measure," he said. "The FBI National Academy is the highest academic achievement in law enforcement. It is very challenging academically as well as physically. It was clear our agency and the county would benefit greatly by sending her."

While Captain Gilbert admitted that she was nervous when she arrived at the Marine base, she excelled during the course and ultimately completed a three-mile obstacle course called "the yellow brick road." For finishing the course, Gilbert received a plaque with a yellow brick on it and the dates she attended the academy.

Gilbert grew up in Hendersonville and graduated from Edneyville High School in 1992. In August of 1992, she moved to Greensboro to attain a two-year degree in law enforcement. In December of 1994, Gilbert completed her basic law enforcement training and moved back to Henderson County to work for the Sheriff's Office. At the Henderson County Sheriff's office, she worked as the Civil Process Secretary before being promoted to Corporal, and later to Lieutenant of the Civil Process division.

Upon completion of the FBI Academy Training, Gilbert was promoted to Captain of the Detention Center, courthouse security and the ICE program. Sheriff Rick Davis says of Gilbert, "She is recognized by the whole department as a highly qualified thoughtful leader with exceptionally high standards. Don't let her size and charm fool you; if anyone fails to meet her work ethics, they will have awaken a giant they can't handle."

It is with great respect and gratitude that I commend Captain Vanesa Gilbert for her great accomplishment and for her ongoing service to Henderson County. She serves as a role model for all women and girls who aspire to careers in law enforcement. Her dedication and hard work are an inspiration to all.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INCLUSION ACT (FMLA)

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to reintroduce the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act, which amends the FMLA to permit leave to care for a domestic partner, same-sex spouse, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, grandparent or child of a domestic partner, if that person has a serious health condition.

The landmark 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act allows qualified workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave a year to care for newborns or to care for himself/herself, parents, children under 18 or a legal spouse if that person has a serious health condition. Since becoming law over sixteen years ago, it has allowed many tens of millions of Americans to take unpaid leave without the risk of losing their jobs.

But, imagine if your domestic partner, same-sex spouse, adult child, parent-in-law, or grandparent was involved in a serious car accident and had no one to take care of him or her. Then imagine your employer telling you that you can't take a few unpaid days off work to care for your loved one because your relationship is not covered by FMLA. This situation sounds preposterous, but there is no protection for you in current law. That is why the FMLA Inclusion Act is so important.

This session, the bill was improved to permit leave to care for the child of a domestic partner. Often, domestic partners are not able to adopt their partner's child, even when that person is the only parent the child has ever known. The FMLA Inclusion Act would ensure those children can be cared for by the person they call "Mom" or "Dad."

I am pleased that the Human Rights Campaign has endorsed this legislation, and I am proud to introduce it with the support of original cosponsors Representatives BALDWIN, WOOLSEY, FRANK, POLIS, DELAHUNT, HIRONO, FARR, ISRAEL and NADLER.

The FMLA Inclusion Act represents simple fairness, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that this fairness prevails.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, on Monday, April 27, I was absent for three rollcall votes. If I had been here, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall vote 207; "yea" on rollcall vote 208; and "yea" on rollcall vote 209.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ASSISTANT COACH JIM SLONE FOR COACHING THE OAK HILL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Coach Jim Slone showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Jim Slone was a leader and mentor for the Oak Hill High School Boys' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Jim Slone has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Assistant Coach Jim Slone for leading the Oak Hill High School Boys' Basketball Team to winning the Boys' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 Basketball season.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION ACT OF 2009

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission Act of 2009, a bill that will create an independent commission to evaluate U.S. policies and programs aimed at reducing illicit drug supply and demand.

Billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars have been spent over the years to fight the drug war in Latin America and the Caribbean. In spite of our efforts, since the early 1980s, the number of U.S. lifetime drug users has steadily risen for marijuana, cocaine and heroin. Clearly, the time has come to reexamine our counter-narcotics efforts here at home and throughout the Americas. My bill will assess all aspects of the drug war—including prevention and treatment programs in the United States.

Let me be absolutely clear that this bill has not been introduced to support the legalization of illegal drugs. That is not something that I would like to see, nor is it my intent to have the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission come to that conclusion.

