

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House on April 24, 2012 due to important commitments in my district.

On rollcall 178, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 2157, to facilitate a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVE CSINTYAN IN HONOR OF HIS SERVICE TO THE COLORADO SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and say thank you to the outgoing President and CEO of the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, Dave Csintyan.

Dave has been a dedicated and devoted servant to our region and our Chamber since 2002. He has also loyally served our country for 28 years as an officer in the United States Air Force. The culmination of that career was in Colorado Springs serving as the Air Base Wing Commander at the Air Force Academy.

Dave accepted new challenges this year in guiding the merger of the Springs Chamber and the Economic Development Corporation. He is a passionate worker and advocate for the Pikes Peak Region and I offer him my sincerest thanks and wish he and his wife Margo the best of success in their future service.

BAILEY BATISTE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bailey Batiste for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Bailey Batiste is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Bailey Batiste is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Bailey Batiste for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING BIRUTA STAKLE
McSHANE**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved mother and wife, Biruta Stakle McShane. She was born Biruta Isolda Stakle in Riga, Latvia April 21, 1940, and passed away surrounded by her family on April 14, 2012, in Cupertino, California.

Biruta immigrated to Oklahoma following the close of World War II after living for some time in Germany. Raised in Stillwater, she attended Oklahoma State University, where she graduated with honors in Mathematics. Shortly thereafter, she moved to Dallas, Texas, where she met and married Thomas McShane.

Biruta and Tom moved to Burlingame, California and started a family. During her career, Biruta worked in various marketing roles for several Silicon Valley Companies, before ultimately starting her own businesses, Meetings & Incentives Group and Bimark Incorporated. Meetings and Incentives Group is one of the leading event planning groups in Silicon Valley and Bimark Inc. specializes in advertising specialty items. Biruta served as president of the Northern California Chapter of the Business Marketing Association and was honored repeatedly as owner of one of Silicon Valley's top twenty women-owned businesses.

Biruta is remembered for her love of travel and cooking. She explored the globe and planned exotic events for some of Silicon Valley's most successful businesses. She was famous for her endless energy, creativity and zest for making other people's lives unforgettable through her event planning.

Biruta is survived by her husband, Tom McShane, her daughter Laura Powers of San Ramon, daughter Alison Aarts of Millbrae and son Steve McShane of Salinas. Biruta is also survived by her four grandchildren, Jack Powers, Shane Powers, Cooper Powers and Aidan Aarts.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Biruta Stakle McShane for her accomplishments and contributions. The life of Biruta Stakle McShane serves as an example of excellence to those in her life, and her legacy will not be soon forgotten.

MARQUIS ALEXANDER, FUTURE
COMMANDER OF TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY'S CORPS OF CADETS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a milestone reached by Marquis Alexander. He is the first African-American to become commander of Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets. Currently Marquis is a Corporal in the U.S. Marine Reserves and a rising senior majoring in International Studies.

HISTORY OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS AT TAMU

The history of African-Americans at Texas A&M University dates back to the founding of

the institution. African-Americans in the Texas Legislature advocated for and supported the passage of the Morrill Land-Grant Act in 1866, which established the A&M College of Texas between 1876 and 1963. African-Americans worked at A&M as laborers, maids, custodians and various other support staff; however they were prohibited from attending as students and faculty.

The history of African-Americans at A&M has been shaped by decades of racial segregation, quiet desegregation, and attempts to redress historical wrongs. It has been filled with lifelong struggles and determination to fulfill a dream which was accomplished when A&M opened the doors in 1963 to African Americans. The past 37 years have been a continuing struggle by African-Americans and A&M to ensure that the dream is kept alive.

