

This legislation is supported by a broad coalition of organizations who believe that the recovery of houses of worship is essential to the recovery of neighborhoods, towns, and States. Houses of worship are critical public institutions within our communities, and they must not be denied the equal treatment they deserve. I urge my colleagues to move swiftly and pass this much needed legislation.

RECOGNIZING SAMANTHA MOEN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Samantha Moen, of Santee, California, who qualified for the USA Shooting's National Junior Olympic Championship in International Trap. Samantha's hard work and dedication to the sport of trap shooting have earned her the distinct honor of representing not only the City of Santee, but the State of California in this month's Championship, taking place in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Since 1995, USA Shooting has operated as the National Governing Body for the sport of shooting in the United States. The nonprofit organization represents all shooting athletes who go on to represent the United States in the Olympic and Paralympic games, meaning that only the nation's most qualified and distinguished shooters have the opportunity to train and compete at their Colorado Springs headquarters.

For many, the invitation to the National Junior Olympic Championship is the first opportunity young shooters have at realizing their dream of representing the United States on the international stage of shooting. In the case of Samantha, who took home the Silver Medal in the California Junior State Olympics, the sport of shooting has offered her something more than the opportunity to compete at the national level—it's paved her way to compete at the top collegiate shooting program in the nation, at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri.

In order to realize her dream of representing the United States in the Olympics, Samantha will have to continue honing her trap shooting abilities in the coming years. And I have no doubt that the experience of competing later this month in Colorado Springs will only further instill a desire in Samantha to strive for the best.

I'm honored to wish Samantha Moen the best of luck at the USA Shooting's National Junior Olympic Championship. I am sure Samantha will represent our community and state well, and am hopeful she will one day represent our nation on the international stage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 2015 I missed the first recorded vote, Roll #435. On Roll Call #435, I would have voted YEA (Page of H.R. 251).

HONORING STERLING SMITH

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of Sterling Smith, an extraordinary civic leader who will be remembered for his invaluable contributions to the community.

Sterling graduated from the University of Washington in 1963. From there, he secured a position teaching at Chinook Junior High, where he became chair of the English Department, and then later at Tyee High School. Sterling was well known as a beloved teacher with a high standard of excellence for his students. On top of his success as an educator, he was also known for his compassion, good humor, and the significant influence he had on the lives of his students.

During my own time as a student at Tyee, I was fortunate to have Sterling as a teacher. I am grateful for the positive impact that Sterling had on my life and my decision to pursue a career in public service. Sterling continued to teach language arts at Tyee until he retired in June 1994.

Sterling was an incredible educator and treasured community member dedicated to serving others in various capacities. He served on several boards that interviewed candidates running for office, including candidates for the Washington State Governor's office. Moreover, Sterling spent countless hours volunteering at the Kubota Gardens, one of Seattle's beautiful Japanese gardens and a cultural center for the region. Along with his partner, Jem, Smith was the caregiver to 37 patients living with AIDS over a 22 year span. On numerous occasions, Sterling and Jem also opened their Federal Way home and gardens to community activities, including events for the Federal Way Symphony Orchestra and the South End Social Group picnic.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the life of Sterling Smith, an individual whose unrelenting and quiet dedication to his students and community serves as an example of the tremendous impact one person can have.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. MICHAEL GODBEY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding educator, Michael Godbey. Mr. Godbey leads Frankfort High School as its principal. Mr. Godbey's career as an educator spans twenty years. In this time he has served as an instructional assistant, bus driver, mathematics teacher, assistant principal, director of curriculum and instruction, and principal. Under Godbey's leadership, Frankfort High School has earned the classification of a Proficient and Progressing High School based on Kentucky's Next Generation Learner Accountability system. Frankfort High School was also ranked the Twelfth Best High School in the Commonwealth of Kentucky by U.S. News and World Report in 2014.

Mr. Godbey was recently selected as the 2015 Principal of the Year for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This Award was presented by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Godbey earned this award by his accomplishments in the education field over the years. His dedication to the education of his students is evident.

Godbey earned his B.A. in Secondary Education from the University of Kentucky and his M.A. in Education from Eastern Kentucky University. Prior to his tenure at Frankfort High School, Godbey worked in the Danville, Kentucky Independent School district. He and his wife Claudia reside in Nicholasville, Kentucky with their sons Jared and Hayden.

Education of our nations' young men and women is critically important. Mr. Godbey has exemplified strong leadership and innovation and is very deserving of the recent Principal of the Year award. Mr. Speaker, I applaud his creative talents and dedication in the education field.

STATE BOARD OF NURSING APPOINTMENT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. Doris Jackson, DHA (ABD) for being appointed to the Texas Board of Nursing by Governor Greg Abbott.

Dr. Jackson, a Pearland resident, is a registered nurse and a professor at Lone Star College's associate degree nursing program in Kingwood. She is also a member of the Society of Pediatric Nurses, Texas Nurse Association, American Nurse Association and the Student Nurse Association Faculty Advisor. Dr. Jackson has used her role to care for others and to help future nurses become the best that they can be. Her appointment is well-deserved.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Dr. Doris Jackson on her appointment to the Texas Board of Nursing. Governor Abbott made a great decision in selecting you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 14th, 2015, I was unavoidably detained in a caucus event with several of my colleagues. Had I been present and voting on Roll Call No. 435, I would have voted yea.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, during the week of July 6th I was unable to travel to Washington, D.C. for health reasons.

Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

July 7
 Roll Call 390—yes
 Roll Call 391—yes
 July 8
 Roll Call 392—no
 Roll Call 393—yes
 Roll Call 394—yes
 Roll Call 395—yes
 Roll Call 396—yes
 Roll Call 397—yes
 Roll Call 398—yes
 Roll Call 399—yes
 Roll Call 400—yes
 Roll Call 401—yes
 Roll Call 402—yes
 Roll Call 403—yes
 Roll Call 404—yes
 Roll Call 405—yes
 Roll Call 406—yes
 Roll Call 407—no
 Roll Call 408—no
 Roll Call 409—no
 Roll Call 410—no
 Roll Call 411—yes
 Roll Call 412—yes
 Roll Call 413—yes
 Roll Call 414—yes
 Roll Call 415—yes
 Roll Call 416—yes
 Roll Call 417—yes
 Roll Call 418—yes
 Roll Call 419—no
 Roll Call 420—no
 Roll Call 421—yes
 Roll Call 422—yes
 Roll Call 423—no
 July 9
 Roll Call 424—no
 Roll Call 425—no
 Roll Call 426—no
 Roll Call 427—yes
 Roll Call 428—no
 Roll Call 429—no
 Roll Call 430—no
 July 10
 Roll Call 431—no
 Roll Call 432—yes
 Roll Call 433—yes

HONORING ANGEL GOMEZ AND OPERATION H.O.P.E.

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the tireless work and service to El Paso of Angel Gomez.

Angel Gomez is a lifelong El Pasoan, graduate of Bowie High School, and a Veteran of the United States Navy. After serving our nation in uniform, Angel continued his life of service by making a difference in the lives of El Pasoans.

Angel Gomez founded Operation H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Endure) with long-time friend Ron Standing in November of 2009. With the continuous loving support of his wife, Patricia, and their daughter, Rubi, Angel has been able to bring a smile to the faces of thousands of families in need within the El Paso community.

Whether it is school supplies, clothing, blankets, toiletries, toys, food, or funeral services,

Angel Gomez and Operation H.O.P.E. have consistently provided assistance and charitable work every Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and throughout the year.

His commitment to helping others is truly inspiring and is an example for all Americans. I thank Angel Gomez and Operation H.O.P.E. for their passion for service and for helping so many in our community.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 5021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following statement I made last year on H.R. 5021:

I am pleased that Congress is finally acting today, not with a looming crisis, but one that is already upon us. This is entirely predictable.

I have been arguing for months that Congress needs to act because the stopgap measure we did last Congress was designed to create precisely this Congress at precisely this time.

Sixty-two groups may have signed on a letter of support, but they prefer us to act meaningfully for long-term funding. They accept this because it is the only alternative to shutting down activities this summer.

My Republican friends are unwilling—not unable—but unwilling to resolve the funding contradictions. Revenues have failed to keep pace with the demands of an aging growing Nation, making no change for 21 years, as our infrastructure ages and falls apart, our Nation continues to grow and transportation patterns change. It is guaranteed that we should change as well.

This Congress has refused to address its responsibilities. The House Ways and Means Committee has not had a single hearing on transportation finance. One of our most important responsibilities, uniquely ours, one that is unlike so many other items we deal with, it is possible to resolve. We haven't had a hearing in the 43 months that the Republicans have been in charge of Congress.

Now, I understand there are conflicts within the Republican Caucus. There are some that appear satisfied with locking us into a slow, steady decline called for in the Republican budget—no new projects until October of 2015 and a 30 percent reduction over the next decade, at exactly the time the Federal partnership should be enhanced, not reduced.

There are others in the Republicans whose answer is to just abandon ship, to give up on the Federal partnership, slash the Federal gas tax, and abandon any hope of a national transportation policy and partnership to help States with projects that are multistate in nature or that need to be done whether economic times are bad.

That would be tragic and wrong to abandon the partnership that has meant so much, but it is part of what is driving some of our Republican Tea Party friends. Just because there may not be a majority in the Republican ranks for either approach does not mean that we should continue to dither.

Because Republicans friends are unwilling or unable to resolve this, we have frozen the Transportation Committee in place. They don't have a bill. They are not going to have a bill unless we resolve what the budget number is: increase, continue the downward slide, or abandon it altogether.

We will be no better off next May to resolve this question. In fact, we will be worse

off because we will be in the middle of a Presidential campaign, with a new Congress, maybe new committee lineups.

We should reject this approach to hand off our responsibilities. We should resolve the resource question, and we should commit that this Congress is not going to recess for August vacation, not going to recess to campaign in October, until we have worked to give the American people a transportation bill they need—deserve—to jump-start the economy, create hundreds of thousands of family-wage jobs, and strengthen communities and families across the Nation.

American infrastructure used to be the best in the world and a point of pride bringing Americans together. It is now a source of embarrassment and deep concern as we fall further and further behind global leaders.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

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 \$18,151,890,180,391.62. We've added \$7,525,013,131,478.54 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF MR. WOODROW R. PACKER, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding educator and respected community leader, Mr. Woodrow R. Packer, Sr. Mr. Packer departed to his eternal reward on Saturday, July 11, 2015. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 17, 2015 at St. Paul's Memorial Chapel in Lawrenceville, Virginia, where Mr. Packer's family will be surrounded by friends and loved ones paying their respects to a man who touched many lives, including my own.

Mr. Packer was born in Wilcox County, Alabama, on March 11, 1919 as the eleventh of twelve children born to the late Hal and Lucy Packer. Over the course of his lifetime, Mr. Packer exemplified the meaning of servant leadership. In 1942, Mr. Packer left his family in Alabama to serve his country in World War II, spending time in North Africa and Italy. Following his service in the war, he was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1945.

Throughout his life, Mr. Packer always demonstrated a passion for knowledge. He earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degree from Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama. He studied further at Carnegie-Mellon Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut; the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia; Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia; and the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia.