

IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JOYCE ZONGRONE, U.S. NAVY (RETIRED)

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Joyce Zongrone, who retired after 35 years of courageous service in both the active and reserve service on June 30, 2008.

LCDR Joyce Zongrone has been consistently recognized throughout her career for her service in the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, and the Global War on Terrorists. LCDR Zongrone originally earned her commission in 1974 after graduating Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. She then went on to serve with great distinction, being awarded the Woman of Military Achievement Award by the San Diego Chapter of the U.S. Navy League for three consecutive years: 1975, 1976, and 1977.

LCDR Zongrone also received the U.S. Navy Commendation Medal for her service in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and her duties as the Navy Central Command's liaison to General Colin Powell's Farewell Tour. LCDR Zongrone received a Coast Guard Unit Commendation for her development of a joint anti-submarine warfare curriculum for the Coast Guard and the Navy; and the Humanitarian Service Medal for Operation Babylift, a U.S. initiative that airlifted over 2,500 Vietnamese orphans out of Vietnam after the war.

In addition to her service to our great nation, once released from active duty by the U.S. Navy, LCDR Zongrone worked as a freelance producer, investigative reporter, technical writer for NASA, a teacher, and adjunct professor. In her post-military life, LCDR Zongrone won a Texas Gulf Coast Press Association Award, an Attaway Newspaper Group Color Photography Award, and was included in the 2005–2006 edition of Who's Who in American Teachers. Furthermore, due to her distinction and success, LCDR Zongrone currently serves on the Military Academy Selection Board of the Ninth Congressional District of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to have the opportunity to pay tribute to such a selfless veteran as LCDR Zongrone. For those of us who know LCDR Zongrone, we are always in awe of her intelligence and willingness to serve worthy causes. It is an honor to know that as Americans and freedom-loving people, we owe our liberty and security to brave individuals like LCDR Zongrone, who put their liberty and security at risk for us.

GIRLS OF STEEL ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Girls of Steel robotics team on winning the Engineering Inspiration Award at the 2013 Pittsburgh Regional F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition.

This is the second year in a row in which they have won the Engineering Inspiration

Award. This prestigious award, which recognizes the team's outstanding efforts to advance respect for the engineering profession, also qualified the team to compete at the F.I.R.S.T. Championship in St. Louis for the third year in a row. The championship is the final and largest competition of the robotics season and features teams from across the world.

F.I.R.S.T., which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," is an organization dedicated to introducing our youth to the world of science and technology. This year alone, hundreds of thousands of students are gaining practical, team-based engineering experiences by participating in F.I.R.S.T.

As a founder and co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, I think competitions such as these are outstanding tools for getting students interested in careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. I believe our nation's future economic growth and prosperity depends upon getting young people interested and engaged in scientific pursuits, and I want to commend organizations like F.I.R.S.T. for the important work they do in that regard. The F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition instills a sense of pride in the individuals who participate in it and allows them to apply their natural creativity in the demanding and competitive field of robotics.

The Girls of Steel team is made up of 40 young women from high schools in and around the Pittsburgh area. In recognition of their hard work, intelligence, and teamwork, I want to mention each of these inspiring young ladies by name. They are Sonia Appasamy, Katie Ashwood, Tammy Bevilacqua, Elizabeth Bianchini, Britt Bovbjerg, Aaminah Bray, Grace Brueggman, Dakota Calvert, Abby Ceraso, Tristan Close-Abuyen, Claudia Contreras, Laurel Donatelli, Samantha Eppinger, Clarisa Espinoza-Delgado, Mackenzie Ferris, Naoka Gunawardena, Heather Harrington, Rosanne Harrison, Kathryn Hendrickson, Imani Horton, Campbell Konrad, Elizabeth Kysel, Sylvie Lee, Sophia Lee, Shana Leshko, Pragna Mannam, Genevieve Nieson, Raina Oravec, Simran Parwani, Korryn Resetar, Kaylyn Rocher, Alex Roth, Rachel Round, Katie Shreve, Lynn Urbina, Molly Urbina, Bryce Volk, Becca Volk, Giulia Watkins, and Natalie Young.

