

every corner, never seeming to disappear or be forgotten. Tomorrow it will lift slightly, and ten years from now for many it will have faded to only a memory. However, we cannot allow what happened in Newtown to vanish from our minds. It is a warning to American citizens that something needs to change. Our nation has become a safe haven for people from all over the world who come to seek protection under our democratic government and its infrastructure. But in this moment, the people of America are shaken and the majority of the population is worried for the safety of their own children and families. The path to preventing a catastrophe like the Newtown shooting faces many difficulties ahead. Our government will have to overcome a load of disagreement before a solution is reached. However, I, along with my fellow citizens, have faith that they will take the right action, and that a small quantity of good will come out of this event that has caused an immeasurable amount of pain. At the end of the day, we are all united as citizens who only want the best for their country and the people who live in it.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF VICE
ADMIRAL KEVIN M. MCCOY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly today to honor Vice Admiral Kevin M. McCoy, United States Navy, who is retiring after more than 34 years of faithful service to our nation, culminating in his service as the 42nd Commander of the Naval Sea Systems Command, NAVSEA.

A graduate of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Vice Admiral McCoy held several key leadership positions over the course of his distinguished career, including the NAVSEA Deputy Commander for Ship Design Integration and Engineering, NAVSEA Deputy Commander for Industrial Operations, and the 80th Commander of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in New Hampshire. He also served aboard USS *Daniel Webster*, USS *L.Y. Spear*, and at the naval shipyards at Mare Island, California; Charleston, South Carolina; Puget Sound, Washington; Norfolk, Virginia and Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Vice Admiral McCoy's initiative, vision and wise counsel were of extraordinary value to the Department of the Navy during a period of significant change and challenge. Leading the Navy's largest Echelon II Command, he oversaw more than 60,000 civil service and military personnel at 38 major shore locations nationwide and an annual budget of more than \$30 billion.

A leader in the acquisition community, McCoy stewarded NAVSEA's associated Program Executive Offices through the design, contracting, construction, testing, and delivery of the *San Antonio*-class Amphibious Transport Dock program, the *Virginia*-class submarine program, the *Freedom*-class Littoral Combat Ship program, the *Lewis and Clark*-class Dry Cargo Ammunition program, the Mobile Landing Platform program, the Joint High Speed Vessel program, the *Zumwalt*-class DDG 1000 program, the *Gerald R. Ford*-class Next Generation Carrier program and the USS *George H.W. Bush*. Vice Admiral McCoy was integral to successfully transitioning the Littoral

Combat Ship from concept to first deployment in a fraction of the time required for earlier ship classes.

Most notably, he was the driving force behind significant improvements in performance across the shipbuilding industrial base, the execution of maintenance and modernization in both public and private shipyards, process changes to improve the overall readiness of the Fleet, innovative business practices to garner savings for Navy leadership to reinvest in high priority requirements and human capital strategies designed to continue the development of the future workforce.

Under his leadership, the naval shipyard community experienced the highest workload faced by the four Naval Shipyards in two decades, resulting in the execution of 72 major depot-level availabilities, 8 submarine refueling overhauls and an additional 31 minor maintenance periods all supported by a \$15.2 billion operating budget. Vice Admiral McCoy's leadership and focus was directly responsible for the successful execution and completion of the bow wave of submarine depot maintenance work begun ten years earlier resulting from an overlap in the life cycle maintenance plan of submarine refueling and depot maintenance work. The annual rate of submarine days lost due to depot availability delays at Naval Shipyards dropped during this period to an all time low of 205 days—the lowest value ever achieved. Compared to historic averages in the 900-plus day range, this is the equivalent of providing the fleet with an additional two submarines for their use every year.

