

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF MONSIGNOR JOHN BEVINS

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Monsignor John Bevins of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, Connecticut.

This Sunday, Monsignor Bevins will celebrate the completion of 24 years of distinguished service to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and the entire Waterbury community. Prior to his appointment as pastor of the basilica, Monsignor Bevins was a Navy Chaplain for 23 years, faithfully serving his fellow servicemembers wherever he was stationed including Vietnam. Monsignor Bevins has dedicated his life to his church, city, and country.

During his time as pastor, Monsignor Bevins has built a legacy of innovation and compassion for the basilica and its members. He was instrumental in having the parish named a minor basilica by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008 and has been involved in the creation and restoration of numerous parish programs. From feeding the homeless every morning, to providing workshops for adult education, to leading a massive renovation project, Monsignor Bevins' spiritual guidance and good work has positively impacted countless lives.

Monsignor Bevins illustrates the power of altruistic generosity and determination to bringing people together and strengthening communities. I would like to thank him for his exceptional contributions to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and the Waterbury community. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy of service at Immaculate Conception will continue for years to come.

Congratulations to Monsignor Bevins on his retirement.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE VIETNAM WAR

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War.

The treatment so many of our veterans faced when they returned home from tours of duty was and is unacceptable. It is a dark chapter in our nation's history that we must never allow to be repeated. It is a testament to our veterans' unyielding call to duty that so many of them remain involved in veteran's service organizations and continue taking care of our troops as they return home from the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Georgia has a rich military heritage and her involvement in the Vietnam War is no different. Out of the 228,000 sons and daughters of our state that served in the military during the war, 1,584 were killed, 8,534 were wounded, 21 were held as prisoners of war and 35 are missing in action. Today, it is our honor to be the home state of an estimated 254,000 Vietnam veterans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the First District of Georgia, it is my honor to extend to our veterans this long overdue welcome home with the thanks of a grateful nation.

HONORING WAYNE BURGESS UPON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank and honor an advocate, employee, veteran, and community leader from my district, Mr. Wayne Burgess, upon his retirement. Wayne has been a fixture of the Groton community for nearly 50 years, as the longest serving Principal Officer of MDA-UAW Local 571, as the President of the Southeastern Connecticut Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and as a leader in countless other local service organizations.

His energy and commitment are boundless, as evidenced by his impressive accomplishments, beginning with his service in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Wayne served three deployments aboard the USS Taylor from 1967–1969 before returning home to work at Electric Boat, where he has remained involved ever since. At EB, he worked as a technical/test writer before being elected MDA-UAW Financial Secretary in 1988. In the years that followed, Wayne constantly saw new opportunities for EB and its employees. He began the EB School to Work program in the City of Groton that allows high school juniors the opportunity to work at EB during the summers.

Wayne also devotes his time to the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut, serving on the Food Advisory Board for the Gemma E. Moran United Way Center in New London and serves as the volunteer Chairman of the Charter Oak Credit Union Supervisory Committee. He is a devoted advocate for labor, for good jobs, for opportunity, and for the hardworking members of our community.

Please join me in thanking Wayne Burgess for the monumental impact he has made on the Groton community, and wishing him a peaceful and productive retirement.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of Trade Adjustment Assistance. Although it is important that we sustain this program, this is not the best reauthorization bill the House could consider. However, the program expires on September 30 and this legislation allows workers in my district and across the country to access the support they need to compete in our global economy.

Unlike the bill that I introduced with Ranking Member LEVIN earlier this year, today's bill has several shortcomings, including one of critical concern. This legislation cuts funding for worker training from \$575 million to \$450 million at

a time when we are expanding markets and transforming our economy.

We are in the middle of simultaneously negotiating trade agreements with Asia and the Pacific, as well as the European Union. Those who are impacted from increased competition deserve support and a safety net to adjust and reenter the job market.

