

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote number 111, 112 and 113 on S. 2426, H. Con. Res. 75, H. Con. Res. 121, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yea. My flight, JetBlue 2224, was delayed by 1 hour and 20 minutes.

CHALLENGES WITHIN THE
POLITICAL PROCESS**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Arjun Luthra attends Clear Springs High School in League City, Texas. The essay topic is: Challenges within the political process.

Within the US political system, there is an iron triangle which defines the spheres of influence and relationship between the United States Congress, the bureaucracy and the interest groups. Along with these groups, the executive branch influences the appointments of justices and bureaucratic officials. Concerns regarding public policy are placed on the shoulders of numerous institutions. What makes the political process so challenging is to ensure there is reconciliation of the political interests of these numerous institutions like Congress, which represents individual districts and states, and the President, which represents the overall nation.

The President, Office of Management and Budget, the Congressional Budget Office, agencies and interest groups are all involved in the budgeting process. The President bears responsibility of presenting the Budget to Congress while the Congressional Budget Office advises Congress of potential consequences of budget decisions. Within the process, the agencies provide projection of budgetary needs. The complexity of the process and shared roles among the institution often require adaptation or reconciliation. For example, in 1973, President Nixon refused to disburse appropriated funds of Congress. This led to the Budget Impoundment Act which transferred power of President to Congress. This particular historical example not only demonstrates a check and balance system, but also exemplifies the challenges in the political process.

In addition to budget, legislation becomes difficult to enact either due to political gridlock due to divided government or party polarization. This gridlock has led to a re-

stricted number of bills that pass through the congressional committees. Only 4 percent of bills introduced to Congress become law and only about 6 percent of bills reach floor debate. Furthermore, discussion of bill is restricted by the closed rule in the House, which places time limit for debate and restricts amendments. While in the Senate, senators can request for a filibuster, which extends time of debate. This allows members of the Senate to push their interests forward and often prevent discussion of other legislation proposed.

In essence, the political process is challenging especially in creating the political agenda and reaching specific goals set by the numerous governmental institutions. Today, hot topics in the political agenda include gun control, education and immigration policies. Although pushing for funds and legislation that yields long-term benefits for the constituents is challenging, the political process requires purposeful rather than reckless action that is advantageous to the United States. The political process ensures recognition of the Constitution as a governing document and also ensures a check on the abuse of political power.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,124,286,688,944.60. We've added \$8,497,409,640,031.52 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRIEDA JORDAN—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Dr. Frieda Jordan, of Glendale, California.

After graduating from high school in Tehran, Iran, Frieda Jordan moved to England, where she received a BSc and a PhD in Biochemistry from King's College London. She also became a Certified Histocompatibility Specialist with the American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics. Dr. Jordan is currently the Director of DNA Molecular Typing at Foundation Laboratory, and is a laboratory inspector with the European Federation for Immunogenetics representing Armenia. Prior to her work at Foundation Laboratory, Dr. Jordan was Associate Director of

the Human Leukocyte Antigen and Immunogenetics Laboratory at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Dr. Jordan has dedicated an extraordinary amount of time and energy in serving her community through her medical and scientific expertise. She is co-founder and president of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR), as well as chair of its "Support Group" for patients and their family members. ABMDR, which was founded in 1999, recruits and provides matched unrelated donors for stem cell or bone marrow transplantation to patients who are facing life-threatening blood disorders. ABMDR has identified more than 3531 potential matches for patients all around the world, and has facilitated 26 stem cell transplants. This organization has also brought new medical technology to Armenia, where it established a Stem Cell Harvesting Center in 2009.

Dr. Jordan is an active member and participant of various medical organizations including the Armenian Medical Association, the World Marrow Donor Association, the National Marrow Donor Program, and the European Federation for Immunogenetics. An accomplished speaker, Dr. Jordan has given presentations at numerous conferences and workshops in the United States and around the world.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Dr. Frieda Jordan, for her extraordinary service to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH HEFFERS, THE 2016 GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF SAINT PATRICK MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Heffers, who was named Man of the Year by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick for the year 2016.

Joseph is the son of the late John Heffers and Mary Golden Heffers. He was born and raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Pittston High School. He attended Wilkes-Barre Business College and earned a degree in Business and Accounting. He served in the Army from 1964 to 1967 in the Special Troops United at Fort Dix, New Jersey and was named Soldier of the Month during 1966. He worked at Eberhard Faber in Mountain Top, Pennsylvania as Project Manager for 21 years, receiving the President's Award from Eberhard Faber in 1986. He later worked at Cooper Industries in Weatherly as a Production Specialist and retired from InterMetro Industries in Wilkes-Barre. Joseph then managed the Metro Wire Federal Credit Union in Plains from 2001–2010.

He is a former President of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and received the Achievement Award in 2010. He was the historical speaker at the 100th anniversary banquet at the Friendly Sons in 2015. He is on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army in West Pittston. And, finally, Mr. Heffers is a former financial secretary of President

John F. Kennedy Council Number 372 Knights of Columbus, council Choir and Trustee of the 4th Degree Assembly.

Mr. Heffers coached several youth teams: Stoners Soccer, Jenkins Township and girls' softball and girls' Varsity Basketball at St. Mary's Assumption in Pittston. He is a member of St. John the Evangelist Church where he also serves as a Senior Altar Server.

Mr. Heffers resides in Port Griffith with his wife of 44 years, the former Mary Catherine Shea. They are the parents of two children, Joseph and Mary Elizabeth Gregor. Joseph and Mary Heffers have two grandchildren, Maxwell Wallace Gregor and Declan Joseph Gregor.

