

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 557 (H.R. 6122), 558 (H.R. 2139), 559 (H.R. 6186), 560 (H. Res. 773), 561 (H. Res. 773), and 562 (H.R. 4264) I am not recorded as I was detained in my district due to the death of Dr. Bill Causey, my first Pastor, and close friend. I was asked to speak at his funeral.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

IN RECOGNITION OF ERIN DALY AND THE BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TEAM FOR RECEIVING THE 2012 USDA SECRETARY'S HONOR AWARD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Erin Daly and the rest of the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program team at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for being selected to receive a 2012 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary's Honor Award in the category of "assisting rural communities to create prosperity so they are self-sustaining, repopulating, and economically thriving." The team and its program leader, Dr. S. (Suresh) Sureshwaran, will be honored on September 12, 2012 at the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) Mission Area ceremony and the USDA 64th Annual Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony, both in Washington, DC.

I am especially pleased because Erin has served as a Brookings Institution Legis Congressional Fellow in my Washington, DC. office since January of this year. She works on issues including agriculture, particularly as it pertains to the Farm Bill and authorization issues; environment; food safety and Food and Drug Administration issues; nutrition/hunger; HBCUs; immigration; and trade. Not only is Erin a great asset to my office, but she has also become a steadfast resource for my staff and the constituents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia. I have personally witnessed her hard work and dedication and I know this prestigious award recognizing exemplary leadership and public service is very well-deserved.

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) was authorized in the 2008 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act and is administered by the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of the USDA. The purpose of the program is to assist farmer and rancher producers who have little or no farming experience and to provide the knowledge, skills, and tools they need to make informed decisions and improve their rate of success. As of 2010, more than 5,000 new and potential farmers had participated in BFRDP training events, including webinars, seminars, roundtable discussions, internships, mentorships, on-farm field days, etc.

In Georgia, BFRDP has awarded grants to the Development of Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina Program; the Cultivating Sustainable and Organic Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in Georgia Program; and the Urban Oasis Beginning Farmer Training Program. These grants have greatly assisted beginning farmers and ranchers in Georgia in obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary to manage a successful farm, improve their rural communities, and contribute to the local, state, and national economy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District and the members of my staff, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Erin Daly and the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program team for their strong commitment and valuable contributions to beginning farmers and their rural communities. I am extremely proud of Erin and I know she will continue to do great things in my office and at USDA.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ROGER B. SCHULZ'S 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Command Sergeant Major Roger B. Schulz, for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Command Sergeant Major Roger B. Schulz will retire as Command Sergeant Major and Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Army Reserve Medical Command on October 1, 2012. His service spans over thirty-six years of military duty to the United States Army Reserve.

Command Sergeant Major Schulz has served in numerous assignments throughout his career and participated in many operations, including OPERATION JACKFROST and OPERATION BRIMFROST conducted in Alaska, and OPERATION BRIGHT STAR conducted in Egypt. He supported OPERATION DESERT STORM while stationed at Fort McCoy, WI, and deployed to Baghdad in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

Command Sergeant Major Schulz began his career as an Infantryman; serving for twelve years holding the positions of Rifleman through Platoon Sergeant. Following his time in the Infantry, Command Sergeant Major Schulz dedicated himself to the education of future Army leaders. He has served as an Instructor, Team Sergeant and Senior Instructor, 4th Army Light Fighter Academy; Brigade Operations Sergeant, 4th Brigade, 91st Division; Division Operations Sergeant, 91st Division; Battalion Operations Sergeant, Training Support Battalion, 104th Division; Chief of Operations, Primary Leader Development Course Manager and First Sergeant, U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer's Academy; Deputy Commandant/Director of Instruction, U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer's Academy; Installation Command Sergeant Major; Commandant, U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer's Academy and Commander, 12th Bat-

talion, 6th Brigade, 104th Division; and Commander, Company A, United States Army Sergeants Major Academy.

In 2003, Command Sergeant Major Schulz was assigned to the 3rd Medical Command where he was instrumental in the development of two Army Medical Department accredited schools in Iraq. His career is culminating at the Army Reserve Medical Command, where he is responsible for the discipline, morale, welfare, and education of over 28,000 Soldiers. Through his guidance and leadership the command sustainment rate was over 91%. He initiated the first Sergeant Audi Murphy Board for the command and set the requirements for the continued success of the program.

