

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 311, I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TO RECOGNIZE JIM HINKLE FOR SERVICE AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE MANTUA CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Jim Hinkle and to congratulate him as he completes his tenure as the President of the Mantua Citizens' Association, MCA.

Like other home owners associations, the MCA responds to the needs of its residents, circulates local news, and coordinates volunteer services and community projects. As a former president of the MCA myself, I know firsthand the time and effort Mr. Hinkle has devoted to helping improve our community and maintain its rich quality of life.

During his tenure, Mr. Hinkle has tackled local environmental, safety, and road maintenance challenges. The nearby fuel tanker farm continues to be a perennial concern, particularly given recent spills and accidents. Mr. Hinkle has demonstrated effective leadership, collaborating with local, state and federal authorities, including the Environmental Protection Agency and my office. Thanks to our coordinated efforts, improved safety measures are being implemented.

Whether it's projects large or small, Mr. Hinkle has demonstrated a passion for community service. After the severe winter storms of 2010, he proposed a community service project for a local Boy Scout troop. The Scouts identified deficiencies in the neighborhood roads and made a presentation to the Virginia Department of Transportation, VDOT, which organized the necessary repairs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Hinkle for his tremendous service to the Mantua community. Though his tenure as president has come to a close, I am confident we will continue to benefit from his contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No.: 371, "no;" 372, "no;" 373, "no;" 374, "no;" 375, "no;" 376, "yes;" 377, "yes;" 378, "no." Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated.

HONORING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Juneteenth Independence Day Celebration. Juneteenth, celebrated on the 19th of June, is a holiday that celebrates the emancipation of African Americans from slavery but has come to signify much more. It is celebrated in June, the month that the last African Americans were informed of their Emancipation.

During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, which came into effect on January 1, 1863. Critically, following the conclusion of the Civil War, U.S. Government officials traversed through the South to enforce the Proclamation. It was not until June 19th, 1865, in Galveston, TX, that Union General Gordon Granger declared freedom for the last major vestige of slavery in the United States, marking one of the proudest days in all of African American history.

Mr. Speaker, Juneteenth Independence Day is a holiday that should not go without note. This date represents a crucial milestone in African American history and demonstrates the evolution of our Nation over the last century and a half. Today, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. I encourage all of my constituents to take part in the day's festivities and also to reflect on the values of self-improvement, assessment, and future-planning which are consistent with the spirit of Juneteenth.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL PLATTSBURGH RELAY FOR LIFE

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifteenth annual Plattsburgh Relay for Life.

This event has not only strived for years to raise money and awareness in an effort to eradicate cancer, but it serves as a tribute to all those who have bravely fought this tragic disease.

This annual event honors the courageous efforts these individuals have demonstrated in their fight for life and remembers those that have lost the battle. Tonight we especially remember our dear friend, Marie Guay, who lost her brave fight with cancer last year. As the former Relay for Life Survivor Chair, Marie devoted countless hours ensuring that cancer survivors were honored and celebrated. So tonight we remember all of her efforts and together honor her memory.

With gratitude, we acknowledge the work of the entire Relay for Life committee and its participants. I commend each and every one of you for keeping the valiant struggle of these individuals in all our memories and working to ensure that more people survive cancer and are able to celebrate another birthday.

THE HUMAN COST OF THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep sadness and regret: we have reached 2,000 American troop deaths in the War in Afghanistan—a war we needlessly continue to fight. My sincerest condolences go out to the families, friends, and communities who have lost loved ones to a war I have ardently opposed for the past 11 years.

Americans are not alone in our loss. As of summer 2011, conservative estimates indicate that anywhere between 30,000 and 45,000 Afghan civilians have lost their lives to this war. I will never understand why we continually squander lives and money to achieve tactical or strategic military goals. The cost is simply too great; the ends do not justify the means.

Seventy percent of Americans want a complete and early withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, according to a recent Rasmussen poll. Yet we do not listen, so more lives are lost in this nonsensical war. I hope that someday soon we will finally bring home our troops and help restore peace to the nation of Afghanistan.

CONGRATULATING HUNTER WRIGHT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fresno resident Hunter Wright upon being named a recipient of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's (PG&E) 2012 Bright Minds Scholarship, a prestigious academic scholarship awarded to a small number of California high school students each year.

Miss Wright is one of 8,060 students from PG&E's Northern and Central California service area to apply for the \$30,000 Bright Minds Scholarship this year. The scholarship is renewable for up to four additional years. As one of eight winners, Miss Wright joins a highly select group of students participating in the utility company's largest scholarship program.

Miss Wright was informed of her scholarship award while sitting in her Advanced Placement English class, when Edison High School administrators and representatives from PG&E bearing a banner, balloons, cupcakes, and an oversize check surprised her. Her parents, Doreen and Dave Wright, were also present for the announcement.

Miss Wright graduated from Edison High School on June 12, 2012. In addition to excelling in academics, she actively participated in cross-country, lacrosse, tennis, and regularly volunteered for various community causes. Miss Wright will attend the University of Miami this fall, where she plans to study English. She aspires to be an English professor.

In addition to her academic and career goals, Miss Wright hopes to continue traveling the world to do volunteer work.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Miss Hunter Wright of Fresno, California, for

her impressive academic accomplishments. I congratulate her upon being named a recipient of PG&E's 2012 Bright Minds Scholarship and wish her the best of success in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 312, I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE 2012 HIDDEN POND ENVIROTHON TEAM

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2012 Hidden Pond Envirothon Team and congratulate them on achieving Second Place in the Virginia State Envirothon Competition.

