

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 381, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

MD ANDERSON CANCER HOSPITAL
HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am always pleased to see my fellow Texans succeed. Today, I want to take a moment to recognize yet another accomplishment by the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Hospital. MD Anderson has been ranked as the top cancer treatment center by the latest US News & World Report's "Best Hospitals" study. Of course this should not come as a surprise considering that the hospital has been ranked number one by the study for the last six years in a row.

The accomplishments of MD Anderson do not stop there. In several subspecialties, the hospital has been ranked highly. In particular, the Ears, Nose, and Throat subspecialty is ranked third. MD Anderson Hospital succeeds because of the dedicated people that labor tirelessly every day with one shared purpose: fighting cancer. Under the direction and leadership of President Ronald DePinho, 20,000 employees and 1,100 volunteers help countless individuals through their expertise, research and simple compassion.

MD Anderson has had a huge impact on many children and gave them the hope of life despite adversity. For Joey Nichols, he received a diagnosis of lymphocytic leukemia at the young age of three. He couldn't understand what that meant or why he felt ill. Today, Joey acknowledges that he has no clear memories during his time at MD Anderson, but he sees it as a defining moment in his life. MD Anderson saved his life, and because of its work, Joey has aspirations to become a pediatric oncologist and to work at MD Anderson one day.

MD Anderson's dedication to fighting children's cancer should be acknowledged and celebrated. In a separate survey, the MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital was ranked 21st in the nation. MD Anderson's services go beyond the well-being of the patient. The children's hospital provides support groups, activities, and camps for families of children with cancer. In a difficult time for a family, there is some comfort in knowing that we have such knowledgeable and compassionate people to fight cancer alongside them.

Mr. Speaker, these remarks only scratch the surface of the accomplishments achieved by the MD Anderson Cancer Hospital. I am confident that the hospital will continue to exceed expectations and to remain as one of the top cancer centers in the United States. I am proud to see such a prestigious hospital in the great State of Texas—and the great City of Houston.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 23, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall vote No. 389. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CELEBRATING THE 24TH ANNUAL
BRONX DOMINICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to twenty-fourth annual Bronx Dominican Day Parade, La Gran Parada Dominicana del Bronx, which will take place on Sunday, July 28, 2013. This celebration of heritage and culture is one that is eagerly anticipated by the Dominican and Bronx communities each year.

Under the leadership of Felipe Febles and Rosa Ayala, the Bronx Dominican Day Parade has grown exponentially in size, scale, and significance over the years. It has morphed into the extraordinary cultural celebration that it is today. For years the United States has largely recognized the Dominican-American community for its success on the baseball diamond, however, there are thousands of Dominican professionals and students that serve as community leaders in the fields of government, law, media, science, and technology.

As the second largest Latino community in New York City, Dominicans have made invaluable contributions to the city, as well as to the entire nation. Although the highest concentration of Dominican New Yorkers live in Northern Manhattan, a significant, and growing, number have enriched The Bronx with their unique culture, spirit, and drive to live the American Dream. I am grateful that so many have chosen to make The Bronx their home.

The Bronx Dominican Day Parade is a unique event that celebrates the diversity of New York City, the distinct heritage of one of its most important communities, and the strong sense of unity that can be found in celebrating our different cultures. As a New Yorker, I am very pleased to see this event grow every year, and extremely proud to march alongside everyone celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of Dominican men and women in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to marching in the twenty-fourth annual Bronx Dominican Day Parade, and I am confident that this event will exist as a cultural landmark celebration for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
SGT. JUSTIN R. ROGERS

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sgt. Justin R. Rogers, a brave soldier and devoted family man who served our country for the past five years in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sgt. Rogers was only 25 years old when he passed away in Bagram, Afghanistan on June 28, 2013. He leaves behind his wife, Stefanie, daughter, Nateli, and his mother and stepfather, Teresa and Stan Vicki, who reside in Sgt. Rogers' hometown of Barton, New York.

Sgt. Justin Rogers enlisted in the Army in 2008 following his graduation at Tioga Central High School. While attending Tioga Central, Rogers was a standout athlete and leader, captaining both the football and wrestling teams. He utilized these leadership skills in his career as a soldier, earning multiple awards during his service including, two Army Achievement Medals and an Army Good Conduct Medal.

Sgt. Rogers was devoted to his country and planned on making the Army a career. A few weeks before his death, he had reenlisted to serve another three years as a horizontal construction engineer with the 101st Airborne Division based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Today we remember the commitment and dedication of Sgt. Justin Rogers. He selflessly served his country to protect our freedom and it is imperative that we honor his sacrifice.

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Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 383, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

A TRIBUTE TO CIVILIANS WHO
HAVE SERVED IN DIFFICULT RE-
GIONS AROUND THE WORLD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to personally thank and honor the civilians who faithfully serve in war zones and high threat security environments alongside our military in so doing further our national security and peacefully advance American interests.

I am especially grateful to those civilians who served side-by-side with members of our armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

These civilians, as well as contractors and former military who return as civilians work for and with the U.S. military and varied U.S. government agencies, deploy into conflict zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan and into high threat security posts.

Dr. Peter R. Mansoor, the Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair in Military History and the

former Executive Officer to Gen. David Petraeus, when he was commander of the multinational forces in Iraq had this to say about civilian service: "The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been difficult ventures, but the nation could not have achieved its objectives in either conflict without the support of American civilians, who came to the fight with a number of critical specialties and who shouldered more of the load than their numbers would suggest. The Nation owes our civilian veterans a great deal of gratitude for their service in the nation's wars since 9/11."

