

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. on November 14, 2016, because my flight from Oregon was delayed because of maintenance issues. If I had been present I would have voted in favor of H.R. 985, the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act, and H.R. 2669, the Anti-Spoofing Act of 2016.

H.R. 985 allows producers of concrete masonry to collaborate on a coordinated research and education program to develop and improve markets for concrete masonry products. The bill authorizes the Department of Commerce to oversee the board administering the program. If I had been present I would have voted for the bill.

H.R. 2669 expands current consumer protections to prohibit the transmission of inaccurate caller-ID information over text messages or Voice-over-Internet (ViOP) calls. Under current law, only voice calls are protected from inaccurate caller-ID information. Additionally, the bill requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to provide consumers with information to help identify scams that are perpetrated using inaccurate caller-ID information. If I had been present I would have voted for the bill.

TEXAS AGRICULTURE MEMORIAL DAY

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the first annual Texas Agricultural Memorial Day, a day we remember the lives lost and the sacrifices made by our state's farmers and ranchers as they provide food and clothing for Texas families. Texas Governor Greg Abbott designated November 21st as Texas Agriculture Memorial Day, which will be observed annually. The inaugural ceremony will be held on November 21, 2016 in the Auditorium of the Texas State Capitol in Austin, Texas.

Every year, there will be a nomination and application process to add names of honorees to the memorial for three categories—memorial, honor and memorial service. The memorial list is for those who have lost their life while engaged in agricultural-related pursuits. The honor list is for those who have had a severely debilitating accident while engaged in agricultural-related pursuits. The memorial service list is for those who lost their life in a non-agricultural accident and had an active role in an agricultural operation.

John Paul and Heather Dineen from Waxahachie, Texas envisioned the annual Texas Agricultural Memorial Day and organized the inaugural ceremony. Ten years ago, the Dineen family lost their five-year-old son, Johnny, in an agriculture accident. They are committed to sharing their story and advocating for safety awareness and education.

Working alongside Governor Abbott and the Texas Farm Bureau, their hard work and vision culminated in the creation of the Texas Agriculture Memorial Day.

REVEREND DOCTOR JULES SMITH
AND REVEREND IDA SMITH**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Reverend Doctor Jules Smith and his wife Reverend Ida Smith for their service and dedication to their community and the Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church.

As devoted servants of the Lord, Reverend Doctor Smith has served the Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church with faith, devotion, and integrity since 1986. Under his leadership and Ida by his side, the church has grown from 33 members to over 1500 and serves 42 multi-faceted ministries to meet the needs of every age group. Prior to joining Rising Star Church, Reverend Doctor Smith served as Assistant Pastor at Unity Baptist Church in the Bronx, New York and as Sunday School Radio Commentator and Associate Pastor at Union Baptist Church in Denver.

Reverend Ida Smith serves as First Lady and Associate Minister at Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church. Reverend Ida has inspired many throughout her work, serving on several missionary tours to Canada; Caribbean Islands; Burkina Faso, West Africa; Nassau, Bahamas; Lagos, Nigeria; and China.

Together, they also serve in various leadership capacities across a variety of local and national organizations including the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Colorado, Salem Baptist District Association, Baptist Ministers Conference of Metro Denver, International Association of Ministers' Wives and Widows, RSMBC Spiritual Stars Women's Ministry, and the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains. In addition, they have both received numerous awards, citations and commendations in both the secular and Christian communities.

I extend my deepest appreciation to Reverend Doctor Jules Smith and Reverend Ida Smith for their service and dedication to the Rising Star Church congregants and our community.

RECOGNIZING SEA ROAD SCHOOL
AS A 2016 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sea Road School in Kennebunk, Maine for its selection as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School.

Every year, the Department of Education selects Blue Ribbon Schools from across the country to celebrate excellence in teaching and learning. Sea Road School is one of 329 public and private elementary, middle, and

high schools honored in 2016, the culmination of a long process of nomination and application focused on its record of sustained student achievement.