It is an honor to recognize Joseph for all of his accomplishments, and I am grateful for his lifetime of service to our community and country.

CONGRATULATING JARED RENNICK FOR HIS FIRST PLACE WIN IN THE 2016 MISSOURI STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jared Rennick for his first place win in the 2016 Class 3, 195 pound weight class, Missouri State Wrestling Championship.

Jared and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to Washington High School and their local community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Jared for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

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TRIBUTE TO C. MARSHALL KIBLER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sadly, South Carolina has lost a native son, C. Marshall Kibler, who was one of our state's most respected and admired business leaders. He fulfilled a rewarding life as a Southern Gentleman. He co-founded one of South Carolina's leading commercial real estate firms with Jeremy Wilson, now associated with Newmark Grubb. I especially appreciate his ability to select and mentor young professionals to achieve success.

The following obituary is from The State of Columbia, S.C. on March 15, 2016:

COLUMBIA.—C. Marshall Kibler passed away unexpectedly, Sunday, March 13, 2016, after a brief illness. He was predeceased by his parents, Clarence Marshall Kibler and Eleanor VanBenthuyzen Roman Kibler.

A lifelong resident of Columbia, Marshall was a graduate of A.C. Flora High School, where he played football and was a member of the Dark Horseman Club. Mr. Kibler was a graduate of The University of South Carolina. He was cofounder and president of Wilson Kibler, Inc., a statewide commercial real estate firm with offices in Columbia, Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Greenville. Mr. Kibler was a founding member of The Capital Rotary Club, where he served as President and was a Paul Harris Fellow. His real estate designations include the Society of Industrial and Office Realtor (SIOR) and Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM). He was also actively involved with the Executives' Association of Greater Columbia (EAGC). Marshall served as president of The Palmetto Little League in 1992, the year the Wilson Kibler team was the league champions. He also served on the board of Cooperative Ministry. Mr. Kibler was a member of Forest Lake Club, the Pine Tree Hunt Club, the Columbia Cotillion Club, the Centurion Society, the Quadrille Club, the Flamenco Club and the Palmetto Club. He had an interest in history and was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

He is survived by his beloved best friend and wife of 40 years, Anna Belle Heyward Kibler; his children, Heyward Haskell Kibler (Rula), Sarah Rhett Kibler Brewer (Brooks), and Anna Belle "Boo" Kibler Moca (Steven). He was affectionately known as "Kib" by his seven adoring grandchildren, Jones Emile Kibler, Heyward Julian Kibler, Sarah Taylor Rhett Brewer, Townes Brooks Brewer, Anna Belle Heyward Brewer, Henry Marshall Moca, and William Rhett Moca. Also surviving are his sister, Eleanor Kibler "Cis" Ellison (Hagood) and brother, E. Robertson "Bud" Kibler (Beth). Marshall enjoyed his second home in Little Switzerland, NC where he loved time with his grandchildren, relaxing and otherwise doing very little.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11 o'clock, Thursday, March 17th, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 3600 Devine Street, Columbia, with The Rev. Msgr. Richard D. Harris officiating. Final Commendation and Farewell Prayers will follow at Elmwood Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the home, 8 Ashley Court, Columbia, from 4 until 6 o'clock, Wednesday evening. Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, is assisting the family. In lieu of flowers, for the benefit of St. Joseph Catholic School, memorials may be made to The Central Carolina Community Foundation, Kibler Scholarship Fund, 2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 213, Columbia, SC 29204.

In temper he was frank, manly and sincere, an elegant gentleman. In deportment, dignified and courteous, and in all the domestic relations of life, exemplary and irreproachable. Memories and condolences may be shared at ShivesFuneralHome.com.

IN HONOR OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN FOUNDATION 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the

75th Anniversary of the activation of the U.S. Army Air Corps 99th Pursuit Squadron. The first black combat aviation unit comprised of pilots and support personnel trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field.

Tuskegee Airman Foundation is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to continue to build on the successes of the past, highlight the role models of today and develop the workforce of tomorrow.

In 1940, the military selected Tuskegee Institute to train pilots because of its commitment to aeronautical training; its facilities, engineering and technical instructors as well as a suitable climate for year-round flying.

In May of 1940, the first Civilian Pilot Training Program students completed their training. "The Tuskegee Experience" later grew to become a center for African-American aviation during World War II.

These brave airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most respected fighter groups of WWII paving the way for full integration of the U.S. military. These men and women of the Tuskegee Airmen exemplify the State of Alabama's priority of Public Service Excellence.

This commemoration of their legacy comes directly from the efforts and determination of over 16,000 courageous men and women and recognizes the fortitude of these individuals to stand strong in the face of adversity.

Their accomplishments gave way to the continuation on a grand scale through the introduction of American youth to the world of aviation, technology, engineering and math through local and national programs and activities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing today, March 22, 2016 as Tuskegee Airmen Foundation Day in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen Foundation 75th Anniversary.

RELIGION, RIGHTS, AND REFUGE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Bushra Hamid attends Manvel High School in Manvel, Texas. The essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past year and explain how that event has changed/shaped our country.

Religion, rights, refuge—this past year has shaped our country like no other. From Pope Francis's historic visit to the United States, to the Supreme Court's new ruling on marriage equality, 2015 has marked, no doubt, a memorable year that has been etched in history. And yet, one of the most unfortunate