

RECOGNIZING JEREMY HILTON FOR HIS ADVOCACY OF MILITARY FAMILIES AFFECTED BY DISABILITIES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jeremy Hilton, of Burke, a U.S. Air Force finalist for the 2012 Military Spouse of the Year. Mr. Hilton is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and a Navy veteran. In 2002, Mr. Hilton was stationed in Navy Yard Washington, D.C. when his daughter, Kate, was born with significant medical issues. Given the longer deployments required of naval officers, Mr. Hilton chose to separate in order to care for Kate, his two-year-old son, Jack, and support his wife, Renae, who is stationed at Andrews AFB.

Mr. Hilton has made it his mission to advocate for military families impacted by a disability, and he has taken on several leadership roles to help military and non-military families on issues including medical care, long-term care, Medicaid, and special education. He spends much of his free time speaking and advocating for legislation. Mr. Hilton has become a respected authority on issues involving military families with special needs and disabilities. He has briefed the White House, the Congressional Military Family Caucus, and the staff for several Congressional committees.

Mr. Hilton was instrumental in bringing attention to major inadequacies in the U.S. Air Force Exceptional Family Member Program. He and fifteen other Air Force families organized support for a Department of Defense Inspector General report that played a major role in reforming the program. Mr. Hilton also worked with Congressional staff on provisions in the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act to institute feedback from disability-impacted military families to the Department of Defense, establishing the Military Exceptional Family Member Panel. Currently, Mr. Hilton is working to gather support on H.R. 2288, the “Caring for Military Kids with Autism Act.”

When not caring for his family or working to improve the lives of other families, Mr. Hilton spends the remaining hours of the day working toward a graduate degree at the George Washington University and producing a video series titled Creating Access for All, which encourages churches to start disability ministries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jeremy Hilton and his sacrifice, service and passionate advocacy for both military and non-military families impacted by disabilities. I believe there to be few others more deserving of the 2012 Military Spouse of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 65, I missed rollcall 65 on February 16, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. O’NEIL

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life’s work of Robert M. O’Neil, a lifelong resident of Pittsfield, Massachusetts who has served his community in many capacities, including service Pittsfield residents as a teacher at Taconic High School since 1996. He and his beloved wife, Betty O’Neil, raised one daughter, Angela, and enjoyed the company of 22 nephews and nieces.

Mr. O’Neil started a long career as a girls’ basketball coach at the Catholic Youth Center, Pittsfield Boys and Girls Club and with AAU teams. He also refereed countless games since 1987 and was Assistant Girls Basketball Coach at Pittsfield High School from 1995 until 2005. At various times his Pittsfield teams won the City Championship, League Championship, Berkshire County Championship, Western Massachusetts Championship, and appeared in the Massachusetts State Championship Final. He then became Head Girls Basketball Coach at Taconic High School in 2005 and served in that capacity until 2011. During his career, he was named the recipient of the Berkshire County Sportsman of the Year and radio station WBEC’s Girls Coach of the Year, and on two different occasions was named Girls Basketball Coach of the Year by his peers.

Robert M. O’Neil has unselfishly devoted his life to improving the lives of students and basketball players and their families. On February 21, 2012, his life will be celebrated, and he will be given a Certificate of Recognition and the Key to the City of Pittsfield in deep appreciation for his distinguished service, and that date will be known forever as Robert M. O’Neil Day in Pittsfield. Mr. Speaker, I join my friends, colleagues and neighbors in commemorating his life and wonderful accomplishments.

RED TAIL PILOTS TRIBUTE EVENT HOSTED BY THE YMCA OF CENTRAL FLORIDA AND LOCKHEED MARTIN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Central Florida YMCA for their “Red Tail Pilots Tribute” event to congratulate the Tuskegee Airmen.

