

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on October 27, 2015, the House considered H.R. 3819, the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015. This act extends the Positive Train Control implementation deadline to December 31, 2018. The House passed H.R. 3819 by voice vote. Had this been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on H.R. 3819.

RECOGNIZING INDEPENDENT AUDIO DRAMA

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of independent audio drama to our nation's culture and history. For over one hundred years, the dramatic scripts, compelling music, and sound effects of audio drama have resonated with listeners across various ethnic, financial, and geographic divides.

During the Great Depression, radio drama adaptations of novels and plays achieved widespread popularity as a means of increasing morale through such difficult times. With the increase in televised and video entertainment came the waning interest in radio drama. However, in recent years, the growth of independent media production has revived audio drama within the U.S. Independent audio drama is now providing aspiring as well as seasoned artists with a unique and sophisticated platform to reach diverse audiences.

I am proud to rise in recognition of independent audio drama as it continues to expand, exhibit the work of our talented rising artists, and impact the lives of countless Americans.

CONGRATULATING DR. ROBERT KASE ON EARNING A GRAMMY NOMINATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Robert Kase, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Saint Francis in Joliet, Illinois, for earning a Grammy award nomination in the category of Outstanding Jazz Solo for the track entitled "Dr. Doo Good." "Dr. Doo Good" is an original composition by Dr. Kase and is part of his recently released jazz quintet album titled *As We Gather*.

As We Gather was not only recorded at University of St. Francis's Digital Audio Recording Arts studio, it was engineered, mastered, and

produced by University of Saint Francis faculty.

Dr. Kase has an impressive background as an educator, administrator, business leader, and performer. His musical career includes touring with Sonny and Cher and playing alongside Frank Sinatra, The Temptations, Natalie Cole, and other musical legends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Robert Kase in earning a Grammy nomination.

NATIONAL WORK AND FAMILY MONTH

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to discuss the importance of America's working families. October is National Work and Family month and an opportune time to discuss how Congress can better serve our working families. In almost three out of five married families with children, both parents work. Supporting initiatives like raising the minimum wage, ensuring equal pay for women, and allowing workers access to affordable childcare is vital to ensuring the success of our working families.

Raising the minimum wage is a critical step in closing the opportunity gap and building an economy that works for everyone. By raising the minimum wage, we can restore fairness for working men and women across the country. No hard working American should be forced to raise their family in poverty, but unfortunately the current minimum wage allows for just that. An increase in the minimum wage is not only the moral thing to do, but it would also provide a much-needed boost to our economy.

Equal pay issues affect all workers in this country trying to provide for their families. Women make up 47% of the workforce and bring home 44% of the family income, yet they earn 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. As women continue to make up a larger segment of our Nation's workforce, it is imperative that we ensure that pay disparity is related to job-performance instead of gender. Stronger protections and enforcement will lead to a more successful female workforce that is not bogged down by discrimination.

Ensuring access to childcare and early education for working families is important to their success. The lack of good, affordable preschool and childcare options have huge impacts on working families, with a significant disadvantage to low-income families. Childcare and early education options allow for parents to continue working and provide children with a strong foundation. Yet, many low-income working families are not able to afford childcare and have difficulties receiving assistance, even though they may be eligible. Providing greater access to childcare and preschool is a crucial step towards ensuring job retention among parents while offering a foundation for children.

Employing policies that ensure that all working families are afforded a fair chance to suc-

ceed should be something that Congress strives to achieve. I look forward to working with my colleagues to address these issues.

TRIBUTE TO GLEN AND SUSAN TRAVIS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Glen and Susan Travis of Thurman, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on September 24, 1965.

Glen and Susan's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Vicki, Scott, and Kari, and their grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Travis family that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this special couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TULLY HILL CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT CENTER

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Tully Hill Chemical Dependency Center in Tully, New York. The Tully Hill Chemical Dependency Center opened in 1990 to provide quality detoxification and inpatient rehabilitation services to the Central New York community. Tully Hill began outpatient treatment services in 1996 and continues to provide chemical dependency treatment to individuals in need in the 24th District.

As a former federal prosecutor in Syracuse, NY, I saw the direct impact chemical dependency and addiction has on the safety, health, and success of our community. Chemical dependency centers, such as Tully Hill, are crucial to the reduction of chemical dependency throughout Central New York. Centers, such as Tully Hill, help Central New York individuals and families in their time of need to regain their health and lead positive lives through comprehensive, safe treatment.

I am proud to recognize the Tully Hill Chemical Dependency Center and congratulate the Center on the achievement of its 25th anniversary. On behalf of Central New York and the more than 17,000 patients and their families that Tully Hill has helped in their efforts to achieve and maintain sobriety, I want to thank the Tully Hill Chemical Dependency Center for their work in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House of Representatives voted on the Retail Investor Protection Act, which passed by a wide margin of 245–186. Allow me to make a clarification on my vote. I fully support this legislation and meant to vote ‘yea’ on final passage, not ‘no’. Unfortunately, by the time I noticed the error, the vote had closed and I was unable to correct it. Voting ‘no’ was not my intention.

I am pleased the Retail Investor Protection Act passed the House with broad support. Like many of my constituents, and others across the country, I have serious concerns about the negative impacts that the Department of Labor’s proposed ‘fiduciary rule’ will have on the retirement savings options available to employees. I believe that the Retail Investor Protection Act properly addresses these concerns and contributes to the financial security of millions of Americans.

