

and missed rollcall votes 651 and 654. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 651 and 654.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 659 on, H.R. 5116 on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment, America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, 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. 660 on H.R. 2142, on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment, GPRA Modernization 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."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 661 on H.R. 2751, on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment, FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, 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. 662 on H.R. 3082, on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to House Amendment to Senate Amendment, Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, 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. 663 on H.R. 6547, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act, 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."

IN HONOR OF SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I thank you for your service to our country, for your sacrifice and unyielding dedication.

Because of your leadership, Democrats have much to be proud of during our work in the 110th and 111th Congress.

As Speaker, you have made the United States a better country. Women have more rights in the workforce, children are safer, our military is stronger and our economy was saved from near complete collapse.

Without you at the helm, healthcare for all would only be a dream. Because of your labor, it will be a reality.

As the first woman to serve as Speaker of the House, you have left an indelible mark on our history. Your positive, supportive and empowering leadership will forever remind us of what it is to be an American.

Your strength of leadership will continue to serve the American people well as we protect the victories we have secured, and renew our efforts to move America forward.

Speaker, I remember the day of your swearing-in. All the children surrounding you as you pounded the gavel leading us on a new direction. You have made them proud. You have made us all proud.

Thank you, Speaker PELOSI. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING MS. JENNIFER CRASE

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Jennifer Crase, a mathematics teacher at South Oldham Middle School in the Fourth Congressional District of Kentucky.

Ms. Crase has been an educator for more than thirteen years and has taught eighth grade mathematics in Crestwood, Kentucky for 6 years.

In June 2010, Ms. Crase was nominated by President Barack Obama as a Presidential Awardee for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

In addition to being an outstanding teacher, she has worked at the State level to develop a standards-based report card for all Kentucky middle schools. Ms. Crase serves as a team leader, mentor, presenter and mathematics lead teacher for her school.

Ms. Crase is a strong mentor and a reliable friend to her colleagues. She encourages collaboration and sets high goals for all students.

Today, as we celebrate the accomplishments of this exceptional Kentuckian, it is my hope that others are encouraged by her hard work and determination.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Jennifer Crase for her time and devotion in helping the youth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHAIRMAN DAVID OBEY OF WISCONSIN

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, with the conclusion of the 111th Congress, a career of extraordinary public service in the House of Representatives comes to an end. My colleague, friend and mentor—Chairman DAVID OBEY—is concluding his career in Congress representing the families of northwestern Wisconsin that began in 1969. For twenty terms, DAVID OBEY has been a liberal champion and a fierce defender of workers and their families. He has been a passionate and effective legislator for right of all Americans to access quality health care and education. And, in the realm of U.S. foreign policy, Chairman OBEY has a lifetime record of always striving to ad-

vance human dignity, peace, and the highest ideals of the American people around the world.

It has been my privilege to serve in this House with Rep. OBEY for the past ten years—one-quarter of his congressional career. For the past four years, I had the honor of serving on the House Appropriations Committee, calling the gentleman from Wisconsin "Mr. Chairman." I have watched DAVID OBEY work—work hard, tirelessly, and with tremendous determination and intellect—to advance an agenda that makes the lives of regular Americans the highest priority of the federal government. Chairman OBEY always fought for the less fortunate, the vulnerable, those struggling for an opportunity to succeed, and to ensure those who have made this country great with their toil and sacrifice in the factory, the farm field, or on the battlefield. He fought so they too could live and retire with security, respect, and dignity.

It is often said that Mr. OBEY was tough and rough on the outside, but I always found him to be a kind, warm soul who knew the importance and magnitude of his responsibilities and carried them out with the humble expertise of a legislative master. "I started as a shy boy from a troubled family of modest means," Rep. OBEY once said. Well, that shy boy has made a lifetime of contributions to our country that will be judged by history as both profound and far reaching. People who will never know DAVID OBEY are living better lives with more opportunities because of him. The State of Wisconsin and the United States are better places because of his years of service in the U.S. House.

As a Wisconsin Progressive in the tradition of Robert LaFollette, Rep. OBEY has never shied away from calling out injustice or just plain dumb policymaking. In his book, "Raising Hell for Justice," he reminds citizens and policymakers that "federal budgets that pay for tax cuts for millionaires with budget cuts in education, Medicaid, child care, and health care are not just unfair; they are immoral."

This quote was again put to the test only last week as Chairman OBEY voted against extending massive tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. I was proud to join Chairman OBEY in opposing this tax cut for the wealthy that only continues the disturbing pattern of income re-distribution away from working families and towards a class of economic elites.

As the longest serving Member of Congress in Wisconsin history, I know DAVID spent far too much time away from his wife, Joan, and their family. I wish DAVID, Joan, and their sons' families many happy days together in the coming years.

In conclusion, let me simply say—Mr. Chairman, you have served our country so very well. It is personally difficult to see you leave, but your lifetime of service will live on in the lives of millions of Americans whose lives you have helped to improve. As a colleague and a friend, you have made me a better legislator and for that I am grateful to you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House

Chamber yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 662 and 663.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, December 21, 2010, I cast a vote but it apparently was not recorded on rollcall vote 661. As a co-sponsor of this legislation, had my vote been properly recorded I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 661.