The Administration recognizes that the \$450 million funding level does not take into account increased competition from Asia and the Pacific. However, Secretary Perez has assured Congress that his funding level is adequate to cover not only training services, but also case management, reemployment services, and state administration of the program—all areas that had been previously funded separately, not with a combined funding stream, like that in this bill. I hope the Secretary is correct but should this not be the case, I hope the Administration is prepared to work with Congress to provide additional funding with the same vigor they've invested in passing TPA.

I am glad to see that we are no longer paying for this program by cutting funds from Medicare. However, I am disappointed that this bill does not qualify public sector workers for Trade Adjustment Assistance. They are an important part of our workforce and should be able to qualify for access to the same services.

Our nation's economy and success depend on our workers. Over the last decade, I have been a strong supporter of Trade Adjustment Assistance and have led the effort to protect, extend, and enhance the program. I believe in this program and will continue this fight for good jobs, to ensure American workers can provide for their families, and that our country remains competitive.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on June 23, 2015 I missed votes due to a previously scheduled doctor's appointment.

HONORING MACKENZIE RONEY OF
THE HERCULANEUM BLACKCATS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mackenzie Roney of the Herculanum Blackcats for her first place win in Pole Vaulting at the 2015 Class 3 Track and Field State Championship.

Mackenzie and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community. She was also chosen as her school's scholar-athlete of the 2014–2015 year by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mackenzie Roney of the Herculanum Blackcats for a job well done.

CELEBRATING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MENDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 110th Anniversary of the Mendham Fire Department located in the Borough of Mendham in Morris County, New Jersey.

The Mendham Fire Department was established on June 20, 1905. The first officers of the department were elected at the founding meeting. The President was Edward S.P. Bretherton, Secretary J. Smith Gunther, Treasurer Charles P. Bretherton, and Chief John M. Hoffman. The original firehouse was completed in December 1906 with \$885 raised by the residents. In 1913 the Mendham Independent Hook, Ladder, and Hose Company No. 1 was formed. One year later in 1904 the First Aid Squad came into existence with twelve men volunteers. In the past century, the department has grown and continued to provide the community with exemplary service.

On September 11, 2001 the fire department responded to terrorist attacks in New York. Their First Aid Squad was also sent to the World Trade Center to assist the victims at the site of the tragedy.

In 2014, the department responded to 250 calls with an average response time of seven minutes and twenty-two seconds. This is about two minutes less than the national average for all volunteer fire organizations. The department is not just responsible for responding to emergency calls. They are actively involved in just about every facet of the Mendham community and provide mutual aid to neighboring towns.

Each year the department continues to grow their junior membership. They provide opportunities for young men and women aged sixteen to eighteen, who participate in various firefighting and first aid activities. The makeup of the junior membership represents the best and brightest of Mendham. They carry on to college and beyond the confidence and skills that are instilled in them while working at the fire department.

The Mendham Fire Department has been able to maintain and grow a wonderful relationship of trust and respect with Mendham residents. For this 110th Anniversary the department is planning a number of events and activities to celebrate their achievements.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking and recognizing the Mendham Fire Department for their 110 years of dedicated service to the community.

HONORING TEMPLE, TX POLICE
CHIEF GARY SMITH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Temple, TX Police Chief Gary Smith. With his retirement approaching, he will soon close out

37 years of incredible service to his community and begin the next chapter of his life.

A native son of Temple, Smith joined the force right out of high school and quickly rose through the ranks, showcasing his leadership and expertise at every step along the way. Recognition of his excellence included his being named Rookie of the Year and twice receiving the prestigious Officer of the Year award. Community leaders took notice of his great work and Smith was honored by the Temple City Council on three separate occasions for his stellar leadership and commitment to duty.

Chief Smith led his department with dedication, honesty, and integrity. Over the decades, Smith has seen his beloved police department grow from a small town force into a skilled and mobile law enforcement agency capable of providing safety to this rapidly growing city. Due in large part to his leadership, Temple is now one of the safest cities in the country. Locals could always sleep well knowing their safety was Smith's first priority.

