

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 12, 2015 I missed recorded votes #17–19 due to travel delays.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were present for these votes.

On Roll Call #17, I would have voted YEA (Passage of H.R. 203).

On Roll Call #18, I would have voted YEA (Passage of H.R. 33).

On Roll Call #19, I would have voted YEA (Approval of the Journal).

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
LAREDO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a momentous occasion: the 100th anniversary of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce. For one century, this organization has been an instrumental and encouraging part of our community that wishes to see our city continue to grow and move forward.

The Laredo Chamber of Commerce was founded in April of 1915 in Laredo, Texas. It is the largest and oldest business organization in Laredo, representing over 650 members from numerous industries, including financial institutions, retailers, and service providers. It is a voluntary, not-for-profit association that inspires development in business and tourism, and is a voice for the local business community. The Chamber is also a member of other associations such as the American Chamber of Commerce, the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

It is in the Laredo Chamber of Commerce's mission statement that it is their duty to be proactive in order to further the success of the Laredo area while also strengthening the advancement of development in areas such as infrastructure and resources. In addition, the Chamber provides various workshops for community members, such as seminars, trainings, and informative customer service sessions.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Laredo Chamber of Commerce for their hard work and endless effort in improving our community these past 100 years. I thank you for this time.

HONORING DEBORAH MAYER

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, as the Chairman of the Committee on Ethics, and along with my colleague, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, the Ranking Member, I rise today to congratulate our departing Director of Investigations, Deborah Mayer, on her new position as staff director for the Sen-

ate Ethics Committee, and to thank her for her service to the House. Her new position continues a career dedicated to public service, which includes not only her work for the House, but also her prior work as a prosecutor with the Justice Department, and her 16-years of service in the JAG Corps of the United States Navy and Naval Reserves. Her dedication to public service, as well as her keen legal mind, will serve the Senate well, as they have served this body for the last several years. Their gain is our loss, and we thank her deeply for her service to this House.

HONORING DEBORAH MAYER

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Deborah Mayer for her service to the Committee on Ethics as its Director of Investigations. Since 2011, Ms. Mayer has lent her experience as a skilled lawyer and manager to the Committee's important work of enforcing the House ethics rules. She managed a team of attorneys and investigators that successfully handled a busy docket of investigations.

During that time, she provided wise counsel to the Committee Members, guiding us through complicated issues and difficult choices. She instilled in her team a strong sense of the value of public service and a dedication to finding the truth, with fairness and impartiality. Deb's entire career has been dedicated to public service—as a paramedic, in uniform, and as an attorney.

Although she is leaving the House, she will continue her impressive record of public service as staff director for the Senate Ethics Committee. As she begins her new role, we pause to note that we will miss her leadership and her talents, but we know she will remain our friend. Congratulations, Deb, and good luck.

SHARON MENDOZA DOUGHTY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Sharon Mendoza Doughty, who passed away on November 19, 2014 following a long battle with cancer. A pioneering rancher, conservationist, teacher, winemaker and a natural leader, Ms. Doughty was a positive force within the local community.

Sharon Doughty grew up on her parents' historic B Ranch on the Point Reyes Peninsula. After the passing of her second husband, Bill Bianchini Jr., in the early 1980s, she took over the daily operations of their 800-acre dairy. Transitioning from a career as an accountant and teacher, Sharon Doughty became a full-time rancher with the help of her close family and friends.

