

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 204. If present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote 204.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 188 I mistakenly voted “aye” when I meant to vote “nay”.

HOUSE BILL TO DESIGNATE THE FACILITY OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE LOCATED AT 450 LEXINGTON AVENUE IN NEW YORK, NEW YORK, AS THE “VINCENT R. SOMBROTTO POST OFFICE” INTRODUCTION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 450 Lexington Avenue in New York, New York, as the “Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office,” to honor this historic letter carrier leader and all the work he did as the president of National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC).

Mr. Sombrotto was one of the most significant labor leaders of his generation. As president of NALC from 1978 to 2002, Mr. Sombrotto worked to increase letter carrier wages, moving them from poverty level to middle class. To this day letter carriers benefit from Mr. Sombrotto’s commitment to the wage increases.

In 1992, he began the NALC food drive which has developed into the country’s biggest one-day food drive. Held on the second Saturday every May, it has to date, provided more than 1.2 billion pounds of food for banks in communities throughout the United States, with letter carriers collecting non-perishable food individuals and families leave in their mailboxes.

As a firm believer in civic responsibility, Mr. Sombrotto and the NALC worked with the United States Postal Service and emergency services organizations to establish Carrier Alert. This nationwide program allows carriers to perform heroic and humanitarian deeds on their routes including saving lives, finding missing children, looking over the elderly, and stopping crimes.

Mr. Sombrotto deserves our respect for the work he has done to help the lives of letter carriers, and their families, across the country. That is why I would like to rename the United

States Postal Service located at 450 Lexington Avenue in New York, New York, as the “Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office.”

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL MALL REVITALIZATION AND DESIGNATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, last week while Congress was out of session, we had the kickoff for the second season of “Lunchtime Music on the Mall,” which brings local and regional musicians to the National Mall to perform during the lunchtime hour, giving visitors and particularly our federal and other office workers downtown a break from the pace of business in Washington and an opportunity to enjoy their National Mall. The performances, featuring amateur city and regional residents, are sponsored by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and the National Park Service (NPS), in conjunction with my office. To preserve and enhance the National Mall, a priceless space, I am reintroducing the National Mall Revitalization and Designation Act. Until the Trust for the National Mall was established in 2007, the National Mall was Washington’s most neglected and underutilized federal property, despite being well-known and treasured. The Trust for the National Mall is already making a noteworthy and important difference, and its plan will give the Mall the majesty it deserves. In the meantime, there is much that can be done, from defining the Mall’s official identity for the first time to adding low-cost basic amenities. My bill authorizes the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) to expand the boundaries of the Mall where commemorative works may be located, requires NCPC to study the commemorative works process, and requires the Secretary of the Interior to submit a plan within 180 days of passage to Congress to enhance visitor enjoyment, amenities and cultural experiences on the Mall.

I worked closely with NCPC and other agencies in drafting the bill. The bill would give NCPC the responsibility and necessary flexibility to designate Mall areas for commemorative works and, for the first time, to expand the official Mall area when appropriate to accommodate future commemorative works and cultural institutions.

In addition, tourists and workers downtown should be able to walk to the Mall and hear music and other entertainment, from string quartets to solo singers during lunch at attractive tables where good—not fast—food is available. Residents of the city and region should be able to find space for fun and games on the Mall, beyond the space between Third Street and the Lincoln Memorial.

Bordered by world-class cultural institutions, the Mall need not continue to be reduced to a mere lawn with a few—too few—old, ordinary benches and a couple of fast food stands until the expansive work the Trust for the National Mall is completed. The plan by the Secretary of the Interior required by the bill would ensure chairs and tables for people who bring lunch to the Mall and the presence of cultural amen-

ities. The NPS has my thanks for implementing and indeed sponsoring the part of the bill that calls for cultural amenities with Lunchtime Music on the Mall, which began last week.

Lunchtime Music on the Mall is a good start to bringing the Mall alive during the workday. With the necessary imagination, making the Mall an inviting place with cultural and other amenities is achievable now.

