

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 83, I was absent on account of attending a funeral.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

HONORING THE ESTILL COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL BAND**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special group of young people. Members of the Estill County High School Marching Engineers won the Class AA Kentucky Music Educators Association state competition. The band is directed by Jason Bowles.

This event is very competitive and involves young men and women from across Kentucky. Like any successful endeavor, the victory was won by dedication, hours of practice, determination, and teamwork. The young people worked very hard for this accomplishment and they learned many lessons that will benefit them as they become adults.

Estill County High School is a small but proud high school in Irvine, Kentucky. The community was very supportive of this group of students. The young people represented themselves and their county very well at the state competition. I congratulate the students and their director on the Class AA KMEA state championship and I am proud to honor them before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING NEW ERA CAP CO, INC.
FOR RECEIVING THE COMMIT-
MENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD
FROM THE AMHERST CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor New Era Cap Co, Inc. for receiving the Commitment to Excellence Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. For nearly a century, New Era has helped people express their unique passion, pride, and style.

Now a brand recognized around the world, New Era came from humble beginnings. In 1920, Ehrhardt Koch founded the company out of the back room of a rented company on Genesee Street in Buffalo, New York. The company is family-owned to this day.

Each generation of the Koch family has embraced and grown New Era's legacy. The company started with a focus on making a high-quality men's fashion headwear, entering the market with a cap known as the "Gatsby." After a few years, Ehrhardt Koch and his son

Harold developed their next business venture, the baseball cap. Under Harold's leadership, New Era built relationships with baseball teams from Little League to college and professional leagues.

Harold Koch's son David continued to develop the baseball cap, growing New Era from a company supplying a few teams with caps to providing almost every Major League Baseball (MLB) and their Minor League affiliates with its 59FIFTY fitted cap. It was David's dedication to building relationships with partners like MLB that helped create the reputation New Era has today.

Chris Koch, David's son and the fourth generation Koch to lead the company, picked up where his father left off. With his knowledge of New Era's uniqueness, he secured a partnership with the National Football League in 2010. With the addition of apparel and accessories to its portfolio and having New Era products sold in over 70 countries has transformed New Era from a manufacturing company to a global lifestyle brand.

A search for a new headquarters in 2005 led the company to the ex-Federal Reserve Bank building in downtown Buffalo. Today, the company has 1100 employees and 17 offices, producing 50 million caps per year to be sold in 81 countries.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating New Era on their accomplishment of Commitment to Excellence award and their continuous dedication and contributions to the community at large.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF DR. BERNADITA "BENIT"
CAMACHO-DUNGCA**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Bernadita "Benit" Camacho-Dungca. Benit was a daughter of Guam, passionate advocate of the Chamorro language and culture, and a dedicated life-long educator. She passed away on February 15, 2016 at the age of 74.

Benit was born and raised in Dededo, Guam and was the eldest daughter of ten children of Ignacio Rivera Camacho and Maria Pocaigue Rosario. She was married to the late Vicente Taitingfong Dungca and together they had one son, John. Benit graduated from George Washington High School and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics and Anthropology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She went on to receive her Master of Arts degree in Education in Reading from the University of Guam, and her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Oregon.

Benit began working at the University of Guam in 1973 after creating the books, "Chamorro Reference Grammar" and the "Chamorro-English Dictionary." Both books are crucial resources for teaching and revitalizing the Chamorro language. She was also an associate professor at the University of Guam's School of Education. She taught Chamorro and trained bilingual, bicultural teachers from the Guam Department of Education, the Commonwealth of the Northern

Mariana Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. Benit initiated the Bilingual Bicultural Teacher Education Program and brought distance education to the University of Guam. She was the recipient of the University of Guam Faculty Award for Excellence in Service. Benit also served as a government representative for various international conferences on language. Most notably, Benit was the author of the Inifresi, or Guam Pledge, which is recited in many schools, public events, and meetings.