However, his achievements did not stop there. Vice Admiral McCoy led a number of wide-sweeping improvements to ensure that our surface and submarine fleets can reach their expected service lives. For example, he led a series of initiatives to increase support and improve maintenance practices across ship classes, while also modernizing the fleet to keep pace with mission requirements. Vice Admiral McCoy was also the driving factor within the Navy to improve surface ship material readiness. He developed an end-to-end surface maintenance, modernization, and sustainment process to better ensure readiness and meet service life and total ownership costs. This process led to the development of the Surface Ship Maintenance Engineering Planning Program, SURFMEPP, which re-established surface ship maintenance requirements similar to those used by carrier and submarine communities, and the reconstitution of the Regional Maintenance Centers. He also spearheaded the stand up of Surface Team One, which brought together maintenance and modernization stakeholders, operating as a single community, to measure surface fleet materiel readiness. Similarly for submarines, Submarine Team One was chartered to develop, champion, and improve cross-organizational processes for the planning and execution of submarine depot availabilities and provide a structure for the management and long term systematic improvement of cost, schedule, and quality performance.

The cornerstones of Vice Admiral McCoy's corporate operations were sound corporate strategy, mission focus, a dedicated attention to detail, and a devoted commitment to meet fiscal and technical goals. Demonstrating a consistent drive to streamline the organization, he instituted a process for services contracting reviews that ensures constant vigilance of

contracting and respect for the tax dollars that fund it. This process is now in use across the Navy. Additionally, through his efforts as the NAVSEA commander, his organization has offered the Navy more than \$2.7 billion in Future Year Defense Program savings in response to calls for cost reduction through Total Ownership Cost reduction projects and corporate efficiencies.

As important as his achievements in the shipbuilding maintenance area, Vice Admiral McCoy also took a leading role in the Wounded Warrior Program to offer education counseling, internships, apprenticeships and employment to injured veterans culminated in the hiring of more than 1,500 Wounded Warriors in the NAVSEA enterprise—the largest single-organization Wounded Warrior hiring effort in the nation. Under his leadership, NAVSEA was recognized as a Top 50 Employer Award winner four times.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have been fortunate to work closely with Vice Admiral McCoy both at many appearances before the committee, and working with him and his great staff directly to address workload shortfalls in our submarine maintenance programs. He has consistently been accessible, thoughtful and forthright, and I am grateful for all his assistance. With his retirement, our Navy—and our nation—will lose a tremendous leader and friend both to our men and women in uniform and our defense industrial base. I am sure though that he will write a new, interesting chapter in his life of amazing service to our nation. I thank him and his family for his honorable service in the United States Navy and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him "fair winds and following seas" as he concludes a distinguished naval career.

TRIBUTE TO PAULINA AGYEI

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 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.

Paulina Agyei is a sophomore at Travis High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

Even though I myself am too young to vote, I still like to be involved as much as possible in the political process. If not I just become one of the ignorant masses who knows nothing of how our world works, causing them to make asinine comments on political infrastructure. Ignorance is not a quality that should be coveted, it should be sniffed out and destroyed. To be a member of the United States of America one must know the most elementary basics of government.

When you know little to nothing about politics that is when you are swayed by politicians and biased media corporations who will twist and pervert the truth to fall in line with their own beliefs and ideas. The whole point of living is having free will to make our own choices, and think for ourselves. This is impossible when one doesn't arm himself with the best weapon in the universe, knowledge.

That being said, I as a teenager technically have no say in government (i.e. voting) but there are other ways I, and others who fall into the same category as me, can still have our voices be heard and take a stand on issues we feel strongly about.

Now let's say, hypothetically speaking of course, that a Senator from Maryland is lobbying to have a national law pass that will have all dogs be dyed blue. I myself am not a dog owner, but I still feel strongly that dog owners should have a choice in the colors of their dogs. I could then start a petition against the bill, at the same time raising awareness.

Using the newfound power of social media, I could create a Facebook Page about the unjustness that Senator from Maryland wanted to thrust upon the American people. I could raise even more awareness by creating a Reddit page, then a Twitter, and even a Myspace. I would be very involved in the legislation of this law, without even voting.

In conclusion it is extremely important to be as involved as possible in the political process that runs essentially our whole lives as Americans.