HONORING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR WORK ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST CON- GRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF OHIO

HON. STEVE DRIEHAUS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the following individuals for their work on behalf of the people of the first congressional district of the State of Ohio and for their dedicated service to the 111th United States Congress. I offer my sincerest appreciation to Alyson Budd, Jay Stolkin, Robert George, Danielle Vizgirda, Sean Kelley, Ozie Davis III, Steve Brinker, Victoria Parks, Mary Ellen Sullivan, Shannon Faulk, Alex Kisling, Colby Nelson, Morgana Carter, Sarah McHugh, Aaron Wasserman, Tim Mulvey, Heidi Black, Greg Mecher, and Sarah Curtis.

CONCLUSION OF MY SERVICE IN THE CONGRESS

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the people of North Dakota for the chance to represent our great state in this great chamber for the past 9 terms.

Words cannot adequately express the feelings of gratitude I have as my time as a member of body draws to a close.

At varying times I've agreed or disagreed with virtually every member—Democratic or Republican—in this House. Steering the course for the United States of America is a very difficult and complex undertaking. As our country moves into its third century in the first decade of the new millennium, it seems like the challenges only get bigger as we go forward.

But I conclude my life here with a strong sense of hope and optimism for the future.

The United States Capitol is the icon of democracy known throughout the world. In this historic place, sometimes in the darkest hour, leaders here assembled have set the course to see us through.

If the American people exhibit the best aspects of their nature—courage, compassion, strength, resolve, community—the leaders in the chamber will deliver accordingly.

I will always treasure the time I had here. I won some, I lost some, but I tried my best to reflect the concerns of those I represented, as well as the genuine goodness of the folks who call North Dakota home.

North Dakotans have selected a new Congressman, Representative-elect Rick Berg, and I wish him great success in delivering for our state.

In conclusion, there is one group in particular I want to thank—all of those who have served on my staff now at the end or any time during these nine terms. Present and recent staff members include Bob Siggins, Melanie Rhinehart Van Tassel, Stacy Austad, Brenden Timpe, Adam Durand, Dustin Olson, Diane Oakley, Chris Cunningham, Matt Pearce, Hillary Price, David Grant, Annie Finkenbinder, Ross Keys, Joan Carlson, Dianne Mondry, Nick Keaveny, Geoff Greenwood, Bill Heigaard, and Erin Hill.

They are extraordinarily talented and dedicated individuals, reflective of the wonderfully gifted staff members I have been privileged to work with for the 18 years of my service in the House.

Now I look forward to more time with my wife, Mary, and my children, Kathryn and Scott, as this term ends and my membership in this body ceases.

I thank my colleagues for their commitment to work so hard to serve their constituents and our country.

I have been richly blessed to have had the chance to work with you in the people's House—the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, December 21 and Wednesday, December 22, 2010, I was unable to be present for recorded votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote No. 657 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 1771); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 658 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6540); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 659 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 5116); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 660 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2142); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 661 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2751); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 662 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3082); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 663 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6547); and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 664 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 847).

S. 3481—A BILL TO AMEND THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 3481 to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, which clarifies that the Federal Government, like private citizens and businesses, must take responsibility for the pollution it produces. This bill is the Senate companion to my bill, H.R. 5724, cosponsored by my good friends from Virginia and Arizona, Rep. JIM MORAN and Rep. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. The bill passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support because the Senate understood that this is simply an issue of fairness and equity to users and a matter of managing pollution and protecting the environment. In fact, this bill simply clarifies current law, that the Federal Government has a responsibility to pay its normal and customary fees assessed by local governments for managing polluted stormwater runoff from federal properties, just as private citizens pay. The consequence of failing to pass this bill is that we give the Federal Government a free ride and pass its fees on to our constituents throughout the United States.

Section 313 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act states, "Each department, agency, or instrumentality . . . of the Federal Government . . . shall be subject to, and comply with all Federal, State, interstate, and local requirements . . . in the same manner, and to the same extent as any nongovernmental entity including the payment of reasonable service charges." However, the Government Accountability Office issued letters to Federal agencies in the District of Columbia instructing them not to pay the District of Columbia's Water and Sewer Authority's (D.C. Water's) Impervious Area Charge. D.C. Water calculates the charges to manage stormwater runoff based on the amount of impervious land occupied by the landowner. Impervious surfaces, such as roofs, parking lots, sidewalks and other hardened surfaces are the major contributors to stormwater runoff entering the sewer system and local rivers, lakes and streams, causing significant amounts of pollutants to enter these waters. This bill clarifies that in my district and all others congressional districts, Federal agencies must continue to pay their utility fees instead of passing the fees to our constituents.

Nothing in this Act was intended to affect the payment by the United States or any department, independent establishment, or agency thereof of any sanitary sewer services furnished by the sanitary sewage works of the District through any connection thereto for direct use by the government of the United States or any department, independent establishment, or agency thereof. The rules for those payments are set forth in law codified at section 34–2112 of the D.C. Code and nothing in this Act amends or otherwise affects those rules. This bill requires that Congress make available, in appropriations acts, the funds that could be used for to pay stormwater management charges, but not that the appropriations act would need to state specifically or expressly that the funds could be used to pay these charges.