

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, THE AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, the University of Houston Cougars capped off their thrilling season with a 24–13 win against the Temple University Owls in the American Athletic Conference Championship Game. Houston won by 11 points and led from the very start of the game. With this win, the Cougars finished the regular season 12–1. They now face a matchup against the #9 Florida State University Seminoles in the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl.

What is most amazing about the Cougars successful season is the fact that it was engineered by a rookie head coach: Tom Herman. Herman is a former national championship winning offensive coordinator at Ohio State University and a previous recipient of the Broyles Award for the nation's top assistant coach. He came to the University of Houston as a first-time head coach this season. This type of success in a coach's first season is rare. Herman's Houston team was led by its do-it-all quarterback, Greg Ward, Jr., who finished the season with 2,590 passing yards, 16 touchdowns, and only 5 interceptions. The All-Conference quarterback also tacked on 1,041 rushing yards and 19 touchdown runs for good measure. The excitement of watching this team play brought me back to 1989, when Coach Jack Pardee's run-and-shoot offense led the Cougars to a 9-win season and quarterback Andre Ware took home the Heisman Trophy.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Herman and the Houston Cougars aren't finished just yet. After the Cougars New Year's Eve duel with perennial powerhouse Florida State, the team will refocus its sights on coming back strong again next year. With the Cougars locking in Coach Herman to a contract extension and returning many of its key contributors, this team will be a force next year and hopefully for years to come. I look forward to spending December 31st ringing in the New Year with friends, family, and another Cougars victory. Go Cougars!

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Woodbridge, Virginia.

On July 3, 1902, the late William Chin donated a parcel of land for what would later become the site of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Initially, the site was used for the Agnewville Mission Sunday School. Under the leadership of Sister Florence Chin and Reverend Bras Clark, with the support of Neabsco and Ebenezer Baptist Churches, members of the community established a Sunday school class for

the residents of Agnewville. It was not until years later when the members of the Agnewville Mission Sunday School founded Mount Olive Baptist Church. The cornerstone for the church was laid on October 15, 1915. Together, Brother George W. Ray, Brother William Chin, Brother George Thomas, and other men from the congregation built the original church edifice on Telegraph Road.

Since the founding of Mount Olive Baptist Church, six pastors have graced the pulpit leading the congregation in worship, praise, and discipleship. It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following names of each of the governing pastors of Mount Olive Baptist Church since the church's founding in 1915:

Reverend William Davis, Reverend William Tyler, Reverend George W. Pratt, Reverend Edward W. Burrell, Reverend Frederick L. Ray. Most recently, Reverend Clyde W. Ellis, Jr. was called to the pulpit on March 3, 2011, to lead the congregation.

Reverend Ellis, the spiritual son of Reverend Ray, became the sixth pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Under Reverend Ellis' leadership, Mount Olive has both literally and figuratively flourished beyond the walls of the sanctuary on Telegraph Road. With more than 400 members, Mount Olive's weekly worship is temporarily being held at Freedom High School on Neabsco Mills Road until the construction of the new edifice is complete.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Pastor Ellis has nurtured a thriving congregation that will no doubt continue to grow and fulfill Mount Olive's mission of worship and praise. I would like to wish Pastor Ellis and his congregation the very best as they celebrate their heritage and plan for a successful future.

HONORING CORPORAL TIBOR RUBIN

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, December 5, 2015, the city of Garden Grove lost a genuine American hero when, Tibor "Teddy" Rubin, a Holocaust survivor and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, passed away due to natural causes. He was 86 years old.

Corporal Rubin began his extraordinary life on June 18, 1929, in Pastzo, Hungary. His father served in the Hungarian Army and was a veteran of the First World War. When Corporal Rubin was only 14 years old he was sent to the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. He survived the 14 months of captivity until his prison camp was liberated by American forces in May 1945. Tragically, his father, stepmother, and younger sister would perish.

