

HONORING FLORENCE SHUTSY-REYNOLDS AND THE WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the service of Florence Shutsy-Reynolds, who served her country with great honor and distinction in World War II as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs). The WASPs stepped up and answered the call of duty at a time when their country needed them most, with no expectation of praise or recognition.

When the U.S. military needed more male pilots, these women signed up to fly noncombat missions so that their male counterparts could be deployed in combat. Florence Shutsy-Reynolds was one of these brave women who stood up to serve her country.

When she was still in grade school in Dunbar, Pennsylvania, she told her parents she wanted to learn how to fly. Her parents laughed at the time, but in 1941, Shutsy-Reynolds became the first woman to earn her pilot's license at the local Connellsville airport. Not yet old enough to meet the minimum age requirement of 21, she wrote letter after letter to the director of the WASPs until the age requirement was lowered to 18 and she was permitted to apply. She then took the military oath, endured six rigorous months of training, and flew aircraft that were damaged in the war, at times pieces of her planes falling off mid-flight. These brave women flew more than 60 million miles, trained male pilots for combat, test piloted aircraft, and 38 gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country, perishing in the line of duty.

After the war ended, Shutsy-Reynolds remained committed to her comrades by helping lead the charge for WASP members to receive veteran status, and later, a Congressional Gold Medal. She also assisted with designing the WASP flag, which has 38 stars in memory of the 38 women who died serving our country.

Ms. Shutsy-Reynolds has never stopped advocating for the respect she and her fellow WASPs are due for their critical role in the war effort. Even to this day, at 92 years of age, Shutsy-Reynolds is still fighting for recognition and military benefits for the WASPs.

Mr. Speaker, Florence Shutsy-Reynolds and the Women Airforce Service Pilots truly lived in the wind and sand, with their eyes on the stars, and I thank them for their service to our country.

CELEBRATING THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF GRAYSON'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the leaders of The Commercial Bank of Grayson on 125 years of financial service to the people of Carter County and the surrounding area.

The Commercial Bank of Grayson began business in early 1891, filling a void as Grayson had no financial institution. On May 1, 1891, the bank's first available statement of condition showed total assets of over \$15,000. The need for the bank and its acceptance by the community was demonstrated by its early success. The first cash dividend was paid to stockholders in 1894. Since that date, a cash dividend has been paid every year. No additional stock has ever been sold; increases have come through retained earnings.

Twenty-six local citizens invested in the original capital stock of the bank. Dr. John Wilson Strother was the principal stockholder and became the chairman of the bank's first Board of Directors and the bank's first president. He was also an active physician, farmer and lay preacher. Dr. Strother served as bank president until his death on January 8, 1935. Today, his great-great-grandson, Mark Strother serves as the bank's president and chief executive officer. This fifth-generation banker and his executive team works with a staff of 70 professionals whose top priority remains the same as it was in 1891—quality service for their customers and communities.

Since the bank began business during the term of Benjamin Harrison, it has served its customers continuously. The doors of The Commercial Bank have remained open through recessions, money panics, and the Great Depression. The Commercial Bank has continued to provide its customers with a wide array of financial services. Times have changed and so have the products desired by, and made available to, customers. The Commercial Bank has remained at the forefront of the financial industry's modernization in order to better serve current customers and attract new ones. Today, the bank remains independent and locally-owned, as well as being Grayson's second oldest business.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the spirit of entrepreneurship, partnership, and achieving the American Dream. For 125 years, The Commercial Bank of Grayson has created jobs and supported local businesses in their effort to help make Carter County a better place to live. I commend the vision of the founders and those who continue to support the mission of this institution and their dedication to serve the people of Eastern Kentucky and the Appalachian region.

CHRISTIAN LIEHR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christian Liehr for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Christian Liehr is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christian Liehr is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christian Liehr for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN LAZARSKY UPON RECEIVING LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 473

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Mr. John Lazarsky for receiving lifetime membership after his 50 years of involvement with the American Legion Post 473 in Freeland, Pennsylvania. The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 and has continually worked to advance core principles aimed at promoting the well-being of current and former service members, the communities in which they reside, and the next generation of patriotic Americans. John has time and again exemplified this spirit, and after 50 years of dedicated engagement, has become an integral part of Post 473's commitment to the service members, veterans, and civilians in my district.

After graduating from Freeland High School where he excelled as a two-sport athlete in basketball and baseball, John was drafted into the U.S. Army. John was stationed in Germany from 1964 to 1966, and upon his return to Pennsylvania, he joined Post 473. Having served at various levels within his local post, John knows firsthand the impact that the American Legion can have for service members and veterans. A strong sense of obligation to community, state, and nation are the underpinnings of all legionnaires, and John's service has provided innumerable contributions at each of these levels.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Mr. John Lazarsky upon receiving lifetime membership in the American Legion Post 473 after 50 years of selfless engagement. The American Legion's success depends on active participation in the post and volunteerism in the community, both of which have been embodied by John's dedication to Post 473. I wish him all the best as he continues to work on behalf of all legionnaires and their communities.

