

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, January 9; Friday, January 10; and Monday, January 13, 2014, I was unable to be present for recorded votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote No. 7 (on the Sinema Amendment to H.R. 2279); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 8 (on the Tonko Amendment to H.R. 2279); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 9 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 2279 with instructions); "no" on rollcall vote No. 10 (on passage of H.R. 2279); "no" on rollcall vote No. 11 (on passage of H.R. 3811); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 12 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1513), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 13 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 230).

ALLEVIATING HUNGER IN  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2014*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I submit an article that appeared recently in *The Boston Globe* about innovative work being done to help alleviate hunger in developing countries using safe storage technologies.

[From the *Boston Globe*, Dec. 17, 2013]FOR PHIL VILLERS, HELPING FEED THE WORLD  
IS IN THE BAG

(By Bella English)

CONCORD.—Phil Villers has founded several high-tech companies, but the one he oversees now offers something much more basic: a way to alleviate hunger in developing countries. GrainPro, Inc., which Villers runs out of Concord, makes airtight, impermeable bags of polyvinylchloride, similar to the material used by the Israeli Army to protect its tanks in the desert heat.

The bags are critical because about one-fourth of grain products grown in developing countries or shipped to them—rice, peanuts, maize, seeds, beans—are lost to insects or rodents, or rot in cloth or jute storage bags.

GrainPro's "cocoons" are made of the same material as the company's bags, and serve as huge "ultra-hermetic" encasings for grain bags. They can reduce grain losses from 25 percent to less than 1 percent, Villers says, and the company concentrates on hot and humid countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

"The insects suffocate, and the rats can't get a tooth-hold," says Villers, who joined GrainPro as a board member in 1996 and took over shortly after, when the company's president was injured in a car accident.

"We eliminate the need for pesticides, and we can protect food supplies against all kinds of calamities such as typhoons and earthquakes," Villers says.

"We eliminate the need for pesticides, and we can protect food supplies against all kinds of calamities such as typhoons and earthquakes."

During Typhoon Haiyan, which recently devastated the Philippines, the rice, cocoa, and seeds stored inside the cocoons were protected. In fact, GrainPro's products are all made at a factory on the former US Naval Base at Subic Bay, 75 miles from Manila.

"The cocoons are massively solid when filled with bags," Villers says. "They're like a brick outhouse. They just don't move."

The bags and cocoons are used in 97 countries, from small villages to national food authorities. Villers deals with the US Agency for International Development, the World Bank, and other agencies and private companies. "We know that there are over 100 million people who don't have enough to eat in Africa alone," he says.

GrainPro is, as he calls it, a "not-only-for-profit" company. "We take our social mission very seriously," he says. "But to be successful we have to be profitable, and we are. We're growing at 50 percent a year." The smaller bags sell for \$2 to \$3 each, while the cocoons start at \$1,000. The company is developing a thinner, cheaper line of cocoons.

One of their biggest customers is the Ghana Cocoa Board, and in Rwanda, hundreds of cocoons are protecting corn, seeds, and rice.

GrainPro also has a minor market of coffee growers and roasters in the United States. "We tell them we can't change bad coffee to good coffee, but we can make sure your good coffee stays good," says Villers.

The walls of Villers's small office bear some health care posters and awards. The staff consists of him, an administrative assistant, and a financial manager. In Washington, there's a vice president for food security.

The rest of the 125 employees are in the Philippines, in research and development, and production.

Martin Gummert is a senior scientist with the International Rice Research Institute, a nonprofit headquartered in the Philippines and dedicated to improving the yield and quality of rice in poor countries. The agency has collaborated with GrainPro to develop the grain bags.

"GrainPro is a company with a big social conscience," says Gummert. "They started small, promoting hermetic storage against many odds in the initial years."

That his company is doing well while doing good makes Villers a happy man. "I love what I do and I'm trying very hard to make sure my life counts, not just to me and my family," he says.

Philippe Villers was 5 years old when he fled Paris with his family two hours ahead of the German Army. His father, a member of the French Army, left for London disguised as a Polish officer. Once there, he joined the resistance.

Philippe, his sister, and mother headed to the safety of Montreal. After the war, the family was reunited and moved to New York. At age 10, Philippe became a US citizen, and his life since then has unfolded like an immigrant version of the American Dream.

