

630. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three of these measures:

S. 1405, which designates the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site; S. 3167, the Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act of 2010; and H.R. 6510, which allows the Military Museum of Texas to purchase the property on which it operates.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT VINCENT WAYNE ASHLOCK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of United States Army Staff Sergeant Vincent Wayne Ashlock, who died on December 4, 2010, while serving in Khost Province, Afghanistan. Wayne, as he was known to his family and friends, was a loving father, husband, brother, and son who devoted his life in equal measures to his family and our nation. Public service was his calling, and while his death leaves a void in the lives of his family, friends, and comrades, Staff Sergeant Ashlock's patriotism, loyalty, and love, will remain an example to all who had the privilege to know him.

Wayne was born in San Jose, California on May 10, 1965. He grew up in the small farming and military town of Merced in the heart of California's San Joaquin Valley. He enjoyed a small town childhood surrounded by brothers and sisters playing little league baseball and exploring Bear Creek.

Wayne began his military career by enlisting in the Army at age eighteen. He served for ten years on active duty before leaving the Army for civilian life. Following the 9/11 attack, his sense of duty and patriotism led Wayne to enlist in the California National Guard. As a Guardsman, Wayne deployed to Iraq, where he drew on his military experience to help train Ugandan troops. He later sought deployment to Afghanistan. To accomplish this, he transferred from the California National Guard, which had no imminent Afghanistan deployments scheduled, to the Mississippi National Guard which did. Once in there, Wayne served with the 287th Engineer Co., 176 Engineer Bde., 101st Airborne Div. (Air Assault). His unit was assigned to help clear homemade bombs and discover ambushes in front of other units. During his military service, Wayne earned many awards and commendations, among them the Army Commendation Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with a Bronze Service Star, and the Iraq Campaign Medal with a Bronze Service Star.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Angela, and five children, Kali, Jesse, Steven, Erica and Christopher, two grandchildren, Addison and Brady, brothers Ryan, Lonnie, and sister Dawn, his mother Margot, and grandmother Bonnie.

Madam Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in expressing our heartfelt condolences to Staff Sergeant Ashlock's family. Their loss is our nation's loss. Their pain is our nation's pain. Public service was his calling, and while his death leaves a void in the lives of his family, friends, and comrades, Staff Sergeant Ashlock's patriotism, loyalty, and

love, will remain an example to all who had the privilege to know him.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM OBERSTAR

SPEECH OF

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my distinguished colleague from Minnesota, the Dean of our delegation, Chairman JIM OBERSTAR. For nearly four decades, Chairman OBERSTAR has been faithfully serving the Eighth Congressional District of Minnesota in this great body.

From humble beginnings, Chairman OBERSTAR worked to put himself through college in the Minnesota Iron Range mines. After graduating Summa Cum Laude from the college of St. Thomas, he began his tenure in Congress as a congressional staff member. To his final post in Congress as Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chairman OBERSTAR has committed his life to public service and serving the great State of Minnesota.

A native of Chisholm, Minnesota, Congressman OBERSTAR has proudly served the people of Northeast Minnesota for 18 terms, the longest serving Member of Congress from Minnesota.

In his four years as Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chairman OBERSTAR has been instrumental in keeping America moving. From his efforts to create more cycling and hiking paths to his work on aviation and aviation safety, Chairman OBERSTAR has done remarkable work in Congress. His knowledge of transportation issues will be a great loss to this body.

He leaves a strong legacy as his name will be forever tied to important highway, airline and rail safety legislation. His passion for intermodalism is unmatched.

As Chairman OBERSTAR departs, I will miss his knowledge of all things historical and his linguistic talent, specifically his love for French Creole, a language which he picked up while studying in Haiti after college.

