

In closing, I would like to thank each and every one of my colleagues for their friendship and their service.

I wish you the best. Thank you all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 3, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, December 30, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: “yes” on vote No. 649 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3159, as amended); “yes” on vote No. 650 (on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4057); and “yes” on vote No. 651 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 3202).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 3, 2013*

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on a vote cast on December 13, 2012. The vote was on the Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4310—the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013—offered by Ms. DAVIS of California. The Motion to Instruct would instruct conferees to agree to section 1249 of the Senate amendment, which requires the Secretaries of Defense and State to submit to Congress a detailed plan to promote the security of Afghan women and girls as we transition from U.S. to Afghan-led security in Afghanistan.

On rollcall vote Number 624, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote “aye.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 3, 2013*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent due to the passing of my mother and was not present for rollcall votes on Sunday, December 30 and Monday December 31, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner: rollcall Vote No. 649—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act—“yes”; rollcall Vote No. 650—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive policy to improve outreach and transparency to veterans and members of the Armed Forces through the provision of information on institutions of higher learning—“yes”; rollcall Vote No. 651—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act—“yes”; rollcall Vote No. 652—Motion to Suspend the

Rules and Pass, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013—“yes”; rollcall Vote No. 653—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, a bill to redesignate the Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range—“yes”; and rollcall Vote No. 654—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment, the World War I Centennial Commission Act—“yes”.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL  
DUEHR

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 3, 2013*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend Michael Duehr on being named the First Citizen of the Year by the Dubuque Telegraph Herald. Mike is being recognized by the newspaper for his work in helping children. Mike has dedicated his personal and free time towards students and the youth in Dubuque.

Mike has devoted much of his volunteer service through his Fraternal Order of the Eagles organization. However, Mike felt that he needed to do more to give back to the community. He founded the “Eyes on the Future” program which engages students in service projects that assist children and the needy. Mike’s program has created valuable opportunities for future volunteers. Mike and I are both actively involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Last August, Mike’s Fraternal Order of the Eagles organization raised money for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization in Dubuque.

Mike is another example of a leader who has worked tirelessly to make his community a better place to live. He has done this work quietly and without a need for public recognition. I’m happy that Mike is now getting the accolades that he deserves. I’m proud to call Mike my constituent and my friend. I congratulate him on receiving the 43rd annual Telegraph Herald First Citizen award. I wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING STEELCASE FOR 100  
YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 3, 2013*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great West Michigan company and leader in the office furniture industry. Steelcase, Inc. began serving Grand Rapids, MI in 1912 as the Metal Office Furniture Company. Today, Steelcase is known as a company of innovation and integrity.

Since the creation of its first product, the fireproof metal wastebasket, Steelcase was able to look forward in innovation and safety. Steelcase continued to move forward in the world of office furniture, when in 1953, they became the first in the industry to produce office furniture in colors. Examples of

Steelcase’s attention to creativity and safety continued to be shown throughout the years. Steelcase ultimately proved itself to be a company that cared about much more.

Steelcase has also been a company that focuses on its people and their capabilities. This is easily seen in their diversity and community leadership programs. Steelcase employs fair and honest hiring practices, and seeks to raise awareness of diversity issues by creating partnerships with other companies that support diversity.

Steelcase has demonstrated a commitment to local involvement, contributing to over 100 community organizations around the United States. Additionally that philanthropic spirit carries over into the culture of the Steelcase team, where the employees volunteered nearly 4,500 hours of community service in 2010 alone.

These ideals continue to set Steelcase apart, and the company is now recognized as a symbol of excellence around the world. Steelcase now employs over 11,000 people worldwide, and 3,500 people in West Michigan. Today, the company’s product line has expanded to over 500 items, and serves over 110,000 companies around the globe.

Steelcase has proven itself to be a company built on great ideas, and continues to live up to this model as they move forward. Steelcase has recently introduced the “100 Dreams, 100 Minds, 100 Years” program. The movement looks to create a dialogue with people from around the world, and showcase their ideas and perspectives in a film centered on the future of the changing world of work.

Thank you, Steelcase, for your commitment to the Second District, the greater Grand Rapids area, and happy 100th anniversary.

HONORING SENATOR PAUL  
WELLSTONE

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 3, 2013*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Senator Paul Wellstone and to recognize his leadership, integrity, and the lasting impact he has had on the citizens of Minnesota and the United States.

Last year marked the tenth anniversary of the tragic death of Senator Wellstone, who was killed in a plane crash in Northern Minnesota on October 25, 2002, along with his wife, Sheila Wellstone, their daughter Marcia, members of the Senator’s campaign staff Tom Lopic, Mary McEvoy, and Will McLaughlin, and the plane’s two pilots Richard Conry and Michael Guess.

Paul should not be remembered for the tragedy of his death, but rather the energy with which he lived his life. Born in Washington, DC, Senator Wellstone took a teaching position at Carleton College in Northfield, MN, after graduating from the University of North Carolina. While a professor at Carleton College, Paul inspired his students through his teaching of political science in the classroom and his grassroots organizing in the community. When his position at the college was in question, students rallied around him and successfully lobbied the college not only to protect his job, but to grant him tenure. The activism he infused in his teaching is felt today on

Capitol Hill, where a number of his former students continue to work towards greater equality for all Americans.

Paul's activism extended beyond the college campus. He worked throughout the state of Minnesota, organizing labor groups, farmers, and immigrant communities; championing causes such as public housing, healthcare, and improved education. Paul's work led to his successful Senate bid in 1990, and re-election in 1996, campaigning from the back of a beat-up old school bus painted his signature green. In Washington, Paul continued his legacy of progressive policy, particularly working towards mental health parity. Paul never did what was expedient, instead he did what he felt was right, standing up for those without a strong voice in Congress. Paul was one of the few senators to vote against the authorization of war in Iraq, shortly before the 2002 election. He knew this vote might cost him his seat in the Senate, and he was the only senator up for reelection to vote no.

Throughout his academic and political career, Paul was matched in energy and determination by his wife, Sheila. An outspoken advocate for women and families experiencing domestic violence, Sheila brought the conversation about domestic violence in our communities to a national level, and was instrumental in passing the first Violence Against Women Act. A leading voice for women in the United States, she also extended her focus to international human rights abuses and spoke out for victims of sex trafficking. She helped make the fight against domestic violence a national priority.

Paul and Sheila's work is continued with groups such as Wellstone Action, which promotes progressive causes and has trained over 55,000 candidates, campaign staff, and community organizers around the country, and the Sheila Wellstone Institute, which continues Sheila's work of ending the violence against women and children.

Paul's legacy is not encapsulated in a specific cause or any individual vote, but by his embodiment of public service. He was an example of how to live a life dedicated to values and the greater good. Paul did not make decisions based on whether they were right politically, but whether they met his basic principles of fairness, generosity, and compassion.

Senator Wellstone was a political inspiration for me, and I am proud to call him my friend. He will always be remembered as a champion for the underserved, a master at grassroots campaigning, a fervent public speaker, and a Minnesota icon. Many of my colleagues have stood on the floor here and in the Senate over the last ten years, remembering his presence as we unsuccessfully try to fill the gap he left behind in politics. A truly uncommon politician, I believe if we live by Senator Wellstone's actions, our country will be better for it. As Paul said, "We all do better, when we all do better."