Corporal Rubin, immensely thankful for his liberation by American forces, wished to join the U.S. Army in order to repay the country that he felt he was so indebted to. After failing twice to enlist due to poor English, he was finally able to join in 1948 as a rifleman with I Company, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Corporal Rubin's courage is made evident by his Medal of Honor citation. Corporal Rubin

fought bravely and did everything to protect his brothers in arms. He distinguished himself on October 30, 1950, during a nighttime assault on his unit's position by an overwhelming Chinese force. Corporal Rubin manned a .30 caliber machine gun and fended off the assault until his ammunition was exhausted. Because of his valiant and selfless actions the Chinese assault was slowed and his unit was able to successfully escape the overwhelming enemy force. Corporal Rubin would be severely wounded and taken as a prisoner of war. He chose to remain a prisoner rather than taking a Chinese offer to be sent back to his native Hungary. Corporal Rubin risked torture and execution on multiple occasions in order to retrieve food and aid for his fellow imprisoned Soldiers. His horrific experience as a Holocaust survivor gave him the skills necessary to remain hopeful and keep himself and his comrades alive in a terrible situation.

Unfortunately, because of an anti-Semitic superior, Corporal Rubin's courageous military service would go unrecognized for another 55 years. He would finally be awarded the Medal of Honor on September 23, 2005, for his heroic actions in the Korean peninsula.

Corporal Rubin is survived by his wife, Yvonne, and his two children Frank and Rosalyn Rubin. He was a proud American and the kind of model citizen we should all strive to be. Corporal Rubin, despite everything he went through in life, preserved his optimism and his terrific sense of humor. His extraordinary immigrant story is an inspiration to us all. His passing is a great loss for our country, but his memory will forever live on.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REQUIRE THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TO INSTALL THE D.C. SEAL IN THE MAIN READING ROOM OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDING

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to require the Library of Congress to install the District of Columbia seal in the Main Reading Room of the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress. The Library is one of the few buildings in the District that remains open to the public on most holidays. It provides not only D.C. residents but visitors and researchers from across the nation with access to incomparable resources. The bill requires the Library to depict the District's seal on the stained-glass windows in the Main Reading Room, where the seals of all the states and territories that existed when the building was constructed, except for the District, are depicted. D.C.'s seal was readily available at that time and should have been included. The seals of Hawaii and Alaska are not included in the display because they were not states or territories when the building was constructed. The fact that these two states were not part of the Union at the time of the creation of the stained-glass windows argues for the inclusion of the District, which, after all, was in fact the nation's capital at the time. We are asking that omission of D.C. be corrected immediately. This omission was brought to my

attention by a District resident, Luis Landau, a former docent at the Library.

The residents of the District have always had all the obligations of American citizenship, including paying federal taxes and serving in all the nation's wars, including the War of 1812, during which the Capitol building, which then housed the Library of Congress, was burned, prompting construction of the current Library of Congress building with the state and territory seals. It is, therefore, without question that the District and its residents should receive equal treatment among the stained-glass windows that portray the history of the United States. D.C. residents deserve to have their history and American citizenship recognized.

There is existing evidence that the seal of the District should have been depicted. The Members of Congress room in the Jefferson Building, which is not open to the public, has a painted depiction of the D.C. seal, along with state seals, on its ceiling. This precedent reinforces our request to be represented among the stained-glass windows in the Main Reading Room, which is open to the public. There is no reason why the D.C. seal cannot be added with the planned restoration of the stained-glass. The right time to add the seal of the District would be during the planned restoration.

Congress already includes the District of Columbia, or has corrected the omission of the District, when honoring the states. For example, the District of Columbia War Memorial honors District residents who served in World War I, the World War II Memorial includes a column representing the District, the flag of the District is displayed among the flags of the fifty states in the tunnel connecting the House office buildings to the Capitol, and D.C.'s Frederick Douglass statue now sits in the Capitol alongside statues from the 50 states. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 requires the armed services to display the District flag whenever the flags of the states are displayed. Legislation was also enacted to give D.C. a coin after it was omitted from legislation creating coins for the 50 states. We also successfully worked with the U.S. Postal Service to create a D.C. stamp, like the stamps for the 50 states, and worked with the National Park Service to add the D.C. flag alongside the state flags across from Union Station. It is long overdue to display the D.C. seal, along with the seals of the states, in the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress.