As a former judge, I know firsthand the essential role police officers play in maintaining law and order and the risks they face every time they report for duty. These brave men and women awake each day uncertain of what dangers await. Yet they carry on, strengthened by their resolve to protect and serve. Police officers, be they big city beat cops or small town sheriffs, help preserve our way of life and are the shields that guard us from those lost souls who wish harm to others.

Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have made a difference in the world; Chief Gary Smith doesn't have that problem. I salute his extraordinary career and join the grateful citizens of Temple, TX in wishing him only the best in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING THE 135TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAINE'S FRIENDSHIP SLOOP

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 135th anniversary of the Friendship Sloop, a style of sailing vessel that stands as an icon of Maine's maritime heritage.

Friendship Sloops were developed over a century ago in Maine's Muscongus Bay as fishing and lobstering boats. Their beautiful lines served an important purpose. The shape of the hull provided great stability and lobstermen could sail the boats by themselves while laying and checking their traps by hand. Many local craftsmen were known for building them, but none more than Wilbur Morse of Friendship, Maine. Morse's shop turned out so many of the boats that they eventually became known by the name of his hometown.

With the advent of modern-day engines in the 20th century, the Friendship Sloop fell out of favor as a fishing vessel. But it wasn't long before its beauty and functionality made it a popular design for recreational sailboats and yachts. Its distinctive shape lives on to this day with the help of many enthusiasts who carry on its legacy. Since 1961, the Friendship Sloop Society has hosted an annual regatta and connected a community of people who sail, rebuild, and appreciate these boats.

Much has changed since 1880, but life on the Maine coast retains many connections to those earlier days. Hard-working individuals still make their living on the water. Tight-knit communities still pull together for each other. And Friendship Sloops still gracefully ply the waters, their design largely unchanged in 135 years. Some things just cannot be improved upon.

My appreciation goes to all those who keep the tradition of the Friendship Sloop alive. It gives me great pleasure to celebrate its 135th anniversary.

OMAR RODAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, millions of American teenagers walked across the stage in their cap and gown and received their diploma after four years of hard work. Their high school careers will officially come to an end and the next chapter will soon take off. High School Graduation is an exciting time meant for celebration with friends and family. But one Texas student did not get to cross the stage in his green cap and gown to receive his high school diploma.

Omar Rodas from Houston, Texas was an 18 year old student at Klein Forest High School.

He was a tenacious student. Constantly, he put in the extra effort to make his dream of graduation a reality. He stayed for after school hours and worked overtime to ensure that he would graduate. He spent his extra time bus-ing tables at a local restaurant, Babins.

At first he did not think that he would be able to graduate, but Omar pulled it off. He worked tirelessly for that cap and gown and to make sure he was part of the big day in June. His friends said that he was so excited that the hours of extra time and effort made his dream of graduating a reality.

Omar was on his way to his graduation ceremony early Saturday morning on June 6, 2015 with his good friend, who agreed to drive him that morning to ensure that he would make it to the ceremony on time. On the Houston highway, he was suddenly killed in a violent car accident involving two other cars. Omar was already wearing his cap and gown when rescue crews pulled him out of the wreck.

Initial reports have suggested that Omar was driving on the freeway around 7 a.m. when he veered out of his lane and hit the back of a dump truck and SUV then veered in front of the truck and was struck.

Omar was pronounced dead at the scene.

Friends and family at the graduation ceremony were surprised and confused when Omar's name was called and he did not cross the stage.

No one knew that a terrible highway accident took the life of the bright student.

A candle vigil was held for Omar on June 7th at Klein Forest High School and student, parents, and friends are helping the family by setting up a GoFund account in order to help them raise money for the funeral so that the family may grieve properly without the worry of money. Many who attended the vigil wore