He graduated with honors from Harvard and earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering from MIT. He founded companies and made good money. Long a social activist, he put his money where his mouth was.

In 1982, Villers and his wife, Kate, started the nonprofit Families USA Foundation, dedicated to achieving quality health care for all Americans, and they've been cited by President Obama for their work.

Kate Villers is also the president and founder of the foundation's sister organization, Community Catalyst, a nonprofit work-

ing in more than 40 states to build support for improved health care and insurance rights.

The couple, who live in Concord, apparently have passed along their helping hands philosophy to their daughters. Their oldest runs a foundation in Costa Rica to improve preschool education for poor children. Their youngest is executive director of the Mass. Senior Action Council, a nonprofit grassroots group of senior citizens fighting for social justice. Their son, who is in the film business, lives in Budapest.

Though he can talk on and on about his pet subjects—alleviating hunger, providing affordable health care—Villers is less talkative about himself. He's not interested in discussing the motives behind his do-good work.

"My lifelong goal has been to make a difference in this country," he simply says. Is it because of the opportunities the United States provided an immigrant boy? "I'll leave that to psychologists," he adds, with a bemused half-grin.

He won't even give his age, but will say that he graduated from Harvard in 1955, along with David Halberstam, "a great guy."

Villers is a member of the ACLU's President's Council and the executive director's leadership council of Amnesty International. He describes himself as "a change agent and a human rights activist."

Just don't ask him why.

## TRIBUTE TO DR. RONALD BAKARI

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2014*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. Ronald Bakari of West Des Moines, Iowa for receiving a coveted Fulbright award to promote a stronger global understanding abroad this academic year.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. This program is known as America's flagship international exchange program. First established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program has served the purpose of building mutual understanding between American citizens and the rest of the world. Appropriations from the United States Congress, participating foreign governments, and private sector contributions fund the Fulbright Program. The program has exchanged over a quarter of a million people in more than 155 countries, since its inception. Ronald's host country for the 2013–2014 academic year is the United Kingdom.

To receive a Fulbright award is truly a great honor. Recipients of this award must demonstrate significant leadership potential in their chosen field and are selected on the basis of their academic or professional achievement. The experiences provided by this program ensure that tomorrow's leaders are both knowledgeable about the world and well-rounded.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Dr. Bakari from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him for receiving this prestigious award and I wish him the best of luck as he continues his career excellence.

SPACE LAUNCH LIABILITY  
INDEMNIFICATION EXTENSION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2014*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, as a lead sponsor of this provision, I rise today to underscore intent of language included in the Fiscal Year 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Act. The statement of managers accompanying the legislation directs the Army Corps of Engineers to consider the Savannah Harbor Expansion Program (SHEP) to be in the construction phase. This direction, in concert with associated explicit bill language waving Section 902 limitations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, allows the SHEP to proceed through the construction phase including, but not limited to, the allocation of construction funds in the President's budget request and the execution of a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA). Consistent with appropriations acts since fiscal year 2009, the Committee has allocated funds in the construction account rather than the preconstruction, engineering and design account for SHEP. With this legislation, the Administration and the Army Corps of Engineers should request construction funds and proceed with a PPA to allow completion of this project.

HONORING JUAN C. MÁRQUEZ

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2014*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of World War II Veteran and El Pasoan, Juan C. Márquez.

Private Márquez served as a rifleman in the United States Army during the Second World War. He began his tour of duty in Europe, where he served with the 44th Infantry Division, 3rd Battalion, and the 71st Infantry Regiment. While in combat, Private Márquez suffered shrapnel wounds. Later, while serving in northeastern France, a German tank struck Private Márquez, as a result of which he endured broken ribs and a separated shoulder.

For his courageous efforts, Private Márquez was awarded two Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three stars, the World War II Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button.

On August 29, 1948 after returning home to El Paso, Mr. Márquez was in a fatal car crash. He was survived by his wife and four children. This great El Pasoan's distinguished service is an inspiration to all Americans and his dedication and resolve is an example to all serving in the Armed Forces.

HONORING ELEANOR  
MONTGOMERY**HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2014*

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, I rise today to recognize and reflect on the achievements of Eleanor Montgomery, who was inducted into the U.S. Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2013 on her 67th birthday. Ms. Montgomery passed away three weeks later on December 28, 2013.

