

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I missed three votes on December 8. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Thursday, December 8, 2016:

Rollcall No. 617: On Ordering the Previous Question, "yea."

Rollcall No. 618: On Passage of H. Res. 949, "yea."

Rollcall No. 619: On Passage of H.R. 4919, "nay."

STAFF FAREWELL

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, for the last time, to express my gratitude for the honor of serving in the United States House of Representatives. To the people of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional district, I am indebted for the confidence, trust and support you've shown me throughout my tenure as your representative. Six years ago, I pledged to uphold a self-imposed term limit. And today, Mr. Speaker, my time serving in this distinguished body is drawing to a close. Careers in Congress end in various ways, but I decided to follow the road less travelled—retirement—and will take leave of this chamber with a sense of service and accomplishment and pride in this esteemed body.

I want to thank those who have shared in this moment with me: my family and friends,

my dedicated staff and colleagues. In particular, I would like to thank my wife and children for their support, appreciation and understanding of public service.

I have been blessed with a hardworking and committed staff, both past and present, in my personal office and on the Financial Services Committee. I am truly grateful for their faithful service, good work, and perseverance.

My staff in Washington represented the best of Bucks and Montgomery counties. They served as ambassadors to our nation's capital. They aided me in crafting legislation, driven by the issues affecting our constituents. They led the effort in Congress on medical device reform and advocated daily for thousands of women throughout the county who have been harmed by certain dangerous medical devices. They worked on legislation designed to combat the illicit financing of terrorist and criminal groups, and promoted international peace and liberty as proponents of a free Ukraine.

And I would not have been returned to office to continue serving were it not for the exemplary constituent service and outreach provided by my Bucks County district staff. Constituents often thanked me for the attention and assistance they received from my staff. Whether it's solving a Social Security or Medicare issue, or serving one of the 50,000 veterans in our district, or responding to every constituent who contacted their congressman, my staff was there. They embraced a shared commitment to servant leadership, ensuring that our citizens' concerns were relayed to the appropriate federal agency and followed.

I know a congressional representative cannot do outstanding work on behalf of his constituents without a great staff. And my staff was knowledgeable and hard-working, often working nights and weekends to help me be a better representative. Whether attending an Eagle Scout Court of Honor, visiting a small business, or meeting with constituents in far-flung areas of our district, my staff was there.

Mr. Speaker, I want to include each and every one of their names, so that the names of these servant leaders can be enshrined in the history of the United States House of Representatives.

My sincere thanks go to:

Those who have served as my Chief of Staff: Patrick Lyden, Athan Koutsouroumbas, Kyle Whatley and Paul Ritacco. Their skill and insight have been invaluable to me and to the collective benefit of my constituents.

My two Deputy Chiefs: Justin Rusk for his steady leadership over legislative matters and initiatives in Washington, D.C., as well as for his service in our nation's armed forces; and Stacey Mulholland for her dedication to Pennsylvania and my District and her insight as a passionate municipal supervisor.

My dedicated Director of Constituent Services, Kelly McGinty, for her careful attention and assistance to those constituents seeking redress from the federal government and her extraordinary management of the constituent advocates working for the benefit of our citizens. Special thanks to our advocates: Jennifer Miller nee Nawalinski, Gina Seiler, Jim Pomeroy, Al Sigafoos, Eric Eklund, Jennifer McClure, and Mallory Menta.

My outreach and communications team for their proactive engagement with the diverse communities of our district, ensuring that every voice is heard. Many thanks for the faithful service of Joseph Hogan IV, Sam Bolstein, Patricia Wandling, Aaron Clark, Patrick Long, Matthew LaPalombara, and Mike Dillion.

My legislative staff for their meticulous attention to detail on the bills before the House and for crafting legislation to improve the lives of all in our nation. I am thankful for the reliable efforts of Chris Matarangas, Anna Marie DiMascia, Anthony Nisivoccia, Mark McDonald, Katie Brown, Casey Verrichia, and Alex Petrucci.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.