The Army Medical Department, the United States Army, and the Nation will dearly miss one of its most respected and a valued leader as Command Sergeant Major Roger B. Schulz retires. We will miss his humility, selflessness, candor and integrity. Command Sergeant Major Roger B. Schulz's exemplary leadership and selfless devotion to duty has touched fully three generations of Soldiers and their Families.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing Command Sergeant Major Roger B. Schulz for a lifetime of service to his country. For all he and his family have given and continue to give to our country; we are in their debt. We wish him and his wife, Command Sergeant Major Tommie Schulz, all the best in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on September 10, 2012, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall vote No. 557, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 558, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 559, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING MRS. ALOYSIA FOUCHE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Mrs. Aloysia Fouché, owner and CEO of Fouché's Hudson Funeral Home, Inc., as she is awarded a 2012 Living Legends of Funeral Service award from the One Hundred Black Women of Funeral Service Organization.

A trailblazer in the funeral business for nearly three decades, Mrs. Fouché transitioned into the funeral profession after the passing of her late husband and founder of the Funeral Home, Mr. Aramis Fouché. At a time when African-American women business owners were few and far between, Mrs. Fouché achieved her five-year business plan within two years. She brought greater financial solvency and extensive facility improvements to the business,

which continues to thrive today—in spite of a difficult economic climate.

Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home continues to be a source of pride in the Bay Area, serving our local African-American community with diligence and personalized care. A former educator, with a master's degree in Curriculum Development, Mrs. Fouche was also a fearless principal, as well as a celebrated teacher and instructor of media studies. Among her numerous accolades and associations, Mrs. Fouche was named Teacher of the Year, oversaw many of her students' award-winning animation films, and produced a weekly television program for parents to enhance their children's at-home learning.

In addition to her proud membership with the One Hundred Black Women of Funeral Service Organization, Mrs. Fouche is active in NFD&MA, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Friends of Father Augustine Tolton, and Phi Delta Kappa National Fraternity. Mrs. Fouche has also spent countless hours supporting and volunteering for local organizations aiding the underserved through food assistance, education scholarships, veterans services, faith ministries and AIDS awareness and prevention. She has also traveled the world extensively and counts tennis and dance among her hobbies.

As Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home management, staff and supporters look forward to its centennial anniversary in 2014, the receipt of Mrs. Fouche's Living Legends honor is timely and well-deserved. Thank you to all of the One Hundred Black Women of Funeral Service for being leaders in your communities and for providing families dignity, closure and excellent care.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, Mrs. Aloysia Fouche, I salute you. Your many years of service have made an indelible mark in our community. Thank you for your continued work, and best wishes to you and your loved ones in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
PARALYMPIANS IN LONDON,
ENGLAND

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of a class of athletes whose stories embody the classic American values of perseverance and commitment to excellence.

I am speaking of the laudable Paralympians who represented our nation in the Paralympic Games in London.

There is perhaps no better event to remind us of the unwavering desire for greatness, inherent in every American, than the Paralympic Games. The Olympic Games in London have amplified the patriotic spirit that unites us as Americans and reminds us, with each American medal, of our grand fortune as citizens of this blessed country and our legacy of exceptionalism.

Paralympic athletes complement the narrative of our history by reinforcing the notion that determination and dedication trump any of the hurdles circumstance may send our way. Their remarkable achievements as

Paralympians alike shatter misconceptions that physical disability implies shortcoming of any kind. I am proud to stand alongside them and support them as emissaries of the United States.

Their rousing individual stories prove just as remarkable as the event itself. As a Member of the House of Representatives from south Florida, I am overjoyed to represent five inspiring Paralympians.

Justin Zook, a young man from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, has quite the résumé. Justin competed on the United States Swim Team in the London Paralympics, and earned a gold medal in the men's 100 meter backstroke. In his special event, Justin has won a total of three gold medals in the 100 meter backstroke. He has set impressive world records in the 50 meter backstroke, 100 meter backstroke and 400 meter freestyle. He has represented Team USA for the past two Paralympic Games in the S10 division, winning gold and bronze medals at both appearances. Justin's record of excellence charges on, never affected by his disability.

In addition to his marked brilliance in the realm of swimming, Justin remains committed to his academics as he pursues an MBA in Sport Management at Florida Atlantic University and ultimately strives for the position of Athletics Director at an NCAA Division I institution. His focus and determination to excel in all aspects of life are qualities deserving of the utmost respect.