The Envirothon Competition promotes problem-solving among high school students in the areas of forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatics, and other current environmental issues. What is most unique about the competition is the opportunity to work in the field with access to actual natural resource professionals. The competition aims to foster stewardship, improve management concepts and communication skills, and promote critical thinking, decision making, and team building.

This year's members of the Hidden Pond Envirothon Team are Liam Berigan (Robinson HS), Matt Baker (W. T. Woodson HS), Murjan Hammad (home-schooled), Owan Mulvey-McFerron (W. T. Woodson HS), and Peter MacDonald (West Springfield HS), with Coach Neal MacDonald. The team won first place in the local Fairfax County Envirothon Competition as well as at the Area II Regional Competition. This allowed the team to move on to competition at the state level at James Madison University in Harrisonburg. While competing against the top 15 teams from across Virginia, the Hidden Pond Envirothon Team placed second for the second year in a row. This year's oral presentation focus was titled "Low Impact Development and Nonpoint Source Pollution," for which the team placed first. Hidden Pond also placed first in the wildlife category, second place in the aquatics category, and third place in the forestry category.

I would like to offer special thanks to Mike McCaffrey and Jim Pomeroy. Mr. McCaffrey has coordinated the Envirothon Program at the Hidden Pond Nature Center for many years. His efforts have enabled the team to compete at the state level as Hidden Pond is typically the only team not sponsored by a high school. Mr. Pomeroy has served as Hidden Pond's Site Manager, supporting the Envirothon Team with great enthusiasm. Through their commitment and encouragement to this program, many of the students have gone on to become local volunteers or

work in careers focused on protecting the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2012 Hidden Pond Envirothon Team for their performance in the Virginia State Envirothon Competition.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Air Traffic Controllers Association on the 25th anniversary of the Union's founding.

NATCA represents more than 20,000 air traffic controllers and other aviation safety professionals who run the safest, most efficient air traffic control system in the world. These men and women are dedicated aviation professionals who come to work every day knowing that they have to perform their jobs with 100 percent accuracy 100 percent of the time. The American people entrust their lives and the lives of their loved ones to NATCA members each and every time they step on an airplane. This is a responsibility that NATCA takes seriously. Since NATCA's founding in 1987, the United States National Airspace System has maintained its record as the safest airspace in the world.

Mr. Speaker, NATCA's 20,000 FAA aviation safety professionals are dedicated federal employees. Our nation's incredible aviation safety record is due in part to the fact that these men and women are federal employees whose number one priority is to ensure the safety of the flying public. I applaud NATCA on this remarkable achievement and congratulate them on their 25th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING THE DEER PARK HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Deer Park High School Softball Team for becoming the 2012 5A State Champions. Winning the state championship is a great accomplishment that takes an incredible amount of effort, dedication and teamwork from every player. This win is Deer Park High School's first state championship title since 1955. Our entire community is proud of the Deer Park Lady Deer's success and hard work to bring home the state trophy.

In addition to winning the state championship, the Deer Park Lady Deer had an impressive season record of 31–8, with a district record of 8–2. In the state semi-final game, the team set a state tournament record for the most runs scored in a single inning by scoring ten runs in the fifth inning of the game.

The talent that exists on this team is exceptional. Out of ten eligible spots, Deer Park

players were selected for seven spots on the state 5A all tournament team. Those players include Kristen Davenport, Jo Rivera, Caitlin Plocheck, Lexi Fryar, Alexis Garcia, Haley Harrison, and Alana Tinker. Kristen Davenport was named the championship's Most Valuable Player, MVP, and also the Houston Chronicle's Girl Athlete of the Week for June 3, 2012. Caitlin Plocheck was also nominated for the Houston Chronicle's Girl Athlete of the Week.

Congratulations to the Lady Deer Softball Team from Deer Park High School for winning the 2012 State Championship in Texas. We are all very proud of your outstanding achievement!

HONORING SGT JOSEPH ANGEL CAPOCCIAMMA

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Joseph Angel Capocciamma. Sergeant Capocciamma passed away on Sunday, May 20, 2012, from complications of injuries sustained in service to his country in Iraq.

The son of Alan and Maria Capocciamma, Joseph Angel Capocciamma was born on May 29, 1987, and raised in Grove City, Ohio. He graduated from Grove City High School in 2005. A true patriot, Sergeant Capocciamma joined the United States Army on May 23, 2006, just one week before his 19th birthday.

While proudly serving his country in Iraq, Sergeant Capocciamma received the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Valorous Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon. He retired from the Army on April 7, 2010.

It is because of the sacrifices of men like Joseph Capocciamma that we continue to enjoy the freedoms that we do today. I am deeply thankful for all that Sergeant Capocciamma endured to preserve our freedom and for his heroism. He is survived by his wife, Kayla, and his children, Joseph Angel Capocciamma, Jr. and Cheyenne Faith Capocciamma, for whom he set an inspiring example of service and patriotism.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 15th Congressional District I would like to honor the service and memory of SGT Joseph Angel Capocciamma.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. STEVEN LADENHEIM

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Steven Ladenheim. For the past 34 years, Dr. Ladenheim has served the city of Philadelphia with his extensive knowledge of otolaryngology.

A graduate of the Medical College of Pennsylvania, now known as Drexel University College of Medicine, he has won multiple awards