I urge support of this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, 2015, I was unable to vote on roll call votes 681, 682, and 683. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on consideration of the resolution, "yea" on ordering the previous questions, and "yea" on agreeing to the resolution.

TRIBUTE TO EDWIN AND BARBARA BLANK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Edwin and Barbara Blank of Shenandoah, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1965.

Edwin and Barbara's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Blanks that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

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

HONORING VALARIE McCALL ON THE OCCASION OF HER APPOINTMENT TO THE CHAIR OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION (APTA)

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Valarie McCall on her appointment to the Chair of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). APTA strengthens and improves our public transportation to ensure that all Americans have access to that option in their communities across our nation. Valarie is a great model for all aspiring public servants across the country, and is deserving of our recognition and gratitude for this achievement.

Valarie began her distinguished public service career as the Director of Cleveland's Empowerment Zone, where she managed a \$200 million budget and worked to advance job planning and placement initiatives, as well as providing financing to businesses. She was also the youngest city clerk for Cleveland's City Council and served on a countless number of boards benefitting her community. Today, Valarie serves as the Chief of Government and International Affairs for the City of Cleveland. As the first person to hold this position, she acts as a liaison between the Mayor's Office and State and Local Governments, Federal Agencies, and international organizations.

With her in-depth public service experience, I have no doubt that APTA will benefit tremendously from Valarie's Chairmanship. Her national appointment makes Ohio proud.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing her distinguished record of public service.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1076 "DENYING FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES TO DANGEROUS TERRORISTS ACT OF 2015"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the past few months have been marked by senseless violence across the globe and in our own country from Tuscon, Aurora, Sandy Hook, Charleston, Chattanooga, Roseburg, and now most recently in San Bernardino, California.

It is past time that we come together united by our common humanity and with this simple message: the violence must stop! The senseless mass shootings in Paris and San Bernardino remind us of the imperative of ending gun violence in our country. And there are actions that can be taken to reduce gun violence beginning with the enactment of the bipartisan "Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Public Act of 2015" (H.R. 1076).

This bipartisan legislation, which I am proud to co-sponsor, would close the dangerous loophole that allows terrorist suspects to legally buy deadly weapons. H.R. 1076 would bar the sale or distribution of firearms to any individual whom the Attorney General has determined to be engaged in terrorist activities. It also would grant the Attorney General the authority to deny a firearms license to individuals for whom there is a reasonable belief that the individual may use a firearm or explosive in connection with terrorist activity.

Mr. Speaker, according to a report by the Government Accountability Office, since 2004 more than 2,000 suspects on the FBI's Terrorist Watchlist have successfully purchased weapons in the United States. It is simply intolerable that more than 90 percent of all suspected terrorists who attempted to purchase guns in the last 11 years walked away with the weapon they wanted, with just 190 rejected despite their ominous histories.

This legislation was originally crafted in 2007 and endorsed by President Bush's Justice Department, has bipartisan support in the House, and is supported by prominent Republicans and counter-terrorism & law enforcement experts.

H.R. 1076 greatly reduces the likelihood that terrorists can obtain some of the most lethal weapons in America. Right now a terrorist can buy a firearm in the parking lot of a gun show, over the internet, or through a newspaper ad without needing a background check.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot be against criminals, terrorists and the dangerously mentally ill getting guns and be against H.R. 1076. I thank Congressmen PETER KING (R-NY) and MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA) for introducing this bipartisan legislation (H.R. 1076).

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1076 will save lives and strengthen the rights of law-abiding gun owners. It deserves a vote in the House.