

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #4, I would have voted Nay.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #5, I would have voted Nay.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #6 (On Agreeing to the Resolution), I would have voted Nay. I have strong objections to the Rules adopted by the House for the 114th Congress.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #7, I would have voted Nay.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #8, I would have voted Nay.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #9, I would have voted Nay.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #10, I would have voted Nay.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF KENNETH WESLEY JONES AND SUSAN DIANE YOUNG JONES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion—the 40th wedding anniversary of Kenneth Wesley Jones and Susan Diane Young Jones.

Ken was born on September 6th and Susan was born on November 15th both in 1955. The two met while attending Oxford High School. Mr. Jones was 18 years old and Mrs. Jones was 17 years old when they started dating. After eight months together, they got engaged on April 4th, 1974 and were married eight months later at Coldwater United Methodist Church at three o'clock in the afternoon on December 7th, 1974.

Ken was an athlete in high school and played basketball, baseball, football and was a member of the wrestling team. He even earned a scholarship to play baseball. Susan was involved in fashion and design and was Miss Oxford. She also earned a scholarship for fashion design. Susan owned a clothing boutique and made clothes. Instead of going to college, the couple decided to stay in Oxford, Alabama, so they could begin their love story.

The Jones are blessed with two children and four grandchildren: John Wesley (Wes) Jones who was born on April 4th, 1980 and Kasi Louise Jones who was born on March 16th, 1982. Wes is married to Amanda Mullinax Jones and they have twin daughters Kayleigh and Kensley. Kasi is married to Samuel Duke Brown and they also have twins, Talon and Sophia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this lovely couple on 40 years together.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW R. AMMERMAN

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute of a true American hero,

Staff Sergeant Matthew R. Ammerman. Tragically, on December 3, 2014, Sergeant Ammerman was killed when his unit came under fire in the Zabul province of Afghanistan. I, along with people from across the United States, stand in eternal gratitude for the dedication, service and sacrifice of this young man.

A native of Noblesville, Indiana, Ammerman joined the Army in July 2004. He was deployed in 2006 to Iraq, where he served for 14 months. In 2009, he served as an assistant gunner, fire team leader and squad leader in Afghanistan. In 2012, he volunteered for the Special Forces and graduated in 2013 as a Special Forces Communications Sergeant. Sergeant Ammerman again answered the call of duty in late 2014 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His many awards are a testament to the exceptional character of this incredibly talented and immensely brave young man. His accomplishments include the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon and the NATO Medal. He also received the Special Forces Tab, the Ranger Tab, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the Driver and Mechanic Badge.

Staff Sergeant Matthew Ammerman will forever be remembered as a man willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice to defend the freedoms that we so cherish. Staff Sergeant Ammerman is survived by his wife, Emily Ammerman, his aunt and uncle, Dave and Dorothy Francis, and brothers, Kevin and Anthony Ammerman. I join all Americans in praying for their comfort in this time of grief and the safe return of all those continuing to protect the United States abroad.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON 35—
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH 34

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they were down 31–6 as the fourth quarter began. A lead that they surely couldn't overcome.

But, they never wavered.

Down 34–13 with six minutes left.

But still, they never wavered.

The University of Houston football team, my alma-mater, displayed a calm confidence during their gutsy, 25-point comeback on the afternoon of January 2nd in the Armed Forces Bowl.

To pull off the unthinkable, the Cougars had to recover back-to-back onside kicks—a feat that is almost never accomplished—and score multiple touchdowns in the closing minutes.

They capped off the comeback with a miraculous two-point conversion that gave them a one point victory.

Head Coach David Gibbs instilled in his team that day a will to fight to the end, no matter the odds, score, or deficit.

The Cougars pulled off the largest comeback of the college football season that day, and held true to the words of the late great Vince Lombardi, who said “Winners never quit and quitters never win.”

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING LUCIAN HENRY FRYE

HON. LUKE MESSE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Mr. MESSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lucian Henry Frye. Lucian was not only a well-respected resident of Indiana's 6th Congressional District, but the father of my good friend, State Representative Randy Frye.

Lucian was a devoted husband to his wife of 49 years, Marjorie. Together, they were the proud parents of six children, grandparents of 17 grandchildren, and great-grandparents of 17 great-grandchildren. Lucian was a devoted family man as well as a respected member of his community. As a retired over-the-road truck driver, he was a hard-worker who spent his free time at both New Point Christian Church and Metamora Lodge #156 F&AM.