A native Cleveland, Ms. Montgomery literally set the bar high early in life. At the tender age of 14, she won her first national title in the long jump, and while in high school, she set a record and won a gold medal at the 1963 Pan American Games as a high jumper. Ms. Montgomery went on to compete in the 1964 and 1968 Olympics as a member of the U.S. Track and Field Team. She was the U.S. high jumping champion, placing 8th at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. She won six Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) national high jump titles from 1963 to 1967 and in 1969, and won the Pan American games in 1967.

A member of the famous Tennessee State TigerBelles, which dominated women's track and field before there was a Title IX, Ms. Montgomery was ranked top 10 in the world through most of the 1960's.

Later in life, Ms. Montgomery raised the bar for us all as she worked tirelessly for decades encouraging youth and promoting academic and athletic opportunities for them. As an employee of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, she served as a high school track and cross country official. She was also the executive director of the NFL Players Association Youth Camp and coordinated Special Olympics events.

Eleanor Montgomery achieved what many merely dream of doing. She will be missed and long remembered.

HONORING LINDA KOZFKAY FOR 23  
YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED AND  
HONORABLE SERVICE AS  
SANILAC COUNTY CLERK**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2014*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Kozfkay for 23 years of distinguished and honorable service as the Sanilac County Clerk.

Linda began her career as the Chief Deputy Clerk of Sanilac County in 1981 and was appointed county clerk in 1990 following the retirement of her predecessor.

During her time as clerk, Linda Kozfkay earned the respect and admiration of everyone in Sanilac County due to her incredible commitment to the people she served. In fact, she was reelected six times and became the longest serving county clerk in Sanilac County history.

Linda also earned the respect of her peers across the entire State of Michigan for her dedication to her important work. I had the

honor during my time as Michigan's Secretary of State to work closely with Linda as we developed our State's Qualified Voter File, which due to the hard work of her and others, Michigan became a national model for how to ensure free, open, fair, and accurate elections.

On December 27, 2013, Linda decided it was time to enter a new phase in her life and retired as county clerk. I wish Linda nothing but the best in her retirement and I know everyone in Sanilac County joins me in thanking her for 23 years of tremendous service as county clerk and 32 years of honorable public service.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF REV-  
EREND ELIZABETH CARPENTER**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 16, 2014*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Elizabeth Carpenter, who ministered to hundreds of families as rector of St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Damascus for more than thirteen years. Sadly, Reverend Carpenter passed away on January 3, 2014.

Born and raised in Mobile, Alabama, Reverend Carpenter graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Duke University in 1963. Her first job was as a parish secretary for St. Peter's Episcopal Church in New York City. She later worked as a computer software designer for John Hancock Mutual and Humble Oil (now Exxon Mobil). At that time, the term "software designer" didn't even exist—she was a pioneer in that field.

At the age of 47, Reverend Carpenter heard her call to ministry. She enrolled in Harvard Divinity School, where she received her Master of Divinity degree in 1991. She was ordained a deacon by the Episcopal Church of Dallas that June. On July 22, 1992, Reverend Carpenter was ordained into the priesthood by the Diocese of Massachusetts. She served several parishes in Massachusetts until she was called to be rector of St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Damascus, Maryland in August 1997.

St. Anne's longest-tenured rector, Reverend Carpenter served from 1997 until her retirement in January 2011. During that time, she touched the lives of hundreds of families. She preached some 1,200 times to the people of St. Anne's, performed hundreds of weddings and baptisms, and comforted hundreds of families at funerals and memorial services. Without a doubt, Reverend Carpenter was part of the heart and soul of the St. Anne's community.

Reverend Carpenter brought wisdom and a steady hand to St. Anne's. Under her leadership, a beautiful new sanctuary was constructed and the church's 50th anniversary was celebrated. Her dedication inspired many new families to join the St. Anne's community. Moreover, Reverend Carpenter was well-respected by her colleagues in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. She preached love and compassion and was an inspiration to her parishioners.

Places of worship play an indispensable role in our communities. Reverend Carpenter helped strengthen Damascus and the surrounding communities through her years of service and dedication to St. Anne's.