CONGRATULATIONS CHAIRMAN JAMES G. REBHOLZ

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate James G. Rebholz, Chairman of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR. James is serving his second and final term with the ESGR and I am very grateful for his service.

Chairman James Rebholz has demonstrated great leadership throughout his tenure with the ESGR by helping the Department of Defense agency fulfill its mission developing and promoting a culture of employer support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve and their families. Throughout his 31 years of service in the United States Air Force Reserve, his long history of community service, and his success as a small business owner, James has proven his dedication to our great nation. His programs have been extremely beneficial in working with John Green, Chairman of the South Carolina ESGR, and Major General Bob Livingston, the South Carolina Adjutant General.

As Chairman James Rebholz's service with the ESGR comes to an end, I would like to wish him and his wife Jean Boser best wishes in the future.

TRIBUTE TO LAUREN AHART

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 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.

Lauren Ahart is a senior at Stephen F. Austin High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

It is crucial for everyone in the United States to be involved with the political process because every vote counts and you have the right to represent what you believe. In my opinion, if someone does not vote they should not complain about anything that goes on in the country. Therefore if someone wants something to be different or to make a change, they must put their voice out there to be heard. This concept of speaking out for what one believes is held sacred throughout society and should be maintained during political times.

If someone votes, they have expressed their thoughts and have helped the tally. The number of people that vote conclude the winner. So, obviously it would be smart if everyone marked their ballot for the people they want to rule so we will get a reliable source of votes. The number of people that did not vote was terribly low, during the 2012 presidential election, which makes me frustrated. The right of freedom to vote is something that we should take advantage of and without it our country would not be how it is today.

People that fight for the freedom everyday and give up their lives so we can have all the rights we do today, would find it disrespectful if they knew that someone was simply staying home and not voting. If the right causes are not supported and the issues of the times are not addressed, our society are at risk for a less secure and overall quality of living. As a citizen, everyone should be able to participate and take one hour from your day to stand up and pay your respect for our country and its governing bodies.

From my point of view, when someone votes they are speaking their values and beliefs, and showing what they would like to see in this country. It's the participant rate that helps guide our country for the greatest good of all. If you want to live the life you dream of, you must help the cause of a healthy political process. The decision to vote should be a given, but because the people have not cared as much about what happens this leads to our country not reaching the full potential of a fair democracy. So please take part in putting your ideas and your wants for America out there, be knowledgeable at election time and ultimately go vote your ballot.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for a vote on Thursday, May 23. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 181.

HONORING MEGAN EMILIANI

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 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.

Megan Emiliani is a sophomore at Travis High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

DESEGREGATION IN SCHOOLS

In 1964, the Civil Rights Act was passed. Civil rights issues in our nation have a long history dating back to the Civil War but this legislation came at a critical time during the 1960's civil rights movement. The 1964 Civil Rights Act, introduced by President Kennedy and signed by President Johnson, opened the door to providing more opportunities and limiting discrimination for all minorities. The legislation dealt with voting rights of minorities, prohibited segregation in public places, and addressed desegregation in public schools. While the 1954 Supreme Court ruling on Brown vs. the Board of Education had already began the process of desegregating schools, the Civil Rights Act continues to enforce equality in schools. It encouraged desegregation in public schools to help give minorities more rights in education.

Not long ago, schools were separated by color. Since the Civil Rights Act, schools claim that race is not important and should not affect the way a student is viewed. However, my experience has been that students, while not separated by schools, are still classified by race. When we take PSAT, TAKS, or STAAR test, why do we have to check a box with our race? Why is race a factor looked upon when reviewing test scores? Students and their test scores are being categorized by race. Additionally in our society today, there are many multiracial people, including myself, but on those tests you only get to choose one box. I am Mexican, Spanish, Italian, Hungarian, Irish and I am sure a few other things. What box should I pick? On some forms mixed is an option, but that does not seem accurate either. I am the American Melting Pot.

America is a group of immigrants and to separate us by such limited race designations does not help to end segregation. The