

delay in Chicago, Illinois that prevented my travel, I was unable to cast my vote for roll Number 111.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3992 which passed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 371–0. I believe by allowing our allies, such as Israel, to invest in businesses in the United States, we are encouraging job creation and bringing more innovative ideas that will benefit all Americans.

Currently, citizens in 75 countries are eligible to apply for E–2 visas which are non-immigrant visas valid for up to two years and allow visa holders to oversee businesses in which they have considerable capital invested. Prior to 2003, countries could become eligible if specified in trade agreements but now separate legislation is required to add countries to the program.

Countries eligible for E–2 visas span from Albania to Pakistan to the United Kingdom and in Fiscal Year 2010, more than 25,000 E–2 visas were granted. Israel has a reciprocal program allowing United States investors the same ability. E–2 visas invest in our economy and foster working relationships with other countries. Adding Israel to this list will only continue these efforts.

Again, had my flight from Chicago to Washington, DC had not been delayed, I would have voted in support of H.R. 3992.

HONORING SAYDI WOLLNEY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 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.

Saydi Wollney is a senior at Pearland High School in Brazoria County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Although the United States government provides services such as roadways, protection from harm—both foreign and domestic—and regulation of food and drugs, I believe the government has, at times, stepped over their boundaries and infringed upon the rights of the people.

The recent SOPA (Stop Online Piracy Act) and the Protect IP Act wanted to shut down websites which illegally provided services such as making music, videos, and movies available for free download. In doing this, the government also restricted and suppressed websites which were informational and helpful to the public. In this way, the government inadvertently infringed upon the rights of citizens of the United States. After the incident of SOPA closing down Wikipedia for a short while, I noticed it was a popular conversation being held around school. My peers were unhappy and disliked the fact that the government seemed to have

overstepped their boundaries. I realize that the government was doing what they think was best for United States citizens at this point in time, but I believe their actions could have been delivered in a more friendly and informative way.

The issues with Medicaid and Medicare have citizens of the United States disagreeing with one another. Some people believe that Medicaid is a system that simply takes the money that citizens pay in taxes and utilizes it to care for people with a lower level of income. On the other hand, the other people believe that Medicaid is a good cause and is beneficial to those who are in need. The recent health care reform laws have been viewed by many as the government slowly taking control of the health care system. However, other people believe that the health care reform is beneficial and helpful to the American people, including those who could not previously afford health care.

Recently, there have been many debated issues over whether or not the government of the United States is overstepping its own boundaries and regulations of the country. I believe that most of the actions that I have discussed have been beneficial for the United States citizens, with exception of the SOPA and PIPA acts.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SOLDAN HIGH SCHOOL TIGERS, WINNERS OF THE MISSOURI CLASS 4 STATE TITLE FOR BASKETBALL AND STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Missouri's own Class 4 State Basketball Champions, the Soldan High School Tigers.

Soldan High School's convincing 55–42 victory over Springfield Hillcrest at the Mizzou Arena in Columbia was the culmination of three years hard work and dedication, resulting in the Tiger's first state championship in basketball in 31 years. Under the leadership of Head Coach Justin Tatum, the Tigers defeated some of the best teams in the nation, outscoring their playoff opponents by an unbelievable average of 24 points a game.

The men of the Soldan High School Tigers are more than merely teammates, they are a band of brothers. Many of the Tigers have played on the same teams since grade school, their recent victory a fitting reward for years of dedication to both each other and the sport of basketball. Especially for Soldan's nine-man senior class of Devin Booker, Aaron Diamini, Kawan Griffin, Randy Holmes, Paul McRoberts, Jibreel Muhammad, Partice Sanders, Elva Shelton, and Rashad Simmons, the season, and their high school careers, ended exactly how they hoped they would.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Tatum and the men of the Soldan High School Tigers are true examples of character and sportsmanship, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring their remarkable achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 117, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING LARRY SLY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize and congratulate Larry Sly, Executive Director for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, as he retires after 35 years of public service.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Larry began his career as an Executive Director with the Food Bank of Contra Costa in 1976. Starting with just two employees, Larry brought the organization a truck and trailer, where he stored bread that he picked up from a local grocery store. Soon, people in the area from local churches began distributing this bread to underprivileged people of the community.

