

Division, the "Golden Acorns," from 1942 through 1945. On this date, at the age of 92, Mr. Dumont traveled from his home in Flint, Michigan to Washington, D.C. in order to tour and pay homage at the World War II Memorial. To that effect, Mr. Dumont pays honor to the war to which he was a witness and remembers those known and unknown lost throughout the war. Therefore, he encourages all Americans to cherish and honor the sacrifice borne by our men and women in uniform from all theaters and eras.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Roy Dumont for his service and unyielding commitment to the nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2015*

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, on roll call nos. 240 through 242 I missed these votes due to irregular flight operations on Sunday and a delayed flight on Monday. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. EDNA IVANS

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2015*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Edna Ivans on her retirement after 48 years of working in the education system as a member of the West Hills Community College District Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Ivans was raised in Delano, California before going on to attend the University of Southern California's Pharmacy School. While studying for her degree, she met her husband, Nick Ivans. They would go on to settle in Avenal, California.

Beginning in June of 1967, Mrs. Ivans became an integral member of the West Hills Community College District (WHCCD) Board of Trustees. As the representative for Trustee Area 3, she was the force behind many projects that molded WHCCD into a successful, educational institution designed to serve the Central Valley's needs. WHCCD honored Mrs. Ivans for her work by naming the women's residence hall at the West Hills College Coalinga campus Edna L. Ivans Hall.

After 48 years of advocating on behalf of students and teachers alike, Mrs. Ivans retired on April 6, 2015.

Educators and students throughout the Central Valley of California have been extremely fortunate to have had someone as talented and dedicated as Mrs. Ivans working on their behalf to ensure a first rate education is within reach of everyone in the Central Valley. The Central Valley has benefitted greatly from her insight and perspective.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Edna Ivans for her 48 years of dedicated public service as a Trustee for the West Hills Community College District and congratulating her on her recent retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2015*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that on May 18, 2015, I was attending my grandson's graduation ceremony in New Jersey and missed the three roll call votes of the day. Had I been present I would have voted:

AYE—Roll Call No. 240—H.R. 91—Veteran's I.D. Card Act

AYE—Roll Call No. 241—H.R. 1313—Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act

AYE—Roll Call No. 242—H.R. 1382—Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act

RECOGNIZING ELK RIVER HIGH SCHOOL'S MOODY'S MEGA MATH CHALLENGE TEAM

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2015*

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Elk River High School team that participated in the Moody's Mega Math Challenge. Joe Evans, Chase Gauthier, Zach Glasgow, Jordan Haack, Peter Jones, and Coach Curt Michener took home the third place Cum Laude Team Prize.

The Moody's Mega Math Challenge is a competition that encourages participants to use applied mathematics to solve everyday problems. This year's challenge problem required the team to create a cost-benefit analysis of higher education and degree choices.

1,128 teams with more than 6,000 students entered the competition, but Elk River's team was one of only six in the finals, and the only one from west of the Mississippi River. I am profoundly impressed by these students' hard work and their interest in mathematics. They made the 6th District proud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join me in congratulating Joe, Chase, Zach, Jordan, Peter, and Coach Michener on their impressive finish and on their academic accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. ERIC M. SEAMAN, USMC

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2015*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to his country are exceptional. Throughout the history of our republic we have asked young men and women to voluntarily step forward to guard and protect the freedoms we hold so dear. U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Eric Matthew Seaman of Murrieta, California, took that step forward and assumed the duties, responsibilities and sacrifices that are required of all Americans who join the finest military in history. Today I ask