It was once said that, “What was silent in the father speaks in the son, and often I found in the son the unveiled secret of the father.” I can personally attest to the admiration and respect that Randy had for his father, and it is abundantly clear in Randy that Lucian taught him the value of hard work and the importance of being a man of integrity, who is committed to faith and family. Randy serves as a pillar of leadership in our community and has made a profound impact on my life personally.

I am more than thankful for the friendship that I share with Lucian's son Randy as well as his wife Debbie. It is a privilege to honor the life of Lucian Henry Frye today.

TAR SANDS TAX LOOPHOLE ELIMINATION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, along with twelve of my colleagues, I am reintroducing the Tar Sands Tax Loophole Elimination Act. This bill will ensure that oil companies can no longer sidestep paying their fair share into the dedicated trust fund created so that, in the event of an oil spill, there are resources immediately available for cleanup. If enacted, the legislation would generate approximately \$665 million over ten years.

The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, authorized in 1990, ensures we have funding available to pay for the immediate costs of cleaning up oil spills. It is funded by an eight cent per barrel excise tax on crude oil and petroleum products. In 2011, however, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued a misguided decision stating that oil derived from tar sands, the same type that will flow through the Keystone XL Pipeline if approved, is not considered crude oil and is therefore currently exempt from the tax that pays into the Fund.

In 2013, we imported approximately 925 million barrels of crude oil from Canada, with over 400 million of these barrels coming from tar sands and not subject to the tax that goes into the cleanup fund. This is a significant liability, without any investment being made for if and when there is a tar sands spill.

Oil that comes from tar sands is a thick, sticky form of crude oil that can be more difficult and costly to clean up than other types of crude. In 2010, for example, a pipeline owned and operated by a Canadian company, Enbridge, spilled more than 850,000 gallons of tar sands oil into a waterway that flows into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. That has been one of the largest and costliest pipeline spills in American history, with the price tag now at \$1.2 billion dollars.

I do not support the development of tar sands—doing so is environmentally destructive and carbon-intensive. Moreover, we should not keep in place a loophole that lets big oil companies off the hook for cleaning up their tar sands spills.

The Tar Sands Tax Loophole Elimination Act would add oil derived from tar sands and oil shale to the definition of crude oil, closing the current loophole and ensuring that oil companies pay into the fund.

Oil companies already get billions of dollars in taxpayer-based subsidies, and this bill will ensure they will not be given an additional free ride on tar sands and any future oil shale development.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FLORIDA'S LGBT COMMUNITY

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Florida's LGBT community in their fight against discrimination. In particular, I would like to commend their commitment to bringing marriage equality to the great State of Florida.

Following decades of advocacy and exhaustive legal battles, marriage equality finally became legal this week in Florida. At 12:01 a.m. on January 6, 2015, the Osceola County Courthouse opened its doors. I stood with Armando Ramirez, the county's Clerk of Courts, as he conducted the first same-sex marriage ceremony in Central Florida, which united County Commissioner Cheryl Grieb and her partner of 22 years, Patti Daugherty. At long last, the promise of marriage equality was fulfilled.

More than twenty couples participated in marriage ceremonies, before the courthouse doors closed at 2 a.m. These couples had at last achieved one of the greatest promises of this nation, the promise of equal protection under the law.

What this demonstrated is that the American Dream is not really about a house, a job, or a 401(k) plan. The American Dream is also about love, opportunity, and equality—the promise that each and every one of us has the right to love whomever we please, and the opportunity to have our love recognized equally by the law.

Thanks to the unrelenting efforts of Floridians fighting for marriage equality, same-sex

couples in Florida finally had that opportunity. The marriages that began on January 6th at 12:01 a.m. could not have happened without the perseverance of these individuals.

To those Floridians who fought for this day, I say "congratulations" and "thank you." Thank you for helping our State and our communities come one step closer to true equality. I am proud to have worked with you to achieve this goal. There is more work to be done, and I look forward to serving as your ally in the years ahead.

The Osceola County Commission and the Osceola County Clerk of Courts Armando Ramirez also deserve thanks for their efforts. When county clerks in Florida were advised that they would face arrest if they issued same-sex licenses, Commissioner Grieb and I called on State Attorney Jeff Ashton to promise that he would not prosecute clerks for doing so. Thankfully, he agreed. Following my letter urging the County Commission to ensure that same-sex marriages could take place in Osceola County immediately, the Commission and the Clerk worked together to issue licenses and conduct ceremonies as soon as legally possible.