The first African-Americans joined the corps in 1964. The first female cadets came a decade later. In A&M's centennial year, Fred McClure won election as body president, making him the first to be equal to that of Corps Commander and Aggie Yell Leader.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Civil rights is a subject that cannot be ignored or taken lightly, even in this day of progressive movement toward tolerance. We must not lose sight of the continued need for civil rights. We must not relax our initiatives which build greater racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance. While I believe that there is still work to be done on the issue of civil rights and hurdles to overcome, we cannot ignore the progress that has been made as the result of decades of hard work, diligence, the sweat and tears of many of our country's civil rights trailblazers.

This is evidenced by an increase in the numbers of minorities attaining leadership positions in the private and public sectors for example: Ken Chenault, an African American who currently serves as the CEO of American Express; Ursula Burns, who became the first African American woman to serve as Chairman and CEO of Xerox, a Fortune 500 Company; and Antonio Perez, the first Latino American to serve as CEO of Eastman Kodak Corporation to name a few.

BACKGROUND ON MARQUIS ALEXANDER

He is the oldest of 10 children and the first in his family to go to college. He is said to be an admirable and mature young man. Mr. Alexander is currently a Corporal in the Marine Reserves. He has become the first person with military experience to head the Corps. Texas A&M University has the proud distinction of having the most graduates to enlist in our nation's armed forces when compared to other non-military academies.

Marquis Alexander grew up in my home city of Houston. And our city is proud of his achievements. Marquis has always wanted to attend Texas A&M. He was so "gung-ho" military that he participated in Texas A&M's Junior Cadet Accessions Program while still in high school. A week after enlisting in the Marine Corps, he received his letter of acceptance to Texas A&M University.

Yet, true to his word and commitment, Alexander attended boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego and spent a year and a half on active duty. He subsequently reverted from active duty status and is serving the remainder of his enlistment commitment in the Marine Corps Reserves. He re-applied for admission to Texas A&M in 2009 and was promptly accepted.

He was selected following a rigorous review process in which a host of cadets are considered when leadership selections are made each year. Soon he will assume duties as Cadet Colonel of the Corps, the 2,100 member organization's top leadership position, also known as Corps Commander, and one of the three top positions on campus, along with that of student body President and Yell Leader.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Alexander for aiming high and continuing to strive above and beyond his primary goals of joining the military. He is a mentor and guiding light to those who know him. I congratulate Marquis on his achievement. He has indeed risen to the top and I hope he keeps on rising. In my office, I have an intern named Ashley Hawkes whose family has also dedicated their lives to the military. Marquis Alexander stands as a role to young people like Ashley. Ashley was honored to work on this statement, and was inspired by his story. That is why I stand here today to spread the word about his tremendous achievement to not only honor Marquis Alexander but to inspire young people like Ashley to realize that they must continue to advance.

BRUGETTE THOMPSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brugette Thompson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brugette Thompson is a 12th grader at Pomona High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brugette Thompson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brugette Thompson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

THE HOLOCAUST

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Today marks the passage of almost 70 years since the unfathomable annihilation of six million Jewish men, women, and children from Europe. In addition to working to systematically eliminate the Jewish people, the Nazis also targeted other marginalized groups such as political opponents, the LGBT community, the Roma, Soviet prisoners of war, the disabled, and other religious minorities.

The effort to remove, wholly and completely, from society certain categories of human

beings because of their ethnic, political, religious, cultural, and biological characteristics was atrocious. While we honor the memory of the millions lost during the Holocaust and the millions more who were never born because of this unparalleled crime against humanity, we must learn from the past in order to ensure that the worst actions in history are never again repeated.

On this Holocaust Remembrance Day, it is important not only to commemorate those who perished, but also those who refused to be bystanders to this grave human tragedy. We may take heart from the brave efforts of those who resisted the Nazi reign of terror, in the ghettos and the camps, from the cities to the countryside. We stand in awe of the rescuers who, against all odds and at great personal risk, demonstrated moral courage the world must honor, remember, and uphold as a model for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren.