The NCPC is well on its way to meeting the bill’s requirement for an expansive, 21st-century definition of the Mall, particularly now that the Trust for the National Mall is doing such important work. Frustrated by continually fighting off proposals for new monuments, museums, and memorials on the already-crowded Mall space, I asked the NCPC to devise a Mall presentation plan. In 2003, Congress amended the Commemorative Works Act to create a reserve area—a no-build zone where new memorials may not be built. This action was helpful in quelling some but by no means all of the demand from groups for placement of commemorative works on what they view as the Mall.

However, recognizing the need for more commemorative work sites, NCPC and the Commission on Fine Arts (CFA) released a National Capital Framework Plan in 2009, which identifies sites near the Mall that are suitable for new commemorative works, including East Potomac Park, the Kennedy Center Plaza, and the new South Capitol gateway. Five new prestigious memorials are scheduled for such sites, including the Eisenhower Memorial and the U.S. Air Force Memorial. I appreciate that NCPC and the CFA work closely with the District of Columbia in designating off-Mall sites for new commemorative works. The District welcomes the expanded Mall into our local neighborhoods to increase the number of tourists who visit them, enhancing the work of the District of Columbia government and local organizations such as Cultural Tourism that offer tours of historic District neighborhoods. The off-Mall sites for commemorative works also complement development of entirely new neighborhoods near the Mall, particularly with the passage of my bills that are redeveloping both the Southwest and Southeast Waterfront.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HIS EXCELLENCY ILHOM NEMATOV, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of my friend, His Excellency Ilhom Nematov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United States.

Since 2010, His Excellency Nematov has served his country as Uzbekistan’s Ambassador to the United States. Prior to his assignment to the United States, His Excellency Nematov served as Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the Russian Federation. From 1997–

1999, he served as Uzbekistan's Ambassador to India.

Other posts held by His Excellency Nematov include Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Coordinator at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Senior Consultant to the Office of the President.

During his tenure in Washington, D.C., it has been my privilege to work closely with Ambassador Nematov in advancing U.S.-Uzbekistan relations. Uzbekistan is a key partner in supporting international efforts in Afghanistan but our relationship with Uzbekistan extends beyond security. Uzbekistan and the United States also cooperate on economic relations and civil and political issues.

We recognize Uzbekistan's sovereignty, and I am proud of the progress Uzbekistan had made on its march to democracy since gaining independence in 1992. I commend His Excellency Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, for his leadership, and I thank Ambassador Nematov for strengthening relations between our two countries by serving with remarkable distinction.

His Excellency Nematov graduated from Fergana Polytechnic Institute in 1973 and holds a Ph.D. degree in Economics. He is married with four children, and speaks English and German.

I extend to Ambassador Nematov my highest regards and wish him the very best as he returns home to serve his country for and on behalf of President Karimov and the people of Uzbekistan.

CONGRATULATING BLUE DIAMOND GROWERS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Blue Diamond Growers on the opening of its Turlock Plant. This dedicated business is assisting in bringing economic vitality back to the region.

Blue Diamond Growers is a pioneer in almond processing and manufacturing. The company produces snack almonds in various flavors, nut-based crackers, almond milk, and packaged almonds for cooking and baking. Since its founding in 1910, Blue Diamond has grown to become the world's largest almond processing company. It currently consists of more than 3,000 California almond growers that produce more than 80 percent of the world's almond supply.

Blue Diamond Growers has led the development of California's almond industry from a minor domestic specialty crop to the world leader in almond production and marketing. The almond is currently California's largest food export and America's number one specialty crop. In 2013, the almond crop is expected to exceed two billion pounds valued at six billion dollars. To continue to meet the demand for this California crop, Blue Diamond Growers has expanded its production facilities beyond its Sacramento and Salida plants.