In addition to work at the University of Guam, Benit was also very active in the community. She hosted a television program on KGTF Public Television called Fino' Chamorro. Benit also served as a Girl Scout leader, Tamuning Youth Program summer camp director, was a member of the Tamuning Community Council, and was involved in her parish as a Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teacher and a member of various church ministries.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Bernadita "Benit" Camacho-Dungca, and I join the people of Guam in celebrating her life, and recognizing and remembering her dedicated service to Guam. I thank her for sharing her knowledge and tirelessly passing down all she could for our future generations. I extend my condolences to her son, John and his family. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, loved ones and friends. She will be missed, and her memory and legacy will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 83, I missed the vote as I was unavoidably detained due to traffic getting on to the Capitol Grounds.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

HONORING WEST HERR AUTO-
MOTIVE GROUP FOR RECEIVING
THE RETAIL AWARD FROM THE
AMHERST CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor West Herr Automotive Group for receiving the Retail Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. West Herr's history of and dedication to good corporate citizenship as well as their continued success is worthy of recognition and praise.

West Herr Automotive Group, established in 1950, is the largest automotive group in New York State and the 24th largest in the nation. West Herr is a long-time contributor and supporter of many worthwhile organizations in Western New York, demonstrating their generosity and commitment to giving back to the community that supports them.

With 21 locations in Erie, Niagara, and Monroe Counties, West Herr has 23 franchises and over 1,900 employees. In 2015, the company sold more than 46,000 new and used vehicles. West Herr prides itself on dealing honestly and fairly with customers and employees, a philosophy shared throughout all levels of the organization. West Herr builds their reputation on excellence, customer satisfaction and an understanding of their roots. All owners live in Western New York and actively manage the 21 locations on a daily basis.

Their customer and employee satisfaction efforts have earned them countless awards. West Herr has received Business First of Buffalo "Best Place to Work in WNY" Award for eleven consecutive years and the Better Business Bureau's "Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics" six times. In 2012, the group was recognized nationally as one of the "Best Dealerships to Work For" through Automotive News. Additionally, the Buffalo News recognized West Herr as a Top Workplace in its inaugural year for the program.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating West Herr on receiving the Retail Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. Their contributions to Western New York and commitment to quality service is commendable and I wish them continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANA NESSEL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dana Nessel, whose commitment to justice and equality has impacted the people of Michigan and citizens across the United States.

Dana is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School and spent more than a decade working as an assistant prosecuting attorney for Wayne County, serving much of her tenure in special assignment units. She specialized in domestic homicides, child physical and sexual abuse cases, and investigations into police shootings and in-custody deaths of civilians. She is currently managing partner at Nessel and Kessel in Detroit, where she specializes in criminal defense and family law.

In 2012, Dana championed the cause of marriage equality by initiating the case which challenged Michigan's ban on same-sex second party adoption, the case which would ultimately bring this important issue before the Supreme Court. The landmark decision of this case granted the dignity so many sought for so long: the right to commit to the person they love. Today, Dana continues to defend the rights of the LGBT community by pushing for protections against discrimination in state law across the country.

Dana is this year's recipient of the Honorable Kaye Tertzag Purple Sport Coat Award. Given to those, who, like Judge Tertzag, show devotion and service to our Michigan community, Dana exemplifies his well-known motto: "Be Prompt. Be Prepared. Be Polite."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Dana Nessel for her service to Michigan and our nation and wish her many years of success.

HONORING LESLIE ZEMSKY FOR RECEIVING THE AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mrs. Leslie Zemsky as she receives the Amherst Chamber of Commerce's Woman of Distinction Award. An artist, community leader, and Director of Fun for Larkin Square, Leslie has played an instrumental role in revitalizing the Larkin District and the City of Buffalo.

As Larkin Square's Director of Fun, Leslie partners with her husband Howard Zemsky and Joe Petrella to lead the Larkin Development Group. The group has renovated a number of former warehouse buildings which were once part of the Larkin Soap Company.