I also want to mention that one of the Girls of Steel—Naoka Gunawardena from The Ellis School—was one of two students at the Pittsburgh Regional who won the prestigious F.I.R.S.T. Dean's List Award, which recognizes student leaders who are outstanding at pursuing and achieving F.I.R.S.T.'s ideals.

I also want to express my appreciation to the staff of the Carnegie Mellon University Field Robotics Center, which has mentored the Girls of Steel. As a result of their efforts, more young women are gaining real-world technological experiences which will certainly aid them in the future.

I congratulate the Girls of Steel and wish them continued success in their academic and professional pursuits.

HONORING JACOB SHIPLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Shipley. Jacob 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 320, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jacob researched and led a restoration of destroyed quail habitat on federal wetlands in northern Missouri.

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

INTRODUCTION OF MEDICAL NEUTRALITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medical Neutrality Protection Act of 2013, which is an updated version of the bill I introduced in the 112th Congress. I have been encouraged by the tremendous support that this bill received since then, including major human rights advocacy groups, medical professionals, U.S. government officials, and medics living abroad who have been persecuted while serving in times of civil unrest.

Since I first introduced this bill in July 2011, we have heard of widespread cases, particularly in the Middle East, where the independence of physicians and medics was severely hindered. Unfortunately, the situation remains dire. Many have been arrested, detained, interrogated, and even tortured for caring for the wounded. Countries that do this to their medical professionals do not deserve our military assistance.

This bill elevates the protection of medical professionals as a foreign policy priority for the U.S. Government so that countries that violate norms of medical neutrality will no longer be able to receive U.S. military assistance.

I first became aware of this issue back in the 1980s during the civil war in El Salvador. The conflict ended in the early 1990s with over 75,000 people killed, some of whom were medical workers who were caught in combat or working in refugee camps. Then, as now, I was concerned that the United States was not doing enough to stop government forces from harming medical workers, who are some of the only unbiased eyewitnesses that we have on the ground.

Protecting doctors and health care workers is a nonpartisan issue that should get broad support in Congress and our government.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

COMMEMORATING THE 1980
OLYMPIC MEDICAL STAFF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide long-overdue recognition for a group of Americans who were denied the opportunity and honor of representing our country at the 1980 Olympic Games: the U.S. Olympic medical staff.

In response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, the United States led a global effort to boycott the 1980 summer Olympic Games in Moscow. Sixty-five nations participated in the boycott, in an unprecedented display of international solidarity against Communist aggression.

Today, we look back at the 1980 Olympic boycott as a dramatic and triumphant moment in Cold War history. For the members of the U.S. Olympic team, however, it also represented a foregone opportunity to fulfill a once-in-a-lifetime dream of representing their country at the pinnacle of international athletic competition.

In recognition of the hard work, determination, and sacrifice of our Olympic athletes, the 96th Congress commissioned gold-plated medals to be minted for each member of the team. In July of 1980, Congress held a ceremony on the East Front Steps to hand-deliver the medals; more than 450 Olympic athletes were in attendance, as was President Jimmy Carter.

During the 110th Congress, it was brought to the attention of Congress that, because of a clerical interpretation, these Americans were not listed as recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal by the Clerk of the House. In response, former Representative Todd Tiahrt worked with the Clerk's office and the U.S. Olympic Committee to officially recognize the members of the 1980 Summer U.S. Olympic Team as recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal.

Unfortunately, this was not the only oversight on the part of Congress. Our athletes were not the only Americans affected by our government's decision to boycott the 1980 Summer Games; our Olympic medical and training personnel also lost the chance to represent their country on the world stage. Like our Olympic athletes, these medical and training professionals were leaders in their fields selected specifically for this honor, but they were never properly recognized for their contributions and their sacrifice.

As a small and belated gesture of gratitude, I stand here today, 33 years later, to recognize the following members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic medical staff for their service to our country: Physicians Tony Daly, Roy Bergman, Jerry Patmont, Doug Shaw, and Tim Taft (of my home State of North Carolina); and Athletic Trainers Bob Beeten, Sherry Babagian, Dave Blanchard, Tina Bonci, Chuck Demers, Tim Kerin, Mike Linkovich, Bob Moore, Al Ortolani, Tony Russo, Larry Standifer, Gail Weldon, and Troy Young.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
LYDIA GARDNER

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a devoted public servant, a community leader and a special friend, Orange County Clerk of Courts Lydia Gardner. With her passing on May 8, 2013, her family has lost a loved one and our community and the State of Florida have lost a respected and accomplished leader.

