

RECOGNIZING RODRIC J. MYERS' 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a Hoosier and a very dedicated public servant, Mr. Rodric Myers, who is retiring after serving Congress for more than 40 years.

Rod Myers grew up in my hometown of Indianapolis, Indiana and graduated from Shortridge High School. He comes from a family tradition of serving others and helping his community. His mother, Susie Myers, who was 100 years old when she died last year, was beloved by our community after teaching generations of public school and Sunday School students. Rod's brother, Bud, currently serves Indianapolis as the Director of our Public Housing Authority, but once served on Capitol Hill as the Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Barbara Jordan.

Rod followed his brother to Washington and was nominated to the U.S. Capitol Police Force by another great Hoosier, Congressman Andy Jacobs in 1972. Rod started as a uniformed patrol officer serving at the Capitol and eventually became the Administrative Specialist for the entire Capitol Division, with responsibilities for approximately 100 officers, including the daily roster assignment of officers. During his 29 years with the Capitol Police, Rod prided himself on promoting a disciplined force and keeping this campus safe. In 2001, Rod was appointed to serve as the Director of House Garages and Parking Security under the House Sergeant at Arms, where he served until his retirement this month. During his years of service in the House, Rod had the honor of working 10 Presidential Inaugurations and 40 State of the Union Addresses.

I have had the privilege to work directly with Rod on several occasions since coming to Congress. Earlier this year, my staff and I ran into a glitch when moving from the Cannon Building to Rayburn Building. We assumed it would be a time-consuming, bureaucratic nightmare. But with a quick trip downstairs and a conversation with Rod, everything was corrected. This is just one occasion and, in fact, he served the House well 9/11, during the anthrax attacks, and even during an earthquake. But this one instance, like others I have had over the years, illustrates just what this institution is losing in Rod Myers—a committed, efficient public servant.

His 40 years of service to the House have been distinguished by his professionalism and dedication to ensuring that the People's House remains safe, strong and always available for our constituents. Though we will miss him, we congratulate him on his much deserved retirement and wish him the very best.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN KLINE**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my bipartisan amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. The Kline-Hunter-Andrew-Polis amendment ensures the students I serve in Minnesota and throughout classrooms around the Nation are treated equally and given the same opportunities to enlist in the Armed Forces.

Currently, students who earn a high school diploma from charter schools, home schools, schools that use blended learning models, and other means of virtual education are required to score significantly higher on the Armed Forces Qualification Test than students enrolled in traditional secondary schools.

This policy, continued by the Department of Defense, disregards congressional intent established in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

Mr. Chair, as you know it is imperative that the recruiting and selection policies for enlistment are not only fair and consistent, but also in step with the evolution of the way our nation's students achieve a high school diploma.

Despite studies that show education credential tiers do not consistently reflect the attrition patterns of recruits, DOD continues to insist where you receive your education is the single best predictor of your ability to successfully adapt to service.

The bipartisan Kline-Hunter-Andrews-Polis amendment would put DOD back in line with the law and require them to set recruitment and enlistment policies that end this discriminatory requirement.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Education and Workforce, a member of the Armed Services Committee, and a retired Marine Colonel, I have a unique and fortunate position to ensure the young men and women enlisting in our Armed Forces have the best opportunity to support the defense of our nation.

Mr. Chair, the continuous innovation in education requires the adaptation of our recruiting policies. I urge my colleagues to support the dream of military service for all patriotic Americans who simply want the chance to be able to raise their hand and pledge to defend our nation without unnecessary burdens.

I urge my colleagues to support the Kline-Hunter-Andrews-Polis amendment.

HONORING THYRA THOMSON

**HON. CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American from my home state of Wyoming, Thyra Thomson.

The quintessential Wyoming Secretary of State, Thyra Thomson served for 24 years as Wyoming's second highest elected official and advocate-in-chief for all things Wyoming.

Thyra tirelessly engaged and mentored Wyoming people to be caring thought leaders for Wyoming's unique communities and culture.

Thyra was impeccably put together, inquisitive, well-traveled and well-read, and quick to initiate fascinating conversation.

Her encouragement and support of me and countless others around the state helped to build the unique Wyoming culture and its tapestry of compelling individuals.

Thyra survives through her family, her role in Wyoming history and her inspiration to her many friends of all ages.

IN HONOR OF SALLY RIDE'S LEGACY

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Sally Ride.

On June 18, 1983, Dr. Sally Ride became the first American woman in space aboard the space shuttle Challenger—the first of her two flights as mission specialist.

The former astronaut, physicist, educator and space advocate left behind a legacy of accomplishments when she died last year at the age of 61. Her legacy continues to inspire and motivate young women with an interest in science, technology, math and engineering, while the company she founded advances those interests.

We acknowledge Dr. Ride's advocacy for young women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math—a precursor to the "STEM" programs we know are so important today. As a strong proponent of STEM education and allied programs I will continue to applaud Dr. Ride's effort to encourage interest in science, space, and the technical fields by blazing a path for other women to follow.

HONORING ERMA SCOTT BRIDGEWATER

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplished life of Mrs. Erma Scott Bridgewater who passed away on Tuesday April 2, 2013. She was a lifelong resident of Champaign, Illinois where she graduated from Champaign Senior High School and from the University of Illinois in 1937 with a degree in Sociology and a minor in Psychology.

Mrs. Erma Scott Bridgewater went on to work at the City of Champaign's Department of Recreation as the director of the Douglas Center. There she became an influential part of numerous children's lives as the girls' track and softball coach, a mentor for the Douglas Center Drum Corps and Drill Team, as well as a chaperone for skating parties and Friday night dances.

After 24 years of service to the City of Champaign, Mrs. Bridgewater served on a variety of boards and committees. Throughout her life she received many honors, among them the Living Legend Award, Martin Luther King Day Award and the National Council of Negro Woman, along with a mini park named in her honor on the corner of Bradley and Market Street in Champaign.

