

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW CHOW, MINKU LEE, AND HELEN WU MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Matthew Chow, Minku Lee and Helen Wu on being selected to represent the United States in New York City and seven cities in China this summer as part of the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America.

Each year, Carnegie Hall selects the most talented young musicians from across our country to assemble an orchestra which shares music with the world. In 2015, the National Youth Orchestra will consist of 114 members and three of them are from the 18th Congressional District of California which I'm privileged to represent.

Matthew Chow, a violist from Los Altos, Minku Lee, a cellist from Palo Alto, and Helen Wu, a violinist from Saratoga, are three of the nation's finest young musicians selected to play for the National Youth Orchestra. That each of them were selected is a testament to their superb skills. That a Congressional District would produce more than one orchestra member is extraordinary. After training and performing in New York City, Matthew, Minku and Helen will represent the United States this summer, performing in seven cities in China. Each musician is a source of great pride to their families, their schools, their teachers, our entire community and their Congresswoman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Matthew Chow, Minku Lee and Helen Wu on their extraordinary accomplishments. I congratulate and wish each of them every success as they perform with the National Youth Orchestra in New York City and China, proudly representing the best of the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LORTON COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER AND IN HONOR OF FOUNDER'S AWARD RECIPIENT MOLLY LYNCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the Lorton Community Action Center and join the Center in honoring this year's Founder's Award recipient, Molly Lynch.

Since 1975, Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) has served the residents of Fort Belvoir, Lorton, Newington, and other portions of southeast Fairfax County by providing access to basic needs and the opportunity to empower themselves through self-sufficiency programs.

LCAC began as an all-volunteer organization, working out of a local school and a

church basement. The organization was founded in response to the needs of low-income families in southeast Fairfax, which was an under-served area. For LCAC's first 15 years, the agency served as a resource for information and collected and distributed food for individuals and families. Today, LCAC has a professional staff of five full-time and five part-time employees, who serve a diverse population of ages and ethnic backgrounds.

LCAC aims to break the cycle of poverty and prevent homelessness through a variety of services and programs. LCAC's food program distributes between eight and ten tons of food every month. Clients who need clothing can shop at Lorton's Attic, LCAC's thrift store. Small grants assist families with utilities, rent, mortgage, medical services, and other essential needs.

When LCAC cannot help directly, it works closely with other agencies and organizations in our area that may be able to provide assistance. Perhaps most important, LCAC helps people achieve self-sufficiency through case management, ESL classes, nutrition classes, pro bono legal services, and tutoring. All this would not have been possible without the dedication of time, talent, and resources by the thousands of community volunteers and supporters.

Molly Lynch served on LCAC's Board from 1981-82 and again from 1991-2003. Mrs. Lynch was a part of the all-volunteer organization that operated out of a small building on Gunston Elementary School property in her early board service, providing a variety of much needed services to families in the Lorton community. When Molly rejoined the board in 1991 she helped LCAC pursue new funding opportunities through participation in the Combined Federal Campaign, United Way giving, and Fairfax County Community Funding Pool grants. In 2011, a generous gift from Molly and her husband, Bill, allowed LCAC to open a 2,000 square-foot pantry that doubled LCAC's space and consolidated food operations from five locations to one.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commanding the staff, volunteers, supporters, and partners of LCAC for 40 years of assistance to the Lorton community's most vulnerable residents and in thanking Molly Lynch for her dedication to helping our neighbors in need.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2029) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the FY2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill. This legislation will go a long way to help facilities,

such as the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Regional Office where thousands of my constituents have their cases managed, in improving their care and treatment of our nation's Veterans. While this is another small step to address the larger problems within the Department of Veterans Affairs, this legislation continues to show The House's dedication to righting this ship. Some important provisions of this bill include:

"Strike force response teams" that would bring in experienced, high-performing managers to implement corrective actions at low-performing facilities and offices

A fully funded request for digital scanning and centralized mail, which will improve speed and accuracy issues

And, this fully funds the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) with a \$163 million increase over FY15, which will allow for more staffing for processing of appeals of claims in Philadelphia and other regional offices

I commend Chairman DENT and his subcommittee for prioritizing care of our Veterans. While South Jersey still has many challenges to be overcome in access to timely care, I am proud to support this bill which continues to fix the system-wide problems within the VA.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that recognizes and celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the Southeast Asian American community in the U.S.

Over the past 40 years, Southeast Asian Americans have become an integral part of the social and economic fabric of our country.

They left war-torn nations, tyrannical regimes, and even genocide, to make better lives for themselves and their children.

Today, over 2.5 million Southeast Asian Americans trace their heritage to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

In these four decades, they have contributed to our armed forces, arts, business, and politics.

In fact, I have seen firsthand their enormous impact in my own district of Silicon Valley.

This resolution honors their struggles in coming to America, and thanks them for all they've done—and continue to do—for our country.

H.R. 2028 AND H.R. 2029

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 2028, the FY16 Energy and Water Appropriations Act and H.R. 2029, the FY16 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, because they failed to provide funding for programs that help our veterans, protect the environment, and grow a

clean energy economy. We should be able to do better than this.