As individuals, communities, and as a nation, we must rededicate ourselves to ensuring that the world will never stand idly by in the face of mass atrocity. We must work to extinguish the sparks of hatred, intolerance, and violence wherever they may be found, while nurturing in ourselves and others the seeds of empathy and a resistance to the indifference that enabled the unthinkable destruction of human life 70 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, may we let this be our monument to the millions who perished in the Holocaust.

IN RECOGNITION OF NANCY DOUTT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Nancy Douth and to acknowledge her receipt of the 2012 Grindstone Award by the Berea Chamber of Commerce. Nancy has dedicated her life to her community through volunteerism.

A lifelong resident of Berea, Nancy was an active member of 4-H and graduated from Berea High School in 1976. Today, Nancy is married to Steve. She works at Medical Mutual and is a member of the New Century Beatniks.

As a young child, her parents ingrained a sense of selflessness in Nancy that has translated into a lifelong commitment to her community. She is an active member of the American Legion Post 91 Auxiliary and Auxiliary Color Guard. She is involved with St. Mary's Church, where she is a member of the choir and a Eucharistic Minister. Additionally, Nancy spends countless hours as a volunteer with Berea Arts Fest, Southwest General Health Center's Community Outreach Program and the Berea Children's Home. She is fundamental in the work done by Coats for Kids, Dress for Success, Pajama Walk and the Hand-to-Hand leaf raking projects. Nancy also personally participates in Relay for Life, Pedal to the Point, numerous walk-a-thons and has donated more than 18 gallons of blood to the Red Cross.

Because of her relentless work on behalf of her community, the City of Berea honored Nancy with the 2012 Spirit of Community Award.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Nancy Douth as she is honored by the Berea Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II veterans who traveled to Washington, DC on April 25, 2012 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II veterans the opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC. This memorial was built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on April 25 answered our Nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

John Abraham, Jr.; Fred Alperin; Arthur L. Barron; Elizabeth H. Bartolich; Philip Bartolotta; John N. Basic; Robert R. Beazley; Jerry S. Benesh; Francis J. Bialas; Victor N. Bonneau; Robert D. Brakley; Stanley A. Branauskas; LeRoy Matthias Braun; Leo B. Braun, Jr.; Francis Brogan; Laverly Williams Brown; Roy V. Carlson; Gabriel A. Casalino; Josephine E. Chandler.

Melvin Chesler; Melvin A. Conviser; Ned L. Crandall; Wanda Ann Cukla; Anthony A. Czarnowski; Harry Dandelles; Carl William Davis; Jerome Dribin; George Druktenis, Sr.; Melvin A. Ehlers; Forrest J. Fischer; William Fisher; Edward Fox; Harvey Fritz; Paul A. Genova; Charles C. Giovannini; Donald L. Glasgow; Joseph Goldenberg; Edward J. Gorcowski; Harvey Gossell.

Nikles K. Hagopian; LeRoy J. Hankins; Howard Roy Heckmann; Arthur P. Heminger; Joseph Hoidik; Donald Hoskinson; John S. Houston; Colin S. Howat; Charles G. Hunt; David Johnson; Thomas Jundanian; Irving K. Kannett; Lloyd L. Keiber; Joseph A. Marthaler; John H. McCollom; Donald T. McCollom; Kenneth Joseph McDonough; Thomas P. McKale; Mavis L. McNamara; Robert E. Morin; Irene L. Mostek; Clarence O. Norman; Stanley T. Oboy; Robert T. Olson; Joseph Leo O'Mara, Sr.; Elijah Ostrander, Jr.; Joseph J. Paladino; Robert Pankau; Donald B. Patterson; James D. Patton; Emanuel T. Petrakis; Veronica S. Potter; William J. Prindiville; Ernest M. Reynolds; Ernest E. Rittenhouse; Walter C. Russell; Walter Jerome Sawkiw.

John F. Schmaling; William F. Schmidt; Melvin Schneider; Milton Schwartz; Harry Silver; Richard J. Small; Delmar J. Smith; Jarmila V.