

commerce. Over the past month, I have found him to be outstanding in his duties and going above and beyond our expectations. He has attended committee hearings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted me as well as my staff with research. His Australian accent has garnered the attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. Will's commitment, hard work, and presence have been an asset to the office and he will be sorely missed by all.

The program has been in force for 13 years thanks to the vision of Eric Federer, its director and founder. The students who are selected come from a variety of academic disciplines, but all have a common interest: promoting the U.S.-Australia relationship. These student placements are enhanced by the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. We are grateful for these friendships and it is our hope that they strengthen the diplomatic ties of our great countries.

I would like to thank Eric Federer for the opportunity to host Will over the past several weeks. To date, over 130 interns have come through his program representing 8 different universities over the program's lifetime. It enhances opportunities for the individuals who come and enlighten those who they come to. After the internship, many receive jobs on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. or go to work with Federal or various State Parliaments in Australia. Other interns have gone on to work in the Australian Embassy or The World Bank. Simply put, this program selects incredibly talented individuals that are a pleasure to host and work with. It was an honor to have Will in our office and I wish him the very best in the future. Will, thank you again for your hard work and dedication.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S BIRTH

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the legacy of President Richard Nixon in this centennial year of his birth.

President Nixon took the oath of office at a time of domestic upheaval and far-reaching social, economic, and political change. I doubt there was ever a day when he did not wake to an agenda of pressing challenges and difficult decisions.

But his true legacy lies in foreign policy.

Few Presidents have entered the White House with a deeper understanding of international affairs, and we are very fortunate that he did. For when he first walked into the Oval Office, he inherited a world in which the U.S. was faced with enormous difficulties and problems that seemed to have no solution, from our grinding engagement in Vietnam to an increasingly emboldened Soviet Union.

He understood from the first that the old ways of doing things simply would not work in a new and dangerous world and repeatedly astonished his admirers and opponents alike with a surprisingly flexible and sophisticated, albeit tough-minded, approach.

That was most famously demonstrated by his stunning reaching out to China.

For decades this action has been the subject of much discussion and comment, and it is commonly cited as a model for similarly bold action today.

But there is danger in easy comparisons. It is of key importance to stress that he did not suffer from an illusion that Mao's dictatorship was reforming itself or that our mutual hostility was primarily the fault of the United States. Or that a handshake could somehow transform conflicting goals into a broad partnership.

Instead, it was based on a clear-eyed understanding of how the world actually works and that a rigid adherence to ideology can blind one to inconvenient facts and potential options. Only someone deeply confident in his beliefs could have done so. But he did not take unnecessary risks, he did not leap into the dark, hoping for the best. Instead, he took deliberate steps on a well-thought-out path to specific goals.

Even then, his eyes were not focused on China, but on a much larger purpose, namely reordering the international system to give the U.S. new options that it otherwise would not have had, including an ability to exploit divisions among opponents that rendered each eager for improved relations with the U.S.

What a contrast to today's world, where the U.S. often goes hat in hand to professed enemies in the illusion that they can be bribed to abandon their fundamental goals, that unilateral concessions will generate good will, or that they can somehow be convinced to become good international citizens through pleas or lectures.

Nixon knew that peaceful outreach and negotiations were possible only when the other side had no doubts of your toughness. Sometimes a smile is helpful, but often a stick is more convincing. No one ever doubted that Richard Nixon understood the difference.

His no-nonsense view of the world can be seen in the aftermath of the murder of Israeli Olympians in Munich by PLO terrorists on September 27th, 1972 when he warned that if we want safety, we must not seek "accommodations with savagery, but rather act to eliminate it."

That was written twenty-nine years before the devastating 9/11 terror attacks, but it remains a crucial guide to action today.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I deal on a daily basis with the many problems the U.S. faces around the world. Some would be familiar to President Nixon; many are quite different. But the deep understanding, the commitment to basic principles, the pragmatic flexibility that characterized his approach are as essential today as they were then.

I met him once when he spoke before the House Republican Conference in March, 1993, shortly after I first entered Congress. The subject was Russia in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet empire, but even after many years out of office, and only a year before his death, his understanding of the range of issues and problems facing that country and ours impressed everyone in the room. He was masterful to the end.