As of June 18, 2013, it will open the first phase of a three-phased project to develop a high quality, food-safe processing facility in

Turlock, California. This new facility will bring much-needed jobs and economic growth to the region. Phase one, alone, is expected to create over 300 new jobs in the area. Blue Diamond Growers has continuously shown its commitment to maintain the highest standards of responsible growing and production in the California region.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising Blue Diamond Growers for their diligent work in the almond industry and applauding them in the opening of their Turlock plant.

COMMEMORATING THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, later this month, on June 23, 2013, we will mark the 41st anniversary of the enactment of Title IX amendment. This landmark legislation changed America for the better by mandating equality for women in educational programs and activities. As we continue to move forward in terms of women's equality, I believe that it is important to recognize how far we have already come.

Title IX has resulted in significant advances for women in athletics. Since its enactment, Title IX has promoted equal opportunity for women in athletics and contributed to the athletic and educational achievement of hundreds of thousands of young American women. In 1972, before there was a Title IX, less than 300,000 high school girls participated in intramural sports nationwide. Today, that number has grown ten-fold to more than three million. In similar fashion, the amount of young women participating in college sports has increased by more than 600 percent, from fewer than 30,000 in 1972 to more than 190,000 in 2012.

While recognizing the advances in sports that Title IX has provided, it is important also to acknowledge the progress made outside of athletics. Title IX itself makes no explicit mention of sports or athletics; its reach extends to all areas of education. Title IX has helped make it possible for women to pursue careers in all fields, including the increasingly important fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Title IX has also helped to ensure that as women and girls take advantage of these educational opportunities, they are able to do so in an environment free of gender discrimination, sexual harassment, and violence.

In my state of Texas, for example, young women are making their mark in academics, in athletics, and in standing up for what is right. Just last year, a young high school female in Texas was assaulted at school by a classmate. The school's response to the incident was to send the young woman, and her attacker, to an alternative school for 45 days—where she had to suffer the indignity of seeing him daily. The young woman, assisted by the ACLU of Texas, filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

Title IX granted this young woman the right to an educational experience free from gender discrimination or retaliation. As a result, the

OCR determined that the school had violated her rights when they failed to adequately address her complaint. This decision resulted in clearing the young woman's disciplinary record and required the school district to reevaluate the way it handles sexual assault. A new set of Title IX procedures was developed and staff members were trained to respond accordingly to future incidents.

Through Title IX's legacy, educational environments have changed substantially. Women of all ages have had the opportunity to take advantage of the rights allotted to them through the amendment, and we can only move forward from here in terms of gender equality. Title IX guarantees the civil right to learn free from discrimination, retaliation, and sexual violence. This victory is something that every student, parent, and educator can celebrate today, tomorrow, and for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL AS THE LONGEST-SERVING MEMBER IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, for this West Virginian, the next stroke of midnight will be a bittersweet minute. The torch of longest Congressional service will be passed between two giants of the Congress, Robert C. Byrd and JOHN DINGELL. It will be a bittersweet moment for me because the breaking of even one of the many legislative records Senator Byrd set by serving West Virginians pulls at our State's heartstrings.

And I hesitate in even mentioning that, come tomorrow morning, Senator Byrd's record of the longest Senate tenure in history will still be intact, not because I fear my dearest friend would switch legislative bodies and pursue with gusto that momentous record. No, Mr. Speaker, I am hesitant because this body cannot afford to lose JOHN DINGELL to such an effort.

On the sweeter side of the moment, Mr. Speaker, I believe the history of our future will reveal there are few other than JOHN DINGELL, who could so ably and humbly bear such a significant mantle as the longest serving member in Congressional history.

Since I come from a State that understands tenure is no vice; let me clear up any misunderstandings about this milestone.

The real record we are celebrating today, the real measure of the man, is not about any length of service. Today is a celebration of JOHN DINGELL's depth of service. Here in the People's House, in the glare of the most strict term limits I have ever heard anyone propose, Members either deliver for their people every two years or the people deliver Members back to their homes.

That JOHN DINGELL will have served longer than any other Member is a true testament to his service to the people of Michigan, a badge of respect he has earned in this House, and a lesson for all who will listen today.