

HONORING CHELSEA BROWN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I thank Chelsea Brown for her years of service to me, my constituents, the House Republican Conference, the House Committee on Financial Services, and the United States Congress.

Chelsea is one of the most dedicated and loyal people I've had the honor of having on my staff since I was elected to Congress. Few, if any, individuals devoted more hours of their life to my legislative career and to the service of my constituents.

Chelsea joined my staff as a scheduler and office manager in January of 2007. As my colleagues appreciate, the job of a congressional scheduler is one of the most challenging assignments on the Hill. Throughout the years, Chelsea's proactive nature and attention to detail allowed me to maximize both my effectiveness as a legislator and my ability to spend more time with my family.

My children, Claire and Travis, can attest to the asset that Chelsea was to my team. She went out of her way to make my family feel welcome when they visited my office in Washington each summer, and I have no doubt that Claire and Travis will fondly remember how "Miss Chelsea" made visiting their dad's office such an enjoyable experience.

Because of her excellent work in my personal office, I asked Chelsea to join my staff at the House Republican Conference when I served as Chairman, and asked her to come along again when I became Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee. Regardless of the task at hand, Chelsea could always be trusted to get the job done, no matter what. Her strong character, discretion, and work ethic have made her an asset to me over the last six years. I can assure you that she will be sorely missed.

Chelsea, thank you for your service and dedication to the cause of individual liberty, and thank you for being such an invaluable member of my team. I wish you the best of luck in your future personal and professional endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUTS
ALEXANDER AND ANDREW HAHN**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alexander and Andrew Hahn of Troop 729 in Treynor, Iowa for each achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Alex and Andrew completed

their projects for the betterment of a local preschool in Treynor. Alex built a planter and walking path at the preschool, while Andy constructed kneeling pads and two covers and poured concrete around two sandpits in the play area. Together they also added mulch near the walking path, playground, and additional seating area. The work ethic Alex and Andrew have shown in their Eagle Projects, and every other project leading up to their Eagle Scout ranks, speaks volumes of their commitment to serving a cause greater than themselves and assisting their community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these young men and their supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating the Hahn brothers on obtaining their Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish them continued success in their future education and career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained by weather related flight delays on Monday, May 20, 2013 and missed rollcall votes 161, 162 and 163.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: "yea" on rollcall No. 161; "yea" on rollcall No. 162; "yea" on rollcall No. 163.

CHRISTOPHER SABBAGH

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Christopher Sabbagh is a senior at Kempner High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

THE POWER OF ONE

This country was founded as a beacon of hope, a land of opportunity and freedom. Our nation is prosperous because of the unique form of government that attracts so many individuals from across the world. Every resident of the United States enters into a social contract between the people and the government. According to John Locke, the government's power derives from the, "consent of the governed." As citizens of America, it is important to be involved in the political process because we are all responsible for the actions of our government, just as

our government is responsible for the protection of its citizens.

My parents emigrated from Lebanon to America believing opportunities for their children in a progressive nation would outweigh the sacrifice of leaving behind family, friends, and social stability. They were able to escape restrictive conditions in pursuit of better prospects and became actively involved in different aspects of their new community. Sadly, my parents' participation stopped at an integral duty in American democracy—voting.

As the 2012 Presidential Election neared, the importance of democratic participating became evident to me. Citizens across the nation would decide on a president to lead the nation for the next four years. This one person's decisions would affect the world's future, and we, the citizens of the United States, were entrusted with the final decision. Despite the enormity of this responsibility, many citizens, including my parents, would refrain from participating.

My teacher, Mrs. Naomi Brown, and I decided to confront this community issue and organized a voter registration festival in Sugar Land, Texas, titled "The Power of ONE: Because ONE Vote Matters." With the support of the Bezos Scholars Program and many other organizations, we registered a total of 618 citizens, including my mom and dad. My parents realized that they had escaped a place where credible elections were nonexistent, but here, they had the power to make a difference.

Ultimately, it is important to participate in the political process because it is our duty as American citizens to do so. A democracy is not effective unless there is a direct contribution from the populace. From presidential elections to state, local, and school board elections, we have the responsibility and duty to place in power whoever we feel most competent. When we abstain from participating, we are essentially noncitizens. We have no voice in the government. We have no influence in decisions made for us. But through participating in the political process, all of these are made available to us. We become the gears that keep our country progressing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, my flight yesterday to Washington, DC was unexpectedly diverted to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I unexpectedly missed rollcall votes 161, 162, and 163.

On rollcall vote 161, passage of H.R. 258, Stolen Valor Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 162, passage of H.R. 1073, Nuclear Terrorism Conventions Implementation and Safety of Maritime Navigation Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 163, approving the journal, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed a vote on H.R. 258, "To amend title

18, United States Code, with respect to fraudulent representations about having received military declarations or medals" due to a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." In addition, I also missed a vote on H.R. 1073, "To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for protection of maritime navigation and prevention of nuclear terrorism, and for other purposes." Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING MAY AS NATIONAL
FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of May as National Foster Care Month. National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness for the hundreds of thousands of children and youth who are in our nation's foster care system. Each one of these individuals is part of a network of dedicated professionals, foster parents, and advocates who work 365 days a year, and for that they must be commended.