Through her comprehensive knowledge of the dairy trade, Ms. Doughty became a natural leader within the North Bay dairy community and leaves behind a long legacy of positive

impacts. The depth of her commitment to Marin County agriculture united fellow ranchers and helped to propel their products into national markets. A dedicated advocate for the preservation of local agricultural lands, Ms. Doughty served two terms as the president of the Marin Agricultural Land Trust and one term as a member of the California Coastal Commission. She selflessly devoted her time and expertise to the Marconi Conference Center in Marshall and 4-H. Among her many honors, in 2007, Ms. Doughty was named the "Woman of the Year" for California's 6th Assembly District for her exceptional community leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Sharon Doughty's life teaches us that one woman can make a substantial difference. Her efforts will not soon be forgotten as much of her legacy lives on all around us in Marin County and beyond. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to her today and express our deepest condolences to her husband Steve; daughters Kathleen von Raesfeld and Karen Taylor; brothers Joseph Mendoza Jr. and James Mendoza; grandchildren Audrey and Nina von Raesfeld, Camilla, William Joseph, and Eva Taylor; and nephew Will Clark.

STOPPING OBAMA'S AMNESTY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, America is a nation of immigrants. Since the earliest days of our nation, countless generations have come from around the world to build a better life here for themselves, their children and their families.

But we are also a nation built on the rule of law, and those who enter our country illegally disregard those laws.

Illegal immigration is an injustice to every single person who followed the proper procedure when they came to the United States, and in an age of international terrorism and global pandemics, it presents a serious national security risk.

What we don't need right now is amnesty. Instead, we need strict border security and the proper enforcement of the laws we already have on the books.

Unfortunately, our president does not feel the same way.

Upon discovering he could not get support from Congress, he decided to circumvent the legislative branch through executive action and grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants.

He disregarded both the will of the American people and the separation of powers that our founding fathers laid out for our government.

By ignoring the core parts of our democracy, President Obama has shamefully overstepped his Constitutional authority.

A nation is nothing without total control over the sovereignty of its borders, and this executive action has only made the situation worse by offering a powerful incentive for more people to enter illegally.

Make no mistake: I am and always will be 100 percent opposed to blanket amnesty for illegal immigrants.

In the last election, the American people sent a message and elected Republicans to a majority in both the House and Senate.

Congress is now in a much stronger position to prevent this amnesty from being put in place, and we are working hard for the people to stop it.

That is why I am proud to stand here today with my colleagues to put a halt to this outrageous example of executive overreach, and to tell this president that he is not above the law.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUEBLO GARDENS NEIGHBORHOOD DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BREAKFAST

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary this Saturday, January 17, 2015.

This breakfast tradition was established in Tucson in 1990 by community activists John McNair and Edwina Gomez along with others to honor the great civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They are working to keep his dream of fair and equitable treatment alive by fundraising for at-risk neighborhood youth to help them achieve their own dreams. In turn, youth are asked to perform community service projects that benefit the city of Tucson. In 1997, long-time community activist, James E. Christopher became Chairman of the program. As Chairman for the past eighteen years, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast has increased in attendance from thirteen people in its first breakfast to an average of one hundred and seventy-five in current years.

Pueblo Gardens' Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast has the distinguished honor of being the sole neighborhood in Tucson to attract city, county, state, and federal dignitaries, along with radio, television and newspaper coverage for an event of its kind.

Dr. King's dream has started to come to light with the election of an African-American president, Latina woman sworn into the Supreme Court, the acknowledgement of gay members in the military, and so forth. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast funding has enabled many youth to graduate from high school and continue on to receive post-secondary education certificates and degrees. Many of these youth have become part of the Tucson workforce and are valuable assets to the community.

Finally, I must acknowledge the cast of dedicated volunteer board members who work diligently to fundraise and continue the breakfast tradition while working through the Pueblo Garden Neighborhood Association, a designated 501(c)(3) organization.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association in Tucson as we join them to celebrate on January 17, 2015, for its 25th Anniversary of their Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast. I thank the Pueblo Gardens MLK Breakfast Committee for their steadfast determination to keep Dr. King's dream alive while helping youth achieve their goals.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENT OF MAJOR WILLIAM BRURING

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the career of Major William E. Bruring. Major Bruring began his career with the Civil Air Patrol as a high school student in December of 1941. He joined the organization right after the Pearl Harbor attacks, when his mentor, Roy E. Kumm, began Civil Air Patrol organizational meetings in the 32nd Red Arrow Wisconsin U.S. Army Division. Major Bruring was just 18 years old when he joined.