Since 2002, the Larkin Development Group's renovations include more than 800,000 square feet of office space, more than a half mile of streetscape improvements and a public gathering space for events called Larkin Square. Thanks to their creative vision, the Larkin District, now known fondly as Larkinville, has returned to its roots as a vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood, home to offices, residences, restaurants, parks and public gathering spaces like Larkin Square.

Under Leslie's leadership Larkinville has become a destination. Nearly every day of the week, thousands gather in Larkin Square for events such as Food Truck Tuesdays, Live at Larkin Wednesdays and the Larkin Square Author Talks. The neighborhood continues to evolve and grow with the opening of Flying Bison Brewery and Hydraulic Hearth Restaurant & Brewery, run by Leslie's son Harry. The rebirth of Larkinville has played a leading role in the rebirth of Buffalo. Larkinville has gained national attention, from the Congress for New Urbanism to earning praise from journalist Katie Couric during her recent visit to Buffalo.

My Buffalo District office is located in the Larkin at Exchange Building, and we've witnessed an incredible transformation due in no small part to Leslie. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating her for receiving the Woman of Distinction Award, expressing our deepest gratitude for her vision and efforts, and wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

CALLING UPON THE SENATE TO FULFILL CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO VOTE ON JUSTICE SCALIA'S SUCCESSOR

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, ten days ago, on February 13, 2016, the nation was saddened to learn of the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, the senior Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Justice Scalia, who loved the Court, served it ably for nearly 30 years and was involved in some of the most consequential cases in history.

Mr. Speaker, I urge those who revered Justice Scalia, cherish his memory, and wish to do honor to the work of his life, to join me in calling upon the Senate, and every senator, to discharge their constitutional duty to advise and consent (or not consent) to the nomination that will be put forward by the President by holding an up or down vote.

Mr. Speaker, those who claim there is an 80 year precedent against confirming a Supreme Court nominee during an election year and that there is not sufficient time to fill the vacancy are incorrect.

The most recent instance where there was a vacancy on the Supreme Court in an election year occurred not 80 but 28 years ago, in 1988, during the administration of President Reagan.

That vacancy was filled on February 3, 1988 by the appointment of Justice Anthony Kennedy who was confirmed 97-0 by a Democrat-controlled Senate.

The Kennedy nomination is the controlling precedent, as Justice Scalia would recognize.

In fact, Justice Scalia would say to anyone claiming otherwise, "Leges posteriores priores contrarias abrogant," which is Latin for the canon of judicial interpretation that "the last expression of the people prevails."

There are 332 days left in President Obama's term, which is more than sufficient time for the President to nominate, and for the Senate to consider and vote to confirm or reject his nominee.

Since 1900, there have been 60 Supreme Court vacancies.

The average time taken to fill these 60 vacancies is 73 days, which is less than 25% of the time remaining in the President's term.

The average time to fill each of the 13 vacancies since 1975 is a mere 67 days.

And of the current members of the Supreme Court, the average time is 74 days, the longest being the 99 days taken to confirm the controversial nomination of Justice Clarence Thomas in October 1991.

Mr. Speaker, as is often noted, elections have consequences.

They also impose responsibilities and duties.

And one of the most important duties imposed by the Constitution on the President is to nominate persons to fill vacancies on the Supreme Court and for the Senate to consider those nominations with dispatch.

The Supreme Court is the nation's highest court and its essential and indispensable role in our constitutional system is to provide definitive interpretations of American law and the Constitution.

Its decisions are the law of the land binding in every state and territory.

It is the only judicial tribunal capable of providing the legal clarity and certainty required for the legal system to function and give meaning to the rule of law.

President Obama has announced that he intends to fulfill the responsibility devolved upon him by the Constitution and will submit to the Senate a nominee to fill the large shoes left by the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

The Senate should fulfill its constitutional duty to advise and consent, or withhold its consent, by casting an up or down vote on that nomination.

That is the way to pay fitting tribute to Justice Scalia, to honor the Constitution, and to keep faith with the American people.