

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following regarding two missed votes on March 4, 2014.

"Yes" on H.R. 3370, Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act.

"Yes" on H. Res. 488, Supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democratic change and calling to end the violence.

ALEXSANDER HAY**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexander Hay for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexander Hay is an 11th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexander Hay is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alexander Hay for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING A.H. PARKER HIGH SCHOOL AS ALABAMA'S CLASS 5A STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS 2014

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, continuing in the tradition of the "District of Champions," I rise today to honor the A.H. Parker High School Thundering Herd on winning the 2014 State of Alabama title in the 5A State Basketball Championship—the first state title since 1975. On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, I pay tribute to the Thundering Herd for their exemplary athleticism and teamwork as well as the outstanding leadership of Head Coach Reggie McGary and his coaching staff. We are extremely proud of these young men!

Parker's championship victory capped off an extraordinary season of 23 wins and 6 losses. Coach McGary credited his team's success to the leadership of his assistant coach, Randal Smith. According to McGary, Smith's persistence in stressing the importance of defense was the team's key to victory. Throughout the

championship game, Smith demanded that his defensive players bring their best to the court.

To earn their spot in the championship game, Parker High School dominated their opponents during the Steele City Invitational Tournament last December. The Thundering Herd faced its rival Ramsay High School to clinch the state title on March 1, 2014. During the championship game, the thundering herd played with the same skill and intensity that sustained them throughout the season. The team was celebrated for their consistent ability to defensively shutdown their opponents. Their strategy was no different when they competed for the state title as the Thundering Herd held Ramsey to just six points during the third quarter.

Although the team trailed 23–20 with 2:17 left in the first half, they would not allow their opponent to score again until the end of the third quarter. Senior Marquell Olivier led Parker with 15 points and nine rebounds while Omani Williams served as a defensive force for the team. Alontae Johnson also contributed nine points to the Thundering Herd's 56–46 victory. The win occurred on the 50th anniversary of the Thundering Herd's 1964 National Black High School Championship won at Tennessee State University.

As the daughter of a high school basketball coach, I know this decisive victory is the result of the tremendous efforts of both the players and coaching staff of A.H. Parker High School. The exemplary leadership and dedicated support from the coaching staff was a major factor in the success of the Thundering Herd. I commend Head Coach Reggie McGary and assistant coach Randal Smith and I am so proud of all they have accomplished.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the accomplishments of the A.H. Parker High School Boys Basketball Team for their victory in the Class 5A Alabama State Championship.

Congratulations! Go Bisons!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, February 28, 2014, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. I would have voted:

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 86 (on agreeing to the Cummings Amendment to H.R. 899),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 87 (on agreeing to the Connolly Amendment to H.R. 899),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 88 (on agreeing to the Jackson Lee Amendment to H.R. 899),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 89 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 899 with instructions), and

"No" on rollcall vote No. 90 (on passage of H.R. 899).

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH HEIM HASKELL

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative MORGAN GRIFFITH, I sub-

mit these remarks to commemorate the life of Elizabeth Heim Haskell, who passed away February 11, 2014.

Mrs. Haskell was a pillar in her community and across the Commonwealth. She ran her own environmental consulting firm for nine years and authored many books and articles on the environment. She served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Air Pollution Control Board. She then served as Virginia's Secretary of Natural Resources under Governor Douglas Wilder.

After completing her term, Mrs. Haskell returned to Martinsville to work in her family's newspaper business as the director and vice president of The Martinsville Bulletin. She became involved with local civics, serving four years on the Martinsville City Council. She also was a member of the New College Planning Commission and then New College Institute's Board of Directors, where she promoted her firm belief in the important role of higher education in the area's economy. For her many contributions, particularly her work to further higher education in Southwest Virginia, the Virginia General Assembly named Mrs. Haskell the Outstanding Virginian in 2005.

Elizabeth Haskell exemplified commitment to bettering the lives of all Virginians. She will long be remembered for her distinguished service. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert H. Haskell III, and is survived by her son, Andrew Haskell of Morristown, N.J., three grandchildren, Chase Winn Haskell, Catherine Antoinette Haskell, and Harrison Robert Haskell, and her brother, Henry C. Heim of Gig Harbor, Washington.

Congressman GRIFFITH and I note with great sadness the loss of Elizabeth Haskell, a prominent leader in the Martinsville community and all of Virginia.

THE OCCASION OF MAJOR ALEX CROSS' RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to Major Alex Cross, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his retirement. My colleagues and I have had the pleasure of working with Major Cross over the past three years, to include his service as part of my congressional staff and later as the Deputy Director of the USMC Liaison Office in the United States House of Representatives.

From his arrival in January of 2011, Major Cross was a valuable member of my legislative team. Major Cross represented the Marine Corps with honor while providing expertise on Marine Corps programs and policies, and advising me on issues ranging from defense authorization to foreign affairs. Major Cross's work on my personal staff culminated in his recommended changes to Department of Defense recruitment policies signed into law in the FY13 National Defense Authorization Act that resulted in expanded opportunities for students of all educational backgrounds to join the Armed Forces.

