

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to family commitment, I was unable to vote on H.R. 1897. Had I been present I would have voted "aye".

Due to this commitment, I was unable to vote on H.R. 2879. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

Had I been present for votes on H.R. 367, I would have voted "no" on Amendment 1, "no" on Amendment 3, "no" on Amendment 4, "aye" on Amendment 6, "aye" on Amendment 7, "aye" on Amendment 8, "aye" on Amendment 12, "aye" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 367, and "no" on H.R. 367.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2009 and "no" on H.R. 2009.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on August 1 and 2, I was absent for personal reasons and missed roll Nos. 428 through 447. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll Nos. 428, 429, 431, 435, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, and 446. I would have voted "nay" on roll Nos. 430, 432, 433, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 445, and 447.

IN RECOGNITION OF OLIVE G. MAYER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the late Olive G. Mayer, a dear friend and a pioneer in the environmental community of California. She was one of the passionate driving forces in protecting open spaces in San Mateo County.

Sadly, Ollie missed the completion of one of her biggest achievements. She passed away five days before the opening ceremony of the Devil's Slide Tunnel on the San Mateo coast, a project she and her fellow tunnelistas had been advocating for decades. The engineering marvel that most people said couldn't be done is now reality thanks in huge part to Ollie's passion and persistence.

An engineer by training and Sierra Club member, she got her hands on the original construction plans for the massive seven mile long, six-lane wide highway bypass that Caltrans had proposed to build across Montara Mountain—plans Caltrans never released to the public. Ollie shared them with other environmentalists who formed a grass-roots movement determined to stop the bypass and urban sprawl along the scenic coastal hills.

The idea for a tunnel was born in the early 70s when a USGS geologist responded to a

Montara resident inquiring about solutions for Devil's Slide. He outlined several options, including boring a tunnel. Ollie presented the idea to Caltrans engineers in 1973, but they dismissed it. The tunnel idea continued its lengthy legal and rocky path. In 1995, Devil's Slide lived up to its name and slid down five feet. The road stayed closed for five months making life miserable for coastal residents and forcing local businesses to close.

The tunnelistas jumped into high gear, collected 34,000 signatures and put the issue on the county ballot. San Mateo County was blanketed in yellow and black "Think Tunnel" bumper stickers. In 1996, Measure T passed with 74% of the vote. Seventeen years and countless hurdles later, the tunnel is finally reality. David beat Goliath. Ollie's good friend and tunnelista Zoe Kersteen-Tucker put it perfectly at the opening ceremony: "It took an uprising of the people to think tunnel, vote tunnel, build tunnel and today, at last, to open tunnel."

Devil's Slide was but one of many battles Ollie took on. She was a lifelong activist, visionary and intellectual. Born Olive Graham Hendricks in New Jersey in 1918, she was the only woman in her class at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania to earn her BS in engineer. She later received her Master's degree from the University of Michigan. Ollie was an ardent fighter for equal treatment of women and freedom of speech. During the McCarthy era, she provided support for victims of blacklisting and was under surveillance and investigated by the FBI. She was among the early peace activists opposing the war in Vietnam. She fought for racial and civil equality in the 50s and 60s. In short, she was fearless and determined to make the world a better place for everyone to enjoy.

Ollie loved the outdoors and science. She met her late husband, Dr. Henry Mayer, while hiking in Colorado. They married in 1941 and after World War II moved to Woodside, California. Ollie opened a machine shop in San Carlos and founded a business that made and distributed model science projects, such as dams and power plants, for middle and high school students.

Ollie was a tireless supporter of the Peninsula Open Space Trust and played a significant role in keeping areas on the Peninsula undeveloped and accessible to the public. She was the president of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club and was honored with the John Muir Award for her lifetime work for conservation. She was also named a "Legend" by the Club, and she was appointed to the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame, among a long list of other awards.