In the few short years I have been in Congress, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside Chairman OBERSTAR as a fellow Minnesotan. Chairman OBERSTAR is leaving some large shoes to fill. His wisdom, guidance and expertise will be greatly missed and I thank him for his service to our great State.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPSS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mrs. CAPPSS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes on December 14, 2010, and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 628: "yes"; rollcall No. 629: "yes"; rollcall No. 630: "yes".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence from votes cast on December 14, 2010. My voting percentage is over 95% for the 111th Congress, and I rarely miss votes, but due to a prior commitment scheduled before we knew the House would be in session on Tuesday, I was unable to make it back to Washington in time for votes.

On the three votes I missed: to approve S. 1405, the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site Designation Act, had I been present, I would have voted "aye;" to approve S. 3167, the Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act of 2010, had I been present, I would have voted "aye;" to approve H.R. 6510, To direct the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Houston, Texas, to the Military Museum of Texas had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM OBERSTAR

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand with colleagues to honor a Minnesota icon, dean of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation and my good friend, JIM OBERSTAR. When I was first elected to Congress in 2006, JIM was one of my first mentors, always there with helpful advice and counsel.

JIM was also there on the sad evening of August 1, 2007, when the Interstate 35W Bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota collapsed into the Mississippi River, killing 13 people and injuring near 100 more.

I worked closely with JIM that evening and the days following along with my fellow colleagues in the Minnesota Delegation to immediately respond to horrific bridge collapse and then, with Jim's help, the House passed the next day a bill to provide funds to rebuild the bridge.

This story that I share with you tonight about JIM's work on the Interstate-35W Bridge is just one of many that I have from my four short years here in the House.

So JIM, let me say on behalf of my constituents from the Fifth District and the entire state of Minnesota, thank you for your incredible service to Minnesota and the entire nation for the past 36 years.

Your contributions will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING BEULAH B. ROMAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beulah B. Roman as she celebrates her 105th birthday on December 19. A

party will be held in her honor in Burton Michigan to celebrate the occasion.

Born in 1905 at Mandate Ohio, Mrs. Roman relocated to Flint Michigan and worked at the Fisher Body Plant for 35 years retiring in 1961. She has been an active member of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, joining the congregation in 1928. She has worked with the Missionary Society, the Ada Barry Bible Class, and the Mother's Board. She still attends church services every Sunday. She is also an avid golfer, bowler, reader and likes to solve crossword puzzles.

Mrs. Roman has one son, a daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and numerous friends.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Beulah B. Roman as she celebrates her 105th birthday. I wish her the best for the day and the coming year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed rollcall votes on December 14. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall No. 628: "yea"; Rollcall No. 629: "yea"; and Rollcall No. 630: "yea."

IN HONOR OF PHILIP MARK CONIGLIO, SR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Philip Mark Coniglio, Sr. who recently passed away at the age of 85. I am honored that I have this opportunity to recognize this great man as a prominent community businessman and a wonderful friend.

Philip was born and raised in Monterey, California. He attended Monterey High School and Hartnell College. After serving in the Army from 1943 to 1945, Philip worked with his uncles growing grapes. This led Philip to take an interest in grapes and thus, the wine industry. He owned and operated Mediterranean Market for 41 years which was known as a landmark for gourmet food and wines.

Philip was heavily involved in the community; he was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Italian Catholic Federation, Paisano, Sierra Club, and the Compare Club. He also maintained a long-standing tradition of entertaining and cooking dinner for family and friends on Sundays.

I will always remember Philip as a traveler. He had been around the world several times and frequently visited the big island of Hawaii.

Philip is survived by his wife of 59 years, Carla Lepori-Pacini Coniglio; his daughter Cara Mia Coniglio and granddaughter, Tiana Marie Lagermann; daughter, Lisa Paula Kaufmann and son-in-law, Mark Kaufmann and grandsons, Michael Colin and Patrick Joseph Kaufmann; son, Philip Coniglio Jr., and daugh-

ter-in-law Star Bullock Coniglio and granddaughter Margaux Isabella Coniglio; and his brother, Peter Coniglio.

