

"Nay" on rollcall No. 354 (Final passage of H.R. 3301).

SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. I supported this legislation when it first passed the House last March, and I'm proud to stand here today as we vote to send to the President a bipartisan, bicameral agreement that will reform the nation's broken job training system and help put Americans back to work.

This legislation makes the necessary reforms to make our job training programs more efficient and effective. The bill empowers local boards to customize the services they provide to better reflect their region's employment and workforce needs and aligns workforce training and development programs with the needs of the local economy and education level of applicants.

Equally important, H.R. 803 takes important steps to ensure that Americans with disabilities have both the opportunity to develop the skills they need to succeed and have access to competitive and integrated workplaces. Too often, we overlook the fact that Americans with disabilities experience an unemployment rate that is double that of able-bodied Americans. More troubling is the fact that most of these Americans want to work and have the ability to work but don't have the opportunity. This bill starts to change the status quo. But, we can do more to empower all individuals with disabilities to fulfill their potential just like every American.

Finally, I would like to thank Chairman KLINE for his good work on this and all disability issues.

RECOGNIZING NEW TRAVELING EXHIBITION—NATIVE VOICES: NATIVE PEOPLES' CONCEPTS OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a new interactive exhibition, Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness. This new exhibition, which examines concepts of health and medicine among contemporary American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, will start to travel on August 26, 2014, throughout the United States and is scheduled to open in Oklahoma, a state with a rich Native American heritage that I have the privilege to represent.

Native Voices, developed by the National Library of Medicine, part of the National Institutes of Health, explores the connection between wellness, illness, and cultural life through a combination of interviews with Na-

tive people, artwork, objects, and interactive media.

The National Library of Medicine has a history of working with Native communities as part of the library's commitment to make health information resources accessible to people no matter where they live or work. The Native Voices exhibition concept grew out of meetings with Native leaders across the country.

According to the Library's Director, Donald A.B. Lindberg, MD, the exhibition honors the Native tradition of oral history and establishes a unique collection of information that visitors will find both educational and inspirational.

Topics featured in the exhibition include: Native views of land, food, community, earth/nature, and spirituality as they relate to Native health. It also highlights the relationship between traditional healing and Western medicine in Native communities as well as economic and cultural issues that affect the health of Native communities. Other efforts by Native communities to improve health conditions is included as well. The exhibition also touches on the role of Native Americans in military service and healing support for returning Native veterans.

To make the Native Voices exhibition accessible to people even if they cannot visit it when it comes to a nearby community, there is an online version of the exhibition at www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices and a free iPad App available through iTunes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, and 367. If present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote Nos. 362, 363, 364, 366, and 367, and "no" on rollcall vote No. 365.

HONORING RICK LEONARD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rick Leonard of Winchester, Virginia, who has served as superintendent of Winchester Public Schools since 2009. Mr. Leonard retired from his post at the end of June after 34 years of service to the school system.

After graduating from James Madison University in 1980, Rick began his teaching career when he accepted a job teaching biology at Handley High School. During his time at Handley, he served as a coach, assistant principal and principal of the school.

Mr. Leonard worked his way to superintendent of Winchester Public Schools, assuming this role on July 1, 2009. He held that post until his retirement last month. It's my understanding that he hopes to enjoy some personal time before returning to teach in higher education or run a small business.

I am pleased to submit the following article from The Winchester Star on Mr. Leonard's retirement and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him for many years of distinguished service to our nation's youth.

[From the Winchester Star, June 27, 2014]

RETIRING CITY SCHOOLS LEADER CREDITS MENTORS

(By Rebecca Layne)

WINCHESTER.—During an Army exercise in 1991, Rick Leonard and George Craig discussed their futures while leaning on the hood of a jeep.

A biology teacher in the Winchester Public Schools, Leonard was in the interview process to become the assistant principal at Handley High School.

But could he hold down the new job and remain in the Virginia Army National Guard? Craig, now a coordinator of curriculum and instruction in the city school system, thought his friend could do it.

