

me in recognizing his dedication and accomplishment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 435, I was unavoidably detained at a personal doctor's appointment.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast rollcall votes on May 23rd. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

On rollcall 180, I would have voted "no;" on rollcall 181, I would have voted "no;" on rollcall 182, I would have voted "yes;" on rollcall 183, I would have voted "no."

#### A TRIBUTE TO ALBA PEREZ

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Alba Perez for being named a 2013 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Each year, Business Record undertakes an exhaustive review to identify a standout group of women in the Greater Des Moines area who, as the publication notes, "have made a difference." An impressive group of inspiring female leaders are selected annually for this prestigious distinction, which is based on combined criteria of community involvement, career success, and being a role model for other women to emulate. The 2013 Women of Influence honorees join an impressive roster of more than 130 women who have changed and are continuing to change our communities for the better.

In her work, Alba Perez, presently the Executive Officer of the Office of Latino Affairs at the Iowa Department of Human Rights, has been inspired by advice she received as a child from her mother: "Leave things better than how you found them." Ms. Perez has spent much of her career trying to help Latinos and other underrepresented communities, advocating for what she calls meaningful inclusion or helping Latina women who struggle with English. In her 12 years at the Greater Des Moines Partnership, she managed the diversity committee tasked with helping make Des Moines a more inclusive community. She also has helped launch Alianza: Latino Business Association, and the dance instruction organization now known as Salsa Des Moines. Ms. Perez has been heavily in-

involved in the League of United Latin American Citizens of Iowa, and the Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Alba Perez in the United States Congress, and I am pleased to recognize her for working to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Women of Influence class continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 428, I was unavoidably detained in a meeting off the Hill at the White House with the President.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### STOP GOVERNMENT ABUSE ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 1, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. It's become a ritual with the House Republican Leadership to devote the dying hours of the legislative calendar to the task of beating up on federal employees.

You'll remember that the last time we found ourselves in this position was on January 1, 2013. As the clock ticked down the minutes closing the 112th Congress, instead of addressing the host of pressing financial matters that threatened the fiscal health of this nation, my Republican colleagues chose to focus those precious minutes on legislation to clawback the meager .5% COLA promised to federal employees when the Continuing Resolution expired in March of that year.

As this country faced a wave of serious economic difficulties, instead of spending the time focusing on legislation to address these challenges, Republicans in Congress turned their attention to squeezing even more out of the hard working federal employees who had already contributed \$60 billion of their pay as part of a two-year pay freeze. By no fault of their own, our dedicated federal workers have become pawns in a ritualistic game fashioned to distract the American public from the real challenges confronting our country.

This week, this body considers a number of bills that again scapegoat federal employees. I rise today to ask my colleagues not to fall for this game again and to reject this gratuitous and disrespectful attack on our federal workers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 2879, the Stop Government Abuse Act because the bill eliminates due process protections for members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) by allowing agency heads to

fire SES employees without giving them advance notice or an opportunity to address the allegations against them. The bill would place the burden of proof on SES employees by requiring them to prove their innocence when seeking reinstatement. Democrats on the House Committee on Oversight tried to amend the bill to preserve existing due process protections for these employees, but their efforts were rejected.

Further, the bill would limit bonuses federal workers may receive to 5% of basic pay during sequestration and limit the number of Senior Executives who may receive performance awards to 33% of those eligible in each agency. If passed, this bill could further harm our government's ability to attract the best and the brightest managers, make it more difficult to retain current employees and exacerbate personnel shortages in nursing, information technology, cybersecurity, and acquisition where shortages have been a major concern for some time.

Federal employees dedicate their lives to the service of our nation. They protect our borders, care for our wounded service members and work to discover treatments and cures for diseases that touch virtually every American family. With their diligence and unwavering devotion, they have earned the right to be treated with respect and they do not deserve to be the target of arbitrary attacks seemingly just to fill space on the legislative calendar.

#### CELEBRATING NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK, 2013

### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize National Health Center Week, celebrating the more than 1,200 health centers providing vital health care for 22 million individuals at more than 9,000 locations across the country. During the week of August 11–17th, celebrations of National Health Center Week will be taking place at West County Health Centers and Petaluma Health Center in my Congressional district.

America's community health centers are the core of our health care system and the nation's social safety net, delivering high quality, cost-effective, and accessible primary and preventative care to individuals regardless of their ability to pay. Health centers are located in medically underserved areas and controlled locally by patient-majority boards, making each health center responsive to the needs of the individual community it serves.

From the Marin Community Clinic to Crescent City Health Care Center, California's Second Congressional District, which I am honored to represent, is served by a network of vibrant community health centers offering patient-focused, coordinated healthcare that families and individuals need.

National Health Center Week offers us the opportunity to recognize all those responsible for the continued success and growth of community health centers nationwide. Since this program's inception 50 years ago, health centers have served those in need with comprehensive, high quality, cost effective, and accessible health care, and I am grateful for their role in the North Coast community.

My staff and I look forward to participating in community celebrations of National Health Center Week, and I ask my colleagues to join me in marking the occasion and sending America's health centers our best wishes for another successful 50 years.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES KENDRICK  
BAKER

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable individual, James Kendrick Baker, whom passed away on July 24, 2013. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to our country.

Mr. Baker, a born and bred Hoosier, graduated cum laude from DePauw University where he served as president of Sigma Chi fraternity. He also served our nation in the U.S. Army before earning his Masters from Harvard Business School. Mr. Baker spent his entire career at Arvin Industries where he rose to President and CEO and eventually Chairman of the Board. Under his leadership, Arvin transferred from a domestic conglomeration of separate businesses into a global leader in the automobile parts industry.