I am very pleased to talk about the pioneers who laid the groundwork for what we as African Americans have been able to accomplish over the last 70 years. In fact, when President Roosevelt began training African American troops, the Tuskegee Airmen excelled in protecting the bombers attacking enemy positions better than any other units in the United States Army Air Force.

And every single one of the first class of pilots of what became known as the Tuskegee Airmen had a college degree. One of them was Benjamin O. Davis, a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point,

who became the first African American to earn 3 stars in the United States Air Force.

In 1940, the Selective Service and Training Service Act, enacting the first peace-time draft in the United States’ history was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Under the Act, all American males between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five years had to register for the draft . . . and it went on to say “there shall be no discrimination against any person on account of race or color.”

Following this, the first aviation class at the Tuskegee Institute with 13 cadets began in 1941. In March 1942, five of the 13 cadets in the first class completed the Army Air Corps pilot training program and earned their silver wings and became the nation’s first black military pilots.

Soon afterwards, the newly formed United States Air Force began plans to integrate its units as early as 1947, and in 1948, President Harry Truman enacted Executive Order Number 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity to all in the United States Armed Forces. This order, in time, led to the end of racial segregation in the military forces. This was also the first step toward racial integration in the United States of America.

Beyond a doubt, the positive experience, the outstanding record of accomplishments and the superb behavior of the black airmen during World War II, and after, were important factors leading up to the historical social change that led to racial equality in America.

The Tuskegee Airmen will live on forever in the pages of history because they accepted the challenge proudly, and succeeded in proving to the world that blacks could fly. These men fought two wars—one against a military enemy force overseas and another one against racism at home.

I am reminded of the words of the first President of the United States, George Washington, whose words are worth repeating at this time:

“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country.”

Thank you for your service for your country and your continued service for your fellow veteran in these difficult times we all endure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my district, I had to miss votes on H.R. 3408. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on Amendment 13, “aye” on Amendment 15, “no” on Amendment 16, “aye” on Amendment 17, “aye” on Amendment 18, “no” on Amendment 19, “aye” on the Motion to Recommit, and “no” on Final Passage.

PROCLAIMING THE STATE OF NEVADA RECOGNIZE DR. HEATH MORRISON'S ACCOMPLISHMENT AS THE 2012 NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR, AS AWARDED BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ON FEBRUARY 16, 2012

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Heath Morrison as the 2012 National Superintendent of the Year award winner at the American Association of School Administrator's National Conference on Education on February 16, 2012, in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Morrison came to the Washoe County School District in 2009 after serving as a community superintendent in Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland. Prior to serving as superintendent, he served as a middle and high school principal and a teacher in Charles County, Maryland. Dr. Morrison holds a Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Planning, a Masters of Educational Administration from the University of Maryland, and a Bachelor of Arts in Government from the College of William and Mary.

The American Association of School Administrators bases its selection of Superintendent of the Year on four criteria: leadership in learning, communication, professionalism, and community involvement. Dr. Morrison led the development and implementation of the District's five-year strategic plan to enhance the quality of education for the District's 63,000 students and to reduce the dropout rate. With his leadership, between 2009 and 2011, the Washoe County School District's graduation rate jumped from 56 percent to 70 percent across all student groups. This was due in no small part to Dr. Morrison's commitment to go door-to-door, finding children who have dropped out of school or are regularly truant and working with them to return. He has also established a Parent University to engage parents in their children's education and created the Community Compact, a program that involves the local community in the success of its students. Washoe County has also achieved significant test score gains, has narrowed the achievement gap in many subject areas, and has made great strides to ensure all students graduate ready to pursue college and highly skilled careers during his tenure. Dr. Morrison truly lives out the school district's motto of "Every child, by name and face, to graduation."

Other awards and honors received by Dr. Morrison include the 2012 Leadership through Communication Award from the American Association of School Administrators, the National School Public Relations Association, and Blackboard Connect, as well as the Distinguished Educational Leader Award from the Washington Post.

