

Allison Mock is a senior at Kempner High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Why is it important to participate in the political process?

George Bernard Shaw once said, "Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve;" this is especially true in our nation today. America has become apathetic. We no longer look for ways to actively participate in our own government. Voting in minor elections, writing letters to congressmen, and attending city council meetings to stay updated have become things of the past. In essence, we have forgotten how to be involved in the political process. This is a natural feature of our country's aging. The majority of the population does not remember that voting is a privilege, not a guarantee. We dismiss that there ever was a time when having your voice heard was almost impossible and advocating controversial opinions dangerous. The Founders of our nation and millions of soldiers died so we would never again see such a time, their sacrifices should never be taken lightly. Those heroes dreamed of a country where the people determined what the future would look like, and now we are here. However, the hard work is far from over. While the Constitution provides the foundation to build our government upon, the most important work is done by the people we elect. Our republic should be reinvented with each new generation. This makes it even more important for the majority to participate in the political process. Our system is currently lacking people to balance out the radical activists and conversely, push forward those who have stagnated in their policy. The recent retirement of leaders like Senator Stowe is compelling evidence that even leaders are frustrated by the polarization of the politically active members of society. We need everyone to participate to fully deserve a good government.

An ideal spot to start these changes would be in high schools. Although Government classes lightly touch on the importance of voting, most kids have no idea how crucial it is. A self-fulfilling prophecy occurs in their political lives; society does not expect them to care until they are older, and as a result, they don't think they need to. However, if the curriculum included more of an emphasis on not only the importance of voting, but a detailed explanation of what each party stands for and how to discern for themselves how they would like to vote, students would respond. Lists of election dates could be distributed to students and posted online. By involving social media we could reach even more of this demographic. Twitter, Facebook, my space could all have reminders to vote, information about candidates and their issues, and ways to get involved in the community it would be difficult. A similar campaign was tried in the early 2000s, but was abandoned when it did not prove imme-

diately effective. While we have more social media now, allowing the message to further penetrate, what we really need is perseverance from our leaders. We must continue to try and reach this crucial age group, because they too deserve a chance to reshape the republic and make this country even greater.

HONORING NAZARETH COLLEGE ON ITS DESIGNATION AS MILITARY FRIENDLY

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nazareth College, which I am proud to represent as part of the 29th District of the great state of New York. Nazareth College was recently recognized by the Military Advanced Education Journal as military friendly, following a concerted effort to help veteran students transition to academia.

Beginning with the hiring of Jeremy Bagley as coordinator of veteran student enrollment, Nazareth College has worked to provide more services and offerings to its veteran students. By working with the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center, Nazareth College has provided access to creative arts therapy and therapists and developed a program to train faculty and staff to help respond to veterans' needs. When the Veterans Outreach Center was forced to lay off employees due to financial pressures, Nazareth College provided oversight of its on-site clinical staff to help offset the impact of cuts to vital programs. Nazareth College continues to offer internships pairing veterans with veteran mentors as part of a broad strategy to help veteran students better handle the transition from military service to academia.

In recognition of this concerted effort by Nazareth College and in light of the rigorous criteria used by the Military Advanced Education Journal in awarding this distinction, I am pleased to recognize Nazareth College for their designation as military friendly.

ESSAY BY BAILEY ARLINGHAUS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in

the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Bailey Arlinghaus is a senior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Government is crucial in our lives. Without government, we would all be barbarically fighting for the limited amount of resources we have available. Government helps our society function the way it is, but just like anything else, too much of a good thing can be bad. Therefore, government intervention should be limited on our lives. Too much government control can lead to dictatorships or the government playing a "Big Brother" kind of role. This "Big Brother" type of rule would be bad in the long run because the people would lose faith in the government, so the citizens would try to find any way they can to overthrow the government. Government's role should be to help society but within its boundaries set by society. Crossing these boundaries can lead to too much government intervention in our society. I think the boundary that the government should never cross would be the boundary of the government tracking your every move and everything you do. The government's main role should be to lay down the expectations, make laws that people should follow, help society when needed, but don't interfere in society so much that it makes the people dependent on the government to run effectively. The government's role is important to how this society functions. Therefore, the government needs to let society work in a way so that it isn't making the society completely dependent on them. Every individual should be able to speak their mind, without control, to promote new ideas that better society. That can only happen with a limited government role, to make society work on its own. The government should do nothing except give a little push to society every now and then to keep it running. With this, the government isn't running our everyday lives but just helping us to be able to run it ourselves. We should all follow the government's laws but, at the same time, be able to have a mind of our own. To conclude, the government shouldn't play a huge role in our every day lives, rather a limited one, so we can be more effective on our own and be able to think for ourselves.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 8, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 13

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Northern Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the report of the Independent Consultant's Review with Respect to the Department of Energy Loan and Loan Guarantee Portfolio.

