

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position for a vote cast on December 11, 2015 on passage of H.R. 2250 and the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 664, Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

On Roll Call Vote Number 693, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "No."

While I believe H.R. 644 makes some meaningful steps toward combatting unfair trade practices, negative provisions in the bill related to climate protection, and a lack of strong currency provisions make me unable to support the legislation. The conference report strips language that was included in the Senate-passed version of H.R. 644 that would have allowed for the application of countervailing duties to address currency manipulation.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE BUCCI

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, Steve Bucci has served his country in over 40 years in war and peace. From his first days at West Point, Steve has dedicated his life to protecting this nation. After a distinguished military career, he served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and most recently as the head of national security research at the Heritage Foundation. Steve launched the Foundation's Index of U.S. Military Strength, the most comprehensive and authoritative annual assessment of the state of the armed forces. He is a recognized world expert on security matters from cyber security to terrorism. Most importantly, he is one of Washington's premier mentors of our future—our young professionals. We all owe him a thank you for a lifetime of putting his nation first.

HONORING THE WORK OF TED A. BEATTIE

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Ted A. Beattie and wish him the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life, retirement.

Ted Beattie has served for more than two decades as President and CEO of Shedd Aquarium, one of the largest aquariums in the world. It has also ranked as the top paid cultural attraction in Chicago for seventeen of the twenty-one years. This was due in large part to Mr. Beattie's leadership.

He led two noteworthy and record breaking fundraising efforts, raising almost \$100 million in funds for Shedd Aquarium, demonstrating his ability to inspire support for Shedd and its

diverse, global animal collection. His leadership for the aquarium, housed in an architecturally beautiful setting, also helped promote 21st-century advances in animal care, environments and interpretation.

For 35 years he devoted his life to animal conservation and education. He holds degrees from Ohio State University (OSU). After completing his education, he went on to serve on the OSU Provost's External Advisory Board on Teaching, the Advisory Board for the School of Journalism and Communication and the OSU Major Gifts Committee.

I know that I speak for many when I say that Ted Beattie will be deeply missed. His devotion and professionalism, his focus on economic security for Shedd Aquarium, and his entire career are truly one of a kind. Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. Ted Beattie for his extraordinary leadership and commitment to animal conservation.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT AT PICATINNY ARSENAL

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Picatinny Arsenal on opening a renovated, historic firehouse on the military installation.

Picatinny Arsenal, located Morris County, New Jersey, has been a leader in developing cutting edge guns and ammunition for all branches of the United States Armed Forces since its founding as a powder depot in 1880. Home to over 6,000 employees including civilians, military personnel, and contractors, Picatinny Arsenal's portfolio comprises ninety percent of the Army's lethality and all conventional ammunition for joint warfighters.

Building 3316, home of a new fire department, was originally built in 1903 as a Dutch-colonial structure. Before serving as a fire house it was a horse stable, and later a garage for the Lake Denmark Naval Ammunition Depot. By 1945 the building was converted to a dormitory and fire department for the Navy. In 1962 Army firefighters moved into the building, and it remained a fire headquarters until 2009. In 2010 the building was repurposed to serve as an outdoor recreation facility. Now after renovations, the fire department is moving back in, and creating a third fire department for the installation.

The building was selected as a location for a new fire department after the Fire Chief's assessment showed a need for a new department to better serve all three fire zones. The creation of this department has resulted in the hiring of 16 new firefighters. Many surrounding towns rely on the fire services provided by the arsenal for mutual aid. Due to the dangerous mission of Picatinny Arsenal, all firefighters are trained in a variety of situations including medical response, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear situations. The opening of this building will help the Picatinny Fire Department to better serve its community.

First responders are the backbone of our communities, and Picatinny is lucky to have such a well-trained fire department at its dis-

posal. While we all hope the fire department does not see too much action, at least we all know they are ready for every crisis.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking and recognizing the Picatinny Arsenal Fire Department and its firefighters for their dedicated service, and wish them continued success with their new department.