that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

As a decorated Marine Corps helicopter crew chief, Sgt. Seaman was called upon when a devastating earthquake ravaged the impoverished nation of Nepal. The disaster has killed more than 8,500 Nepalese citizens and destroyed more than half a million homes, many of which are in remote areas that are now cutoff from medical and food supplies due to landslides. Sgt. Seaman was selected to be a member of Joint Task Force 505, which was activated to support the government of Nepal by conducting humanitarian disaster relief operations. During the mission, Sgt. Seaman and other Task Force members distributed critical supplies to rural, hard to reach communities and provided impacted Nepalese people with the life sustaining supplies they so desperately needed. Tragically, on May 12, 2015, Sgt. Seaman, along with five other U.S. Marines and two Nepalese soldiers, died when their helicopter crashed during a supply mission in the Charikot region of Nepal.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem." Sgt. Seaman embodies that sentiment and made invaluable contributions to the cause of liberty around the globe since joining the Marine Corps in 2009. Having deployed to Afghanistan and to Nepal, Sgt. Seaman bravely put himself in harm's way in order to carry out his mission, protect his country, and save the lives of innocent civilians. Those, Mr. Speaker, are the actions of a hero.

Sgt. Seaman is survived by his wife, Samantha, as well as a young son and daughter, and his parents, Bruce and Cheryl. The burdens and grief that they are left to endure are beyond calculation, but it is my hope that they can find some solace in knowing that their husband, father, and son served our country proudly and made truly life-saving contributions to people in tremendous need. Mr. Speaker, I know you and the entire House of Representatives join me in expressing my prayers and heartfelt condolences to Sgt. Seaman's family and friends.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL MALL REVITALIZATION AND DESIGNATION ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, we will kick off the fourth season of "Lunchtime Music on the Mall," which brings local and regional musicians to the National Mall to perform during the lunchtime hour, giving visitors and particularly our federal and other office workers downtown a break from the pace of business in Washington and an opportunity to enjoy their National Mall. The performances, featuring amateur and professional city and regional residents, are sponsored by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Park Service (NPS), in conjunction with my office. To preserve and enhance the National

Mall, a priceless space, I am reintroducing the National Mall Revitalization and Designation Act. Until the Trust for the National Mall was established in 2007, the National Mall was Washington's most neglected and underutilized federal property, despite being well-known and treasured. The Trust for the National Mall is already making a noteworthy and important difference, and its plan will give the Mall the majesty it deserves. In the meantime, there is much that can be done, from defining the Mall's official identity for the first time to adding low-cost basic amenities. My bill authorizes the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) to expand the boundaries of the Mall where commemorative works may be located, requires NCPC to study the commemorative works process, and requires the Secretary of the Interior to submit a plan within 180 days of passage to Congress to enhance visitor enjoyment, amenities and cultural experiences on the Mall.

I worked closely with NCPC and other agencies in drafting the bill. The bill would give NCPC the responsibility and necessary flexibility to designate Mall areas for commemorative works and, for the first time, to expand the official Mall area when appropriate to accommodate future commemorative works and cultural institutions.

In addition, tourists and workers downtown should be able to walk to the Mall and find attractive tables and chairs in the shade where good—not fast—food is available. Residents of the city and region should be able to find space for fun and games on the Mall, beyond the space between Third Street and the Lincoln Memorial.

Bordered by world-class cultural institutions, the Mall need not continue to be reduced to a mere lawn with a few—too few—old, ordinary benches and a couple of fast food stands until the expansive work of the Trust for the National Mall is completed. The plan by the Secretary of the Interior required by the bill would ensure chairs and tables for people who bring lunch to the Mall and the presence of cultural amenities. The NPS has my thanks for implementing and indeed sponsoring the part of the bill that calls for cultural amenities with Lunchtime Music on the Mall, which begins today. Lunchtime Music on the Mall is a good start to bringing the Mall alive during the workday. With the necessary imagination, making the Mall an inviting place with cultural and other amenities is achievable now.

The NCPC is well on its way to meeting the bill's requirement for an expansive, 21st-century definition of the Mall, particularly now that the Trust for the National Mall is doing such important work. Frustrated by continually fighting off proposals for new monuments, museums, and memorials on the already-crowded Mall space, I asked the NCPC to devise a Mall presentation plan. In 2003, Congress amended the Commemorative Works Act to create a reserve area—a no-build zone where new memorials may not be built. This action was helpful in quelling some but by no means all of the demand from groups for placement of commemorative works on what they view as the Mall.