Because of her dedication to the community and the lives she touched, I am proud to honor the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Erma Scott Bridgewater.

RECOGNIZING LA-Z-BOY  
INCORPORATED

**HON. TIM WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of an iconic company in my district, La-Z-Boy Incorporated, and to congratulate them as they begin construction on their new world headquarters next week.

Based in Monroe, MI, La-Z-Boy has been crafting comfortable, quality furniture since 1927. The vision of two cousins, Edward M. Knabusch and Edwin J. Shoemaker, La-Z-Boy started with the success of their innovative reclining wooden slat chair. From their humble beginnings in Edward's father's garage they quickly evolved their company with new products like the first upholstered reclining chair. The company grew and they built their own factory on Telegraph Road to meet demand, where they've been a part of the community for the last 85 years.

With the exception of a break during World War II to make tank seats and crash pads as part of the war effort, the employees of La-Z-Boy have never stopped producing a myriad of products that are well-known across the globe. With an accredited test lab on site, every product coming off the line meets the high standards of the La-Z-Boy brand. Just imagine how many sports fans those recliners have comforted or the countless babies they've rocked to sleep.

On June 20th, La-Z-Boy will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for their new world headquarters, as the company enters its next phase. The environmentally friendly building will be able to support 500 employees who will no doubt continue making quality furniture for every room in the home. I offer my best wishes to my constituents and friends at La-Z-Boy and encourage them to keep making this world a more comfortable place.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FATHERS ON  
FATHER'S DAY

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize Father's Day 2013, probably never before has fatherhood been so challenged. Some sobering facts reveal a crisis that cannot and should not be ignored. Today, 29% of Caucasian,

53% Hispanic and 73% African-American children are born out of wedlock. The traditional position of fathers in American society and in the family as an institution is in serious trouble.

The U.S. Census Bureau reported there are an estimated 70.1 million fathers across the nation; 24.7 million of those fathers have children under the age of 18 whom are living in single parent homes. Not having a father has serious economic consequences. Fatherless households account for 47% of our poverty rate and 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes according to the U.S. Census Bureau Reports. With no father present, 85% of children possess behavioral problems, which is twenty times the national average, Center for Disease Control reported. Additionally, 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes, a National Principals Association Report found. Today, 63% of youth suicides come from fatherless homes, the U.S. Department of Health observed. As we reflect on the state of fatherhood in America, these troubling figures indicate the importance of fathers for children's development, well-being and stability in society.

While white males face a challenging role, the fatherhood role of their African-American counterparts has been dramatically eroded. A recent examination by the National Fatherhood Initiative revealed that African-American newborns today are seriously disadvantaged. White men have a less than 6% lifetime chance of going to prison; African-American men have a 32% chance, according to 2001 figures from the U.S. Department of Justice. Today, half of all children and 80% of African-American children can expect to spend at least part of their childhood living apart from their fathers.

These staggering figures portray a role model absence in our society that is detrimental to our nation's youth. We must understand the consequences that result from denying our children a proper upbringing. Although Father's Day is a time to celebrate and rejoice with our loved ones, we cannot forget about the increasing number of our children that are being raised without a father. Children growing up without a father are more likely to have behavioral problems and be incarcerated. Those children are less likely to attend college, become married and form healthy relationships.

Unfortunately this trend has become prevalent in our communities. As a result, this problem has become repetitive through generations at an alarming rate. We must work to raise awareness of the effects fatherhood has on a child's life. We must also find ways to stem the decline of meaningful relationships between a father and his child in our society.

In a commentary on The Importance of a Loving Father by Dr. Walter E. Barker, a Florida licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Dr. Barker stated, "Fathers are very important to their sons" and daughters' development. A mother gives the child unconditional love and acceptance and the father's love is more conditional on the child's finding success and accomplishment out in the larger world. He wants his children to find what makes them happy and then take that gift and talent to make a contribution to the larger society. Fathers want their children to have a strong work ethic and to be willing to assert themselves in the world.

By supporting the family structure, better education and job training, we can begin to reverse the diminished role of fathers in our country. We must all work to help raise awareness on the pressing issue. The importance of fatherhood should not be overlooked by our society if we are to insure a promising future for the children in America.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. FARR. Madam Chair, I rise today to express my appreciation for the House Armed Services Committee's acceptance of my amendment on the importance of foreign language and cultural education in the military. While the concept of military-to-military engagement is not new, it has an increasing level of importance in our contemporary operating environment. While most military training focuses on servicemembers being able to engage with the enemy, it is equally important to educate servicemembers on cultures and foreign language so that when we partner with foreign militaries and engage in capacity building, we can speak their language and understand their culture.

The Chief of Staff of the Army, General Odierno, and the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Admiral Stavridis, have argued that the future of our defense strategy requires strong relationships with capable partners. Unfortunately, there is a language and cultural capability gap in the Department of Defense, an organization that operates globally to accomplish its mission yet has less than 10% whom speak a second language. Effective partner capacity building requires the kind of relationships that cannot be built through using an interpreter alone.

Our military's ability to understand cultures and languages in Iraq and Afghanistan has taken a long and costly road. That road's most valuable lesson is that our military personnel need the capacity to understand foreign cultures and languages before they are deployed. The ability of our junior and senior military leaders to build partnerships and partner capacity requires training in culture and languages not only in times of conflict but also in times of peace.

Two world class military installations in my district provide this critically needed education to all the Services. The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and the Naval Postgraduate School educate military personnel in the languages and cultures of our partners. Investment in language and culture enhances readiness for military intelligence, Special Forces, and general-purpose forces at a low cost. This capability enables servicemembers to connect with our