

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I unintentionally voted "aye" on rollcall No. 215 when I intended to vote "no" on the Huizenga amendment to H.R. 5326. I reiterate my strong support for public sector employees.

HONORING THE WEST ESSEX FIRST AID SQUAD'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the West Essex First Aid Squad, located in the Township of West Caldwell, Essex County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

The West Essex First Aid Squad formed in November of 1937, when a group of local citizens joined together to solve the problem of obtaining a prompt and efficient "First Aid and Ambulance" service to meet the needs of the sick and injured. Two months later, the group had completed training, and on January 7, 1938 the West Essex First Aid Squad answered its first call for help.

During its early years, from 1937 to 1941, the Squad answered 543 calls for assistance and contributed 2,402 man-hours answering those calls, additional hours were logged for training and practicing. During its second 5 years from 1942 to 1947, the number of calls more than tripled to 1,759.

The West Essex First Aid Squad now includes 85 volunteer members who serve Caldwell, West Caldwell, North Caldwell, Essex Fells, and Fairfield. The Squad's four ambulances and one rescue truck provide 24-hour emergency medical service to the community, as well as rescue with the Jaws of Life, all at no cost to the public they serve. In 2007 and 2008, the Squad received more than 2,500 calls each year.

Men and women of the West Essex First Aid Squad have demonstrated a marked commitment to the public by dedicating their time and resources to providing lifesaving services to the community. The Squad is always available to provide aid to local fire departments. The Squad also provides support during hazardous material incidents, structure fires, and natural disasters.

The West Essex First Aid Squad has exhibited dedication to serving the community by answering a full spectrum of calls for help, ranging from complaints of chest pain or difficulty breathing, to motor vehicle collisions. The volunteers further serve the community by standing by at community events such as football games, parades, concerts, and 4th of July fireworks. Members have not only volunteered their time to the Squad and to public events, but have also sponsored blood drives and donated their time and talents in offering first aid and CPR instruction to members of the community.

The West Essex First Aid Squad is truly a selfless group of individuals, devoted to pro-

viding basic life support services, emergency medical services, and heavy rescue to the public. Through their steadfast dedication to addressing the needs of area families and businesses, the West Essex First Aid Squad has proved itself to be a pillar of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the West Essex First Aid Squad as they celebrate their Seventy-fifth Anniversary.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,674,047,733,490.96. We've added \$5,047,170,684,577.88 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH MONTH

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as National Cancer Research Month. This month we recognize the critical importance of cancer research and the contributions of researchers, clinicians, and patients across the country.

Before I was a Congresswoman, I was a survivor of ovarian cancer. I was lucky—my cancer was found by chance in its earliest stage, and I have now been cancer-free for 25 years now. So I arrived in this body knowing firsthand the crucial importance of medical research.

I am glad to say that our progress in fighting cancer since the National Cancer Act of 1971 has been nothing short of amazing. Nearly 12 million Americans are cancer survivors. There is a vaccine to help prevent cervical cancer. The overall five-year survival rate has increased from 52 percent in 1975 to 80 percent today.

And biomedical research is growing our economy. The National Institutes of Health support over 300,000 researchers at more than 3,000 universities, institutions, and businesses across the country. Every single dollar of National Institutes of Health funding is estimated to result in an additional two dollars of business activity and economic impact. Keeping it simple, this means that research supports jobs, and has a nearly two-fold return on our federal investment.

But, there is more to be done. Some cancers, including ovarian cancer, still have an extraordinarily high mortality rate and are typically caught far too late in the disease. This year, more than 1.6 million Americans are expected to be diagnosed with cancer. More

than 570,000 Americans will pass away this year because of cancer; meaning more than 1,500 Americans each day, or one person a minute, will die because of this disease.

This is why our continued investments in cancer research are so important. Medical research creates investment opportunities for private industry. It strengthens our university medical system. It creates jobs, makes America more competitive, and drastically improves the quality of life for so many Americans. And it has the potential to save lives.

And it is why this month we join to thank scientists and clinicians for their work on cancer research. And we thank the patients who support that research by participating in clinical trials.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote numbers 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, and 243. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on rollcall vote numbers 224, 225, 227, 237, 238, 239, and 240. I would have voted "No" on rollcall vote numbers 226, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 241, 242 and 243.

A TRIBUTE TO IOWA'S TOP COPS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six members of the Des Moines Police Department, Sergeant Michael McTaggart, Reserve Officer John Carter, and Senior Police Officers Colin Boone, Aaron Cawthorn, Jeremy Sprague, and Robin Swank, for being named Iowa's TOP COPS for 2012.

In the early morning of August 28th, 2011, these officers responded to a report of a car accident in Des Moines to find a vehicle on its side completely engulfed in flames. Inside the car, the cries for help of three teenage girls could be heard. Fighting jagged metal and fire hot enough to melt glass, Des Moines' finest didn't hesitate in risking their own lives to save the lives of the three trapped young girls. The quick action of these officers embodies the professionalism the Des Moines Police Department instills in its officers, but it's the selfless courage displayed immediately by these law enforcement professionals that truly makes this story inspiring. All six officers involved in the rescue were awarded the DMPD's highest honor, the Medal of Valor.

