

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately unable to cast a vote on rollcall 179 on the evening of May 22, 2013. I strongly oppose the Northern Route Approval Act and I would have voted "no" on passage of H.R. 3. This legislation is another reckless attempt to disregard due process for reviewing projects with significant implications for national security, the environment and public health. I have consistently stated that TransCanada's application for a permit to build the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline must undergo a full environmental review and public comment period, as required by law, before the President determines whether the project is within the national interest. It is irresponsible to waive environmental review and public comment, much less "deem approved" a project of such magnitude as the Keystone XL pipeline, especially in light of the recent tar sands disaster in Mayflower, Arkansas that spilled 210,000 gallons of heavy crude oil and displaced 22 families from their homes.

IN RECOGNITION OF LINDA HUTCHENRIDER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Linda Hutchenrider upon her upcoming retirement from her position as Town Clerk of Barnstable, Massachusetts.

Ms. Hutchenrider has been a constant figure in Barnstable's Town Hall since she first took a position with the town's local government in 1987. She was elected to her current position in 1993, and has been reelected in every election since. She has administered over 38 elections during her twenty-year tenure as Town Clerk, and her knowledge of the many intricacies of the position has gained her the respect and admiration of Clerks throughout the Commonwealth.

Ms. Hutchenrider's many accomplishments include having served as President of the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association, President of the Cape and Islands Town Clerks Association, and Chair of the New England Municipal Clerks' Institute and Academy. During her time as Barnstable Town Clerk, Ms. Hutchenrider also attained her Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) and Certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk (CMMC) designations, both of which required many hours of advanced training. While Ms. Hutchenrider may be retiring this June, she has not finished giving back to her field, and plans to serve as a volunteer teacher for the New England Municipal Clerks' Institute and Academy this summer.

It is fitting to acknowledge and to thank those who have offered service to their communities, and Ms. Hutchenrider is a true embodiment of such an individual. I thank her for all that she has done for the Barnstable com-

munity, and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and congratulating Ms. Linda Hutchenrider upon her retirement.

CONGRATULATING CARTERSVILLE BASEBALL ON THE DIVISION AAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Cartersville High School Baseball team. On May 25th, the Purple Hurricanes swept the North Hall Trojans in a best of three championship series to win the AAA division state championship.

Although the North Hall Trojans put up a memorable fight, the Purple Hurricanes ultimately hit walk-off single to clench the program's 6th title in 12 years.

This season, Coach Stuart Chester, his staff, and these young men have worked tirelessly to earn their place in Georgia baseball history. The team's 14 seniors—who are no strangers to adversity—will enter the next chapter of their lives knowing that they have upheld their school's legacy of excellence and have set a high bar for future Purple Hurricanes teams to strive for.

I encourage the entire team to savor their victory and remember the season's important life lessons of responsibility, persistence, and self-discipline; they will undoubtedly make them better citizens and fathers as they grow older.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the Cartersville Purple Hurricanes on their well-deserved 2013 division AAA State Championship title and wish them luck as they defend their title next year. This team has brought great pride to their school, the city of Cartersville, and Georgia's 11th District. Go Canes.

RECOGNIZING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF SYRACUSE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jewish Community Center of Syracuse in celebrating 150 years of proudly serving the Central New York community.

The Jewish Community Center of Syracuse is the second oldest of its kind in North America. Located at 5655 Thompson Road in DeWitt, the center offers a variety of services that have enriched the lives of the Jewish community in Syracuse for generations.

The center's Early Childhood Development Program introduces young children the important concepts of learning and teamwork. In addition, The Children's Department provides care whenever schools are closed, including: state and national holidays, school conference closure days, half days, and snow days.

Many seniors take advantage of the community center's Senior Department for serv-

ices ranging from affordable kosher meals to free manicures. Furthermore, the Jewish Community Center of Syracuse offers seniors an opportunity to stay active by utilizing the Neulander Family Sports & Fitness Center. Seniors can rest assured that the center provides instructors that take measures to ensure the safety and comfort of participants. Participation in these various programs allow seniors to stay involved in the community.

On June 6, 2013, The Jewish Community Center of Syracuse will hold its Annual Community You Can Count on Gala, with its focus on honoring its rich heritage over the past 150 years. The Gala with pay tribute to the past presidents who have had an instrumental role in forming what the Jewish Community Center of Syracuse is today. In addition to the 150th celebration on June 6, the Jewish Community Center will formerly recognize the renaming of the Jewish Community Center of Syracuse to the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center of Syracuse.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing The Jewish Community Center of Syracuse and its 150 years of bettering the Syracuse community.