Ollie is survived by her daughter Judith O'Brien; son Robert Mayer; and four grandchildren: Connor and Lauren O'Brien and Reid and Drew Mayer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor one of the most extraordinary and giving environmentalists and human beings—a woman who found her true north.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN
BETO O'ROURKE INTRODUCING
THE HEALTHY TRANSITIONS FOR
VETERANS ACT**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce bipartisan legislation that will assist servicemembers as they transition back to civilian life. We have a fundamental responsibility to provide for the needs of our veterans who have sacrificed their comfort and safety for ours. The Healthy Transitions for Veterans Act will help us meet that responsibility by requiring the Department of Defense (DoD) to perform two simple and common sense tasks:

1. Provide a comprehensive physical examination to all servicemembers of the active, guard, and reserve components when they separate from military service.
2. Provide separating servicemembers with an electronic copy of their complete medical records.

Currently, servicemembers in the Guard and Reserve are not required to have physical examinations when separating from military service. This can result in a lack of documentation of service-connected injuries and medical conditions and is one of the reasons that former Guard and Reserve members who file disability claims with the VA are 4 times more likely to get an unfavorable decision than their active duty counterpart.

Providing all servicemembers the ability to take ownership of their complete health record will also ensure a smoother transition into the VA health care system as DoD and VA struggle to make their systems interoperable. For veterans who may apply for VA benefits, having their full medical record from the military will make the application process more efficient. VA employees would not have to track down evidence or engage in time consuming correspondence with the applicant to locate medical records from the DoD. This is good not just for the individual veteran, but for the entire VA system that continues to struggle to reduce the claims backlog.

I have the honor of representing Fort Bliss and the 33,000 active duty soldiers stationed there. I also represent nearly 80,000 veterans. All of these individuals, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America" for an amount of "up to and including my life." Our responsibility to these men and women does not end when we bring them home from war. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation and help guarantee our servicemembers make a healthy transition back to civilian life.

CONCERNING JOHN R. PARKER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John R. Parker on his retirement and honor his thirteen years of service as Chairman of the Jones County, Mississippi Republican Party.

Mr. Parker began his Chairmanship in 2000 and has since worked diligently to protect and to promote conservative ideals and values in South Mississippi. He has proved to be not only an outstanding Chairman, but also an asset in helping to grow the Republican Party. From local elections to the Governor's race, Mr. Parker is well known throughout the State for his key involvement and noteworthy enthusiasm.

Outside of his political work, Mr. Parker is notorious within his community for his continued support of local charities and willingness to lend a hand to those in need.

Mr. Parker is a true public servant and strong community leader dedicated to providing a better future for our country. He has been an invaluable part of the fabric of the Jones County Republican Party, and his leadership will be truly missed.

Mr. Parker, on behalf of the United States Congress, thank you for your hard work and commitment as Chairman of the Jones County Republican Party. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 430, I was unavoidably detained at a personal doctor's appointment.

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

CELEBRATING HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY'S CENTENNIAL YEAR

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 Humboldt State University's Centennial Year. Founded in 1913, Humboldt State University is the only state university in coastal Northern California and in my Congressional District. The university has made major contributions to the intellectual life, culture and economy of the North Coast, California and the nation.

One hundred years ago, on June 16, 1913, North Coast citizens had the foresight to help formally establish Humboldt State Normal School and to pledge \$12,000 and 12 acres of land to the school. Humboldt State University formally opened on April 6, 1914, and has since awarded more than 55,000 degrees to students from diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds.

Humboldt State University offers a broad array of academic programs and an outstanding college experience for 8,000 students each year, while contributing greatly to the regional community. The annual economic impact of Humboldt State University is estimated to be \$190 million on the North Coast and \$400 million statewide.

Humboldt State University is widely known for the personal attention faculty provide to students, and for the hands-on experiences

which complement classroom learning. The Humboldt State University faculty has established a strong reputation for excellence in teaching and research.

A longstanding commitment to environmental and social responsibility permeates the Humboldt State University curriculum and campus culture, which has enabled its alumni to make a difference wherever they live.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Humboldt State University for its many academic achievements and for the services it provides to many students throughout the state and nation. I encourage my colleagues and the North Coast community to join me in celebrating the university's centennial and in offering best wishes for its next 100 years.

WHAT IS THIS ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY IN SUDAN?