For their display of courage, the National Association of Police Organizations bestowed these officers with Iowa's 2012 TOP COP Honorable Mention award. This award is a tribute to outstanding law enforcement officers who display actions above and beyond the call of duty. Each year, TOP COPS are nominated nationwide by their fellow police officers, but only one case from each state is selected to

be honored with this award. Each state's TOP COPS are invited to an award ceremony in Washington D.C., which is attended by celebrities, politicians and members of the national law enforcement community alike to pay tribute to these local heroes.

Mr. Speaker, the extraordinary heroism displayed in the face of danger by these police officers is nothing short of awe-inspiring. These members of the Des Moines Police Department are a testament to the high quality of our state's law enforcement community. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in the United States Congress in congratulating Jeremy, Robin, Colin, Aaron, John and Michael, and thanking all of Iowa's police officers for their selfless efforts in protecting communities across our great state. Thank you.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40TH ANNUAL DEBUTANTE SCHOLARSHIP COTILLION OF THE THETA LAMBDA OMEGA CHAPTER OF THE ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members and alumni of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s (AKA) Theta Lambda Omega Chapter on the 40th Anniversary of its Debutante Scholarship Cotillion.

Over a hundred years ago, in 1908, AKA was founded by a group of brave, determined and socially conscious African-American women at Howard University in Washington, D.C. As the first organization of its type, the pioneers of AKA banded together out of simple need to ensure that women of color not only attend college, but that their experiences while there helped them to fulfill their greatest potential. Over the decades following its creation, AKA has not only empowered its members, but has cultivated an attitude of commitment to service to the community.

Like its national organization, the Theta Lambda Omega Chapter of AKA shares in a rich history and commitment of service. Over the last four decades, the members of the Theta Lambda Omega chapter have engaged in countless community service projects and organized many charitable campaigns that have had a tremendous impact on communities in Southeast Michigan.

Among the Theta Lambda Omega chapter's many endeavors is a concerted effort to improve educational opportunities in the Pontiac community. As part of this effort, the Chapter's Emerging Youth Leaders Initiatives help youth develop their leadership skills, encourage parental involvement in the education process and promote civic activism. In addition to helping youth develop these important skills, the sorority provides scholarships to members and future members helping them achieve their educational goals.

For the past 40 years the Theta Lambda Omega Chapter has gathered to honor the young women of Pontiac and its surrounding communities at the annual Debutante Scholarship Cotillion. The scholarship cotillion is one of many community service contributions of the Pontiac chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and during the 40th year celebration, eleven extraordinary hard-working young women and high school seniors will receive scholarships to assist them in attending college. Each debutante is recognized for their outstanding scholastic achievements in addition to the many hours they have committed to community service and personal development.

Mr. Speaker, for almost half of a century, the Theta Lambda Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority has been supporting the young women in Southeast Michigan and giving them the tools they need to build a bright future. Over its time, Theta Lambda Omega chapter and its members have been honored with many awards for their work, which has undoubtedly strengthened and ensured the continued vibrancy of the region. I wish the members and alumni of the Theta Lambda Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority many more years of success as they fulfill their mission in service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, due to being unavoidably delayed, I missed the vote on the Huelskamp Amendment, which prohibits the use of funds in contravention of the Defense of Marriage Act, to H.R. 5326 (roll No. 235), the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Appropriations Act for FY 2013. I would have voted against this amendment, had I been present to record my vote.

IN MEMORY OF DORIS B. McMILLAN

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of an exceptional public servant and psychiatric nurse, Doris B. McMillan. A loving mother, godmother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Mrs. McMillan devoted her life to serving her family and community.

Mrs. McMillan was born in New York City on July 8, 1928. She was educated in New York City, graduating from the Psychiatric Institute of Nursing in Rockland County and then completed her graduate studies at Long Island

University Psychiatric Institute at Columbia University and Glassboro State College.

After Mrs. McMillan completed her studies, she started her career as a school nurse in New Jersey with the Cape May County Special Services School. Mrs. McMillan excelled in her profession, she went on to work as a nurse at the Atlantic County Jail, and also became the supervisor and director of nursing at Harborfields Juvenile Correction Facility. Mrs. McMillan worked tirelessly for the underserved in society, frequently serving as an advocate for female inmates in county jails.

In addition to her lifelong service in her community, Mrs. McMillan volunteered her time with several organizations, including The Red Cross, The Advisory Commission on the Status of Women and the American Association of Retired People.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Doris B. McMillan leaves to cherish her legacy a host of friends and family members, including her beloved son, Minister Robert Muhammad of Houston.

CELEBRATING JEWISH AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, as the proud representative of one of the most ethnically diverse congressional districts in the nation, I am honored to join my friends in the Jewish American community in celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month, and to recognize the many contributions Jewish Americans have made to our country.

Jewish immigrants, like the immigrants from many other countries throughout our nation's history, came to our country for the promise of freedom, tolerance and socioeconomic mobility. For more than 350 years, Jewish Americans have enriched American society by placing a strong value on education, community and culture.

Through their entrepreneurial spirit and innovations in technology, the Jewish American community has contributed to the economic vitality of our nation and particularly of my district, leading the way in renewable energy development and high technology. Without question, Silicon Valley would not be the hub of innovation it is today without the many significant contributions of Jewish Americans.

The Jewish American community in my district serves as a shining example of what makes Silicon Valley a global leader. I am privileged to serve a district that celebrates its diversity, and proud to represent a community of Jewish Americans whose contributions in the fields of technology, business, education, and many others, have served as a testament to America's promise as a land of opportunity and of dreams.