

HONORING BOB OPSAHL

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the service of Bob Opsahl, the early evening news anchor for Cox Media Group Orlando's Channel 9 Eyewitness News. After nearly 38 years of faithful work with the television station, Bob Opsahl will be retiring this week.

In 1978, Bob joined the WFTV Eyewitness News Team as a general assignment reporter, and began anchoring on the weekends in 1980. Since then, Bob Opsahl has become a familiar face as a trusted and consistent evening newscast anchor in Central Florida.

After serving four years in the U.S. Navy, Bob graduated from the University of Central Florida in 1976 with a major in Radio and Television Communications. Opsahl later received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from his alma mater, and has been widely recognized for his community involvement, specific attention to special needs children, and excellence in journalism and reporting.

Through the decades, Bob Opsahl covered many major events such as the Challenger and Columbia space shuttle tragedies, Hurricane Andrew's impact in South Florida, the inauguration of President George H.W. Bush, the 2000 Florida recount, and the Casey Anthony Trial. Bob Opsahl has been a reliable familiar and trusted news source, relaying it with clarity and heart. Bob will be missed in Central Florida.

HONORING WADE CLARK ROOF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Wade Clark Roof, who is retiring as the Director of the Walter H. Capps Center at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Wade has had a distinguished career as a leader, educator, and colleague on California's central coast and exemplifies the qualities of a true academic. Wade graduated from Wofford University in 1961 magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Having formed an interest in theological studies and religion, Wade moved to New Haven, Connecticut where he studied at Yale University, receiving his Master of Divinity degree in 1964, before earning a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of North Carolina in 1971.

Following the completion of his doctorate, Wade accepted a professorship at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where he taught research methods for studying religion, religious pluralism, and religion and society. In 1989, Wade moved to the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), where he was named the Rowny Professor of Religion and Society. He has been an irreplaceable part of the UCSB community ever since.

Wade is a gifted educator who constantly challenges his students to reflect on the changing roles of religion in society and analyze how changes in religion, faith, and spiritu-

ality have affected how we define ourselves as Americans. He is also a prolific author. Throughout his academic career Wade has produced many works of scholarship, including 17 books and edited collections, 88 journal articles and book chapters, and dozens of newspaper editorials. In addition, he has provided professional commentary for various media outlets including Time, Newsweek, New York Times, Washington Post, and the LA Times.

It is also important to note that Wade is a trusted colleague and friend, something I have experienced firsthand. Wade worked with my husband Walter in the Department of Religious Studies at UCSB. After Walter's passing, Wade raised \$2 million in matching funds to establish the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB. Serving as the center's founding director from 2002 to 2016, Wade has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the center's mission: "the belief that public dialogue and an informed and engaged citizenry are vital to democratic society." He is a dear friend, and I am so grateful for his indispensable contributions to honor Walter's legacy through the Capps Center and their innovative programming.

Wade has announced his retirement and will be starting a new chapter. He can do so knowing that his work and influence have been immeasurable and will continue to have an effect on his students and the entire UCSB community for many years to come.

I am pleased to celebrate Wade's countless achievements and I would like to express my utmost gratitude for his service to his students and community. I wish him nothing but continued success in his retirement.

HONORING THE ALICE HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Alice, Texas High School Academic Decathlon Team for winning the state title. After countless hours of studying and preparation, their record-breaking performance demonstrates the remarkable talent and dedication of these bright students.

The Alice team is the first Title 1 school—one with a disproportionate number of students from low-income families—to win an Academic Decathlon at any level in Texas. They defeated 29 other qualifying schools to claim the state championship. After 14 consecutive regional titles won by Alice teams, this year's squad shattered the previous 5A state record by scoring 50,292 points in the competition. Alice High School is one of only eight institutions to score above 50,000 points in the 30-year history of the Texas Academic Decathlon.

I also want to recognize the coaches, teachers, parents, school administrators, and everyone who has helped in developing the minds of these champions. Their support, and that of other role models, has contributed greatly to the past decade and a half of success at Alice High School.

Success in Academic Decathlon competitions requires levels of commitment and prep-

aration that go well beyond what is asked of a typical high schooler. Each round consists of ten events, including a seven-minute interview, an essay, two speeches, and comprehensive written exams in subjects from music to literature to economics. Not only did these Alice students outperform the competition, they did so with fewer resources and advantages than many of their opponents.

I commend these students for studying many hours each week to prepare for the State Academic Decathlon competition, and for bringing home the top prize. The future could hardly be brighter for each of them. I rise today to share my congratulations and applaud their efforts.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to bring to the House's attention the 125th Anniversary of the Bethany United Church of Christ located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and to offer congratulations to the congregation.

Bethany UCC, located at the corner of 5th Avenue and West Market Street in Bethlehem, was originally founded in order to provide a conveniently located place of worship for the western portion of Bethlehem that would help alleviate the over-crowding at the First Reformed Church of Christ in the City.

One hundred twenty five years later, Bethany UCC continues to thrive with an engaged congregation who immerse themselves in their community to aid and enrich the lives of others through service, fellowship, and music.

My heartfelt congratulations are extended to the members of the Bethany United Church of Christ on this 125th Anniversary. I believe I speak on behalf of the community when I thank them for their efforts on behalf of the people of the Lehigh Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in offering well wishes and congratulations to the men and women of Bethlehem's Bethany United Church of Christ. May the next 125 years foster additional congregational growth and provide further opportunities for continued service and fellowship within the Bethlehem community.

IN RECOGNITION OF HELENE M. WHITAKER FOR THIRTY-ONE YEARS OF SERVICE TO NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Helene M. Whitaker, vice president for administrative affairs at Northampton Community College, where she is responsible for government relations, planning, institutional research, human resources, and labor relations.

