

and refugees as Natural Helpers in understanding the resources and opportunities available in our community. These Natural Helpers then help their fellow foreign-born brothers and sisters navigate the maze of available services and connect them to people, places and resources necessary to build successful lives. The organization has also helped make Indianapolis a leader among welcoming cities across the United States as part of the national Welcoming America Initiative's programs and outreach.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Immigrant Welcome Center for its efforts to strengthen and integrate our growing foreign-born community, helping make Indianapolis a more welcoming and vibrant international city.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 2, I was absent from the House due to illness. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on any legislative measures for the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 653, the previous question providing for consideration of the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 654, the rule providing for consideration of the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 655, the Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 656, the Upton of Michigan Amendment No. 1 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 657, the Tonko of New York Amendment No. 2 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 658, the Gene Green of Texas Amendment No. 14 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 659, the Beyer of Virginia Amendment No. 17 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 660, the Schakowsky of Illinois Amendment No. 19 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 661, the Tonko of New York Amendment No. 22 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 662, the Schakowsky of Illinois Amendment No. 19 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 663, the Castor of Florida Amendment No. 23 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 664, the Barton of Texas Amendment No. 25 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 665, agreeing to the Conference Report to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

CONGRATULATING TURKEY FOR HOSTING THE ANNUAL G20 LEADERS SUMMIT IN ANTALYA, NOVEMBER 15–16, 2015

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Republic of Turkey for hosting the successful annual G20 Leader's Summit in Antalya, November 15–16, 2015.

While Syria and the fight against terrorists was already on the agenda, the Paris terrorist attacks by ISIS ensured that these issues remained in the forefront. Ultimately, the G20 countries issued a strong statement condemning the heinous terrorist attacks, uniting to combat them, remain committed to fighting the financial tools used, and supporting a comprehensive approach to one of the international community's greatest challenges in this century.

The G20 was established on September 26, 1999 when the Finance Ministers of the G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States) came together after the Asian financial crisis. The inaugural meeting was held in Berlin in December 1999.

The G20 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union. The economies of the countries combined account for 85% of the global economic output, 80% of world trade, and 65% of the world's population.

When the group met for the first time in Washington, DC represented by world leaders in 2008, they discussed ways to respond collectively to the 2008–09 crisis to restore growth, strengthen the global financial system, and reform international financial institutions.

Turkey officially took over the presidency of the G20 from Australia in December 1, 2014 and China will preside over the organization in 2016.

The other three key objectives of the 2015 G20 Leader's Summit in Antalya were strengthening the global recovery, enhancing resilience, and buttressing sustainability.

Turkey's growing economy is significant because Turkey's companies are expanding and trading with not only traditional markets such as neighboring countries or the European Union, but Turkish firms are also increasingly looking to invest in the United States, including Indian country.

I am proud to have sponsored legislation which facilitated the investment from not only Turkey, but all WTO countries in native lands.

As a member of Congress who has long championed US-Turkish relations and eco-

nomics integration, I congratulate Turkey on hosting this important summit at a challenging time.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CHARLES W. MARSH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Charles W. Marsh, who celebrates his 100th birthday on December 6th in Hanson, Massachusetts.

Mr. Marsh embodies the quintessential American story. Born in Massachusetts in 1915 to a mother who came to the United States from Ireland with his older sister, Olive, Mr. Marsh lived in the town of Weymouth with his family until he joined the U.S. Army.

After serving overseas in Germany, he returned to the United States and continued to support his country through the critical work of the Quincy Shipyard. Following this time, Mr. Marsh remained in Quincy and began his long and dedicated career as an auto body worker.

A gifted marksman with rifle and bow, Mr. Marsh was an outdoorsman at heart. He was so renowned for his knowledge of New England's beaches and coastline that, during the blizzard of 1978, he was called upon by the U.S. Coast Guard to assist in search and rescue operations.

During his time working in Quincy, Mr. Marsh and his wife, Miriam, built a house on Gurnet Point in Plymouth, Massachusetts. For 16 years, they were the first year-round residents on this small historic peninsula, named by the Pilgrims in the 1600s for its resemblance to headlands in the English Channel where gurnett fish were plentiful. Deciding that a change of scenery was in order, the Marshes then moved north to the picturesque shores of Lake Winnepesaukee in Alton, New Hampshire.

Mr. Marsh will be celebrating his centennial birthday surrounded by four generations of loving family, which has grown to include three children, eight grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren and three great, great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Charles W. Marsh on his 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing him many more years of health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 I was inadvertently detained on roll call vote 656, the Manager's Amendment. I was on a very important phone call with my constituents. Had I been present to vote I would have voted 'aye.'