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit a letter I sent today to President Obama regarding Sudan as well as a copy of my Darfur trip report which I issued in July 2004 after having been a part of the first Congressional delegation to the region. Just months later then-Secretary of State Colin Powell described what was happening as genocide—a descriptor that President Obama himself used as recently as 2009.

And yet, the Sudan Special Envoy position remains vacant after nearly five months. Violence, displacement and atrocities continue in Darfur and the Nuba Mountains. And Sudanese President Bashir continues to travel the globe with virtual impunity.

What is this administration's policy in Sudan?

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, August 2, 2013.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,

The President, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I have written you on more than one occasion about the persistent vacancy of the Sudan Special Envoy post, which has been unfilled for nearly five months. This is indefensible given the current state of affairs in Sudan.

I enclose for your reference a recent piece that Sudan expert and advocate Professor Eric Reeves authored for the Washington Post. He paints a grim picture about the situation in Darfur, lamenting that this genocide, which once captured our collective national outrage, now seems to have disappeared from public view leaving us with the misperception that the violence has subsided and the crisis resolved. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Reeves writes "... the slaughter has continued in Darfur: Some 500,000 people have died in the past 10 years from war-related causes. In 2009, as president, Obama again declared that 'genocide' was occurring in Darfur, yet little followed from this." He continued, "But the people of Darfur have been left defenseless largely because of an unforgivable lack of attention and leadership by the United States. The policies of Obama's administration have hardly matched his rhetoric. Indeed, in a bizarre reprise of policies for which Obama had sharply criticized the Bush administration, on

Nov. 8, 2010, senior administration officials explicitly 'decoupled' Darfur from the largest bilateral issue between Washington and Khartoum: the latter's place on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism."

While Reeves' focus in the enclosed editorial is on Darfur—that region is far from being the only humanitarian and human rights catastrophe in Sudan. Last year I visited Yida refugee camp in South Sudan. I heard harrowing stories from a growing refugee population that had fled the Nuba Mountains, including indiscriminate aerial bombardments aimed at civilian populations, the use of food as a weapon of war, people driven from their homes and targeted for killing because of the color of their skin. In short I heard echoes of my time spent in Darfur as the first member of the House of Representatives to visit in July 2004.

Last year I offered an amendment to the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill which would have cut non-humanitarian foreign assistance to any nation that allowed Sudanese President Omar Bashir, an internationally indicted war criminal, into their country without arresting him. The amendment was adopted with bipartisan support by voice vote.

The amendment I proposed would have effectively isolated Bashir and made him an international pariah as is befitting a man with blood on his hands. It is noteworthy that the amendment garnered the support of 70 prominent Holocaust and genocide scholars. Dr. Rafael Medoff, director of the Wyman Institute, which initiated a letter of support to the administration from these scholars, said: "Halting aid to those who host Bashir would be the first concrete step the U.S. has taken to isolate the Butcher of Darfur and pave the way for his arrest. If the Obama administration is serious about punishing perpetrators of genocide, it should support the Wolf Amendment."

Sadly that support never materialized. In fact your administration actively sought to remove this language from the final bill. Meanwhile, Bashir remains free to travel where he pleases, and the people of Sudan see no end in sight to their suffering and U.S. policy is in tatters.

The FY 2014 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, which just last week passed out of the full committee, included language consistent with the amendment I offered last year. In seeking to isolate Bashir, our options are limited but far from nonexistent.

Will your administration support this effort? Will Bashir be made to face some modicum of consequence for his actions? Will the special envoy position be filled before the fall?

Professor Reeves' piece featured this quote from you: "We can't say 'never again' and then allow it to happen again, and as a president of the United States, I don't intend to abandon people or turn a blind eye to slaughter." I wish, and more importantly the suffering people of Sudan wish, we had seen an ounce of that moral clarity and conviction since you took office. Sudan has historically been a bipartisan issue. We may be from different parties but I had thought, based on your campaign rhetoric, that this might be an area of common cause.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

[From the Washington Post]

CIVILIANS IN SUDAN'S DARFUR REGION FACE WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION

(By Eric Reeves)

After years of obscurity and little reliable international reporting, the vast human catastrophe in Sudan's Darfur region is again