From 2012 to 2014, Major Cross served as Deputy Director of the USMC House Liaison Office. During his time in the House Liaison Office, Major Cross planned, led, and executed many of the Marine Corps' most difficult

and challenging legislative initiatives. Major Cross distinguished himself as a leader and as a visible example of Marine Corps professionalism and values. Through his direct and skillful engagement with numerous Members of Congress, Major Cross ensured the Marine Corps' concepts, programs, and requirements were widely understood which resulted in direct and lasting improvements to Marine Corps war fighting capabilities, and the quality of life for Marines throughout the Marine Corps.

Major Cross also successfully planned, coordinated, and escorted more than 20 international and domestic trips for Congressional and Staff Delegations. These delegations traveled world-wide and visited heads of state, military commands, and deployed US military personnel. His meticulous planning, attention to detail, and anticipation of requirements allowed members of the House and staff to focus on fact-finding and learning new information to guide critical decisions made by the Members of Congress.

Throughout his tour, Major Cross personally responded to hundreds of Congressional inquiries, many of which gained national level attention. Through his exceptional interpersonal skills and broad knowledge in a wide range of military affairs, he assisted the Director, Marine Corps House of Representatives Liaison Office, in gaining the Members' support for issues critical to the Marine Corps. Major Cross also supported USMC House Liaison operations, to include planning and coordinating receptions and meetings on Capitol Hill for USMC personnel. These events included New Member Orientation for the Freshman Congressional Class of the 113th Congress and three Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremonies. He also scheduled and facilitated several hundred office calls for the leadership of the USMC to include the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, and numerous other General Officers conducting business on Capitol Hill.

Major Cross, through his dedication to professional engagement with Congress, has contributed immeasurably to the Marine Corps' reputation throughout Capitol Hill. The rapport he developed with Members of the House has made a lasting impression and set the tone for a lasting partnership between the Marine Corps and Congress for years to come. The time he has spent supporting my constituents and other Members of the House has been truly noteworthy. He has made lasting contributions to the United States House of Representatives and we wish him well in retirement.

ANGEL LUTHMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angel Luthman for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Angel Luthman is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angel Luthman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Angel Luthman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following. I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 93 on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule "Providing for consideration of H.R. 3826, Electricity Security and Affordability Act, and providing for consideration of H.R. 4118, Suspending the Individual Mandate Penalty Law Equals Fairness Act" (H. Res. 497). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 94 regarding the Rule "Providing for consideration of H.R. 3826, Electricity Security and Affordability Act, and providing for consideration of H.R. 4118, Suspending the Individual Mandate Penalty Law Equals Fairness Act" (H. Res. 497). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 95 regarding the "United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013" (H.R. 938). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 96 regarding the Motion to Recommit with Instructions on "SIMPLE Fairness Act" (H.R. 4118). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 97 regarding the "SIMPLE Fairness Act" (H.R. 4118). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 98 regarding the "Better Buildings Act of 2014" (H.R. 2126). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER WARE

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher Ware of Clinton, Illinois, a man who has overcome great personal obstacles and dedicated his life to public service and helping others.

Mr. Ware has worked for State Farm Insurance Company in Bloomington, Illinois as a Security and Safety Specialist for over twenty-two years. Christopher also served as a law enforcement officer with the Bloomington Police Department until he suffered a severe

stroke in 1997. During his time with the police department, Christopher helped to coordinate outreach programs within his community.

In his limited spare time, Christopher has dedicated himself to public service and volunteering in his community. He currently serves as Chairman of the DeWitt County Housing Authority Board, Precinct Committeeman for DeWitt County, and trustee of the DeWitt-Livingston-McLean Counties Regional School Board.

In addition to his public service work, Christopher has volunteered countless hours for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, serving in many leadership roles. In 2005, he received the "Award of the Year" or "Hero Award" from the Coast Guard Foundation for his work during Hurricane Katrina. In 2004 and 2011, Ware received the Lifetime Achievement Award in the USA Freedom Corps for his volunteer service activities. In 2002, the Governor of Illinois appointed Chris to the Illinois State Rehabilitation Council and in 2012 he was appointed to the Illinois Stroke Task Force.

It is my honor to recognize Christopher Ware for his lifetime dedication to helping others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 91 and "yea" on rollcall 92.

PATIENT SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK AND THE NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY FOUNDATION

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this week is Patient Safety Awareness Week, and today I'd like to recognize the National Patient Safety Foundation and the organizations in my district that work to promote and improve patient safety.

In Arizona's District One, we have several facilities that are committed to patient safety, including Oro Valley Hospital, Flagstaff Medical Center, and Ventana Medical Systems.

Oro Valley Hospital has been nationally recognized for its efforts, which include daily safety huddles and employee empowerment. At Flagstaff Medical Center, their patient safety program also encourages employee collaboration.

My district is home to Ventana Medical Systems, a world leader in developing solutions for tissue-based diagnoses. Ventana has a new advisory board that brings together experts to review patient safety.

I applaud the National Patient Safety Foundation and the hospitals and companies in my district and nationwide who are leading the way to keep patient safety as a top priority.