Mr. Baker loved Indiana and the community of Columbus. He was active on many boards including, but not limited to: Indiana National Bank, PSI Resources, NBD First Chicago, Cinergy Company, and DePauw University. He was elected Chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and donated his time to improving the U.S. educational system. Mr. Baker earned the Trailblazer Award from The Tindley Accelerated School in Indianapolis, and jointly received the Simms Leadership Award from IUPUC with his wife, Beverly. He also received 4 Sagamores of the Wabash for the Indiana Governor's Office. Sigma Chi honored him by naming him a Significant Sig and later to the Order of the Constantine.

Mr. Baker is a fraternity brother of mine, one who I consider a mentor and friend. I would often seek his counsel while serving as Indiana Secretary of State and as a Member of Congress. He has helped me tremendously in my service to Indiana, and for that I will be forever grateful. He was a captain of industry, a Hoosier whom Indiana was lucky to have.

Mr. Baker always bestowed his wife of 54 years, their three children and seven grandchildren with love and respect. This is James Kendrick Baker: a man truly committed to his family, his community, his faith, and his country. Thank you, and rest in peace Mr. Baker.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF  
BADEN

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. ROTHFUS. Ms. Speaker, I rise to honor the Borough of Baden on the 175th anniversary of its founding. I join residents of Baden

and citizens from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in celebrating this historic event.

The Borough of Baden has a rich history. Long before Christian Burkhardt founded it in 1838, settlers and Native Americans gathered there to draft early treaties and hold councils. The area also welcomed many French, English, and colonial traders as they traveled to Pittsburgh to sell their wares. Baden grew from a small village with only two boat-building yards and quarries into a bustling town with steel mills, coal mines, and oil and gas wells.

Today, more than four thousand hard-working men and women call the Borough of Baden home. It is also home to an exceptional volunteer fire department, a thriving American Legion Post 641, and the Sisters of St. Joseph who continue to serve folks in need in the greater Pittsburgh area.

Mr. Speaker, fellow Members, please join me in extending warm regards to residents of the Borough of Baden on the historic occasion of its 175th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLARK E.  
GUINAN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Clark E. Guinan, better known as Gus, who is retiring after a remarkable legal and public service career that spanned over three decades. Gus was the City Attorney of the City of Burlingame for the last four years. His devotion to justice and the Bay Area are reflected in his work and passion for life.

Gus, a native San Franciscan and third generation Californian, was raised in Los Altos. He enrolled in the seminary in Menlo Park at the young age of 13 and studied there through high school and college until he was 24 years old. He received his B.A. in Philosophy from St. Patrick's College.

After eleven years in the seminary, Gus realized that he had a different calling. He wanted to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather who was his hero and a prominent attorney in the California Attorney General's office. Gus started law school and earned his J.D. from the University of Santa Clara.

Upon earning his degree, Gus became a deputy public defender in San Joaquin County from 1974–1984. Then he accepted the position of Senior Assistant City Attorney in Palo Alto where he served for five years.

In 1989, he faced a difficult decision. He and his wife Signe Harnett had adopted infant twin girls. They still lived in Stockton and the daily commute to Palo Alto would prevent Gus from seeing his two babies grow up. He left public service and became a litigation attorney with the law offices of Rishwain, Kakim and Ellis in Stockton from 1989–1991. Gus' love for San Francisco drew the family back to the Bay Area and in 1991 they moved to Berkeley and he joined the law office of Barry Balamuth in Orinda.

In 1993, Gus returned to public service and accepted the position of Assistant City Attorney for the City of San Rafael where he stayed until 2008 when he was appointed to his most recent position of City Attorney of Burlingame.

Gus is a member of the Public Law Section of the California State Bar Association, the Bay Area City Attorneys Association, the Mann Public Agency Attorneys and an alternate board member of the California Joint Powers Risk Management Authority. In the past, he served as a delegate at the State Bar Convention in Sacramento, as a section editor of the Municipal Law Handbook of the League of California Cities and as a member of the board of governors of the San Joaquin County Bar Association. Gus has also lectured at the Delta Community College in Stockton and in the "Bridging the Gap" program. Last but not least, he has been a proud member of the San Rafael Elks Club since 2006.

In his well deserved retirement, Gus is looking forward to spending more time with his wife of 25 years, their now 24-year-old twin daughters Kate and Lindsey and their stepson Chris. He will finally have more time to lose himself in his passion for California history, hiking, travel, photography, reading and swimming.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representative to rise with me to honor Clark E. Guinan, a man with a brilliant legal mind and a big heart who has protected the rights and safety of the residents of Burlingame and other Bay Area communities.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "BOBBY"  
BRAMLETT

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend and fellow Sooner, Mr. Robert "Bobby" Bramlett, as he nears the end of his term as the 108th chairman of the nation's largest insurance association, the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, also known as the Big "I". He was installed as chairman of the Big "I" last September in Atlanta where I was personally present for the ceremony, and over the past year he has done an amazing job of piloting the association as the top agent in the nation.

Bobby has spent his career in the family insurance business, starting with The Bramlett Agency in 1975. He has since purchased the agency, which was founded in 1948, from his parents, Jim and Janie Bramlett, and has served as its president and CEO since 1983.

He is a graduate of St. John's Military Academy, Delafield, Wis., and earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1974. He bleeds OU crimson, and is a fixture in Norman on football game days.

Bobby married Nanette Potts in 1973. Together they have strongly supported their community of Ardmore, the state of Oklahoma, small businesses, and the insurance industry by serving in many capacities. He is past president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Oklahoma (IIAO) and past Big "I" director from Oklahoma. In 2008, Bobby received the association's highest government affairs award, "The Sydney O. Smith National Legislative Award." He also was given IIAO's highest award, "The Eagle of Excellence Award," in 2009. Also an avid golfer, he has been heavily involved in the Trusted Choice