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill is usually something that we can all find common ground on—the importance of standing up for our nation's veterans transcends partisan battles. This year, however, the bill Republican leadership put on the floor not only shortchanged our veterans and servicemen and women, but the modest increase in spending over last year's bill will require cuts to critical public spending on education, health care, and infrastructure in later appropriations bills. Even veterans service organizations like Veterans of Foreign Wars urged opposition. The bill also included a policy rider preventing the transfer of detainees from the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, a prison whose very existence undermines America's security and international standing. Further, part of the spending of this bill is through the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund, an unrelated war slush-fund that is exempt from all budget caps.

During consideration of this bill, I offered an amendment that would have allowed VA doctors to recommend medical marijuana to their patients in the states where it was legal if they so choose. Our veterans should have the same medicines available to them as everyone else, and we should not prohibit VA doctors from consulting with their patients in accordance with their medical training and state law. I am disappointed that my amendment very narrowly failed, but I remain encouraged that we continue to build momentum in this issue, and gained significantly more bipartisan support than last year.

The Energy and Water appropriations bill, while it contains some infrastructure funds that are critical to ports, waterways and freight movement integral to Oregon's economy, ultimately contained too many provisions bad for the environment for me to support. It prohibits the Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing and implementing rules to ensure clean water in streams and wetlands that provide drinking water for one in three Americans. It dramatically underfunds renewable energy support programs, while propping up fossil fuels and nuclear weapons spending, and delivers deep cuts to programs that assist low income families with energy bills. It also contains nonsense amendments, such as a measure to prevent the Department of Energy from implementing a law requiring incandescent light bulbs to be more energy efficient, even though American manufacturers have already adopted the new standard.

In addition, both of these bills adhere to the Republican budget's overall spending caps that account for sequestration. These caps reflect the lowest discretionary spending we've seen in ten years, and we simply cannot continue to cut government programs that are so critical to environmental protection, health, education, economic stability and defense.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 RESTON ASSOCIATION SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2014 Reston

Association Service Awards. The Reston Association (RA) is the largest homeowners' association in Virginia and one of the largest in the country with more than 21,000 homes under its jurisdiction. Among other roles, RA serves as the steward of Reston's architectural aesthetics, recreational amenities, and environmental resources.

RA relies on hundreds of volunteers and dedicated staff who serve on boards, committees, and projects to carry out its mission to keep Reston a model community where all can "Live, Work, Play, and Get Involved." I am pleased to submit the names of the outstanding 2014 honorees.

2014 Reston Association Volunteer of the Year—Mark Elder

Mark Elder has volunteered his time as a tennis instructor for the last two years. He fills the gaps and works interchangeably with RA staff instructors. Mark gives his time willingly, energetically and consistently to the youth tennis community to ensure programs like this and many others are successful.

2014 Reston Association Volunteer Group of the Year—Senior Movie Day Volunteers (Laura & John Cole, Pat Coshland, Michelina Johnson, Kurt McJilton, Otto & Rosemarie Tubito)

This dynamic group of volunteers is the backbone of Senior Movie Day in Reston Town Center, which benefits up to 400 seniors each month. The group has been volunteering since 2007 and contributes 150 hours annually, thereby reducing staff time needed to put on this great community event for the seniors in our community.

2014 Reston Association Community Partner of the Year—Clarke

For three consecutive years, Clarke has selected Reston for the Annual Clarke Day of Caring. Clarke employees monitor for mosquito larvae in Reston's restored streams and help educate RA's watershed staff on mosquito collection and identification. More than a dozen Clarke employees spend a full day removing invasive plants and removing trash from streams and other natural areas. This commitment to Reston and corporate volunteerism makes Clarke a standout partner.

2014 Employee of the Year—Rob Tucker

For 15 years Reston community members have been fortunate to see the smiling face of Rob Tucker on RA tennis courts. His passion for tennis is equal to his commitment to the community and the RA staff. He provides top-notch customer service, personalized instruction, and overall cheerleading for the RA tennis programs. RA and the entire community couldn't find a better advocate for the tennis and recreation programs available to Reston members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2014 Reston Association Service Awards and in thanking them for dedicating their time, energy, and resources to the improvement of the quality of life and health of the Reston community.

RECOGNIZING THE LAKE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lake County Chamber of Com-

merce which is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary this year. Established in 1915 as the Waukegan Chamber of Commerce, the Lake County Chamber of Commerce has undergone significant change and has prospered despite difficulties over the past one hundred years.

Today the Chamber assists businesses and citizens through weekly events catered to improving opportunities for networking and marketing. In short, Mr. Speaker, the Chamber successfully works to advance the overall welfare and prosperity of Lake County citizens and small businesses.

I offer my most sincere congratulations to The Lake County Chamber of Commerce for its success in helping to strengthen our community and wish them continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1, 2015, I was proud to join my son, Raymond Wagner, III in Fort Campbell, Kentucky and participate in the ceremony marking his promotion to Captain in the United States Army.

Due to the extraordinary nature of this event, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. and vote on legislative business during this time.

On Adoption of the Conference Report to accompany S. Con. Res. 11—FY2016 Budget Resolution (Roll Call Vote #183), had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Passage of H.R. 2029—Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (Roll Call Vote #193), had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Passage of H.J. Res. 43—Disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014 (Roll Call Vote #194), had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Passage of H.R. 2028—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (Roll Call Vote #215), had I been present I would have voted yes.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under