CONGRATULATING BLACKSBURG MAYOR RON RORDAM

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Blacksburg Mayor Ron Rordam, who was recently approved by the Virginia Municipal League to serve as its president for one year.

"My theme as president is 'Live Local,'" Rordam said in a statement released by the Virginia Municipal League. "This means everyone should support our local businesses, schools, and neighborhoods. It's how we support our citizens. And, within that broad concept, I will focus on ways we can influence education affecting our youngest citizens to give them every advantage to succeed in the future. To have strong communities, we must have a work force that is flexible and nimble. Early childhood education is one of the most important keys to ensuring that our localities can compete for those future jobs."

I congratulate Mayor Rordam on this accomplishment, and look forward to continuing to work with him and other local officials in an effort to further the growth of our area's economy and improve its quality of life.

HONORING TED BEATTIE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ted Beattie, the CEO of Shedd Aquarium for his decades of service and to wish him well as he retires. Ted has had an incredible impact on the Shedd Aquarium, the Chicago community, and marine wildlife around the world. My family and I have spent many enjoyable hours at Shedd Aquarium.

Ted joined Shedd Aquarium in 1994. Under his leadership Shedd has added 6 permanent exhibits. His work brought creatures of the Caribbean Reef to Chicago, including sharks, stingrays, and of course, coral. He also brought us the Stingray Touch exhibit, which allows children of all ages to come in direct contact with these incredible creatures—with no risk of harm, of course.

Ted was instrumental in the re-imagining of the Oceanarium. There, Shedd Aquarium guests can experience the coast of the Pacific Northwest and the dolphins, sea lions, and otters that make it their home.

Ted's work extends beyond Chicago and the shores of Lake Michigan. Under his leadership, Shedd established the Daniel P. Haerther Center for Conservation and Research. The center includes a portfolio of 18

global field research programs that help us understand and protect threatened marine life.

I thank Ted for all he has done to help us bring the amazing wildlife of Earth's oceans to Chicago. He has helped introduce millions of Chicagoans and visitors to the incredible creatures living beneath the ocean's waves. I am especially grateful for all he has done to protect marine animals around the world.

FIRST RESPONDER IDENTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY NEEDS IN DISASTER SITUATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in support of H.R. 2795, the First Responders Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations (FRIENDS) Act, which was introduced by my friend Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas. That her bill is expected to be approved with overwhelming bipartisan support, including from Chairman MIKE MCCUAUL of the Homeland Security Committee, ought to surprise no one, because Rep. JACKSON LEE has worked tirelessly on behalf of America's first responders to move this legislation through the House. Her legislation would launch a study of best practices and state of preparedness of state and local response agencies with the aim of improving safety and access to lifesaving resources.

This bill recognizes the important role first responders play in communities throughout our country. We must ensure that these men and women have the resources they need to perform their jobs safely and effectively. We've witnessed the courage of first responders, from the September 11 attacks to the Boston Marathon bombings and at last week's deadly shooting in San Bernardino, California. We see it every day all over our nation.

I've been incredibly proud to support first responders as Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, and I want to thank Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE for her work to bring the FRIENDS Act to the Floor. I also want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support for this legislation in committee and in the full House.

TRIBUTE TO R. KELLY BRYANT, JR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise and ask my Colleagues to join me in paying tribute to R. Kelly Bryant, Jr., a friend and constituent who passed away on December 6, 2015 at the blessed age of 98 years old. It is worth noting that his date of death was the 150th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 13th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution which legally abolished slavery in America.

Mr. Speaker, Kelly Bryant enjoyed a full life. He graduated from Hampton University, with a concentration in accounting. Following gradu-

ation, Mr. Bryant worked for historic North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company from the 1940's until his retirement in 1981. His true passion, however, was documenting the history of African American citizens in the City and County of Durham.