In September 2007 there were actually more contractors in Iraq than combat troops. According to a 2013 report of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR): "In September 2007, the United States had more than 170,000 combat personnel in Iraq as part of the counterinsurgency operation, with more than 171,000 contractors supporting the mission." These contractors are credited in the report for supporting "the counterinsurgency mission in unstable, yet strategically significant, areas such as Baghdad, Anbar, and Babylon provinces."

More and more civilians are serving in conflict zone jobs traditionally held by the military. This proximity to dangerous and unstable security situations has come with a cost. The New York Times reported on February 11, 2012 that, "More civilian contractors working for American companies than American soldiers died in Afghanistan last year for the first time during the war," reporting that "at least 430 employees of American contractors were reported killed in Afghanistan: 386 working for the Defense Department, 43 for the United States Agency for International Development and one for the State Department."

More recently, just last year four of these civilians became household names—U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens, information officer Sean Smith, and CIA security contractors Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty—when they were killed in Benghazi, Libya. Other civilian contractors were seriously wounded.

As with the military, casualties and serious injuries only tell part of the story. There are other costs associated with prolonged wars, including PTSD, depression and traumatic bereavement.

I was pleased to learn of the recent formation of an organization called We Served Too—a group dedicated to honoring and supporting American and international civilian service in conflict zones and high threat security environments.

Writing in the Huffington Post, author and professor Anne Speckhard reported that when Major General Arnie Fields was asked to comment on the founding of We Serve Too, he remarked on how the shift to asymmetrical warfare now places civilian workers in the same danger that front line soldiers traditionally faced:

The dynamics of war have considerably changed in recent years. The past ten years have been most significant. The parameters that have heretofore defined the battlefield or battle space have been dramatically altered. Military commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan have learned early on that the conventional 'front' and 'rear', which in earlier wars defined the most dangerous areas of the battlefield and the safest, respectively, do not exist. The enemy's threat is virtually omnipresent. Soldiers not in direct pursuit of the enemy are in almost as much danger

as those who are. This new paradigm, often referred to as asymmetrical warfare, places civilians assisting in the war effort in about as much imminent danger as the traditional uniformed warrior. . . . For example, as a civilian department of State employee in Iraq and as the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, I wore my military flak jacket and helmet with more consistency while conducting my work than I did on active military duty in the Marine Corps.

Unlike soldiers who are trained and prepared to face armed conflict, civilians who serve alongside them are often ill-equipped for what they experience. This can have lasting implications even after their return home.

I am pleased to recognize We Served Too and commend their aim of supporting and honoring the civilians who served alongside their military counterparts.

While we don't often remember the sacrifices of civilian workers in conflict zones, we have an obligation to recognize that they too sacrificially served this country and their service is worthy of our gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during rollcall vote No. 382 on July 23, 2013, regarding an amendment to H.R. 2397 offered by Representative Blumenauer of Oregon. I would have voted "yes."

2015 SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES RESOLUTION

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, after over a decade abroad, the Special Olympics World Games are returning to the United States. Two years from today, thousands of athletes, coaches, volunteers and supporters will descend on Los Angeles to see and cheer the skills and accomplishments of people with intellectual disabilities.

The Special Olympics were started by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who saw how unjustly and unfairly people with intellectual disabilities were treated, and how many children with intellectual disabilities didn't even have a place to play. Her vision grew into the Special Olympics, and in 1968 the first International Special Olympics Summer Games were held in Chicago. For 45 years, the Special Olympics has harnessed the power of sport to create a better world by fostering the acceptance and inclusion of all people.

I could not be prouder that my city and my country are hosting these games. And I want the athletes, their loved ones, and those with intellectual disabilities across the world to know that the United States House of Representatives is with them.

So today, two years before the 2015 Special Olympics World Games open, I am introducing a celebratory resolution with Representative

KENNEDY—who is continuing his family's commitment to the Special Olympics—Representative HOYER, and the full bipartisan Los Angeles delegation. I hope our colleagues will join us in supporting these games, and the achievements of those with intellectual disabilities everywhere.

HONORING BORING, OREGON AND DULL, SCOTLAND

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate two communities who, though oceans apart, found a way to honor their shared identities. I am honored to represent one of these communities in Congress: Boring, Oregon, a small community a few miles outside of the Portland Metro region. The other is Dull, Scotland, in the northern United Kingdom.

These two communities share cultural and geographic similarities, in addition to their quirky names. Both communities lie at the base of prominent regional mountain ranges and neighbor cherished farmland. The county surrounding Boring, Oregon, Clackamas County, plays a prominent role promoting and hosting equestrian events and I am told the same is true of Dull, Scotland's Perth and Kinross Counties.

The Oregon Legislature recently passed House Bill 2352 establishing August 9 as Boring & Dull Day. As a result of this alliance, both communities have received significant attention and have seen growth in economic activity and tourism. I was delighted to be contacted by the Boring Community Planning Organization to share in a celebration honoring this occasion. It is my hope that this "Pair for the Ages" thrive well into future.

RETIREMENT OF FRANK SAMMARTINO

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my ranking member, Congressman VAN HOLLEN in recognizing the service of Frank Sammartino, who is retiring on July 26th after 33 years of public service, with 26 of those years in Congressional service. Frank is currently the Assistant Director for Tax Analysis at the Congressional Budget Office, where he has worked for most of his career. Frank's first job in Washington was as a staff economist at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. While there, he designed and developed a microsimulation model to analyze policies affecting Social Security, taxes, and means-tested transfers. Frank brought that modeling knowledge to CBO, where he developed the first microsimulation model used by the agency for analyzing tax policy. That model became the basis for CBO's individual income tax projections and its analysis of the