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said: "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to six extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Erin Wallace from Texas Tech University; Tyler Ford from North Carolina State University; Brandon Jester from Georgia Southern University; Benjamin Warheit from University of California at Santa Barbara; Talha Jilani from Sidwell Friends School; and Asad Moten from Harvard University and the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

PROMOTING HEALTHY CHILDREN

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Harmony Science Academy in Katy, Texas for winning the It's Time Texas (ITT) Growing Healthy Schools campaign.

The Growing Healthy Schools campaign helps organize and fundraise for projects to improve health and wellness in the school's community. For their project, Harmony Science Academy chose to construct a new soccer field to encourage everybody to get outside and get moving. Of the 17 participating schools, Harmony Science was selected to receive \$10,000 to complete their project. What an incredible accomplishment for the entire school community.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Harmony Science Academy for promoting healthy living. We're ready to get out on the field and play.

CONGRATULATING MISS ERICKA WHEELER ON HER SELECTION AS A RHODES SCHOLAR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary young scholar, Miss Ericka Wheeler. Ericka is currently a senior at Millsap College majoring in English and History with plans to become a physician after watching her grandfather suffer from Alzheimer's disease.

Ericka wrote a thesis tracking how police brutality and race have been treated in fiction since the 1930s. She attended Greenwood High School for two years, followed by her junior and senior year at the Mississippi School of Math and Science in Columbus.

Her journeys so far have taken her from Mississippi to Cambodia and Cuba. Her next stop will be England, as a Rhodes Scholar. She is the first African-American woman from Mississippi to claim the prestigious honor and has been chosen as one of 32 U.S. men and women who will enter Oxford University next fall for postgraduate study. Ericka, who plans to attend medical school later, said she will study medical anthropology.

Millsap's President Robert Pearigen said Wheeler's devotion to Mississippi's Delta region is part of what makes her special. "She encountered some of the greatest poverty and starkest racial divisions found in the developed world," Pearigen said in a statement. "She is bound to the place by a sense of duty but is motivated to care for it by a love for its people."

Ericka said she was inspired to become a physician after watching her grandfather suffer from Alzheimer's disease. Since his death, she's worked with other Alzheimer's patients to record their life stories, producing documents for their families.

Wheeler credited the impetus for her application to history Professor Robert McElvaine.

As a student of McElvaine, Wheeler traveled to Vietnam and Cambodia after her freshman year and to Cuba after her sophomore year. "I remember him saying the chances weren't very great at all, but it would be a good process to go through," Wheeler said. "They didn't want to get my hopes up."

I urge Miss Wheeler to continue to break barriers and strive for academic excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Miss Ericka Wheeler for her dedication to serving others and scholastic achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ISMAEL AHMED

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ismael Ahmed for his extraordinary career in service to our community. Ish, as he is known by friends, family and colleagues, has enriched the lives of so many in our region through his tireless, collaborative efforts for understanding and civil rights.

Born in 1947 in New York, Ish and his family moved to the Detroit area when he was six. After graduating from Dearborn's Fordson High School, he set off to explore the world, working as a deck hand on freighters. Eventually Ish returned to Dearborn, where he gained employment at the Ford Rouge plant and worked his way through college, first at Henry Ford Community College, then graduating from University of Michigan Dearborn. After his graduation, Ish became involved in his community, organizing workers and seeking justice in his community.

In 1971, along with a dedicated group of volunteers and activists, Ish co-founded ACCESS the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services in a storefront in Dearborn's south end, to help assist the Arab immigrant population as they adapted to life in the U.S. In 1983, he was appointed as Executive Director of ACCESS and worked diligently on its programming and growth. Today, ACCESS is the largest Arab American human services nonprofit in the country, serving nearly 900,000 people through more than 100 programs aimed at supporting economic, health, social, and educational needs. For this reason among others, Ish is recognized as a national Arab American and civil rights leader committed to ending hatred and bigotry and seeking justice for all Americans.

In 2007, Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed Ish as the director of the Michigan Department of Human Services, where he successfully led the state's second largest department for three years. As Department of Human Services' director, he served on the Michigan State Housing Development Authority board and the Early Childhood Investment Corporation executive committee. In 2011, Ish returned to the University of Michigan Dearborn and has served as the Senior Advisor to the Chancellor and Associate Provost for Metropolitan Impact. In this role, Ish has built bridges and made major positive impacts in our region.

Ish has also generously given his time and support to a wide array of Southeast Michigan