

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 17–19.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on #17, yes on #18, no on #19.

## IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN PITSTICK

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Pitstick who is retiring as the Director of Planning and Development from the City of North Richland Hills.

As Director, Mr. Pitstick was responsible for all of the city's development activities, including planning and zoning as well as direction of building inspections. These responsibilities for comprehensive planning, strategic development and redevelopment included revitalization of Boulevard 26, expansion of Loop 820, future commuter rail station planning and gas well regulations.

Under his leadership, the City of North Richland Hills was presented with the "Certificate of Achievement for Planning Excellence" by the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association. The annual award recognizes "a commitment to professional planning by City Administration, Elected and Appointed Officials and exemplary professional standards demonstrated by the Planning Staff."

Mr. Pitstick is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications and a Master's in Urban Affairs. With a career spanning over 30 years of service, his retirement from North Richland Hills was preceded by his service in key positions with the cities of Hurst, Wylie, Arlington, Lancaster and Irving.

I am honored to represent Mr. Pitstick and the City of North Richland Hills in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I gladly join the City and the appreciative citizens of the 26th Congressional District and across North Texas whom he has dutifully served throughout his career.

## RECOGNIZING MR. BILL MISCHKE

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Bill Mischke, a dedicated Scouter, mentor to countless youth and one of my first merit badge counselors. As the director for Camp Ockanickon, Bill ensured each Boy Scout troop had a fulfilling experience at the camp fires, the mess hall was well stocked and each counselor was prepared for the rigors the summer would bring. Additionally, he oversaw the implementation of the GE Betz Science Center, the first such

center in the United States which provides an opportunity for scouts to earn STEM based merit badges. After a successful career with the Bucks County Council, Bill has moved on to spend more time with his family but has continued to impact the lives of our future leaders as the Director of Program Experience with the DelMarVa Council. I want to congratulate him on a successful life committed to the tenants of the Scout Oath and Law and wish him happiness in all his future endeavors. I yield back.

## HONORING PETRA C. KAATZ

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Petra C. Kaatz, the National President of the Jewish War Veterans Department of Florida Ladies Auxiliary. Her diligence on behalf of our men and women in uniform is a testament to her dedication to our country, and she rightfully deserves our recognition and admiration.

Petra Kaatz started a long and fulfilling career as a member of the Long Island Civil Air Patrol, where she became a flight nurse and ran a stewardess training program for female cadets. At the age of 22, she became the head nurse of a medical surgical unit and later served as PTA President at United Cerebral Palsy of Queens and Children's Rehabilitation Center. She became President of the Queens Hospital Center Community Advisory Board and served as a representative for the United Nations Year of the Disabled. She also established and ran a Cub Scout pack for disabled children at the Henry Viscardi School in Albertson, New York and was editor of the PTA newsletter.

Petra joined the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America Ladies Auxiliary in 1994 and has been an active member ever since. Before becoming National President of the JWVA, she served as Queens County President, Department of New York President, and the chairman of various auxiliary, county, and department JWVA committees. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the national JWVA and life-member of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Representing a district home to veterans of every major conflict since World War II, I know very well the sacrifices that our military families have made for our country. Petra Kaatz's commitment to honor our military and their families should serve as an inspiration for us all, and I have no doubt she will continue to inspire South Floridians to live by her example.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 24, on agreeing to amendment number two to H.R. 185 by Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

## SPEECH OF

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 240) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chair, when it comes to protecting our homeland, it is incumbent on all of us—Democrats and Republicans—to put politics aside and work together. Yet, the exercise we are going through today risks not funding the Department of Homeland Security.

We know that elements of this bill blocking the President's immigration reforms will not become law. Republican Senators are already expressing their skepticism about this approach. And, the President would veto this bill if it passed Congress with these provisions. So as the clock ticks down on funding for our homeland security agencies, why are we wasting time on this debate?

Sadly, the answer is that the majority party is catering to its extreme wing—anti-immigrant, tea party Republicans who are obsessively focused on blocking the President.

Mr. Chair, let's be clear—the President acted when this House did not. Last Congress, the Senate passed legislation to fix our broken immigration laws. However, this body dawdled, delayed and ultimately did nothing. Finally, the President was forced to move forward alone. He took sensible steps—backed by legal precedent and well within his authority—that will resolve some of the worst flaws in our broken immigration system.

Now, House Republicans are saying that unless they can block the President and punish immigrants, they will jeopardize funding for the Secret Service, for the Coast Guard and the TSA. At a time when the world is reeling from horrific terrorist attacks in Paris, how can my colleagues play politics with funding for these agencies? This is cynical politics at its worst—and we must reject it.

## PASTOR DAN Q. CARR

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor Pastor Dan Q. Carr of South Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District, on the occasion of the pastor's 30th anniversary of ministry at Faith Baptist Church of Gulfport.

Born in 1962, Pastor Carr found himself called to preach at a young age. He surrendered to that call on January 17, 1985, and became pastor of Faith Baptist Church on that same day. On Sunday, January 18, 2015, his flock of family and friends will join together to honor Pastor Carr's 30 years of faithful stewardship.

On that fateful day in 1985, Faith Baptist Church began with nine dedicated members

and since has grown to a congregation of over one thousand.