Leonard, however, chose to focus his sole attention on one task.

"If he was going to be the assistant principal, they were going to get everything he had," Craig said. "He had a very, very promising career in the Army. But he chose schools. He wanted to give the schools all of his time."

Leonard, 56, stuck to his promise, and more than 20 years after that conversation, he will retire at the end of the month as the division's superintendent, a job he held for five years.

Despite the hefty title, Leonard said, he has never left the classroom.

"I'm retiring as a public school teacher," he said. "I'm still an educator. I'm a teacher for other adults who work directly or indirectly with students, parents and the community."

Leonard started his stint in the classroom when he was a senior at Warren County High School and took on the role of night custodian.

From there, he went on to the College of William and Mary and later transferred to James Madison University, where he was team captain and an academic All-American in football.

He graduated in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in biology and became a part-time military officer in the Army National Guard.

Also that year, he was hired as a biology teacher at Handley and through the years has served as a teacher, a coach, an assistant principal and a principal—all in the Winchester Public Schools. He has held his superintendent post since July 1, 2009.

"You can always rely on Rick to give a straightforward, honest, thoughtful answer to whatever you're working on," Craig said. "I don't know if I've ever seen Rick not smiling and not positive and enthusiastic about what we're doing. When he leaves [your desk], you're a better person. It's been a good conversation and you know things will be OK."

Leonard said his biggest accomplishments are the successes of the students and the "highly qualified and compassionate" teachers and staff members who guided the division through a lack of adequate funding, an increase in testing rigor, a more diverse student population and increasing poverty rates—a "perfect storm of challenges."

"We were still able to weather the worst recession since the Great Depression of the '30s with a rich curriculum, high standards and schools meeting state and federal requirements," he said.

Leonard also had a role in getting the new \$20 million John Kerr Elementary School project off the ground (it is scheduled to open in fall 2016), along with improving recruitment strategies to attract teachers; expanding the Career and Technical Education

program; and creating a part-time, temporary workforce of credentialed teachers to support struggling learners through the Response to Intervention program.

He credits former superintendents Glenn Burdick and Dennis Kellison as his mentors along the way.

Despite his employment in the division for 34 years, Leonard doesn't think he's changed. He says he still talks way too fast and veins still pop out on his neck when he believes in something strongly, such as making sure all students have a chance to be successful.

"I still have the same drive and belief in all students," he said.

Craig said his colleague's ability to make thoughtful decisions and to be active and decisive is unchanged, but his perspective has expanded.

"He thinks on almost a global perspective with the schools," he said. "Now he has the vision to be able to see the whole system and the challenges that could come later on."

Lynda Hickey, director of the instruction department, said Leonard always stayed the course in promoting the school's mission and vision of learning for all, challenged the staff members to be the best they could be and made students the heart of every decision.

Leonard's executive assistant Bonnie Stickley has worked with him for five years. She considers him a class act, funny and positive.

"I'm going to miss him," she said. "Not just as a boss, but as a friend."

Leonard said no single reason has spurred him to retire.

"I'm running out of energy," he said. "I want to leave at a time when my heart is still full of what my life's work has been: helping children, helping the next generation."

Leonard said he might eventually like to teach in higher education or help to run a small business in the private sector, but first he will spend a lot of time in waders.

"The first thing I'll do is fish for a while," he said. "And exercise a lot. Then I'll get back in the game. I just haven't decided what game that's going to be yet."

"For me, it's not necessarily retirement. It's more of a sabbatical."

Leonard and his wife Patty have three sons.

HONORING ARAGON, GEORGIA ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS CHARTERING

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Aragon. Lying in the Coosa Valley of Northwest Georgia, in Polk County, Aragon was founded in 1899 as a mill site. The city of Aragon is a small, but hard working group of families who are proud of their heritage.

Whether it was named for the Hotel Aragon located on Peachtree Street in Atlanta, Georgia, where some of the Mill owners stayed when visiting the area, or whether it was named for the mineral aragonite that was mined nearby, the city of Aragon has been home to many dedicated men and women for over 115 years, even as the town has changed.