However, recognizing the need for more commemorative work sites, NCPC and the Commission on Fine Arts (CFA) released a National Capital Framework Plan in 2009, which identifies sites near the Mall that are suitable for new commemorative works, in-

cluding East Potomac Park, the Kennedy Center Plaza, and the new South Capitol gateway. Five new prestigious memorials are scheduled for such sites, including the Eisenhower Memorial and the U.S. Air Force Memorial. I appreciate that NCPC and the CFA work closely with the District of Columbia in designating off-Mall sites for new commemorative works. The District welcomes the expanded Mall into our local neighborhoods to increase the number of tourists who visit them, enhancing the work of the District of Columbia government and local organizations such as Cultural Tourism that offer tours of historic District neighborhoods. The off-Mall sites for commemorative works also complement development of entirely new neighborhoods near the Mall, particularly with the passage of my bills that are redeveloping both the Southwest and Southeast waterfronts.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2015*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I want to first thank the Chairman, the Ranking Member, and the committee staff for their hard work and effort that the bill before us represents. I particularly want to express my sincere thanks to Chairman WILSON and the members of the Emerging Threats and Capabilities subcommittee for what I believe are very fine contributions to the final bill. These initiatives span a variety of important areas, including cyberspace programs and authorities; technology transition and reauthorization of the Rapid Innovation Program; and research, development, and integration of advanced technologies such as railgun and directed energy. Also included in this legislation are critical provisions that address Special Operations, Counter-Terrorism, and Unconventional Warfare, including increasing Congressional oversight of sensitive operations, and the threats posed at home and abroad by weapons of mass destruction.

I also applaud the bill's investment in critically important undersea capabilities such as the peerless Virginia-class submarines, the Virginia Payload Module, the recapitalization of our national deterrent through the Ohio Replacement Program, and cutting-edge autonomous and unmanned systems.

These provisions demonstrate a shared, bipartisan commitment to the defense of our nation and support for our troops.

However, as we move forward with this bill, I note with great concern that it reflects a budget approach that locks in sequestration and severs that critical link between our national and economic security. I'm sure that

dedicated public servants fighting organized crime at the Department of Justice, combatting terrorist financing mechanisms at the Treasury, or securing our borders and defending our critical infrastructure in cyberspace at Homeland Security would be shocked indeed to find out that what they did wasn't a matter of national security. One could just as soon tell the brilliant scientists and engineers at our national labs, or the teachers educating future generations that what they do isn't important to the future competitiveness of our nation. National security is not just tanks, ships, and airplanes.

The one-year nature of the approach in the bill is a flagrant abuse of a system designed to fund incremental and unpredictable costs of overseas operations, not to get around politically difficult votes for Members of Congress. It's bad management and worse policy; it doesn't live up to our commitment to the troops; it undermines our capability to conduct long-term strategy; and worst of all, it sets us up to have yet another round of budgeting by brinkmanship in a matter of months. Ducking debates is not why our constituents sent us here.

While I support the important policy measures contained in the bill, and I ultimately support its passage, it is so unfortunate that the one piece of legislation that has historically been the pinnacle of bipartisanship and one of the last vestiges of regular order has been taken hostage by a refusal to address the Budget Control Act. I applaud the bill's recognition that the President's budget accurately reflects the level of investment needed, but that is true across all departments and all of the elements of national power that together make the United States great. Let's take that realization to its logical conclusion and use the seeds of bipartisanship that the Armed Services Committee has worked so hard to preserve to build a long-term agreement that can finally unshackle us from the tyranny of budgetary uncertainty.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE WICONISCO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 65TH CONSECUTIVE ANNUAL REUNION

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2015*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wiconisco High School Alumni Association for exceptional civic activism—past and present—as reflected by the fact that the Association is hosting a 65th annual reunion. The Association has met every year since its first meeting in 1951 and has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to its members and the larger community. While the Wiconisco district designation no longer exists, the Alumni Association has remained dedicated to serving the redrawn district and the needs of its students.

When Wiconisco merged into the Williams Valley School District in 1965, the alumni did not lose their focus or commitment. Over the decades, the Wiconisco High School Alumni Association has supported the Williams Valley