Afterward, the President mentioned his old House seat to me, and he asked me to join him for a meeting with members of the Senate, organized by Senator Patrick Moynihan. There he spoke of the future challenges and opportunities with respect to China, Eurasia, Africa, and Latin America. As usual, he spoke without using notes.

Perhaps his greatest legacy is what any student of his accomplishments can see for themselves: that the United States has no choice to be a leader in the world if we are to secure the safety and interests of the American people, that passivity and a surrender to events can bring only disaster, that refusing to recognize that the world is often a dangerous and unforgiving place is to live in illusion, that foolishly acting as though our resources were unlimited with no need to prioritize our goals is a certain road to defeat.

So it gives me pride to recognize President Richard Nixon during the centennial of his birth. We owe him our respect for what he accomplished on behalf of the security of the United States in a turbulent world.

HONORING JOHN BRENKLE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Monsignor John Brenkle on the occasion of receiving the Jefferson Award for his work in the Napa Valley community.

The Jefferson Award is a national award given to those serving the community at a national and local level, which Monsignor Brenkle has done for the past three decades. He is known throughout the Napa Valley as a mercenary who goes above and beyond to ensure the well-being of those in the community.

Monsignor Brenkle attended St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California, and was ordained on June 14, 1958 through the Archdiocese of San Francisco. He received his Doctorate in Canon Law from The Catholic University of America in 1962. He served as Chancellor of the Diocese in Santa Rosa until 1971, followed by two years of teaching in Zambia.

Monsignor Brenkle has worked tirelessly to help low-income families and farm workers. He played a pivotal role in creating housing for migrant farm workers, and assisted in the decision to build low income housing sites in the valley. He serves on numerous local boards, including Catholic Charities, the Board of Directors of Justin-Siena High School, Catholic Community Foundation, California Human Development Corporation, and the St. Helena Mayor's Multi-cultural Committee.

It is because of all his hard work that he was recognized to receive this outstanding award. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Monsignor John Brenkle on this joyous occasion.

COME AND TAKE IT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was fall of 1835. Mexican President Santa Anna had dissolved the Constitution and made himself dictator. Tensions began to flare between his oppressive government and the liberty minded desires of Texans and Tejanos. To suppress

the rumblings of unrest and revolution the Mexican military leaders began their quest to quietly disarm the Texians. One of the first actions was to retrieve a cannon lent to the Texian colonists at Gonzales. The famous bronze cannon was loaned to the Gonzales colonists by the Mexican government in 1831 to defend themselves from hostile Apaches and Comanches. Mexican Corporal Casimiro De León and a few soldiers were sent to reclaim the cannon. That task was easier said than done.

The feisty Texians said they were keeping the gun and took the soldiers prisoner. The ladies of settlement even made a flag bearing the words "Come and Take It!" to be flown over the cannon. The cannon had been buried in a peach orchard near the Colorado River for safety, but was retrieved shortly after and readied for battle and mounted on cart wheels. The Mexican government responded by sending Lieutenant Francisco de Castaneda of the Mexican Army and 150 troops to put an end to the dispute. They were met by a militia of frontier Texians and Indian fighters who simply said, "There it is—come and take it." After a few shots were fired by both sides the Mexican army left the engagement. The Battle of Gonzales went on to be known as the "Lexington of Texas". It was Act I of the Texas War of Independence. It was similar to Lexington because sixty years earlier the British had tried to seize the weapons of the colonists at Lexington and Concord. The Texas War, like the American War of Independence, began because oppressive government tried and failed to disarm the people. The citizens of Texas would not surrender their arms to appease the overbearing Mexican regime. History has an odd way of repeating itself.

Flash forward 200 years. One night I was at a town hall meeting in Spring when a local preacher came up to me to share his concerns about where our country was headed. It is always refreshing for me to hear from normal people in Southeast Texas after spending all week long in the land of the bureaucrats. I will always remember this particular neighbor because of his strong opinions and his shirt. It had a photograph of the Bible and two .45 Colt revolvers with the words "I love my Bible" and "I love my guns". Naturally, they were in the right order. God then guns. Leave it to a Texas preacher to keep it all in perspective. You wouldn't see that shirt up in Washington, DC. Some elites outside of our Great State fear "us southerners" and our colt 45s, and ridicule those who cling to their guns and religion. In Texas we have a rich tradition of proudly celebrating the right to bear arms. The elites seem to forget that not only do we cling to guns and religion, we cling to the Constitution that protects these rights. Many Texans believe the call for gun control is really a call for more government control.

