

COMMENDATION OF MR. DONALD  
PATA

**HON. HANSEN CLARKE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2012*

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Donald Pata, a physics teacher at Grosse Pointe North High School (Grosse Pointe North), for receiving the 2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

The PAEMST is awarded annually to outstanding K–12 science and mathematics teachers across America. After an initial state-level selection process, the PAEMST winners are chosen by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators. Mr. Pata, the only teacher to receive the PAEMST from Michigan this year, is a Grosse Pointe native. He graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and later returned to get a teaching certificate and Masters Degree in Physics Education.

Shortly after earning his undergraduate degree, Mr. Pata joined the Peace Corps and taught biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics in Ghana. Mr. Pata later returned to Grosse Pointe and began teaching a wide range of physics classes at Grosse Pointe North, including conceptual physics and AP Physics. He also serves as the Science Department Chairperson and is the faculty advisor for the school district's FIRST Robotics Team.

Mr. Pata appreciates the value of effective teaching. Mr. Pata creates a positive "hands-on" classroom atmosphere where students feel free to contribute to discussion and construct their own knowledge. He leads by example and empowers his students to achieve their highest potential. Mr. Pata seeks out opportunities to develop his knowledge of teaching methodology and physics, and travels across the United States attending advanced physics teaching workshops and classes.

As a member of the House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I know how important it is to have dedicated, innovative, and engaged science teachers working in our schools. Mr. Pata is teaching our children to think creatively, be open to new ideas, and embrace scientific and technological change.

I recognize Mr. Pata as a leader in science education in Metro Detroit and thank him for his commitment to his students and community.

CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC  
GROWTH ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON BARBER**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2578) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act related to a segment of the Lower Merced River in California, and for other purposes:

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Chair, I rise today to raise concerns about H.R. 2578. I support the goal of the provision (H.R. 1505) which will strengthen our efforts to secure the border, but I believe it was overreaching.

I have long believed that securing our border is of paramount importance to the safety of the people who live and work along the border, but I do not believe that this end needs to be achieved at the expense of maintaining a strong commitment to our environment and the regulations that ensure its protection. I would have preferred that we consider a standalone bill which specifically responded to the expressed needs of the Department of Homeland Security regarding access to public lands.

I do not support those provisions of H.R. 2578 which seek to privatize public land and significantly reduce the scope of existing laws which protect those lands.

I am against the rule specifically because I believe that amendments should have been heard to improve this bill.

THE TEXAS AGGIES—NO ONE  
QUITE LIKE 'EM

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2012*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the sun was lazily rising on the horizon. It was around breakfast time on a stunning Sunday morning. It was quiet, peaceful, calm. People felt secure. There was a small tropical breeze as the American flag was being raised on a nearby flagpole.

Suddenly over the horizon, a large formation of aircraft darkened the glistening sky. They broke formation and dove down from the sky, unleashing a fury of deadly, devastating bombs and torpedoes on a quiet place called Pearl Harbor in the Pacific Ocean. It was on that day, 70 years ago, when sailors, soldiers, airmen, and marines saw war declared on America. It was December 7, 1941.

Over 5,000 miles away from terror stood a small, quiet town covered in maroon décor known as College Station, Texas. College Station is not only home to Texas A&M University's Fightin' Texas Aggies, but also to the patriotic Corps of Cadets. Around campus you can spot the Corps of Cadets marching in sync wearing the uniform that matches their rank whether it is brown leather boots or trousers made of serge material.

December usually holds a brisk chill in the air in College Station, but the Texas sun kept the weather from being unbearable. Word traveled fast of chaos on the Pacific as America became engaged in another world war. Aggie tradition tells us that on that day teenagers turned soldiers when the entire 1942 junior class enlisted into the war along with half of their senior level comrades. They were all volunteers. They stood together as Aggies, brothers, Texans and Americans. They stood shoulder to shoulder and raised their right hands in unison and swore to defend their homeland. College Station became an image in a rear view mirror as pens and pencils were traded for guns and ammo. They left Texas to go fight on small islands in the Pacific, brutal deserts in North Africa and bloody beaches in Italy and France.

