

in Elementary Education, but one fateful internship with my Murfreesboro office changed her course forever. She was drawn into politics and, with few interruptions, Julie has been a member of my team ever since. She has worn many hats in her time with my office. She began as an intern in 2002 and since then has served as my scheduler and executive assistant, communications director, and as the member services coordinator for the Committee on Science and Technology. Undoubtedly, her training as a teacher of small children helped her in each task too, whether it was coordinating events, working with reporters or herding cats on the Committee. Her Tennessee roots have helped kept her grounded and her respect and dedication to her community has been apparent throughout.

In October 2009, Julie became Chief of Staff to my Washington office. It's a position that requires enormous responsibility and trust, and Julie took to the job easily.

Madam Speaker, Julie is exactly the kind of lieutenant you'd want to have in your foxhole. She can take a tough assignment, turn on a dime and put it into action. She is a natural as a manager and mentor and has the absolute devotion of my staff. She has good political instincts, which have always been appreciated. Under pressure, she keeps up a great presence of mind and sense of humor. And apparently, quick reflexes. (As The Tennessean was proud to report after a false-alarm lockdown in Rayburn House Office Building, Julie Eubank "doesn't mess around.")

All of her qualities have been put to the test during her time as my Chief of Staff. She has helped the office shift gears from preparing for a reelection fight to transitioning into retirement. She has been there through difficult floor fights and popped champagne after hard-won victories.

Madam Speaker, I have been honored that Julie has dedicated so much of her professional career—so far—to me and my constituents. My colleagues in Tennessee and I are all extremely proud of her accomplishments. I look forward to following her next endeavors.

Julie, I can't thank you enough for your loyalty through the years. I wish you all the best.

H. RES. 1646 CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise the dedicated commitment of the Library of Congress to the promotion of reading through its sponsorship of the National Book Festival. I warmly commend Representative DANIEL LUNGREN for taking the initiative to introduce H. Res. 1646.

The National Book Festival occurred on September 25, 2010, in Washington, DC. President Obama and Michelle Obama served as honorary chairs for the important event. Nearly one million people over the past decade have attended. This year, approximately 150,000 bibliophiles gathered together to meet the 70 best-selling authors in attendance.

I am proud that the New York State Library, New York Council for the Humanities and the Empire State Center for the Book partnered

together to display New York's rich literary heritage in the Pavilion of the States at the National Book Festival. New York author, Rebecca Stead, also autographed copies of her 2010 Newbery Award-winning book, *When You Reach Me*. New York's involvement at the mall demonstrated a common commitment with the Library of Congress in encouraging the population to read.

Fostering the joy of reading is a valuable goal. Living in the digital age does not mean we have forgotten the pleasure of reading the printed text. Reading broadens our minds to new possibilities, new worlds, new people and new ideas. The future is based on our ability to read, digest information and pioneer innovative ideas. Formal education in the classroom should be supplemented by self-education.

Urging more people to read also improves our literacy rate. A literate population is necessary to guarantee greater educational opportunities, foster life-long learning, jobs, and underpins our democracy because elected officials depend on an informed citizenry to make decisions.

I admire and am thankful of the efforts made by the Library of Congress to promote the wonder of words.

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, no country has done more than the United States to advance the cause of Palestinian statehood.

We have done so in recognition of Palestinian aspirations for a brighter and more stable future as well as Israel's desire for a secure and peaceful coexistence with its neighbors.

As one of the largest grantors of Palestinian aid, we have worked to ensure that a future Palestinian state has the political, economic and social infrastructure to support a stable functioning democracy.

But our efforts have been predicated on the Palestinians' own internationally-witnessed commitments to seek a negotiated solution to achieve a two-state peace agreement. These commitments served at the core of the 1991 Madrid conference, and were codified in the 1993 Oslo Accords, the 2003 Roadmap for Peace, the 2007 Annapolis declaration, two UN Security Council resolutions sponsored by the Bush Administration in 2002 and 2008, and reaffirmed at the 2010 summit brokered by President Obama.

It is only through direct negotiations that the parties can resolve the core issues of borders, water, refugees, Jerusalem, and the security arrangements and produce an agreement that ends the conflict and sustains a viable independent Palestinian state.

For all who complain that Israeli settlement construction is the primary obstacle to the peace talks, the reality is that Israeli leaders have time and again shown bold leadership to make difficult concessions on this issue and others for the sake of peace. The Israeli government's recent 10-month settlement morato-

rium and its serious consideration of a further extension are proof that settlements are not the stumbling block keeping us from direct talks.

Rather, it is the Palestinian leadership's unwillingness to make tough choices that has sidelined the process. And if anything, a unilateral drive to statehood is chilling evidence.

A strategy to bypass the negotiations process and unilaterally declare Palestinian statehood will turn the clock backward, not forward. It is a reckless tactic that threatens to intensify the conflict and alienate the United States, which by law would be prohibited from providing aid to an independent Palestinian State that does not, among other conditions, have a full and normal relationship with Israel.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and call on others in the international community to pressure the Palestinian leadership to demonstrate their dedication to achieving statehood by returning to the negotiating table.