Sea Road School is an Exemplary High Performing School. The commitment that requires from the entire community cannot be overstated. But we also know that the true measure of a school is not based on test scores alone. It's in the devotion of educators, who endeavor to understand how each child learns best. It's in the willingness of students to discover their strengths and follow their passions. It's in the support and engagement of parents and community members who know the incalculable value of a strong start for our kids.

Mr. Speaker, Sea Road School is a community dedicated to fostering scholarship and compassion in each child who walks through its doors, and I'm proud to see it so deservedly recognized on a national level. I commend Principal Stephen Marquis, Superintendent Kathryn Hawes, and all the educators, staff, parents, and students who have worked to build this success. Keep it up.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IBEW LOCAL 129

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 129 of Lorain, Ohio. This is an incredibly significant centennial milestone of labor history in northern Ohio.

Since 1916, IBEW Local 129 has served northern Ohio with distinction, providing the highest quality of electrical work and providing power to the residents of the Lorain-Elyria area. Its members continue to dedicate their careers to the advancement of wages, benefits and working conditions for all electrical workers.

The history of this organization dates back to March 1, 1916 when the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 129 was chartered in Elyria, Ohio. The founding eleven brothers were: Henry Therman, H.R. Ward, Gus Pallas, A.J. Miller, I.W. Horton, Ray Ward, J.W. Bareholmen, John Keishair, F.A. Lawrence, A.E. Gramholz and C. Pallas.

Beginning wages were roughly \$0.12/hour—which was far greater than an unorganized laborer in those days.

In 1917, IBEW Local 627 Lorain was formed under the leadership of Organizer Boyle from Local 129. By the time 1930 rolled around, the membership numbers and work available to the two locals was not what either had anticipated. After much deliberation and negotiation, Local 129 of Elyria absorbed Local 627 of Lorain and, under one banner became the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 129 of Lorain, Ohio.

The skilled men and women of IBEW Local 129 have contributed their time and talents to many notable projects including: The National Tube Company, Fruehauf Trailer Plant at Avon Lake, United States Steel, The Ford Manufacturing Plant, local commercial developments like O'Neil's Shopping Center, Lorain

County Schools, Lorain and the surrounding area hospitals, American Shipbuilding, Cleveland Electric Illuminating, and B.F. Goodrich, to name a few.

IBEW founder Henry Miller envisioned a union of electrical workers banded together toward the goal of improved safety, wages and working conditions for the brotherhood. A century later, his legacy stands tall through the brothers and sisters of Local 129. We offer our heartiest congratulations to IBEW Local 129 in celebration of its rich history and thank you for working to illuminate our world over the last 100 years.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF
SPECIALIST DONALD SCHLIESSER

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service and achievements of an esteemed and valued citizen of Cedar Park, Texas. Specialist Donald Schliesser has dedicated himself to serving his community and is an embodiment of the Army values of honor, loyalty, and selfless service. He is deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

SPC Schliesser enlisted in the Army in June 1957. After nine years of combined Active and Reserve service as a military radio operator, he left the Army and worked in the civilian sector as a financial planner. He concluded his successful career after 42 years, and enjoyed the next few years in retirement traveling our great nation with his wife. Choosing to be closer to their son, SPC Schliesser and his wife moved to Cedar Park, Texas.

Throughout SPC Schliesser's life, he has demonstrated his deep commitment to selfless service time and time again. In 2007, and again in 2015, SPC Schliesser decided to come out of retirement to serve on the Bond Advisory Task Force to review and recommend potential bond projects to the City Council. His efforts helped establish Cedar Park's infrastructure to accommodate its massive growth. Being an avid pilot, he served in the Contra County Sheriff's Air Posse. Applying his skills learned from the Army, he assists in emergency communications as an amateur radio operator. In 2011, he led the effort to raise \$225,000 in community donations for the Cedar Park Veterans Memorial. Citizens like SPC Schliesser are essential to making cities like Cedar Park, TX great places to live.

Though humble about his military service, Specialist Schliesser has remained dedicated to serving his community and honoring the military. I commend him for his work and am honored to award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the

National Football League Players Association (NFLPA).