Texans aren't the only ones who have historically defended this right. During the birth of our nation, the Founding Fathers were very concerned—almost paranoid—that a strong Federal Government would trample on the rights of the people. Their concerns were warranted because that is exactly what happened to the colonists, and that's what governments historically do—trample on individual liberty. So after the ratification of the Constitution, the Framers purposely included a list of inalienable rights that are endowed by our Creator, not from government. One of them being the

individuals' right to bear arms. They knew from their experiences in the American War of Independence that an armed citizenry and a citizen militia were not only needed for personal defense, but were also the best safeguard against the tyranny of government.

But here we go again. Today some in government once again fear the freedom of its citizens and are now calls to round up all the guns. Ironically, each day in the U.S. Capitol there are guards with guns by the doors—to the north, to the south, to the east, to the west—on the roof, on all of the entrances, and by the steps. Many elitist politicians and life-long bureaucrats expect protections for themselves while advocating for more restrictions on guns for the people of America—hypocrisy at its highest. Most citizens don't have government guards protecting them 24/7. Many people feel defenseless. In fact, one of the proposals for more gun laws mirrors the stringent DC gun laws. If the DC gun laws worked, DC would not be such a violent city. If DC gun laws worked, why are there so many armed guards at the Capitol?

The elites want more government power and control while taking away liberty from the rest of us. They want to punish the guns, not the people who commit crimes with guns. They want to keep their special government protection while redlining the Second Amendment for the people. They say, "Protection for me but not for thee". Not much has changed since the days of the Santa Anna. Oppressive governments will always seek to limit the freedom of their citizens. Mexico eventually lost Texas and Great Britain eventually lost America. Both wars started because those in charge wanted to take guns away from the citizens. Those who seek to take guns away from Texans should open a history book. Those early Texans defied Santa Anna, hoisted the flag "Come and Take It", and the rest they say is Texas history.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING JACKSON ANTHONY CARRIZZO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jackson Anthony Carrizzo. Jax is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jax has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jax has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 33 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jax has led his troop in various positions including Patrol Leader, has earned the rank of Foxman in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow. Jax has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jax redesigned, cleared and constructed a 70 foot stretch of walking trail in the Parkville Nature Sanctuary in Parkville, Missouri, connecting a new bridge to the

walking trail and adding new approaches to the bridge.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jackson Anthony Carrizzo for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL HIGGINS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Michael Higgins, a professional staff member for the House Armed Services Committee, on his retirement after over 40 years of public service.

Mike's dedication to the personnel and families of the U.S. Armed Services began in 1970, when he joined the U.S. Air Force as a career personnel officer. His assignments in the Air Force included the Military Personnel Center, the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, and a variety of unit personnel positions. After retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1990, Mike joined the staff of the Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, where he served for most of his 23 years on Capitol Hill. His work has affected the lives of millions of active, reservist, retired, and civilian Department of Defense men and women and their families. His expertise on all policy and fiscal matters related to the sustainment of the morale, welfare, and recreation programs of the military services, including the commissary system and military exchanges, helped ensure a high quality of life for all who have served in the military.

Mike's tireless efforts to protect and enhance the quality of life for service members resulted in many notable achievements. His early advocacy and shaping of statutes that required the military services to consider and address individual service members' deployment time helped lead the Services to recognize that frequent back-to-back deployments, combined with extensive training even when not deployed, were a detriment to readiness. His recognition of the special challenges and needs of service members also led to the drafting of the critical skills retention bonus—a very flexible tool that allowed military leaders to target bonuses and bonus amounts at retaining people with crucial military skills, such as senior special operations non-commissioned officers and intelligence analysts.

Mike also helped transform the environment supporting our service members. His oversight of the initial implementation of the Military Child Care Act of 1989 resulted in the world-class military child care system that exists today. He helped make subsistence and housing payments more consistent with the real-world conditions faced by service members and their families, and eased compensation penalties for military widows and disabled retirees. More importantly, Mike established himself as an honest broker and listener to all parties, including advocacy groups, particularly in managing the committee's response to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy from its inception until its repeal in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Michael Higgins. Mike personifies