Mr. Bryant's contribution to the Durham Community is boundless. He worked tirelessly in many endeavors, including obtaining a historic marker at the site of the Royal Ice Cream sit-in in 1957, saving Geer Cemetery (one of Durham's oldest African American burial grounds) and the completion of a pedestrian bridge over the Durham Freeway, in order to connect black neighborhoods that were separated by the highway. The bridge was later named in honor of R. Kelly Bryant, Jr.

Mr. Bryant believed strongly in preserving Durham's African American history. He collected over 2,500 funeral programs, obituaries, and birth announcements. His archive is so valuable that the Durham County Library currently hosts the R. Kelly Bryant, Jr. Collection as an online exhibit.

In addition to his work as the local historian, Kelly Bryant was a leader in his community, serving the Durham Business and Professional Chain for 49 years; charter member of the Durham Human Relations Commission, served 37 years as a scoutmaster, and was a member of the Durham chapter of the NAACP. One of his greatest passions was his membership and active participation with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Jurisdictions, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kelly Bryant also devoted his life to historic White Rock Baptist Church (founded in 1866) in Durham, North Carolina. He was very spiritual in all of his endeavors and embraced the teachings of our Heavenly Father. He served as a Church Trustee for 55 long years.

Mr. Bryant's work did not go unnoticed, he was recognized with many awards and honors, including certificate of acknowledgment and congratulations for his many activities from the North Carolina House of Representatives, NAACP "Freedom Fund Dinner Award", Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America for "Distinguished Service to Boyhood", the first African American recipient of the Bartlett Durham Award, and an appointment as the honorary grand master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Jurisdiction.

Finally R. Kelly Bryant, Jr. is survived by his son, R. Kelly Bryant, III; his daughter, Sandra Artelia Bryant-Yubwannie, of Durham, North Carolina; a sister Maggie Bryant (age 100) and five wonderful grandchildren, Keith Bryant, Korey Bryant, Mykel Bryant Moore, Yohanna Yubwannie and Raevin Bryant. Mr. Bryant was preceded in death by his spouse of 69 years, Artelia Melba Tennessee Bryant, who was his co-worker at North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and was the matriarch of their family. Mrs. Artelia Bryant was the descendant of the legendary Darden family of Wilson, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to pay tribute to such an outstanding American legend. His legacy will live on for generations.

EXTENDING BIRTHDAY WISHES TO HIS MAJESTY: KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Thailand in extending my warmest wishes to King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of his 88th birthday on December 5, 2015. During his nearly 70 year reign so far, King Bhumibol Adulyadej has remained a steadfast leader through his commitment to democracy, economic development, and Thai prosperity.

I am grateful for his continued commitment to a strong and long-lasting relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand. Having had the distinct honor of meeting with King Bhumibol, I have admired his efforts to bring peace, prosperity, and stability for the Thai people.

It is my pleasure to join our Thai friends in recognizing this special day and wishing King Bhumibol Adulyadej a long life of good health and happy 88th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Thursday, December 10, 2015 as I was attending a funeral in my district. On Roll Call Vote Number 687, on the bill H.R. 3578, the DHS Science and Technology Reform and Improvement Act of 2015, had I been present I would have voted yea.

On Roll Call Number 689, on H.R. 2795, the FRIENDS Act, had I been present I would have voted yea.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TERRY BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR OF IOWA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Governor Terry Branstad for his service to Iowa. On December 14, he will break a 200 year-old record, set by Revolutionary War General and New York Governor, George Clinton, becoming the longest-serving Governor in American history.

Born and raised in a small town in rural Iowa, Governor Branstad's roots in our state run deep. He has spent his life immersed in Iowa politics and elected office. His storied political career stretches back five decades. It began in 1973, when he was first elected to the Iowa House of Representatives. Governor Branstad served in the Iowa House until 1979, and then a single term as Lieutenant Governor before winning the gubernatorial election in 1982, at the age of 36.

Governor Branstad served four consecutive terms and guided Iowa through one of the