Furthermore, I believe that it is imperative we focus on the day-to-day successes of these children and their allies. In March 2012, I was proud to host a listening tour through Broward and Miami-Dade counties to bring greater attention to the efforts of local communities striving to improve our foster care system.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, I am distinctly aware of the issues facing our child welfare system. Currently, there are over 400,000 children in our nation's foster care system, many of whom have serious emotional or medical problems. On average, these children wait three years for permanent families, with many aging out of foster care without the love and support from family. These children deserve permanent loving families, and it is our responsibility as legislators to create policy that will help to that improve their outcomes.

At times, the frailties and stark statistics of the foster care system can seem overwhelming. However, as I have seen from my own experience, when given a voice and a chance, foster youth are resilient, capable, and yearning for success. It is up to all of us to nurture the greatness in these youth.

Investing in our children's future is an investment in the future of our nation, and that is why I remain committed to working with my colleagues in Congress to move this country forward on issues critical to their success.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN GAVIN
KEITH SANDVIG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Army National Guard Captain Gavin Sandvig for being named a recipient of the 2013 General Doug-

las MacArthur Leadership Award by the United States Army. Captain Sandvig is one of only six National Guard Officers nationwide to receive this prestigious award.

The United States Army's General MacArthur Leadership Award is reserved for the most exemplary company grade officers in the nation who consistently demonstrate the ideals of "duty, honor, and country." The winners of this great distinction are invited to an award ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. There they are presented with a bronze bust of General MacArthur, an engraved timepiece, and a Commendation Memorandum by the Army Chief of Staff.

Before joining the Iowa Army National Guard in 1993, Captain Sandvig was raised in Eagle Grove, Iowa by his parents Wayne and Penny. He would go on to obtain his Bachelor of the Arts from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake and a Master's of Education from Graceland University in Lamoni amid his 20-year military career. In 2004, after 11 years as an enlisted soldier and attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant, Captain Sandvig accepted his officer commission and was sworn in as a 2nd Lieutenant before completing Ordnance Officer Basic Course in 2005 and his Captain's Career Course in 2008. Through his time with the Guard, he has supported his state and country in multiple roles overseas, including a 2010 deployment to the rough terrain of northeastern Afghanistan. Captain Sandvig has earned numerous decorations for his service over the last two decades, including the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Award, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Army Achievement Award.

Beyond his normal service duties, Captain Sandvig has been involved in numerous organizations and activities to benefit several charitable organizations across Iowa. A resident of Ankeny with his wife Shannon and their sons Ben, Sam, and J.J., the Sandvig family has donated much of their time and money to organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, United Way, Families of Iowa's Fallen, the American Legion, the American Cancer Society, Cub Scouts, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and various sport leagues in Ankeny. The Sandvig family has also donated financially to two separate families planning to adopt.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Captain Sandvig's professional and private conduct truly reflects the General MacArthur Leadership Award's emphasis on duty, honor, and country. In the words of General MacArthur: "Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage . . . to regain faith . . . and to create hope . . ." I can think of no better recipient for this great award than Captain Sandvig. His efforts embody the Iowa spirit, and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him for this achievement, thanking him and his family for their service and sacrifice, and wishing him continued success in the future. May God continue to watch over all of our soldiers and their families, across the world and here at home alike.

THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO THE
FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week, I chaired a hearing of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations that examined the United States' contribution to the global fight against malaria.

Leadership matters. In 2005, President George W. Bush established the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and targeted several African malaria endemic countries to receive over a billion dollars to mitigate and someday eradicate this killer disease. The positive consequences of that bold and compassionate initiative include over a million lives saved over the last decade.

The global impact of this disease is severe—yet we are making progress. The World Health Organization estimates that in 2010 there were 219 million malaria cases and 660,000 deaths. While still unconscionably high—every life is absolutely precious and of extraordinary importance—loss of life has declined from approximately 985,000 deaths in 2000.

Not surprisingly, malaria has a particularly devastating impact on the most vulnerable. Nearly 86% of those who die are children under five years of age living in Sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS and President George W. Bush's extraordinarily effective Global AIDS Coordinator, said that in "Africa alone, Malaria take the life of a child every minute" and pregnant women are also disproportionately afflicted with the disease. WHO emphasizes in its World Malaria Report 2012 that malaria is strongly associated with poverty. Countries in which a larger percentage of the population lives in poverty also have higher mortality rates from malaria. Children living in poorer populations and in rural areas have the highest parasite prevalence rates.

It is also important to note the extent to which the prevalence of malaria is concentrated. Eighty percent of malaria deaths occur in just 14 countries and almost 80% of cases occur in 17 countries. Over 40% of malaria deaths occur in two countries—the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria, and 40% of malaria cases are in the DRC, Nigeria, and India.

These high morbidity and mortality rates are not necessary—malaria is both preventable and treatable. We heard about the cost effective measures that are currently available and already having an impact or that are in the development process. And the United States, despite the current financial constraints, is making a significant contribution to the global fight against malaria. In addition to our contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the United States provided \$871 million in anti-malaria assistance in FY2012, and the request for FY2014 is \$893 million.

But these levels, even when combined with contributions from other donors, fall short of the global need. So our question last week was: what are the major challenges going forward, and how we can best use our resources