On October 26, 2015, I joined my House colleagues on a letter to the Secretary of Labor that urged the Department to withdraw the proposed rule and commit to a process that avoids the arbitrariness, uncertainty, and inadequate analysis embodied in the proposed rule. I remain fully committed to these views and support the entirety of the Retail Investor Protection Act.

RECOGNIZING MR. STEPHEN LARCEN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank Dr. Stephen W. Larcen, President of the Hartford Healthcare Behavioral Health Network, for 25 years of devotion to improving the continuum of mental health services in Connecticut. With more than 40 years of experience in behavioral health and healthcare management, Steve has been an invaluable resource to Hartford Healthcare and the community at large. He has accompanied the organization through many periods of growth and change, including Hartford Healthcare’s acquisition of Natchaug Hospital and their expansion to reach even more of Connecticut’s residents by opening nine satellite hospitals throughout the state. Under his watch, the Behavioral Health Network expanded to offer more services than ever before, including in-home psychiatric services and a treatment program for adolescent girls involved in court proceedings.

During his career, Steve’s work stretched all across eastern Connecticut, a very diverse population with many mental health needs. Steve demonstrated a remarkable sensitivity to this diversity, which as the Congressman for that region I admire greatly. In particular, Steve successfully spearheaded an effort to give Medicaid patients from Windham County opportunity to receive care for mental illness at Windham Hospital and Natchaug Hospital,

rather than New Haven or Hartford. This was a very competitive national process that Steve successfully navigated.

A testament to his achievement and vision, Steve was appointed by the Governor to the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council. He is a corporator of Lawrence & Memorial Hospital and serves on the East Lyme Board of Finance and received the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems’ 2010 Grassroots Leadership Award for his work in elevating the importance of grassroots advocacy within the association. He has advocated tirelessly for increased coverage and funding for quality mental health services on a federal, state and local level. Adding to his many awards and recognitions, Steve received the 2015 American Hospital Association Connecticut Grassroots Champion Award.

Although Steve will be retiring at the end of this year, the effect of his decades of devotion to the mental health horizon in Connecticut will be felt for years to come. I ask my colleagues to please join me in wishing Dr. Stephen Larcen a restful and enjoyable retirement.

DIRECT SELLING

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be a founding co-chair of the Direct Selling Caucus, which was established in January and announced at a Direct Selling Association (DSA) event with participants and constituents from around the country.

As a full time student, direct selling provided me with the flexibility necessary to pay for college while in school. Running my own business was an extremely rewarding experience and served as great preparation for my career in public service. It is a vibrant sector of the economy that embraces entrepreneurship and helps people achieve their American dream.

More than 18 million Americans located in every state, Congressional district and community choose to become involved in direct selling. It contributes more than \$34 billion to the U.S. economy annually. As economic uncertainty places more emphasis on needed flexibility that opportunities to work independently provide, direct selling will continue to grow and prosper.

Just as important to the continued success of direct selling are the safeguards that the industry, through the Direct Selling Association’s leadership, put into place. They promote high standards of business ethics and consumer protection.

On October 29, 2015, hundreds of direct sellers from across the country will come to Washington, DC to emphasize the importance of direct selling to the economy and remind policymakers of the opportunity it provides to pursue meaningful independent work. I hereby request that October 29, 2015 be recognized by this House as Direct Selling Day.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF BRIAN BALLENTINE, TROOPER GARDNER, AND TROOPER JOHNS

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Brian C. Ballentine of Liverpool, New York and Troopers Michael L. Gardner and David A. Johns of the New York State Police. On September 5, 2015, Trooper Gardner and Trooper Johns, with the help of private civilian Mr. Ballentine heroically saved a 4-year old child.

On September 5, Trooper Gardner and Trooper Johns responded to an amber alert issued by the Vermont State Police while traveling on the New York State Thruway. As Trooper Gardner and Trooper Johns spotted a vehicle that matched the description of the vehicle in the amber alert they received a radio call advising that a private citizen, Mr. Ballentine, had called 911 to report that the van was in fact the suspected vehicle. With this confirmation Trooper Gardner and Trooper Johns were able to stop the vehicle and safely rescue the 4-year old child.

Trooper Michael L. Gardner is a 12-year veteran of the New York State Police. He has been stationed in Troops D and B and has been assigned to the New York State Thruway in Troop T since October of 2012. Trooper Gardner is currently stationed at State Police Syracuse in Dewitt, New York.

Trooper David A. Johns is an 8-year veteran of the New York State Police. He has been stationed in Troops B and D and has been assigned to the New York State Thruway in Troop T since October of 2009. He is currently stationed at State Police Syracuse in Dewitt, New York.

Mr. Brian C. Ballentine of Liverpool, New York has lived in the Central New York community his entire life and I am proud to recognize his exemplary actions in our community.

I am honored to recognize Trooper Gardner, Trooper Johns, and Mr. Ballentine for their heroic actions on September 5, 2015. The 4-year old girl is now out of harm’s way thanks to these three brave men. Trooper Gardner’s and Trooper Johns’s efforts in this situation exemplify the finest traditions of the New York State Police and I wish them continued success in their careers.

HONORING APOSTLE RICHARD D. HENTON

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Apostle Richard D. Henton who made his heavenly transition on October 22, 2015. Apostle Henton was called into the ministry in 1948 and rose to become one of the most prolific speakers of our day.

Apostle Henton served in ministry for 66 years, 50 of those as pastor of the 5,000 member Monument of Faith Church located in my district. Apostle Henton also founded the