HONORING MRS. TERRI ALFORD

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Mrs. Terri Alford to the U.S. House of Representatives. For 16 years Mrs. Alford has approached her service to the Congress with a professionalism, dedication, and joy that has inspired hundreds of staff and interns and undoubtedly improved the institution of Congress itself. Mrs. Alford's patriotism, love of the arts, and good humor enlivened the U.S. House of Representatives, and her infectious enthusiasm and good nature were a gift for all who had the pleasure of working with her. As Mrs. Alford prepares for retirement to spend more time with her husband, children, and grandchildren, we thank her for her dedicated service and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 631 on, H.R. 5446, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Florida Avenue in Cocoa, Florida, as the "Harry T. and Harriette Moore Post Office", I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 632 on, H. Res. 1759, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Expressing support for designation of January 23rd as "Ed Roberts Day", I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 633 on, S. Con. Res. 72, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, A concurrent resolution recognizing the 45th anniversary of the White

House Fellows Program, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 634 on, H.R. 6205, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, "Private Isaac T. Cortes Post Office", I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 635 on, H. Res. 1764, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2965, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 636 on, H. Res. 1761, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Congratulating Auburn University quarterback and College Park, Georgia, native Cameron Newton on winning the 2010 Heisman Trophy for being the most outstanding college football player in the United States, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 637 on, H. Res. 1743, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, Congratulating Gerda Weissmann Klein on being selected to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 638 on, H.R. 2965, On Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment, Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF MICHAEL TERRY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Terry for his contributions to the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out Mike Terry, my field representative and political advisor and a dedicated public servant.

Mike joined my staff in 1993 after serving as a clerk for the Tennessee State Senate. He brought to the position good political acumen, a keen understanding of Middle Tennessee's values, and a strong network of good relationships across the state. More and more, he has become a true heavyweight in the state's political scene.

He has worked with the business community to ensure my office does all it can to nur-

ture economic growth and facilitate job creation. He has been my liaison with local governments and Chambers of Commerce. He has worked hard, logged miles with me in every corner of the Sixth Congressional District, and led major meetings and events in all 15 counties. He knows what's happening on the ground in every community, and he has been my eyes and ears to let me know how folks at home feel about what's going on in Washington.

Mike is loyal, talented and possesses excellent judgment. I have been extremely lucky to keep him on the team for the better part of two decades, and I have appreciated his dedication and friendship over the years. My staff and I have enjoyed hearing about his scuba diving adventures, his love of virtually every comedy made in the 1980s, and the trials and triumphs of his beloved Tennessee Vols.

Madam Speaker, I could not have accomplished half of what I did without Mike's hard work. Mike, thank you for all your help and loyalty over these many years. I wish you and Lisa all the best.

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 1765, a resolution supporting a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and condemning unilateral declarations of a Palestinian state. It is a one-sided resolution that advocates for an approach that would prevent the very two-state solution it advocates.

H. Res. 1765 rightly expresses support for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As a strong proponent of peace and reconciliation, I believe that true long-term stability and security for Israel depends upon peaceful coexistence with its Palestinian neighbors. Indeed, an imposed solution will not bring either side closer to the security, peace and coexistence that have been elusive for the last sixty-plus years.

This resolution condemns the unilateral actions recently taken by the Palestinian Authority to seek recognition of a Palestinian state within 1967 borders. Yet it mentions nothing of the continued settlement building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem that led to the breakdown in negotiations. While I do not support the actions taken by the Palestinian Authority, their efforts are a direct result of failed negotiations and continued settlement building that threaten the two-state solution.

If we only hold one side accountable, good faith negotiations cannot proceed. A just solution to this conflict requires recognition that negotiations will not be successful as long as the United States allows settlement building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem to continue. We cannot claim to be acting in Israel's best interest while turning a blind eye to actions that actively undermine its security.

Mr. Speaker, I have been to the region. I have spoken to Israelis and Palestinians. Most of them want peace and they have been wait-

ing too long for it. The political process and realities on the ground do not create conditions that are conducive to making peace a reality.

True support of a just, negotiated solution requires us to hold both sides accountable. This resolution fails to do that. I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,878,837,351,150.62.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,240,411,604,856.82 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

IN FURTHER RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF THE STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, in my 44 years serving as a clerk, Administrator, Member, and finally Chairman of what is now the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I have had the opportunity to work with some of the finest staff on Capitol Hill.

Whether they are drafting legislation and managing hearings, or answering the phones and copying documents, each member of the staff makes a vital contribution to the success of the Committee.

As my term as Chairman comes to a close, I would like to take a few moments to recognize these dedicated professionals as they move on to new challenges and opportunities.

Stacie Soumbeniotis Tiongson has served on this Committee for over 11 years, first as the Staff Director of the Aviation Subcommittee and then as Deputy Chief Counsel of the full Committee. As Staff Director of the Subcommittee, Stacie was responsible for managing all legislation, hearings, markups and all other activities covering civil aviation. She has been intimately involved in the planning and drafting of several landmark aviation bills, including the Aviation and Transportation Security Act of 2001 and the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act to secure our skies after the September 11th terrorist attacks.

During the last two years, as Deputy Chief Counsel, she participated in the oversight and management of all activities of the Committee and its six Subcommittees, focusing on issues related to highways, aviation, rail, Coast Guard, and economic development, as well as advising on legal and legislative issues regarding Committee jurisdiction.