The year 1942 was also the time of the most well-known Aggie Muster under the command of General George Moore during World War II. Aggie Muster is on April 21st which also happens to be San Jacinto Day, the day Texas won independence at the battle of San Jacinto in 1836. Amid fierce enemy fire, General Moore and 25 fellow Aggies mustered in the trenches and caves on Corregidor in the Philippines. A war correspondent observed the make-shift ceremony and the world was introduced to the Aggie spirit. Every one of those Aggies were either killed or captured by the Japanese. Four years later when the Americans returned with Gen. McArthur and retook the island the Aggies mustered again. When I went to the Philippines recently, I saw a photo of those returning Aggies on the fortress wall of the Malinta Tunnel on Corregidor.

According to Aggie Muster tradition, "if there is an A&M man in one hundred miles of you, you are expected to get together, eat a little, and live over the days you spent at the A&M College of Texas." During times of war, Muster is especially poignant. Texas A&M has produced more officers in the United States military than even West Point. It has the distinction, other than West Point, of having more Medal of Honor recipients than any other university in the United States. When General George Patton was in Europe going into combat in the Third Army, he made a comment about the Texas Aggies and the soldiers that he had under his command. He said, "Give me an army of West Point graduates and I will win a battle. You give me a handful of Texas Aggies, and I will win the war."

The Aggies' long tradition of duty and service to our great nation dates back to their beginning, to the days when A&M was an all-male military academy. Texas A&M trained nearly 4,000 troops during World War I and over 20,000 Aggies served in World War II, 14,000 as officers. World War II was hard. Millions served in uniform overseas; millions served on the home front; all sacrificed for the cause of America. Many of them gave their lives all over the globe in places known only to God.

The Aggie band doesn't play an Aggie "Fight Song". There is no such thing. The band plays the "Aggie War Hymn", quite a different concept. The "Aggie War Hymn" was written by Aggie Marine J.V. "Pinky" Wilson while standing guard on the Rhine River during World War I. It remains the most recognizable school war hymn across the country—probably the world.

Today, Muster is observed in more than 400 places worldwide and this year's "Roll Call of the absent" honored 970 people around the world, including those remarkable young men and women who gave their lives for our country in lands far far away. While Muster is a time to honor those that have died, it also is a time when Aggies, young and old, come together to reconnect and celebrate a way of life known only to those that proudly hail from Aggieland.

Muster means different things to different people. Every Aggie will tell you something different, something personal about what it means to them as an Aggie. One thing that is consistent in every answer is their dedication to tradition. It is the rich heritage of tradition that sets Texas A&M apart from all the rest. It is the Corps, the Aggie War Hymn, the 12th Man, Midnight Yell, Bonfire, Texas State pride

and as much as it pains me to say it—it's TU. It's the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, Silver Taps and "Hallaballoo, Canek, Canek." It's the Junction Boys, Howdy, Gig'em, Reveille, the Dixie Chicken and of course, the ring. But above all else—it's Muster.

Most of the junior class of '42 who fought in World War II have died as with most of the veterans of World War II. But, in Texas we remember them all this July 4th. Seventy years after, when America called they all answered to the sound of reveille.

There is nothing quite like an Aggie. Gig 'Em.

And that's just the way it is.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS AND CAROLYN SMITH

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today—the 50th wedding anniversary of Thomas Reeves and Carolyn Finley Smith.

Thomas Reeves Smith was born on October 31, 1939, in Lineville, Alabama to John William and Velma Reeves Smith. His wife, Carolyn Finley Smith, was born on October 8, 1940, in Anniston, Alabama to Claude and Nile Finley. Dr. and Mrs. Smith were married on June 23, 1962 at First United Methodist Church of Weaver. Together they raised two children, Alicia Ann Smith Simmons, married to Steve Anson Simmons, and Thomas Reeves Smith, Jr., married to Jill Valocik Smith. They have three grandchildren, Lindsey Marie Smith, Thomas Reeves Smith, III and Mia Liane Smith.

Tom is a retired Methodist minister and retired Colonel in the United States Army for which he served as a Chaplain in Viet Nam and throughout the U.S. and Europe during his career of service. Carolyn worked in civil service, for government contractors and in higher education throughout her career.

Tom and Carolyn are active members of First United Methodist Church of Anniston in Anniston, Alabama. On June 23, 2012, a reception was held in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary with approximately 300 of their friends and family members in attendance. I salute this lovely couple on the 50th year of their life together and join their family in honoring them on this special occasion.