STATEMENT RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAP SERVICES

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 50th anniversary of CAP Services. For fifty years CAP Services has valiantly fought on the front lines of the war on poverty by empowering individuals to become economically and emotionally self-sustainable. To empower individuals, CAP Services has offered a rich variety of programs designed to

train and educate workers for higher employment, ensure equal childhood development opportunities, and foster environments suitable to entrepreneurship and homeownership.

In addition to providing educational and training opportunities to both adults and children, CAP Services also provides innovative programs to low income families so that they may better participate in the economy. One such example is their Work-n-Wheels program where CAP Services provides interest free car loans to individuals who need reliable transportation to get to work. Another innovative program CAP Services provides is their Home Weatherization program where they help low income families reduce heating costs and improve energy efficiency by enabling individuals to weatherproof their homes or apartments.

Empowering individuals to become financially independent through human, child, and business development is one of the most efficient ways to lift people out of poverty. I am proud to have this Stevens Point based community action agency in Wisconsin's Third Congressional District and I hope the great work they are conducting will serve as a model for the rest of the country.

RESTORE THE VOTE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the ongoing problem of voter suppression in this country. The Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965 and sadly today—over 50 years later, Americans continue to be blocked from the ballot box. This ongoing suppression absolutely must stop—now. Congress must lead the way in upholding democracy and equal rights in this great nation. This is why I'm so proud to join my colleagues and serve as co-chair of the first ever Congressional Voting Rights Caucus.

The importance and great need of the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus cannot be overstated. The purpose of the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus is to educate the public on local voter suppression tactics, inform constituents on their rights as voters and to create and advance legislations such as the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015 that help prevent current and future discriminatory and suppressive tactics that would deny American citizens the sacred right to vote.

This 2016 Election will be the first time in over 50 years—that a presidential election will occur without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act. As a daughter of Selma, Alabama, I am painfully aware that injustices suffered on the Edmund Pettus Bridge over 50 years ago have not been fully vindicated. Though we may not be counting marbles in a jar, in over 30 states such as Alabama, Arizona, North Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin—there remains example after example of modern day barriers that are keeping eligible Americans from the ballot box.

We are desperately in need to join together and restore the vote. These threats to our democracy and civil rights bar thousands of Americans from their right to the voting polls. Along with Representative MARC VEASEY and my fellow colleagues, I am committed to push

for improving and strengthening Voting Rights legislation that makes voting easier, not harder for the American people. I believe this Caucus is a symbol of great hope for change, however—I do look forward to the day it is no longer needed. This is America, this is a democracy and eligible voters should have full and free access to the polls.

I ask that not only members of this new Caucus, but that all my colleagues stand up and speak out in order to restore the vote. We all must fight against voter suppression and discrimination at the polls. We all must protect the principles of this great country and the integrity of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We must restore the vote.

On this Restoration Tuesday, I give us all the charge to battle against the continued suppression of the American vote and stand strong by our principles of democracy, liberty and justice for all. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues should join the 168 members of Congress and support H.R. 2867—the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015. Let's restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It is the right thing to do.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chair, today I rise to support a simple, but important effort that everyone in this chamber can agree on.

My amendment adds to this bill a Sense of Congress that when practical and cost-effective, the DoD should seek ways to maximize the number of veterans employed to build military construction projects.

Many members of this chamber, on both sides of the aisle, have stood on this floor and championed the cause of hiring veterans.

It's a policy that we've incentivized private corporations to do, and criticized employers for not doing it, or doing improperly.

It makes sense that if we are going to be good stewards of tax dollars, that we should encourage that money is used to hire veterans.

We're talking about good jobs here—jobs that take valuable skills, determined initiative, and produce pride in a job well done.

This is not intended to add any burden to the DoD or their military construction projects, but it's a reminder that oftentimes, we have skilled veteran laborers that live near these projects and are ideal candidates for the job.

If Congress is going to continue its efforts to support our veterans as they transition out of the military and back into the civilian world, then voting in favor of this amendment is a no brainer.

Support this amendment and join me in showing that our military readiness can often

best be built by those who know how important that readiness is when fighting for our freedom.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer a bipartisan amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. My amendment seeks to protect our children and teens from access to opioids in hopes of reducing the number of individuals we see addicted to heroin and other drugs.

This amendment directs the Secretary of Defense to study the feasibility and effectiveness of dispensing opioid medications in vials using affordable technologies designed to prevent access to stored medications by anyone other than the intended patient.

Today, our prescription pill bottles use what are generally referred to as "child-resistant" standards but today's teens have remarkably easy access to pain medications that are stronger and more addictive than those of the past.

It is not unusual for today's youth to find these opioids in the medicine cabinets of family members or friends. Technologies like locking prescription vials (LPVs) are already on the market and are a cheap efficient way to reduce the likelihood that our children and teens start down the path to addiction.

The implementation of child-resistant standards generated a 45 percent reduction in mortality rates. It is my hope that a feasibility study conducted by the Department of Defense would show additional benefits stemming from the implementation of more advanced LPVs.

I urge my colleagues to protect our youth from this epidemic and support my amendment.

TAIWAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on May 20, the 23 million people of Taiwan inaugurated their democratically elected president, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen. It was a nation-wide celebration.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating President Tsai on her election. I also congratulate the people of Taiwan for successfully conducting another presidential election. They continue to show that their country is a strong and vibrant democracy.