

We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

HONORING THE MORRIS CHORAL SOCIETY IN MORRISTOWN

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris Choral Society of Morristown, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary in the summer of 2013.

The creation of the Morris Choral Society can be likened to that of the birth of a Phoenix bird. Tragically, in 1972, the United Methodist Church, located on the Morristown Green, burned down and as a result the proceeding Methodist congregations were held at Temple B'nai Or for the next two years as the Church was rebuilt. R. Wayne Walters, a bass soloist who performed at both the Temple and Church, decided to conduct a special Friday evening service dedicated to the generosity of the Temple and its Rabbi, Z. David Levy. In order to perform this service, chorus members from the surrounding area churches were assembled. Due to the success of the performance, Rabbi Levy asked Walters to keep this wonderful group of people together and continue performing. Eventually, under Walters's leadership, this collection of singers was incorporated under the name of Morris Choral Society in the summer of 1973, effectively rising out of the ashes and spawning a new organization.

Since the society has been formed, it has maintained a dual mission statement attempting, "To make available to all residents of the Morris area varied choral musical programs and to give residents an opportunity to perform in the choral organization." Those who have been affected by the Morris Choral Society would say that its contributions to society have gone much farther than initially intended by positively impacting the choral outlook throughout Northern New Jersey. Additionally, MCS has garnered much public attention through appearances on television programs, such as NBC's "First Estate" program, and its two major concerts that are performed in Morris County each year. Through continuing interest, the society has grown in size and is open to new members via auditions.

Furthermore, the Morris Choral Society conducts numerous, smaller performances during Morristown's holidays and special occasions. These shows generally occur during the Independence Day celebrations, the Holly Walk, the Fall Festival on the Green, and the First Night concert. Incredibly, MCS is now internationally recognized after memorable performances in England in 1990, Ireland in 1994, Scotland & Wales in 1996, France in 1998, and Italy during the summer of 2000. Through international travel and a growing interest in different music, the Society has obtained an astounding repertoire of songs dating from the Renaissance period to the present.

Besides annual events, the Morris Choral Society has performed alongside many famous musicians during its lifetime. Unforgettable nights include performing with Judy Collins during her Christmas Show, and with

Dave Brubeck in La Fiesta de la Posada in the Community Theatre. MCS has also sung Beethoven's Ninth Symphony under the celebrated Leon Hyman, collaborated with Jazz Pianist Rio Clemente, and performed a sold-out concert at the Morristown Community Theater in front of over 1,300 viewers.

Consistently trying to excel, the Society has emphasized versatility in music styles ranging from contemporary American, to classical Broadway theatre, to even some international folk songs articulated in their native languages. Expanding to different venues and compiling diversified music is what keeps MCS ahead of most other musical organizations in the area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and your colleagues to join me in congratulating the Morris Choral Society as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR RON KIRK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ambassador Ron Kirk for his outstanding service as United States Trade Representative. As a member of President Obama's Cabinet, he has led the United States toward a stronger economic future.

A former Texas Secretary of State, Ambassador Kirk became the first African-American mayor of my hometown Dallas, Texas, in 1995. During Ambassador Kirk's tenure as Mayor, he pursued trade policies and economic development initiatives that helped generate over 45,000 jobs and billions of dollars of investment in Dallas. He also prioritized public safety and oversaw the lowest crime rate in Dallas in 20 years.

In his role as U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Kirk brought together a broad coalition of Americans to support free trade agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama, opening up new markets for American businesses and creating jobs here at home. Ambassador Kirk advanced high stakes regional Trans-Pacific Partnership talks and worked to maintain significant U.S. engagement in the World Trade Organization. His stellar list of accomplishments also includes supporting U.S. businesses and workers with his strong enforcement of U.S. trade rights and assisting small businesses eager to access international markets.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Kirk is both a dear friend and an ardent public servant. I applaud Ambassador Kirk's commitment to serving U.S. businesses and workers, and his dedication to moving United States trade policies forward. He has been a devoted advocate for American workers and our economy, and I am thankful for his service to our country.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SHEET METAL, AIR, RAIL, AND TRANSPORTATION WORKERS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the members of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers (SMART), as they celebrate the 125th anniversary of the union's founding. The members and officers of SMART are to be commended for their dedication and recognized for the union's history of remarkable achievements.

SMART, formerly known as the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association and the United Transportation Union, is a truly inventive, progressive, and strong union made up of skilled craftsmen throughout the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Representing construction, sheet metal, transportation, railroad, shipyard, and production employees in the industry, SMART works tirelessly to ensure safe working conditions, living wages and benefits, and growth opportunities for its employees.

Since its founding in 1888, SMART has been one of labor's most ambitious and diligent organizations. Throughout history, its union leaders and members have been through many struggles and triumphs seeking to bring about hope for workers seeking fair wages, hours, and benefits while contributing to the structural development and building of the United States. Since the late 1920s, members and officers have contributed to the welfare of the country at home and abroad. From their assistance with the production of Charles Lindberg's airplane, the Spirit of Saint Louis, designed for his historic flight across the Atlantic Ocean, to the building and sustaining of America's Navy in our nation's shipyards, as well as the union's support in the World Trade Center tragedy, SMART's members are worthy of the highest praise.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty among its tradesmen. The members and officers of SMART are outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and communities internationally through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the past and present hardworking members and officers of SMART and to congratulate the organization on the 125th anniversary of its founding. They have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development in Northwest Indiana, throughout the United States, and abroad.