I know that my fellow Nevadans and I believe the selection of Dr. Heath Morrison as the American Association of School Administrators 2012 National Superintendent of the

Year is a fitting recognition of his many accomplishments as the Superintendent of Washoe County School District. Educators significantly and permanently influence the lives of our children. Dr. Morrison's vision and leadership in the Washoe County Schools illustrates that when parents, teachers, and the local community all work together, there is nothing they cannot accomplish. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in praising the accomplishments of Dr. Heath Morrison and recognizing his actions to be an exemplary model for all those teaching America's youth today.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MICRON TECHNOLOGY CEO STEVE APPLETON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of Micron Technology Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Steve Appleton, who died in an aircraft accident on February 3, 2012.

Mr. Appleton, 51, began his career at Micron Technology in 1983 working the nightshift on the company's chip fabrication line. As was the case with many of Mr. Appleton's pursuits, his work for Micron Technology was tireless and done with a steadfast devotion to the highest levels of performance. Mr. Appleton quickly climbed through the ranks of a highly competitive corporate structure at Micron Technology. He was named chairman, CEO and president at age 34, making him the third youngest CEO of a Fortune 500 company at the time.

Under his leadership, Micron Technology grew to over 23,000 employees in 20 countries, producing annual revenues of \$8.9 billion. The company employs more than 1,800 Virginians, and the work performed at its Prince William County facility has helped make semiconductors the Commonwealth's largest manufactured export. His efforts earned him the recognition of his industry colleagues. In 2011, Mr. Appleton received the Robert N. Noyce Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Semiconductor Industry Association.

Mr. Appleton is described by friends and family as a fierce competitor who valued personal relationships. For a CEO of a Fortune 500 company who remained on a first name basis with many of his employees, this balance was second nature to Mr. Appleton. In his limited spare time, he became an accomplished pilot and motocross racer. He is survived by his wife and four children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in extending our condolences to Steve Appleton's friends, family and colleagues at Micron Technology Inc. They have lost an incredibly talented and devoted leader. Mr. Appleton's achievements cannot be overstated. He always strived to be the best.

PROTECTING INVESTMENT IN OIL SHALE THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, ENERGY, AND RESOURCE SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3408) to set clear rules for the development of United States oil shale resources, to promote shale technology research and development, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chair, like a broken, outdated record player, with this legislation the Republican Majority in the House shows itself to be out of touch with America's energy needs and energy future. The Congress should be encouraging innovation in our energy sector and natural resource preservation. Instead, H.R. 3408 shirks environmental stewardship and ignores all lessons from past drilling and spill related disasters. Almost two years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster there are still no new safety measures or reforms in place to prevent and mitigate a future catastrophe. Rather than meaningful efforts to prevent loss of life and loss of habitat, the Republican Majority chooses to open up nearly every coastline of the U.S. for development of oil and gas drilling.

This bill threatens our nation's most pristine wilderness, the beautiful Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Opening this area to oil and gas drilling is not projected to lower gas prices in the near future or by any significant amount—less than two cents per gallon 20 years from now. But this is not the only area that would be opened up for offshore drilling under this bill. The Majority wants to mandate that broad swaths of the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts be made available for drilling leases. I thank my colleague in the New York Delegation, Mr. BISHOP, for his amendment that would prevent oil and gas leases in the Northeast region. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" on the Amendment 12 offered by Mr. DEUTCH.

The grievances continue. The Majority repeats itself by again attempting to force approval of the Keystone XL pipeline. Throughout the 112th Congress they have refused to allow for a thorough review and study by the State Department. Seeking to direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve the pipeline within 30 days without conditions is wholly irresponsible and does nothing to ensure the safety and security of workers, residents, and communities impacted by the pipeline.

The Republican Majority has tried to say opening up these lands to drillings will pay for a transportation package but that is false. This legislation would cover less than one percent of the overall cost of their transportation proposal.

For reasons listed above, I oppose this misguided and dangerous legislation.