

he coach football and basketball as well as teach physical education for over a decade, he played multiple sports as a member of the 1998 graduating class before continuing on to play football at College of Marin, University of Oregon, and University of Redlands.

Many people would retreat when faced with a fight. Eight years ago Mr. Forni was diagnosed with melanoma, but he didn't back down. Even when his energy lagged and his muscles ached, he was there for his team. He attended basketball games and practices throughout his treatment. He battled the disease for nearly a decade and coached through the end, guiding his team until this season's conclusion.

James Forni lived for others. He left a permanent mark on his school and community for which, years from now, we will continue to be grateful. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and express our heartfelt condolences to his wife Mary, his parents Jim and Jan, and his siblings Jill and Chris.

COMMENDING LOCAL 2015 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FIFTH ANNUAL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 55 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishments and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: "Thank you."

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized 9 students; this year we will be honoring 133 local students for choosing to serve our country in uniform.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to

country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Marine Corps:

Jeremy Ainey, Oscar Ayalafranco, Wesley Bacon, Taylor Basnight, Kaelin Bernard, Matthew Byvik, Jose Carrillomeja, Briana Chaisone, Grant Collins, Sebastian Crossley, Dominic Dagostino, Tyler Dewalt, Andrew Forbang, Austin Gilley, Jacob Gomez, Joseph Grant, Kaleb Hanson, William Harris, Logan Harvey, Chase Haynes, Sean Heim, Wyatt Helean, Michael Hill, John Hoang, Patrick Johnson, Tyree Johnson, Matthew Jones, Scot Khanna, Joseph Larock, Daniel Lee, Jose Martinez, Mason Matvich, Nash Means, Christopher Meraz, Jacob Miller, Mohamed Mohamed, Aninyou Morkos, Maddison Mazingo, Jose Munoz, Christopher Myers, Michael Odellaye, Joshua Peters, Kimberly Ramos, David Reeves, Alexander Rojas, Canas Rubia, Spicer Sabruno, Nicky Sanchez, William Schouville, Taylor Terrell, Christian Trujillo, Jacob Vignaroli, Daniel Walton, Michael Wynd, Paul Zandbergen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense of our nation's freedom.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes:

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chair, the following is my statement in its entirety:

We launched this effort a year-and-a-half ago. And with tomorrow's House vote, we mark an important milestone in our quest for 21st Century Cures—one step closer to the finish line.

There are so many individuals throughout our 18 month journey that helped get us to where we are today. Patients across the country. Advocates. Researchers. Innovators. Experts. Academics. Regulators. Some of the nation's brightest minds. To all we say thank you.

Thank you to the staff—on both sides of the aisle—who took the meetings, did the research, drafted the language, and sat at the negotiating table for countless hours to help us develop this incredible product. Gary Andres, Joan Hillebrands, Alexa Marrero, Clay Alspach, Paul Edattel, Josh Trent, Robert Horne, John Stone, Carly McWilliams, Katie Novaria, Adrianna Simonelli, Graham Pittman, Michelle Rosenberg, Traci Vitek, Sean Bonyun, Noelle Clemente, Macey Sevck, Mark Ratner, Tom Wilbur, Bits Thomas, Marty

Dannenfelser, Tim Pataki, Karen Christian, Peter Kietly, Jeff Carroll, Tiffany Guarascio, Lisa Cohen, Rachel Stauffer, Elizabeth Farrar, Matt Inzeo, Cole Leiter and all the Democratic staff, the staff of our members . . . thank you all. Thank you to House legislative counsel and the Congressional Budget Office for your efforts and dedication. Thank you to the members of both parties who brought their best ideas, partnered with one another to make their case, and delivered so many of the policies we welcome today.

I'd also like to thank HAL ROGERS and his staff. The Appropriations Committee has been a critical partner in this effort, working with us and developing the right approach to achieve our shared goal of helping patients in a fiscally responsible way.

I especially want to highlight my partner in this effort from day one, Ms. DEGETTE. She has been to Michigan, and I have travelled to Colorado—we have been on a number of road trips for Cures and I look forward to the next journey. I also want to thank Mr. PITTS, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. GREEN for their partnership. We have made great strides but our work continues—and we won't stop until the ink is dry on the 21st Century Cures Act in the Oval Office.

I also want to give a hearty thank you to Max—a 6-year old ambassador for Cures. Although he is faced with the challenge of Noonan syndrome, he has been a little warrior in this effort. He joined us when we had our 51 to zero vote in the committee. And I am delighted Max will be by my side tomorrow on the floor for final passage.

Helping Max is why we're here. Helping my friends Brooke and Brielle is why we are here.