I also want to acknowledge the Floridians who fought for marriage equality but never lived to see this dream become reality. For those who called for marriage equality when others said it was impossible; those who had the audacity to believe in equality when many could not; and those who paved the way for this historical achievement but never experienced it for themselves. This is their legacy. May their memory serve as an inspiration for the next generation of Floridians striving to achieve a more equal and just world.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to celebrate this enormous accomplishment and honor the Floridians who made this happen.

COMMENDATION OF DR. TIMOTHY SNYDER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise as co-chair of the Congressional Polish Caucus to announce that this week in Washington, at an historic ceremony to be held today at the Polish Embassy, Thursday, January 8, prominent American scholar and historian Dr. Timothy Snyder will be awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland by Minister of Foreign Affairs Grzegorz Schetyna on behalf of the nation of Poland.

We in Ohio are celebrating this occasion because we know the global significance of Dr. Snyder's work. His scholarship allows liberty's flag to fly higher. An Ohioan by birth, Dr. Snyder—now Bird White Housum Professor of History at Yale University—has been documenting the complicated, epic history of what he terms "The Bloodlands," the 20th century history of Europe between Hitler and Stalin. With the opening of the Soviet archives after the fall of the Soviet Union, Dr. Snyder has led a team of incredible scholars from many nations in piecing together the complex, and often under reported history, of what happened to people in Europe before, during, and after World Wars I and II.

He places the historical and political complexities that led to World War II in a broad, contextual framework unparalleled by other efforts. He factually documents the suffering that innocent people from various nations endured in places that still today have seriously inadequate archival memory of what occurred. Dr. Snyder, in my opinion, is one of the most indefatigable and profound scholars of our time.

As author of the bill that created the World War II Memorial here in our nation's Capital—which has now been visited by over 42 million people—it is clear to me the American people through their own families understand the magnitude of what was at stake. But as Dr. Snyder rightly points out, "America's soldiers never reached far enough east. He states, "American and British forces liberated German concentration camps such as Belsen and Dachau. But the western Allies liberated none of the important death facilities . . . the Red Army liberated Auschwitz, and it liberated the sites of Treblinka, Sobibor, Belzen, Chelmno, Majdanek. American and British forces reached none of the bloodlands and saw none of the major killing sites." Even America was shielded from the bloody truth of tyranny's grip on the continent of Europe.

The people of Poland even more fully comprehend the betrayal and suffering that their Slavic ancestors endured in Poland and Sovietized Ukraine. The Jewish people of the world know too what happened there and why the struggle for Israel's existence continues to this day. The people of Belarus, Hungary, Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania and adjoining nations know too. With the systematic ethnic slaughter that occurred, Dr. Snyder's masterful work pays homage to all victims, in the most complete and objective presentation I have read. Yet, still more scholarly work needs to occur.

This past August, the people of Poland commemorated the memory of the Warsaw Uprising. Those brave Poles honored at that national remembrance lived and died by the motto "Freedom Means Never Surrender." Poland never surrendered. Her capital was levelled. And the martyrdom of Poles—fully twenty percent of the people of that nation—humbles us mortals who stand in awe of their valor against insurmountable odds. What distinguishes Snyder's work is its comprehensiveness and depth in paying tribute to the fallen across that entire war torn region.

We will fly a flag over the U.S. Capitol honoring the work of American scholar Dr. Timothy Snyder and his legion of dedicated scholars. I have come to respect Dr. Snyder's work because his scholarship helped me reach my own epiphany and conclusion about why it has taken the world so long to appreciate what the people of Poland suffered during that gruesome period. Nearly all of the educated and academic leaders of Poland were annihilated at Katyn in 1940, when over 23,000 were rounded up and summarily shot by Stalin's NKVD, the Soviet secret police. There simply was almost no Polish memory left able to record and relate. It has taken new generations of those able to probe the carnage to enlighten the pages of memory.

So, please let me express sincere gratitude to the government of Poland for bestowing this great honor on a native son of Ohio who has gone on to serve the cause of historical truth. As a history major myself from my own alma mater—the great University of Wisconsin—