

JOHN JONES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud John Jones for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. John Jones is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by John Jones is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to John Jones for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE FLORIDA HIGHWAYMEN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to honor the Florida Highwaymen, a group of twenty-six landscape artists who have been called “The Last Great American Art Movement of the 20th century.”

Against tremendous odds and severe racial discrimination, these African American artists were able to define themselves as artistic innovators, producing more than 200,000 celebrated paintings.

The works of the Florida Highwaymen are unique. They developed their own individual techniques and captured waterscapes, backcountry marshes, and inlets before residential and industrial development. Their work—which is now proudly displayed in the Florida Capitol and the United States Senate—marks the beginning of Florida’s contemporary art tradition and the “Indian River School” art movement.

Painting in the era of Jim Crow, the Highwaymen could not sell their paintings through traditional channels. Galleries and art festivals would not accept their works. The Highwaymen were forced to sell their artwork along roadsides in towns and cities throughout the eastern coastal roads of Florida. From the 1950s to the 1980s, the Highwaymen pressed forward, offering their works at bargain prices to the public. Until recently, countless Americans appreciated their artistry without knowing their identities.

The twenty-six members of the original Highwaymen are still alive. These men and women have earned their place in history. On Saturday, March 30, 2013, in the City of Pembroke Pines at the South West Focal Point Community Center their unique depictions of artwork will be displayed for the community to appreciate and view.

It is with heartfelt appreciation that I recognize their legacy. Please join me in honoring the Florida Highwaymen for their contributions to the world of art.

RECOGNIZING DAVID V. AGUILAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David V. Aguilar for his retirement from his position as Deputy Commissioner with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Mr. Aguilar has dedicated his service leading the agency in protecting our nation’s borders and its communities.

Mr. Aguilar joined the Border Patrol in June 1978 at Laredo, Texas, where he held positions of Assistant Patrol Agent in Charge and Patrol Agent in Charge.

From 1988 to August 1996, Mr. Aguilar served as Patrol Agent in Charge of three Border Patrol Stations in Texas (Dallas, Rio Grande Valley and Brownsville). Under his command, the Dallas and Brownsville stations were awarded the Commissioner’s Award for Group Achievement.

From August 1996 to November 1999, Mr. Aguilar served as Assistant Regional Director for the Border Patrol in the central region of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service. As such, Mr. Aguilar was the principal advisor to the Regional Director, where he managed, directed and guided the regional program.

Mr. Aguilar was subsequently appointed as Chief Patrol Agent of the Tucson Sector. As Tucson Sector Chief, he had more than 2,000 agents and 200 support personnel under his command. Mr. Aguilar had oversight of eight geographically dispersed Border Patrol stations along 261 miles of the Arizona/Mexico border. In 2003, the Tucson sector earned the CBP Commissioner’s anti-terrorism award for achievements under Operation Desert Safeguard, an operation planned, designed and implemented in the high-risk areas of the Tucson sector.

In March 2004, the Department of Homeland Security designated Mr. Aguilar as the Border and Transportation Security Integrator for the execution of the Arizona Border Control Initiative. In 2004, Mr. Aguilar was also elected as the President of the Southern Arizona Federal Executive Association.

In July 2004, Mr. Aguilar was named National Chief of the Border Patrol, assuming the position as the nation’s highest-ranking Border Patrol agent. With expertise and knowledge gained from more than 31 years of service with the Border Patrol, Mr. Aguilar directed the enforcement efforts of more than 20,000 agents nationwide.

In April 2010, Mr. Aguilar was appointed Deputy Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. From December 2011 to August 2012, Mr. Aguilar served as acting Commissioner, CBP’s highest-ranking official, leading the agency in border security, while fostering our Nation’s economic security through lawful international trade and travel. Mr. Aguilar led a workforce of 60,000, including 43,000 uniformed law enforcement officers.

Mr. Aguilar holds an associate degree in accounting from the Laredo Community College, and attended Laredo State University and University of Texas at Arlington. He is a Senior Executive Fellow of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Mr. Aguilar is the recipient of the 2005 President’s Meritorious Excellence Award and in 2008 was a recipient of the Presidential Rank Award.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Aguilar for his outstanding service in protecting our communities and his extraordinary commitment to our country. He has truly contributed to this nation in his efforts to protect our borders.

HONORING CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR NICHOLAS PETRIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of California State Senator Nicholas Petris. Known throughout California politics as a brilliant democratic lawmaker with visionary foresight, Nicholas Petris was also renowned for his professionalism, speaking prowess, and tireless advocacy for the underserved. With his passing, we look to Senator Petris’ political legacy and the outstanding quality of his life’s work.

Over a career that spanned four decades, Senator Petris was a hero to many—pioneering initiatives far ahead of their time in areas like environmental protection, mental health rights, and low-income housing. A child of Greek immigrants, Nicholas Petris was born in Oakland and educated in the Bay Area, graduating from the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford University Law School. He served in the Office of Strategic Service during World War II and practiced law for about a decade before being elected to the California Assembly in 1959.

In 1965, as an assemblyman, he famously collaborated with State Senator Eugene McAtee to write the bill that created the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, laying the foundation for the non-profit Save The Bay to protect the resource from harmful development. He also worked to direct crucial resources to expand the University of California system.