#### EXPRESSING REGRET FOR PAS- SAGE OF LAWS ADVERSELY AF- FECTING THE CHINESE IN THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 683, expressing the regret of the House of Representatives for the passage of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act.

In 1882, the U.S. Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act to prohibit people of Chinese descent from immigrating to the U.S. and becoming naturalized citizens. While the Chinese Exclusion Act was finally repealed in 1943, severe restrictions on Chinese immigration continued until the Immigration Act of 1965.

For sixty years of our history, America closed its doors to the Chinese people. During this period, Chinese immigrants already living in the United States were prevented from becoming citizens, regardless of how long they had called this country home. This official discrimination by the government of the United States against people of Chinese descent was deeply wrong and a fundamental violation of America's principles of equality and justice.

The pain caused by the Chinese Exclusion Act and other discriminatory policies cannot be undone. Still, Members of Congress have an obligation to recognize these injustices as a means of apology to all Chinese-Americans. Today, one hundred and thirty years after passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, Congress is voting to express our regret on behalf of the American people. May this action also strengthen the resolve of this body to protect and defend the civil rights of all peoples, in all times.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVER- SARY OF TGEN'S LAUNCH IN AR- IZONA

#### HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2012*

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues from Arizona to commend the Translational Genomics Research Institute ("TGen") for a decade of biomedical research success.

TGen was founded in Arizona in 2002 to leverage new scientific discoveries from the mapping of the human genome, and its establishment promptly accelerated the state into the era of genomics and personalized medicine.

Significant to TGen's establishment was the confluence of support from all sectors of the state to attract this new institute to base its operations in Arizona as well as recruit the renowned geneticist Dr. Jeffrey Trent to lead it, and position the state as a worldwide leader in bioscience and medical discovery. Academic, business, philanthropic and government leaders all joined forces in a statewide campaign within a matter of months to strategically assemble the necessary support. The members of Arizona's congressional delegation also rallied behind this collective vision.

What most excited Arizona leaders was the vision put forth by Dr. Trent, to accelerate and translate scientific discovery into more immediate and effective benefits for patients, all made possible with the new information from the human genome and rapidly developing technology.

It was on this day ten years ago, June 26, 2002, with high expectations and hopes, that Governor Hull and state leaders announced the successful launch of TGen and the

genomics era in Arizona. A decade of exciting growth and new research discoveries has since transpired, with TGen's rising tide lifting all boats.

TGen has kept its promise to the State of Arizona to invigorate and diversify the economy. Beyond growth in TGen's operational impact, TGen has also been instrumental in the creation and expansion of commercial businesses. Investment into TGen and the biosciences has spurred economic growth across the state, including the establishment of such bio centers as the Critical Path Institute and Bio5 in southern Arizona, and ASU's Bio-design Institute. The bioindustry has flourished over the past ten years, even during economic downturns, becoming a significant high-performing sector of the Arizona economy.

For patients, TGen is offering hope where there had been none with novel treatments offered only in Arizona. By partnering with clinical entities like the Mayo Clinic and Scottsdale Healthcare, TGen is focusing on utilizing genomic analyses to improve and customize patient treatments. Patients with pancreatic cancer and rare diseases like basil cell carcinoma are finding answers to their treatment struggles, and through its work, TGen is improving the quality of patient lives and allowing more years to spend with loved ones. Whether it's sequencing anthrax or the plague, investigating H1N1 or Valley Fever, finding new clues to triple-negative breast cancer or Alzheimer's disease, or leading new collaborative research partnerships addressing pediatric and canine cancers, TGen's research has made substantial inroads over the past ten years.

More than a decade ago, the mapping of human genome represented a world challenge to make use of this new knowledge for the benefit of humankind. Arizona answered this challenge, and now TGen is leading the model to fuse modern medicine with the power of translational research to fuel the next wave of treatments for all manner of human diseases.

As the tenth-year anniversary of TGen's launch is celebrated today, I applaud Dr. Trent and the scientists at TGen for their unwavering commitment to make a difference for patients and lead innovative research for Arizona into the next decade.

#### CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2578) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act related to a segment of the Lower Merced River in California, and for other purposes:

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Conservation and Economic Growth Act, H.R. 2578, a measure that will not create jobs in our country, but instead poke gaping holes in the Clean Air and Clean Water Act.

I support pieces of this legislation, including the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act, H.R. 3065. This bill, introduced by Representative HEATH SHULER,