SD-366

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Frederick D. Barton, of Maine, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Conflict and Stabilization Operations), and to be Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, and William E. Todd, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, both of the Department of State, and Sara Margalit Aviel, of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

SD-419

10:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Freedom of Information Act, focusing on safeguarding critical infrastructure information and the public's right to know.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Carlos Pascual, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Energy Resources, John Christopher Stevens, of California, to be Ambassador to Libya, and Jacob Walles, of Delaware, to be Ambassador to the Tunisian Republic, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

Environment and Public Works
Water and Wildlife Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 810, to prohibit the conducting of invasive research on great apes, S. 1249, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States, S. 2071, to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, S. 357, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to identify and declare wildlife disease emergencies and to coordinate rapid response to those emergencies, S. 1494, to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, S. 1266, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to build on and help coordinate funding for the restoration and protection efforts of the 4-State Delaware River Basin region, and S. 2156, to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, to set prices for Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and make limited waivers of stamp requirements for certain users.

SD-406

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3 p.m.

Appropriations

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed military construction budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Defense and the Department of the Navy.

SD-124

MARCH 14

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Federal onshore and offshore energy development programs in the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine risk management and commodities in the 2012 farm bill.

SH-216

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Sudan and South Sudan, focusing on independence and insecurity.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Congress, focusing on reform proposals for the 21st century.

SD-342

Appropriations

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the United States Agency for International Development.

SD-226

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine ending homelessness among veterans, focusing

on Veterans' Affairs progress on its five year plan.

SR-418

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Department of Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of the Air Force.

SD-192

Appropriations

Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Labor.

SD-138

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Adam E. Sieminski, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, Marcilynn A. Burke, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and Anthony T. Clark, of North Dakota, and John Robert Norris, of Iowa, both to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SD-366

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine issues in the prepaid card market.

SD-538

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Pamela A. White, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be Director General of the Foreign Service, and Gina K. Abercrombie-Winstanley, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine managing interagency nuclear nonproliferation efforts, focusing on if nuclear materials around the world are effectively secured.

SD-342

Armed Services

Strategic Forces Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management in review of the Department of Energy budget request for fiscal year 2013; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SR-222

2:45 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of William J. Kayatta, Jr., of Maine, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, John

Thomas Fowlkes, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Kevin McNulty, and Michael A. Shipp, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and Stephanie Marie Rose, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa.

SD-226

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian water rights, focusing on promoting the negotiation and implementation of water settlements in Indian country.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Government Accountability Office, Government Printing Office, and the Congressional Budget Office.

SD-138

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee

Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings to examine strengthening the housing market and minimizing losses to taxpayers.

SD-538

MARCH 20

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

MARCH 21

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine retooling government for the 21st century, focusing on the President's reorganization plan and reducing duplication.

SD-342

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Mili-

tary Order of the Purple Heart, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Non Commissioned Officers Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Vietnam Veterans of America, Wounded Warrior Project, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, and The Retired Enlisted Association.

SD-G50

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Verizon and cable deals.

SD-226

MARCH 22

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Air Force Sergeants Association, Blinded Veterans Association, American Veterans (AMVETS), Gold Star Wives, Fleet Reserve Association, Military Officers Association of America, and the Jewish War Veterans.

345, Cannon Building

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 303, to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to require the Bureau of Land Management to provide a claimant of a small miner waiver from claim maintenance fees with a period of 60 days after written receipt of 1 or more defects is provided to the claimant by registered mail to cure the 1 or more defects or pay the claim maintenance fee, S. 1129, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing leases and permits, S. 1473, to amend Public Law 99-548 to provide for the implementation of the multispecies habitat conservation plan for the Virgin River, Nevada, and to extend the authority to purchase certain parcels of public land, S. 1492, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, for the environmental remediation and reclamation of the Three Kids Mine Project Site, S. 1559, to establish the San Juan Islands National Conservation Area in the San Juan Islands, Washington, S. 1635, to designate certain lands in San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan Counties, Colorado, as wilderness, S. 1687, to adjust the boundary of Carson National Forest, New Mexico, S. 1774, to establish the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management Area, to designate certain Federal land as wilderness, and to improve the management of noxious weeds in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, S. 1788, to designate the Pine Forest Range Wilderness area in Humboldt County, Nevada,

S. 1906, to modify the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as the program applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, S. 2001, to expand the Wild Rogue Wilderness Area in the State of Oregon, to make additional wild and scenic river designations in the Rogue River area, to provide additional protections for Rogue River tributaries, S. 2015, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to the Powell Recreation District in the State of Wyoming, and S. 2056, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain interests in Federal land acquired for the Scofield Project in Carbon County, Utah.

SD-366

MARCH 27

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Airland Subcommittee

To hold a hearing to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

MARCH 28

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

SeaPower Subcommittee

To receive a closed briefing on the Ohio-class Replacement Program in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SVC-217

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Margaret Bartley, of Maryland, and Coral Wong Pietsch, of Hawaii, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

SR-418

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

MARCH 29

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Contracting Oversight Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine contractors, focusing on how much they are costing the government.

SD-342