With a resounding vote, we will send a signal to the Senate—loud and clear—that the time is now for Cures 2015. I look forward to working with my Senate counterparts to continue the momentum and get 21st Century Cures to the president's desk.

We have a chance to do something big, and this is our time.

Vote yes.

COMMENDING LOCAL 2015 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FIFTH ANNUAL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 48 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishments and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Army. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: "Thank you."

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was

contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized 9 students; this year we will be honoring 133 local students for choosing to serve our country in uniform.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Army:

Ronell Akwe, Gustabo Arguero, Eleanor Awwe, Angela Barfield, Ian Bliss, Tony Britvec, Ciara Carter, Dylan Cate, Robert Compton, Dylan Cook, Karon Cook, Gisel Diaz, Mason Dineen, Andrew Drescher, Ian Dumas, Yeni Dzib, Michael Fowlkes, Cristian Garcia, Adrianna Garner, Tabaria Harris, Kiee Harvey, Hunter Henson, Chase Henson, Nicholas Hwang, Lane Ingram, Olivia Jackson, Dylan Jeffries, Arielle Kirk, Andriy Kuranov, Daisey Kyaw, Eric Leach, Katelyn Lloyd, Joshua Marcano, Juan Martinez, Ofori Nana, Carlos Ortega, Thanh Tu Phung, Jordan Rivera, Julian Rivers, Tia Roush, Brian Steele, Louis Surface, Brian Vaughn, Dillon Welton, Steven Wesley, Donovan Wolford, Timothy Yemelyanov, Aisha Yunus.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense our nation's freedom.

HONORING PRESIDENT HARVEY
SCHMITT OF THE RALEIGH
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Harvey Schmitt, who recently retired as President and CEO of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce. In the twenty-one years Harvey has headed the Chamber, he has played an integral role in transforming Raleigh into a thriving city known internationally as one of the best places in America to live, work, and run a business.

Harvey has been a tireless promoter of the city's assets, often assuming the role of recruiter-in-chief. The enterprises he has helped bring to the Triangle include Red Hat, PNC, and the Carolina Hurricanes. He spearheaded the transformation of downtown Raleigh, creating the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, helping to revitalize Fayetteville Street, and leading the charge to build the downtown Raleigh convention center. He also promoted three billion dollars in school construction bonds to ensure that Triangle students learn in first-class facilities.

As Ranking Member of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee, I particularly appreciate Harvey's contribution to modernizing transportation in the Research Triangle. He and the Chamber created the Regional Transportation Alliance to advocate for improved highways and transit and a diversified system for the future.

Throughout his time at the Chamber, Harvey has been an invaluable asset to and a dedicated advocate for the Triangle. His tireless efforts and winning ways have left a lasting imprint on his adopted city. He has earned our enduring respect and gratitude, and we wish him the best in retirement.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chair, today I rise in strong opposition to senseless Republican attempts to allow Confederate flags to be displayed and sold in national parks and cemeteries. The Confederate flag throughout history has been a symbol of extreme hatred, deliberate malice, and continued segregation. Any attempt by Congress to uphold and profit from such an image is completely reprehensible.

Recently, states across the country have done the right thing and removed the Confederate flag from their State Capitol grounds, including my home state of Alabama. In fact, on July 9th South Carolina lawmakers voted to ensure that this contentious symbol is removed from its state capitol grounds. It is unconscionable to think that while South Carolina's legislature was working until the early hours of the morning fighting for the removal of the Confederate flag, my Republican colleagues were attempting to undo efforts by the House to prohibit the Confederate flag from being sold and displayed at our national parks and federal cemeteries.

The Confederate flag is a part of America's past and that is where it should stay. Removing the Confederate flag does not detract from America's rich history in any way, but instead

is recognition of the fact that this flag represents hatred not heritage, treason not pride. In order for us to come together as a nation, it is necessary to remove the vestiges of the past that connect racism and segregation.

The preamble to the Constitution reads "We the people", making it evident that America is supposed to be one cohesive nation. As Members of Congress we have the responsibility to ensure that our actions reflect the will of the people. The Confederate flag does nothing but continue to divide this great country. Let's stand behind our nation's purpose, that all men are created equal, by prohibiting the selling and displaying of the Confederate flag at national parks and federal cemeteries.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me and reject this amendment.

COMMENDING LOCAL 2015 HIGH
SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR
DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE
UNITED STATES NAVY AND OUR
COMMUNITY SALUTES OF
NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR
HOSTING THE FIFTH ANNUAL
ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 5 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishments and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Navy. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: "Thank you."

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized 9 students; this year we will be honoring 133 local students for choosing to serve our country in uniform.

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