Paul Callahan, of Palm Beach, Florida competed in the Three-Person Keelboat Sonar sailing event along with two other team members, and came in seventh place. Paul currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of "Sail to Prevail", a non-profit corporation whose mission dates back to 1982 and seeks to provide disabled children and adults with the opportunity to overcome adversity through therapeutic sailing. Paul's championing of "Sail to Prevail" is reflected in his own experience and story.

After an accident during his junior year at Harvard rendered Paul a C4–5 quadriplegic in 1979, he returned to school after years of therapy, obtained a degree from the prestigious Harvard Business School, and worked at Goldman Sachs for a number of years. Paul left Wall Street to join the team at "Sail for Prevail", where he learned to sail nearly 15 years after his accident and cultivated the sailing expertise and philosophy that would eventually lead him to become part of the United States Sailing Team in 1998, and a participant with the 2000 and 2012 Paralympic teams. Paul's dedication to providing the means and occasions for disabled individuals to sail alongside their able-bodied counterparts reflects his vision to create bigger and better opportunities for disabled athletes to counter the physical and psychological challenges that can sometimes come with disability. Among many other notable qualities, Paul's tenacity and love for his craft makes him a standout athlete and Paralympian.

Noah Yablong is a recent graduate of the University of Arizona with a degree in mechanical engineering from Ocean Ridge, Florida. Noah's immense talent qualified him to travel with Team USA to compete in the London Paralympics in the sport of wheelchair tennis. In the London Paralympics, Noah qualified to compete up to round 32 in the wheelchair men's tennis doubles, along with

his teammate Steve Baldwin. He also succeeded in making it to round 64 in the wheelchair men's singles. Noah's athletic endeavors, achieved in spite of the disease that limits his mobility, have provided him with opportunities of travel and sport that most American athletes can only imagine. Noah has visited five of the seven continents for tennis, and represented the United States in the World Team Cup three times.

Noah's story is a classic one that speaks to the American spirit of perseverance. A participant in every sport imaginable, Noah's athletic experiences before his diagnosis included basketball, baseball, soccer, tennis, golf, and swimming. At age ten, Noah was diagnosed with Legg Calve Perthes, a rare and degenerative hip disease that makes it exceedingly difficult for him to walk and run. A devoted athlete through and through, the thirty hours of weekly training Noah dedicates to his craft extinguishes the assumption that disabilities limit accomplishments, and ultimately dreams. Noah's story, like Paul's, is a testament to the power of hard work and proves inspirational to all Americans, regardless of background or circumstance.

A fourth example of athletic excellence is Brad Johnson, a member of the United States Paralympic Sailing Team three times over and a lawyer by trade. Never limited by the automobile accident that severed both of his legs, Brad began his career as a nationally-renowned athlete and Paralympian by participating in the national sit-volleyball team after graduating from law school. Brad's love for sailing was one that he cultivated relatively recently, illustrated by the fact that he took up the sport at the age of thirty. Nearly a decade and a half later, Brad has managed to collect a variety of medals and championships that distinguish him as truly one of the best in both sit-volleyball and sailing. Along with one of his teammates Paul Callahan, he placed seventh in the Three-Person Keelboat Sonar sailing event.

After Brad medaled at the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games in the sonar class of sailing, he returned to sit-volleyball and traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil as part of the winning-U.S. Men's Sitting Volleyball Team in 2007. In 2010, Brad attended the Sitting Volleyball World Championships as a participant of Team USA, where the team placed tenth. As a practicing attorney and Paralympian residing in Pompano Beach, Florida, Brad maintains a full schedule, but always seeks to integrate his love for sport, determination in his career, and commitment to changing perceptions toward disability in his daily life. The versatility and activism with which Brad approaches his craft makes me proud to represent him.

Scott Danberg resides in Cooper City, Florida and represents one of the most recognized athletes in the Games. Scott competed in the past four consecutive Paralympic Games, which makes his appearance in London his fifth Paralympic Games. While there, he placed seventh in the men's discus throw. Over the 20-plus years that Scott has competed, he has garnered accolades in a variety of events as part of the U.S. Track and Field Team. His distinction in the events of javelin, shot put and powerlifting characterize Scott as an outstandingly talented athlete, which speaks to the discipline he shows in his personal life, as well as his competitive life.