Since 1956, the NFLPA has served as a strong advocate and defender of the players that make the National Football League (NFL) a world class product. As professional athletes, the players train and compete at the highest level.

The service you provide to your members is incredibly important. In fact, the NFLPA helps ensure the best interests of its players by negotiating a strong Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), ensuring the terms of the CBA are met, negotiating strong retirement and insurance benefits, and enhancing the image of players and their profession on and off the field.

As an avid Denver Broncos fan, the players are valuable and important to our city, the Broncos organization and the sport of football. Our committed Broncos players have brought three Super Bowl Championships home to the city of Denver. The players have always been active in our community and continue to make our city proud.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation and commend the players union for the representation it provides to the talented and hardworking football players of the NFL.

WELCOME MEERA ANUSHA
SARASWATI TEPPARA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to congratulate my former Chief of Staff Dino Teppara and his wife, Vatsala, on the birth of their daughter. Meera Anusha Saraswati Teppara was born at 11:10 p.m. on Sunday, October 9, 2016, in South Carolina. Meera weighed six pounds and fourteen ounces and measured 19 inches long. She is the second child for the happy couple and I look forward to watching her grow as she is raised by talented parents who will be dedicated to her wellbeing and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Meera's grandparents, Vijay and Vasanti Alsi of Vienna, Virginia, and Dilip and Gita Teppara of Columbia, South Carolina. Congratulations to the entire Alsi and Teppara families as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy.

HONORING MS. PATRICIA MARIE
JONES

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and invaluable service of Ms. Patricia Jones, who passed away August 5, 2016.

Patricia Marie Jones was born on September 3, 1944 in Vallejo, California to Booker T. and Mildred Jones. At a young age the family relocated back to its homeland of Heidelberg, Mississippi where Patricia graduated

from Southside High School at the top of her class.

After her high school graduation, Patricia moved back to the Bay Area and enrolled at Vallejo Junior college. Patricia earned her Associates Degree. Understanding the power of education, Patricia transferred to San Francisco State University where she would earn her Bachelor's Degree two years later in Journalism. She then enrolled into University of California, Berkeley and in 1973 earned her Master's Degree in City Planning.

Patricia had a distinguished career in public service that included local, state and federal service. She served in the city of Richmond as the city planner, the assistant to the City Manager for External Affairs and Assistant Director of Housing Development. She also served as a Board member of the East Bay Community Foundation. Most recently Patricia served as Assistant Executive Director of the Association of Bay Area Governments, a regional planning agency representing nine counties in the Bay Area.

Patricia was committed to excellence known for her work ethic, integrity, creativity and fierce determination. She excelled at everything she did.

Patricia was also a world traveler and over the years had visited Africa, Asia, Europe, South America and Cuba. She lived a full life and inspired all those around her to do the same.

But no matter her accomplishments, Patricia always put family first; she always made time for them no matter the time of day or size of the problem. She leaves to honor her memory, brothers Terry and Kenneth Jones, along with her many nieces and nephews.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District remembers the extraordinary life of Ms. Patricia Jones. Her contributions have truly impacted countless lives throughout the Bay Area. I join her loved ones in celebrating her incredible life and offer my most sincere condolences.

LAURA TOBEY, NATURAL GROCERS BY VITAMIN COTTAGE, PREMIUM PANELS INC., WANCO INC., COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION AND GENE AND DEE MILSTEIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Laura Tobey with Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, Premium Panels Inc., Wanco Inc., Community First Foundation, and Gene and Dee Milstein for being honored by the Arvada Economic Development Association for their outstanding contributions to the Arvada community.

Laura Tobey is posthumously recognized with the "Community Champion Award". Through her vision, enthusiasm and leadership, Laura was instrumental in the redevelopment of the blighted buildings in Olde Town Arvada. Today this area of Arvada is a thriving retail and commercial district. Her significant impact on the community will be felt for years to come.

Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage is recognized as "Retailer of the Year". Their capital