While the United States accounts for approximately 5 percent of world population, in 2007, an estimated 17.2 percent of the world's users of illegal drugs were from the United States. 100 percent of the United States cocaine supply and 90 percent of the United States heroin supply originates in South America. In addition, the countries of Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico are key transit countries for drugs entering the U.S.

The Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission will be charged with conducting a

comprehensive review of U.S. illicit drug supply and demand reduction policies and will be required to submit recommendations on future U.S. drug policy to Congress, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

To tackle our nation's horrific drug problem once and for all, we must have a better sense of what works and what does not work. Our partners in the Americas, who have worked closely with us in fighting the drug war for years, and the citizens of our great country, who deal every day with illegal drugs on their streets, deserve no less.

SMA TREATMENT ACCELERATION ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, today, along with my colleague Representative ERIC CANTOR, I am introducing the SMA Treatment Acceleration Act, in an effort to help find a treatment or cure for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), the number one genetic killer of children under the age of two.

SMA is an inherited disease that destroys the nerves controlling muscle movement, which affects crawling, walking, head and neck control, swallowing, and even breathing. The gene mutation that causes SMA is carried by one in every 40 people, or approximately 7.5 million Americans. Each child born of two carriers of the mutant gene has a one in four chance of developing SMA.

Among more than 600 neurological disorders, SMA has been singled out by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as the disease closest to treatment. This priority status is based on scientists' advanced genetic understanding of the disease and a strong collaboration between families, federal agencies, and patient advocacy groups.

Researchers have identified the gene responsible for SMA, as well as a disease modifying "back-up" gene that has opened the door to promising new treatment pathways. This research is providing groundbreaking data for SMA and other neurodegenerative disorders, including the muscular dystrophies, Freidrich's Ataxia, Fragile X syndrome, and Huntington's disease.

This legislation will upgrade and unify SMA clinical trial sites and establish a national clinical trials network for SMA. It will also establish a Data Coordinating Center, expand and intensify federally supported research programs, and promote collaborative research at NIH. Additionally, the bill will enhance and provide support for the SMA patient registry, establish an Interagency SMA Research Coordinating Committee, and establish and implement a program for providing information and education on SMA to health professionals and the general public. These provisions will advance our research and understanding of SMA and lead towards effective treatments. I am proud to be reintroducing this legislation, and I urge your full consideration of this important legislation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING TRAVIS BLEVINS FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Travis Blevins showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Travis Blevins was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Travis Blevins always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Travis Blevins on winning the Boys' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 basketball season.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORMANDY INVASION

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, as we approach the 65th Anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy, it is important to take a moment to remember all of the men and women who bravely served our country in World War II. We all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to these veterans and their families. I am honored to have one such veteran in my district, Corporal Elliott M. Herring. Corporal Herring bravely served in the Battle of Normandy and in the battle which took place in St-Lo. He fought in five major battles in the 3rd Army under General Patton. Throughout his service, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, American Campaign Medal, European Africa Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Service Star, WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal with the Germany Clasp, Combat Infantryman Badge, Honorable Service Lapel Button, Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar WWII and Five Battle Stars. Additionally, he was awarded the Légion d'honneur from France.

Corporal Herring is looking forward to an upcoming visit to the National WWII Memorial, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year. I encourage all veterans, their families, and all Americans to visit the World War II Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C. where the announcement stone reads:

Here in the presence of Washington and Lincoln, one the eighteenth century father and the other the nineteenth century preserver of our nation, we honor those twentieth century Americans who took up the struggle during the Second World War and made the sacrifices to perpetuate the gift our forefathers entrusted to us: a nation conceived in liberty and justice.

May we never forget their sacrifices as we stand here today. Let us continue to honor

these brave men and women who fought so bravely to preserve our freedom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, April 27, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 329, H.R. 1746, and H. Res. 335 and wish the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 207, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 295, Recognizing the anniversary of the tragic accident of the steamboat ship SS Sultana, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 208, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 1746, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2009, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 209, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 335, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week, I would have voted "yea."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING RYAN BORDEN FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ryan Borden showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Ryan Borden was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Ryan Borden always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Ryan Borden on winning the Boys' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 basketball season.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, last week marked the 94th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

I have long been a cosponsor of a resolution introduced in multiple sessions of Congress which reaffirms the United States Record on the Armenian genocide.

The Armenian genocide, in which 1.5 million perished, is widely recognized as the 20th