HONORING THE 2013 FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA AREA HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR MILITARY ENLISTEES

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one hundred and eighteen Fredericksburg, Virginia area high school seniors who plan to enlist in the United States Armed Forces after graduation. These students have excelled in their academic and extracurricular activities and I offer my sincere congratulations upon their high school graduation.

I commend these student leaders for their selfless and courageous decision to serve their country as members of the Armed Forces:

Alva, Andrew E.; Anderson, James E.; Armstrong, Stephanie L.; Arrington, Tarance L.; Atkinson, Rebecca; Barksdale, Alexus; Barrett, Maurice N.; Baxter, Austen J.; Beckwith, Dillion B.; Benabides, Erika Y.; Berrios, Christopher B.; Bowling, Clinton M.; Boyd, Brandon M.; Bridgers, Charles W.; Cain, April R.; Campbell, Brandon J.; Carter, Devonte M.; Caylor, Steven W.; Clark, Nathan T.; Coleman, Sergio J.; Comings, Heather N.; Cooper, Theophilus G.; Corbett, Zoe; Daley, John R.; Davis, Devin H.; Dejesus, Joseph K.; Dejesus, Rasckey R.; Dennison, Michael P.; Devine, Andrew D.; Doggett, Daquan; East, Donald E.; Fagan, Daniel J.; Floyd, William; Frady, Nicholas; Gail, Liam M.; Gandy, Sabrina; Gonzalez, Dion A.; Grenke, Konnor E.; Griffiths, Tyler D.; Hall, Nathanael J.; Harcum, Brandon L.; Hartless, Evan; Hashbarger, Kyle R.; Hayward, Michael A.; Heard, Dwune A.; Heilman, John; Hennessey, Patrick J.; Herrera, Abraham L.; Hodge, Austin C.; Hopewell, Lashaad; Howell, Thomas J.; Hulo, Zachary R.; Irace, Dominic R.; Jenkins, Tiffany J.; Jeter, Chelsi; Johnson, Casey W.; Johnson, Dakota W.; Johnson, Ricky D.; Johnson, Simeon T.; Jones, Asya D.; Korovin, Nikita K.; Kratz, Joseph A.; Leclair, Daniel R.; Lee, Cameron T.;

Lyterisher, Sean S.; Mahon, Elias; Marquez, Anthony M.; Martin, Anika O.; Mason, Brittney Keith; Mason, James P.; Masters, Jonathan E.; McCoy, Nyia N.; McDermott, Brian; McKinney, Darlene A.; McLaughlin, Jonathan Evan; Mendozaguevara, Jose M.; Merritte, Ebony; Mlaka, Desiree J.; Mondragon Pina, S.; Moore, Shawn E.; Morad, Brandon; Morin, Jonathan; Morris, Joshua L.; Mote, Andrew A.; Naylor, Ryan A.; Newcomb, Douglas K.; Peacher, Matthew; Peck, Cody T.; Pena Andia, Wendy L.; Pitts, Cameron N.; Rastall, Brooke N.; Rathbone, William; Raymer, Nicholas M.; Rhodes, Trevon C.; Riggs, McKenzie W.; Rocha, Helena M.; Rodriguezramos, Herson C.; Rose, Eric M.; Roush, Casey A.; Russell, Carter; Schmitt, Phorrest J.; Shackleton, Christopher D.; Shry, Kelly L.; Smith, Latifah E.; Stephens, Caleb M.; Stotler, Corey A.; Taylor Lewis, Alexis B.; Thomas, Vanessa; Tuel, Chancellor K.; Turner, Seth; Turner, Walter B.; Vogel, Michael A.; Walker, Joshua; Williams, Lorenzo D.; Williams, Derek A.; Winans, Nikolos A.; Woodard, David E.; Young, Joseph K.

These students will be honored by the Greater Fredericksburg Chapter of Our Community Salutes at their 2nd Annual Military Enlistee Recognition Ceremony on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men and women and their families for their dedication to serving this great Nation. We owe them and the many Americans who have served and will serve a debt of gratitude.

SMARTER SOLUTIONS FOR STUDENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act.

In a global economy, putting a college education within reach for every American has never been more important. But it's also never been more expensive. On July 1, the interest rate on subsidized Stafford student loans will double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent if Congress does nothing, increasing college costs for over 7 million students by \$1,000 per student, per loan. Unfortunately, this bill does not adequately provide the assistance our students need and instead exacerbates the college debt crisis.

According to estimates by the Congressional Budget Office, interest rates under H.R. 1911 will be higher than current fixed rates for millions of borrowers seven of the next ten years. Even more troubling, H.R. 1911 also includes provisions that will provide \$3.4 billion in debt reduction. It will be a sad day in American history if should the Congress decide to further burden struggling students to reduce a national debt they will already be paying for throughout the course of their lives.