In Larry's first year as Executive Director of the Food Bank of Contra Costa, the organization distributed approximately 36,000 pounds of food to people in need of assistance in the local area. Eventually, the Food Bank would merge with a struggling Solano County Food Bank and develop a greater outreach program within the region. Every year, with Larry's leadership, the Food Bank steadily increases the number of families who received food donations and groceries; last year they distributed over 14 million pounds of food.

During his time with the Food Bank, Larry has developed successful programs to help locals and agencies distribute food in a cheaper, more efficient manner. One such program, the Senior Food Program, provides low income senior citizens the opportunity to receive free groceries each month. Another, the Farm to Kid Program, provides five pounds of food every week for low income families as well as three to five pounds of fresh produce for every child in after school programs at low-income schools.

Throughout his career in public service, Larry has served at a number of statewide and national organizations. He served as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Feeding America and the National Food Bank Network, as well as on the Board of Directors at the California Association of Food Banks and the Emergency Food and Shelter Board in Contra Costa County. In 2009, Larry also served as Interim Executive Director for Feeding America San Diego, where he helped improve and manage the organization.

Mr. Speaker, I invite this chamber to join me in recognizing Larry Sly for his commitment

and significant service to the people of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. I applaud Larry's contributions on behalf of the underprivileged, and his efforts to increase awareness of hunger and food security issues throughout California and the Nation. Larry's leadership throughout his career provides a positive example for those planning to serve their communities. I am pleased to join his family, colleagues, and friends in congratulating him as he retires from the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

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 22, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
MARCH 27

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Strategic Command and U.S. Cyber 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-106

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Green Jobs and the New Economy Subcommittee

Oversight Subcommittee

To hold a joint oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) work with other Federal entities to reduce pollution and improve environmental performance.

SD-406

Judiciary

Immigration, Refugees and Border Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the economic imperative for promoting international travel to the United States.

SD-226

Appropriations

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

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

SD-124

10:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the choice neighborhoods initiative, focusing on a new community development model.

SD-538

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine monetary policy going forward, focusing on why a sound dollar boosts growth and employment.

SH-216

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. Res. 356, expressing support for the people of

Tibet, S. Res. 395, expressing the sense of the Senate in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the NATO summit to be held in Chicago, Illinois from May 20 through 21, 2012, S. Res. 397, promoting peace and stability in Sudan, S. Res. 80, condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, S. Res. 391, condemning violence by the Government of Syria against journalists, and expressing the sense of the Senate on freedom of the press in Syria, S. Res. 344, supporting the democratic aspirations of the Nicaraguan people and calling attention to the deterioration of constitutional order in Nicaragua, the nominations of Julissa Reynoso, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, and Gina K. Abercrombie-Winstanley, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta, both of the Department of State, and lists in the Foreign Service.

S-116, Capitol

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

Armed Services

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense's role in implementation of the National Strategy for Counterterrorism and the National Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

2:45 p.m.

Finance

Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine renewable energy tax incentives, focusing on how have the recent and pending expirations of key incentives affected the renewable energy industry in the United States.

SD-215

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.

Appropriations

Department of Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense health programs.

SD-192

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United States policy on Iran.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Special Counsel's report on the prosecution of Senator Ted Stevens.

SD-226

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 National Institutes of Health.

SD-124

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

10:30 a.m.

Inaugural Ceremonies—2012

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations and committee's rules and procedure for the 112th Congress.

S-216, Capitol

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SD-124

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the science and standards of forensics.

SR-253

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Economic Policy Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine retirement, focusing on examining the retirement savings deficit.

SD-538

Appropriations

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation.

SD-192

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine assessing efforts to combat waste and fraud in Federal programs.

SD-342

Appropriations

Financial Service and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine enhancing economic growth, focusing on the Department of the Treasury's responses to the foreclosure crisis and mounting student loan debt.

SD-138

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SD-226