That type of growth, along with a steadfast pastor like Dan Carr, has allowed Faith Baptist Church to become a community leader of faith ministry and outreach. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Faith Baptist opened its doors as a relief station where thousands of Gulf Coast survivors found comfort, hope, and needed supplies in those troubled and uncertain times.

Pastor Carr is married to his lovely wife Mickey, and together they share nine children and eleven grandchildren. Mississippi, Gulfport, and the Fourth Congressional District are blessed by the continued ministry of Pastor Dan Carr.

I congratulate Pastor Dan Carr on his 30th anniversary and wish the Faith Baptist Church family continued growth and success in ministry for many more years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. DAN FAGER

#### HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Dan Fager on his retirement with thirty-five years of service with Chevron Corporation.

Dan was born and raised in Topeka, Kansas, and he graduated from Topeka West High School in 1970. After high school he attended the University of Kansas for two years. He then transferred to Michigan State University and graduated in 1974 with a degree in Criminal Justice. Dan was a police officer in Baltimore, Maryland for one year before heading back to the University of Kansas Law School, where he obtained a Juris Doctor degree in 1977. Dan lived in Denver right after law school where he worked as a law clerk for the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Dan Fager began his career with Chevron in September of 1980 as a Land Representative in the Denver office. In 1985, he became District Supervisor for Land. Dan then moved to Washington, DC as the Upstream Representative in 1988 on a “temporary” assignment. That temporary assignment soon morphed into his permanent placement.

Fager quickly became a highly respected and effective lobbyist in Washington, DC establishing Chevron as a go-to company on Capitol Hill. His word was his bond and his fact-based approach and commitment to integrity made him indispensable to Chevron and the people in Washington with whom he worked.

His accomplishments are numerous, including the Unocal acquisition for Chevron, first preserving Chevron's right to operate in Burma and then later helping to lift the sanctions that allowed the U.S. to normalize the commercial relationship. He also played a key role ensuring that U.S. tax policy encouraged U.S. investment in oil and gas.

As the head of Chevron's federal affairs team, Dan managed a staff of four. While his tendency to play the “devil's advocate” could sometimes frustrate the team, they agree that his challenges helped them sharpen their lobbying skills.

Anyone who knows Dan will describe him as a true gentleman with a bi-partisan spirit.

He is well respected for both his knowledge on issues and his calm and kind demeanor. He is a consummate professional, with a warm sense of humor and strong work ethic. I am proud to call him a personal friend.

I congratulate Dan on his retirement and thank him for his diligent service to the energy industry. I wish him all the best that retirement has to offer.

we wish her the happiest of birthdays and nothing but health and prosperity in the years ahead.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 19 on Monday, January 12th, 2015, my son underwent emergency surgery for appendicitis. For that reason, I was unable to travel to Washington, DC, in time for floor votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is 18,086,946,763,085.79. We've added \$7,460,069,714,172.71 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### HONORING ALITHER MAE STEPHENS

#### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alither Mae Stephens of Copperas Cove, Texas as she celebrates her 100th birthday on January 15, 2015. Even with a century of living behind her, she remains a vibrant part of her growing central Texas community.

Born in Cassatt, South Carolina, Alither kept her southern heritage alive when she moved to Copperas Cove. Devoted to family, Alither and her beloved Edward had one daughter, eight grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren. She knows the keys to a long life are eating healthy, staying positive, and remaining active. Alither continues to cook for herself and church, bowling, and civic duties help fill her days.

In her century of living, Alither witnessed her nation's brave soldiers defend freedom on foreign shores, watched a humble midwesterner take mankind's first steps on another world, and marveled at technological advances beyond any of her dreams. She listened to the soaring words of a southern minister as he worked to bring equality to all Americans and she saw people of all races, creeds, and backgrounds join together to make our nation a beacon of hope and freedom. Alither saw how America has been defined by extraordinary men and women who fought for a country brave enough to confront its past imperfections and hopeful enough to embrace a better tomorrow.

The City of Copperas Cove, Texas proclaimed January 15, 2015 as Alither Mae Stephens Day, a fitting tribute to an amazing lady who has lived a long life, blessing all she has come into contact with along the way. I join her family and friends in celebrating Alither as

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. LORI A. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

#### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Lori A. Williams, who will be honored as the 137th President of the Lackawanna County Medical Society during its Annual Presidential Reception on Saturday, January 24. Dr. Williams has brought her training and education to the task of providing and improving health care in Eynon, Lackawanna County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Williams is an alumnus of the University of Scranton and Hahneman Medical School. She completed her internship and residency at MacDill AFB in Biloxi, Mississippi. Dr. Williams is board certified in internal medicine. She served three years as a staff internist at MacDill AFB in Tampa, Florida. After serving as a major in the Air Force, Dr. Williams returned home to northeast Pennsylvania.

Upon returning to Eynon, Dr. Williams set up a private practice where she has been a driving force in the Lackawanna medical community. Throughout her career, Dr. Williams has provided exceptional medical care and served as a leader in her field. An outspoken advocate for fellow physicians, she has served on the House of Delegates of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. Dr. Williams has also served as the Society's chief spokesperson on patient rights and quality of care issues.

It is a great honor to recognize Dr. Lori Williams for her work in the medical field. I am grateful for her leadership and advocacy in the Lackawanna medical community. May she continue to achieve excellence in providing care to the citizens of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.