Madam Speaker, Philip Mark Coniglio, Sr. touched the lives of many people in the community. He will be missed and I know I speak for the whole House in honoring the life of this dedicated and loving man.

SENIORS PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5987, the Seniors Protection Act of 2010.

Earlier this year, the Social Security Administration announced that for the second year in a row, Social Security beneficiaries would not be receiving a Cost of Living Adjustment, COLA, increase for the second year in a row. This legislation provides seniors with an additional \$250 payment, equivalent to about a 2 percent COLA, to Social Security beneficiaries next year.

A COLA increase is imperative for seniors who rely on their benefits to support themselves and their families. According to the Economic Policy Institute, 3.5 million seniors are below the poverty level. The Department of Labor estimates that almost half of the 2 million workers over the age of 55 have been unemployed for 6 months or longer. Yet as more seniors experience poverty as a result of the economic downturn, the calls for privatizing and cutting Social Security in the name of fiscal responsibility have grown louder. Privatizing Social Security will hurt the most vulnerable Americans such as women, minority communities and children—those Americans that are currently experiencing disproportionately the effects of the recession. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the program is fiscally sound for another 40 plus years.

It is our responsibility to guarantee seniors an adequate income after a lifetime of paying into Social Security. We must shift the focus from cutting vital programs such as Social Security to reviving our domestic manufacturing sector as a means to put Americans back to work.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING "BUDDY" FRANK DiPAOLO, JR.

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today for the purpose of recognizing "Buddy" Frank DiPaolo, Jr. Earlier this year, Buddy Frank retired at the age of 103 from his position as the doorkeeper at the Rhode Island House of Representatives, where he served for the past 32 years.

Not only has Buddy been an exemplary public servant for the State of Rhode Island,

but I have been fortunate enough to have known him as a friend and mentor throughout my adult life. I first met Buddy Frank over 25 years ago when he owned the Castle Spa restaurant and I was an undergraduate at Providence College. Throughout my career, dating back to when I first sought elected office in the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1988, I have turned to Buddy to be one of my most trusted and reliable advisors. I've been honored to be his "number one buddy," but even more blessed to be treated as his "third son."

I consider Buddy's family to be my own; his wife, Eugenia, his four children, Thomas, Claire, Evelyn, and Richard, his sixteen grandchildren, Susan, Steven, Robert, Kathleen, Cheryl, John, Erin, Robin, Kevin, Paul, Pamela, Mark, Claudia, Kristen, Lynn, and Laura, and eighteen grandchildren, Catherine, Michael, Abigail, Katelyn, Jessica, Bryan, William, Tyler, Zackery, Gillian, Seamus, Campbell, Rory, Damian, Gian, Jacqueline, Nicholas, and Timothy. They are all truly blessed to have a patriarch in the truest sense in Buddy Frank, and I thank them for the opportunity to share him as a positive influence in my life.

Buddy Frank will be turning 104 years old on December 24, 2010, and I wish him a happy birthday. I also wish him all the best in his future endeavors. He will continue to carry my own admiration, and that of all who have had the privilege to work with him.

HONORING FRANKLIN COUNTY 4-H

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Franklin County 4-H for 75 years of excellence.

The Franklin County 4-H organization originated with 10 members in 1935, and has grown into the largest 4-H organization in the state, with 20 4-H clubs and 700 members. The members are led by over 300 adult and teen volunteer leaders. 4-H engages youth to reach their fullest potential, while advancing the field of youth development in four different areas of focus: head, heart, hands, and health. During the 75 year history, 52 adult volunteers have served for 20 or more years, 9 of whom have served for 30 or more years, a true testament to this important program. In its 75th year, the tradition of 4-H still remains strong throughout Franklin county.

I would like to take this time to commend Franklin County 4-H for all their hard work, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing them for a job well done.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST BAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 20th anniversary of The East