BRYAN WILBURN TAKES THE RANK OF AN EAGLE SCOUT TO ANOTHER LEVEL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Bryan Wilburn is a young man from Baytown, Texas

who has attained the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. But the way he achieved his ranking isn't something we hear about often, especially for someone his age. He made his way to the top through a unique and much-needed service project. As just an eighth grade student at Barber's Hill Middle School, Bryan initiated a project that has honored those who protect our community. Not limited to just people, but also our four-legged friends. Bryan and a team of volunteers renovated the Baytown Police Department K9 Cemetery.

The need to serve law enforcement stemmed from Bryan's appreciation for the strong bond between officers and police canines, as well as their vital role in protecting the community. Bryan and a group of recruited volunteers of neighbors, friends, family, and other Boy Scouts worked hard to beautify these dogs' final resting place. After researching everything from types of plants to styles of landscaping, Bryan lead his team of volunteers as they cleaned the existing burial plots, removed dead shrubbery, replaced fence post tops, and planted new bushes and trees. It was after about 140 hours of hard work that the Baytown Police Department had a cemetery, where they could be proud to lay their beloved dogs to rest.

Bryan's leadership role in this final project is one of the many qualifications needed to obtain his new rank of Eagle Scout—he has had to earn 21 merit badges in subjects including first aid and personal fitness, as well as obtaining letters of recommendation, and going before an Eagle Scout board of review.

This is a prime example of a young man with an outstanding character and a go-getter work ethic. Bryan is well-deserving of his Eagle Scout rank. In honoring the sacrifices and hard work of the police force and their canine companions, Bryan has upheld the Boy Scout tradition of community service and stands as an example of the integrity and honor of a true Eagle Scout.

And that's just the way it is.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIFE
AND LEGACY OF CHIEF PETTY
OFFICER CHRIS KYLE

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in the United States Congress in

honoring the life and legacy of Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle.

Every warrior has a story . . . Chris Kyle had a legend. Throughout our history, America's military has been served by many but shaped by only a few. From Washington to Petraeus, from Porter to Nimitz, a few great individuals have changed the way we fight wars and the way we view warriors. Now we can add the name of Chris Kyle to that elite list.

For ten years, this Texas native served his country as a member of Seal Team 3. Along the way, he set the standard for all snipers. Though his innate humility prevented him from talking about the number, Navy records confirm that Chief Kyle successfully took out 160 enemy combatants—the highest number in American military history.

He did it over the course of many years—he served four tours in Iraq during his career. And he did it in difficult circumstances and over long distances—he once perched himself on top of a baby's crib for hours in a house . . . and another time he gunned down an enemy combatant from 1.2 miles away.

No matter the challenge, Chris Kyle always met it. No matter the odds, he always overcame them.

Chief Kyle's incredible courage as a warrior was matched only by his extraordinary grace as a man.

This was a man of faith who believed God had a plan for him.

This was a man of family of who knew being a husband and a father were his important tasks.

And this was an American who thought that his country was worth fighting for and even dying for.

Chief Kyle didn't like to talk about the number of enemies he killed; instead, he would say, I'd like to be known "for the people I saved." And so he is.

He saved so many, more than we will ever know. And he never stopped trying to save people, all the way to the last seconds of his life.

Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle has left us; but his legacy remains. The people of Texas are rightfully proud of this native son; and the people of America rightfully mourn this national hero.

The U.S. Navy Seals have a motto: "the only easy day was yesterday." No one personified this more than Chief Kyle. Each day was a new challenge; and each time, it was met with courage and conviction, with devotion and dedication.

Chief Kyle's mission is completed; his tour has ended. Now, the work of carrying on his legacy remains for all of us.

May we always try to live up to the standard of courage set by this great and gallant man . . . and may we never forget his service and sacrifice.

May God bless Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle and his family.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECH TO INDIANA UNIVERSITY MEN'S SOCCER

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Indiana University's Men's Soccer Team.

I want to congratulate the team, Indiana University, and the greatest college soccer fans in the country—whom we in Indiana affectionately call the Hoosier Army—on their 8th NCAA National Championship. As a resident of Bloomington, the home of IU, I am particularly proud of IU Soccer's achievements this year. They have worked very hard, and merits respect and celebration.

Accomplishments such as this are achieved through diligence and commitment. This being their 8th National Championship, IU's Soccer Program has proven its commitment to creating a strong and enduring tradition of excellence. This win shows that the team benefits now, as in past decades, from exemplary leadership both on and off the field. I commend Coach Todd Yeagley, and the rest of the coaching staff, for instilling confidence in their Hoosier Squad, and for driving them to victory this season.

IU's championship squad also serves as an inspiration to many members of the community of Bloomington, and to Hoosiers across Southern Indiana. Collectively, the student-athletes have shown us what can be achieved through teamwork and perseverance. I commend them on their National Championship, and I salute them for their example. Finally, I join members of the Hoosier Army, and other rank-and-file Hoosiers, in looking forward to many more thrilling seasons in the coming years. Go Hoosiers!