In Wisconsin, the Civil Air Patrol served many purposes. They towed aerial targets for student pilots, performed pre-flight training and handled other home front duties, such as war drives, collecting supplies and assembling medical kits to be deployed overseas to American troops in need of relief. Major Bruring also served as a paratrooper in the Army during World War II, volunteering for service when he graduated high school in 1943, and served in the Navy during the Korean War. When he returned home, he continued to serve in the Civil Air Patrol, and continues to serve in the organization today. Every Memorial Day, Major Bruring helps to coordinate ceremonies honoring America's veterans.

On December 10th, 2014, Major Bruring was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest distinction awarded to civilians in the United States, for his dedication and service in the Civilian Air Patrol during World War II. He is but one example of the brave men and women of Wisconsin who serve their country.

It is with great pleasure that I extend these words of congratulations, as well as words of sincere appreciation, for all that Major Bruring has done for western and central Wisconsin. His service, both as a civilian in the Civil Air Patrol and as a soldier in World War II and Korea, are worthy of the highest praise, and he is certainly deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal. I wish him the best of luck in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY HO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Anthony Chung-Yi Ho. Mr. Ho has served with distinction as Deputy Director of the Congressional Liaison Division of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Representative Office. His leadership and expertise have been invaluable in working with me and my staff and many other congressional offices on Capitol Hill. I want to congratulate him for moving back to his home country of Taiwan, and thank him for his many years of service.

Mr. Ho has worked closely with my staff for many years on many matters related to U.S.-Taiwan relations. Thanks in large part to his efforts, my staff and I have engaged many times on matters important to Taiwanese-

American interests and our shared values of democracy, freedom and human rights.

In addition, over the years the State of Idaho has maintained a fruitful relationship with the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Under Mr. Ho's guidance, our office has cultivated a valuable relationship with the Taiwan Foreign Ministry, which has benefited both Idaho and Taiwan greatly.

Taiwan is one of Idaho's top trading partners, and many sectors of the Idaho economy benefit from the strong ties between the U.S. and Taiwan. Mr. Ho has fully dedicated himself to strengthening this relationship, and my constituents and I are very grateful for his efforts in this regard.

I commend Anthony Ho for his dedication to the enduring friendship and respect between the U.S. and Taiwan. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with him, and we will greatly miss him when he leaves Washington, D.C. I join many of my colleagues and their staffs in recognizing the devotion of Mr. Anthony Chung-Yi Ho and for his exceptional service and immense contributions to strengthening relations between Taiwan and the United States.

HONORING TONY PADILLA

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tony Padilla, a community icon, loving father and proud New Mexican.

Tony was a lifelong resident of Los Padillas, a community he cherished in the South Valley of Bernalillo County. Tony never forgot his roots; he lived them every day of his life. He had a fiery passion, deep conviction and heartfelt desire to improve the lives of his friends and neighbors.

Many vividly recall his many years at the Bernalillo County Fire Commission where he could be found marking the scene of a fire and training young firefighters on necessary skills they would need on the job. He always had a presence in the community; whether it was helping families grieve the tragic loss of a loved one, supporting the Rio Grande High School baseball team and Los Padillas Community Center, or standing up for his fellow South Valley residents.

A piece of Tony will live on forever in all of us; that characteristic "Hey neighbor" from across the yard followed by a vibrant smile, those routine visits to the Post Office for a brisk and engaging conversation, the fun and laughter at the church Fiesta, the insightful life lessons and the endless love he had for everyone he met.

Tony demonstrates the impact that one individual can have on an entire community and serves as an inspiration for future generations of New Mexicans. His warmth, dedication and selflessness were felt by all. My thoughts and prayers are with family, friends and everyone who experienced Tony's generosity and compassion. May the memory of Tony live on in our hearts.