Lydia was born in Michigan and graduated from the University of Michigan. She also attended Rollins College and the prestigious John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. However, it was with an early passion for politics that she won the position of Student Council President at Central High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Prior to serving as Clerk of Courts, Mrs. Gardner distinguished herself as an educator, achieved success in real estate and as an executive with a Fortune 100 telecommunications company and was later elected as member and chairman of the Orange County School Board.

Lydia was first elected in 2000 and then a subsequent four terms as Orange County, Florida's Clerk of Courts. In 2008 her office received the Sterling Award for operational excellence awarded by the Governor. She has been appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to a number of special committees, most recently one to study privacy and court records. Lydia lent her support to causes important to her and the Central Florida community. She was a strong advocate for the mentally ill and was the recipient of the Central Florida Mental Health Association's Golden Bell Award. She played a key role in establishing the Domestic Violence Commission in Orange County, served on the Jail Oversight Committee, Juvenile Justice Commission as well as the Board of Directors for the Central Receiving Center. In addition, she has served on the Board of the Orlando Science Center and Winter Park Chamber of Commerce, which elected her chairman in 2003.

A devoted wife, mother and grandmother, she truly made an indelible mark on her family, community and our judicial system. My deepest condolences are extended to her husband John, her son Chris and daughter Betsy. In addition, Lydia is remembered by her four grandchildren and three siblings. Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing the distinguished life and service of Lydia Gardner.

RECOGNIZING THE WINNERS OF
THE NINTH ANNUAL TECHNOLOGY AND ARTS COMPETITION HOSTED BY SAIC AND THE COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS OF HERNDON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the participants and

winners from the Council for the Arts of Herndon's Ninth Annual SAIC Technology and the Arts Competition.

The Technology and the Arts program grew out of a desire to offer computer savvy teens a way to showcase their abilities in an artistic format. The innovative program challenges students in all Fairfax and Arlington county high schools to create works of animation, digital art, digital music, and digital photography by blending technology and artistry into one cutting-edge masterpiece. Students submit entries at their schools, and teachers are tasked with selecting which works will be entered into the contest. Works are judged by professionals and experts in the field, and awards are given for first place through honorable mention in each category.

This program also showcases how creativity extends beyond the arts into a crucial component of our local and national economies. Technology has been the driving force behind Fairfax County's economic expansion for the past two decades. Knowledge-based enterprises directly employ more than 140,000 people in Fairfax County and some of the world's leading technology firms are headquartered here. America remains the world's leader in technology innovation primarily because of the creativity and ingenuity of these companies. This event is not just about art, it is also about laying the foundation for America's competitiveness in a global market place.

I am pleased to congratulate the following winners of the Technology and the Arts Competition and to enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

SAIC Sponsor Award: Briana Bui—Taken By The Wind.

CAH Board of Director's Choice: Dean Dickinson Effects of Music.

Digital Art: 1st Place, Kelly Park—Bottle Memories, 2nd Place, Marvin Funes—Untitled, 3rd Place, Aileen Kenny—Bite Your Lip and Tell a Lie, Honorable Mention, J Lash—Found, Honorable Mention, Lauve Gladstone—Feather Brush, Honorable Mention, Dylan Staniszewski—Painting with Poison, Honorable Mention, Heather—Pham Dream, Honorable Mention, Kevin Jo—Jazz Player, Honorable Mention, Roya Sodeifi—Fourth, Honorable Mention, Tony Lunsford—Ticking Transformation.

Digital Photography: 1st Place, Dakota James—Spring Snow, 2nd Place, Wray Sinclair—Photography, 3rd Place, Kyle Kirkpatrick—Hit the Nail on the Head, Honorable Mention, Marisa Ross—Dryer.

Animation: 1st Place, Max Johnson—Dispense, 2nd Place, Samuel Eddy—Neerstorten, 3rd Place, Ian Jelliffe—Fat Lady Sings, Honorable Mention, Kevin Dang—A Day in the Life of a Pencil—Falls Church High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this year's winners and thanking SAIC, the Council for the Arts of Herndon, as well as the educators, parents, and community partners for their support of these students and this competition.