In recent years, even in the aftermath of the mill's destruction by fire in 2002, the people of Aragon have committed to remaining a city. It

is with this commitment that they commemorate July 23, 2014, as the 100th anniversary of their city charter being adopted, and then approved by Georgia's 60th Governor, John Slaton.

One hundred years later, Aragon's future shines brightly. This is not a city resting on its laurels after tragedy, but a city ready to meet tomorrow's challenges head on, remaining true to its motto "A Proud Past With A Promising Future".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, due to a death in my family, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 355, "yea."

On rollcall No. 356, "yea."

On rollcall No. 357, "nay."

On rollcall No. 358, "nay."

On rollcall No. 359, "yea."

HONORING JACQUE JOHANNES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Jacque Johannes who is retiring after 27 years as a Department of Defense civilian with the United States Air Force.

She received an Associate of Arts in Education from Cloud County Community College in Concordia, Kansas, in 1975 and her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas in 1977.

That same year, she married Don Johannes and began traveling the world and working for the DoD as the spouse of an active duty Air Force member. For her first jobs she worked as a substitute teacher in the Denver Public Schools system and then as a cashier for the base commissary.

In 1979, she moved with her husband to Hellenikon Athens, Greece and worked as a substitute teacher for the DoD schools and eventually as a clerk for the Hellenikon AFB Child Development Center.

In 1982, she moved again with her spouse to Grand Forks AFB in North Dakota where Jacque worked for the base commissary as a cashier. In 1984, she and her family moved to Little Rock, Arkansas and this is where she found her most rewarding career working with young children.

In 1988, she began teaching preschool for the evening classes at the Little Rock AFB Child Development Center. The next year, she became a full time preschool teacher and taught three and four year olds in the Air Force Preschool. In 1997, she became the first USDA/Resource & Referral for the Family Child Care (FCC) Program.

In 2000, Jacque was hired as the junior FCC Coordinator and during this time helped

to win the provider of the year for 2004. In 2005, she took over the lead coordinator's position and with the help of her fellow Coordinator, Jill Lund, she was able to train and establish the first three National Family Child Care (NAFCC) Accredited FCC providers at Little Rock AFB.

During her years as coordinator, Jacque's program was selected to be a test base for the Mildly Ill Program and the new AF Expanded Child Care Programs.

In 2007, with the hard work and dedication of Jacque, the FCC Program won AETC FCC Program of the Year for the first time since the inception of the child care programs at Little Rock AFB. When the program was under the AETC Majcom, Jacque was asked by AETC staff to mentor new providers.

She would also work closely with fellow coordinators from other bases to gain new ideas or find better ways to improve the FCC program at Little Rock.

Jacque has a love of music and especially enjoys singing. She is a member of Park Hill Christian Church Chancel Choir and also performs solos for special music functions and serves as Chairman of the Trustees for PHCC as well as serving on the Church Cabinet and Church Board. She is also a member of the Arkansas Chorale Society (ACS) where she sings in the Messiah and their spring concerts. During these concerts she has provided various solos. Jacque previously served on the Board of Directors for the ACS and as a judge for the Arkansas Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year in Little Rock.

Jacque sat on the planning committees for the annual Spring Family Fun festivals and the 4th of July celebrations. She along with her providers would have a game/information booth at the Fun Festival each year.

Jacque lives with her husband Don in Cabot, AR. Her children and grandchildren are the lights of her life. Jacque's sons, Josh and wife Jennifer along with their children Holt and Violet reside in Sherwood, and son Chris and wife Leah along with their children Aliden and Ava reside in North Little Rock. Her daughter Amanda and husband SSgt. Kevin Schroeder along with Amanda's daughter Aislinn Grubb are stationed in Geilenkirchen, Germany. Jacque also has a step-grandaughter, Sylvia Schroeder, who resides in Manhattan, KS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Jacque Johannes for her years of dedication and hard work.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,596,427,039,854.56. We've added \$6,969,549,990,941.48 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.