In Texas and all across the country, students and recent college graduates are now facing the highest unemployment rate of any other group. By 2018, 63 percent of all Amer-

ican job openings will require some sort of postsecondary education. In order for our country to remain competitive, we need to make college more affordable and accessible. Political gimmicks such as H.R. 1911 will only discourage our Nation's students from pursuing an education.

With the cost of higher education continuing to skyrocket, I simply cannot support a measure that will increase the financial burden for millions of students and their families. If Americans fail to address this issue now, we will default on commitment to a better future for our children. We owe it to our young people to provide the opportunities that will allow them to become successful and productive adults.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN MARC DENNO

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Marc Denno, United States Navy, as he concludes his service as the 49th Commanding Officer of Naval Submarine Base New London. On behalf of southeastern Connecticut, I thank Captain Denno for his service, his leadership and his friendship to our community.

A native of Minnesota, Denno graduated from the Naval Academy in 1985 and went on to serve in a number of capacities throughout the Submarine Force, including Damage Control Assistant on the USS *George Bancroft* (SSBN 643), Engineer Officer on the USS *Bluefish* (SSN 675), Executive Officer of USS *West Virginia* (SSBN 736) (Blue) and Commanding Officer of Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) *Jimmy Carter* (SSN 23). He served as Commanding Officer of the USS *City of Corpus Christi* (SSN 705), which, while under his command, was twice awarded the Battle "E" and earned the Meritorious Unit Commendation and Navy Unit Commendation. Captain Denno's shore assignments include the Shift Engineer and Material Officer at Nuclear Power Training Unit Charleston, as well as Chief Staff Officer and Director of the Tactical Analysis Group on the staff of Commander, Submarine Development Squadron Twelve.

It was during his tour as Commanding Officer of Submarine Base New London, however, that I got the chance to work closely with Captain Denno. Known both as the "First and Finest" submarine base in our Navy and the "Submarine Capitol of the World," Submarine Base New London is a military installation that is closely tied to the fabric of the community that surrounds it. In a region that follows developments on the base like a box score, Captain Denno's four year tour at the base was distinguished by a focus on the fundamentals of supporting the submarine force, a focus on the vitality and viability of the base, and deepening the connections between the base and its host community and state.

During his tenure, Captain Denno was an active leader in tending to the base's key mission area: the support and operation of the submarines assigned to New London. Under Captain Denno's leadership the base undertook close to \$200 million in major infrastruc-

ture projects and capital investment. Infrastructure improvements included the recapitalization of Pier 31 and the construction of a new Port Operations Center, a new Indoor Smalls Arms Range, and a new synthetic Track and Field, among other projects. As important, he led the demolition of 450,000 square feet of excess and outdated buildings and infrastructure that have reduced the footprint and operating costs of the base. And, working joining with the State of Connecticut, Captain Denno deepened the relationship between the base and its host state through a unique partnership. Under Captain Denno's command and through his collaboration with State officials, Connecticut invested unprecedented resources into the future of the base, supporting new projects like a new diver facility, an up to date boiler for the power plant, critical additions to training facilities, and a joint project with the local communities to address encroachment issues.

Beyond the nuts and bolts of base infrastructure, Captain Denno prioritized efforts to deepen the connection between the sailors assigned to New London and the surrounding community. Under his watch, 9,000 members of the base community contributed 47,000 community service volunteer hours in the region in local schools and in a number of organizations like the American Red Cross, the Boy and Girls Scouts of American, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and the Special Olympics. And, Captain Denno was instrumental in broader regional events like OPSAIL Connecticut 2012, in which he helped to coordinate Navy involvement in this daunting undertaking, from working with the local community to support the event to coordinating naval vessel participation—and many things in between.

From being a constant presence at community meetings to spearheading stakeholder orientation tours of the base, leading key military education initiatives and being the public face of the base, Captain Denno was a fixture in the southeastern Connecticut community during his four years at SUBASE New London. It is no wonder then that SUBASE New London was selected from among the region's more than 20 other installations and activities as the unprecedented winner for two consecutive years of the annual Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic's Award for Installation Excellence, in 2010 and 2011.

As you might imagine, a good working relationship with SUBASE New London and its Commanding Officer is a prerequisite for anyone in the position of representing eastern Connecticut in Congress. However, I consider myself privileged to have worked so closely with Captain Denno over the last four years not just in his capacity as a Navy officer, but as a friend and occasional golf partner. He and his team have never been more than a phone call or email away, and the connection between his office and mine has been nothing short of a two way street as we tackled the key challenges facing the base. I am grateful for his time, his advice, his counsel and most of all, his unflagging commitment to Connecticut's base and the sailors and submarine stationed at it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Denno for his service to SUBASE New London and wishing him and his family "fair winds and following seas" as he heads to his next assignment in service to our country.