Upon being elected to the State Senate in 1967, he immediately worked to pass the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, which prohibited involuntary commitment and made quality mental health services more accessible. Furthermore, he continued the decade fearlessly taking on controversial battles: challenging the internal-combustion engine and emission practices of the auto industry and writing laws to ban smoking on airplanes and public transportation. These efforts eventually helped to usher in an era of air quality and clean-fuel regulation in California that was often stricter than the national standard. He also introduced bills to ban DDT and control ballooning vehicle numbers, which, although unsuccessful, demonstrated remarkable prescience in the face of today’s environmental challenges.

As a passionate advocate for the poor, Senator Petris passed legislation that required redevelopment agencies to build housing for

low-income families. He also championed tenants' and workers' rights, inspiring lawmakers in both major parties to listen to the voices of average Californians. All the while, he was a loving husband to his wife of 60 years, the late Anna Vlahos.

On a personal note, I was incredibly honored to succeed Senator Petris upon his retirement due to term limits in 1996. He was a steadfast friend and provided wise counsel to me throughout my time in the California Legislature. Particularly, I will always remember Senator Petris and his beloved wife, Anna, taking me to dinner prior to my first visit to Greece. They provided me with invaluable travel tips for restaurants, shopping, and tourist attractions that made my first visit so exciting. Senator Petris' beloved Greece became one of my favorite countries to visit.

Today, we mourn the loss of a wise political pioneer, a respected lawmaker, and an innovative thinker who helped shape the State of California as we know it. His legislative insight, legendary eloquence, and the camaraderie he inspired among his colleagues is unmatched. Senator Nicholas Petris' legacy continues to thrive among generations of advocates committed to championing progressive California policy as a model for environmental and social justice throughout the world. I offer my sincerest condolences to his surviving family and to the many friends and associates whose lives he touched over the course of his long and fruitful life. He will be deeply missed.

JHAMIER RYAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jhamier Ryan for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jhamier Ryan is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jhamier Ryan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jhamier Ryan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 9th, 2013, I missed rollcall vote numbers 90, 91, and 92 for unavoidable reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall no. 90: "yea" (On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 254, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the development of hydroelectric power on the Diamond Fork System of the Central Utah Project.)

Rollcall no. 91: "nay" (On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1033, to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program.)

Rollcall no. 92: "yea" (On approving the Journal.)

INTRODUCTION OF RFS REFORM ACT AND RFS ELIMINATION ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have long been a critic of the renewable fuel standard and we must act now to fix this broken policy.

While the livestock industry has been witnessing the effects of the RFS mandate for several years, the drought last year highlighted for many the extreme reach of the RFS throughout our economy. But even before the drought, by diverting feed stocks to fuel there have been diminished corn supplies for livestock and food producers. Tightening supplies have driven up the price of corn. The higher cost for corn is passed on to livestock and food producers. In turn, consumers see that price reflected in the price of food on the grocery store shelves and restaurants.

This year, the U.S. is expected to hit the blend wall—where the ethanol mandate will require more ethanol be produced than can be safely blended into gasoline. In order to address the blend wall by reducing the RFS mandate, EPA is working to push E15. EPA has granted a partial waiver to allow E15 blends for model cars 2001 and newer, despite the fact that a study from the Coordinating Research Council, commissioned by U.S. automakers and oil companies, found that 25 percent of cars approved by the EPA to run on E15 experienced engine damage—and even failure. The EPA should not be promoting fuel that is unsafe on the roadways just to meet a mandate.

EPA administrators from both parties have constantly refused to use the flexibility granted to them by law to alter the RFS, so Congress must act. That is why I am introducing two bills that would alter this artificially created government market.

The first bill, the Renewable Fuel Standard Elimination Act is simple; it would eliminate the RFS and make ethanol compete in a free market. The government should not be creating a market to sustain an entire industry. While, I believe that we should completely eliminate the RFS, I recognize that there may not yet be the political will in Congress to completely eliminate this mandate. And while there may not yet be the political will to elimi-

nate this mandate we have to address the reality that we are being confronted and reform the broken RFS policy.

That is why I have joined with several colleagues in introducing legislation to reform the RFS. The Renewable Fuel Standard Reform Act eliminates the corn based ethanol requirements and caps the amount of ethanol that can be blended into conventional gasoline at 10 percent—a level that is safe for all vehicle models. And this legislation will require the EPA to set cellulosic biofuels levels at production levels—oil and gas refiners should not be fined for not being able to blend products that do not exist.

More than 40 diverse organizations are joining us to call for action to address the problems created by the RFS mandate. This is no longer just a debate about fuel or food. It is also a debate about jobs, small business, and economic growth. This mandate has wide reaching and negative impacts on a broad swath of industries. Congress created this artificial market that is distorting the food and feed market, and we must provide relief of its unintended consequences. I urge the Congress to pass this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 91 "To authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program" (H.R. 1033). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

JEREMIAH BATES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jeremiah Bates for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jeremiah Bates is an 11th grader at Jeffco's 21st Century Virtual Academy and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jeremiah Bates is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jeremiah Bates for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.