Few people have had as significant an impact on Northampton's outreach to students and the community as Helene. She has worked with state legislators from the Lehigh Valley to support the conversion of the former Bethlehem Steel plant offices into the Fowler Family Southside Center—a hub of education and workforce development to which tens of thousands of people flock each year. She also was instrumental in garnering public funding critical to the construction of a new campus to serve citizens of Monroe County.

Highly respected both on campus and off, she is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Athena Award presented by the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, the Outstanding Woman of the Year Award presented by the Bethlehem YWCA, the Women's Leadership Award presented by the Allentown YWCA, the Woman of Distinction Award presented by the Great Valley Girl Scouts, the Courageous Woman of the Year Award presented by Lehigh Valley Hospital, the Alumnae Award and Associates Award from Cedar Crest College, and the Pennsylvanians with Disabilities Award. She was named a "Mover and Shaper" by Lehigh Valley Magazine and an honorary alumna by the NCC Alumni Association. Last, but certainly not least, she was a national finalist in the White House Fellows Program.

Her commitment to improving the quality of life in the community is reflected in her current or past service on the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, the City of Bethlehem Zoning Board, and the boards of ArtsQuest, Musikfest, the Banana Factory, the Fine Arts Commission, the Northampton County Development Corporation, the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board, Cedar Crest College, Northampton County United Way, Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley, and the former Allentown State Hospital.

Helene earned a master's in public administration at Lehigh University, a master of arts in government at Villanova University, and a bachelor of arts at Cedar Crest College. Prior to joining the staff at Northampton Community College in 1985, she was a community and government affairs representative in the public affairs department at Bethlehem Steel Corporation. I wish her well in her retirement—it is certainly well-earned.

IN HONOR OF ALL AMERICAN
WEEK AT FORT BRAGG

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of All American Week at Fort Bragg, the epicenter of the universe. This week recognizes the 82nd Airborne Division stationed at Fort Bragg which will be celebrating their 99th Anniversary this summer.

To kick off the week, more than 15,000 paratroopers participated in a four mile run led by Maj. Gen. Richard D. Clarke, who is the 82nd Airborne Division's commanding general. They were joined by dozens of veterans who cheered on the participants from the sidelines. This year's event was particularly special because of the large number of paratroopers who were able to attend. However, we re-

member and celebrate the approximately 3,000 paratroopers that are currently deployed around the world and were unable to participate.

During All American Week, paratroopers and veterans will be joined by their loved ones in a week full of events that celebrate the rich history and legacy of the 82nd Airborne Division; ranging from picnics and reunions to a memorial ceremony remembering those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Our men and women in uniform reflect the best our nation has to offer and events like these are an important way to honor their commitment. The paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division are the tip of the spear and maintain a constant state of readiness, able to be deployed in a moment's notice to defend our nation. I am eternally grateful for the sacrifice of these brave patriots and am honored to serve them in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in celebrating All American Week at Fort Bragg honoring the 82nd Airborne Division.

OPIOID BILLS PACKAGE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the package of opioid bills considered by the House this week, which is a comprehensive approach that aims to address the country's opioid crisis.

America is experiencing an opioid addiction epidemic that is striking people of all incomes, races, and backgrounds. Every day, 78 Americans die from an opioid overdose—this is unacceptable. The urgency of this public health epidemic is clear and this legislation is an important first step to addressing this crisis.

This package includes a number of important measures, including a provision to expand the availability of naloxone and other overdose reversal drugs. It also encourages criminal justice agencies to integrate and sustain Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs. Another notable provision creates an inter-agency task force that encourages collaboration among the many agencies that come in contact with addicts—pertaining to criminal justice, mental health, substance abuse, and veteran affairs—and promotes a holistic approach to dealing with the crisis.

While the package includes these important bipartisan provisions, I am deeply concerned that Congressional Republicans refused to allow a vote on a provision to provide the resources necessary to support this new strategy. Congressman JOE COURTNEY offered an amendment to provide an additional \$600 million, which is also the President's request, in emergency funds. Sadly, it was rejected by all voting House Republicans from being considered on the floor. The funding would provide necessary resources to meaningfully address the increasing tragedy of this crisis. Our states and districts urgently need funding now.

Despite these shortcomings, I support this legislation as a step in the right direction. In the coming weeks, I urge Republicans to work on a bipartisan basis to provide the emergency funding necessary to fully confront this crisis.

WELCOMING JUSTIN McELWEE TO
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in welcoming my constituent, Mr. Justin McElwee, to Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day.

Today, I am honored to be joined by Justin McElwee, who is shadowing me as part of the 2016 Congressional Foster Youth Day. Throughout his time with me, I have had the opportunity to learn more about Justin and he has had the opportunity to learn more about my work in Congress.

Justin is a remarkable young man who has dedicated himself to the work of fighting for a better future for young individuals in poverty and those in foster care. Justin is studying international relations with the hope of working with international organizations who battle for the downtrodden in the United States and around the world. Justin's commitment to serve his fellow man, especially young individuals like himself, is commendable. I am honored to have had the opportunity to meet such a remarkable young individual. Justin is living proof that the circumstances of youth can be used to help shape a brilliant future.

Foster Youth Shadow Day, launched in 2011, provides Members of Congress the opportunity to meet foster youth in order to discuss and develop policy recommendations to strengthen the child welfare system and improve the overall well-being of youth and families throughout the United States. It has been an honor to take part in this program.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Justin McElwee for his dedication to serve those in his community and commitment to helping young individuals like him to build a bright future.

PEARLAND ISD EMPLOYEES OF
THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the following Principals of Pearland Independent School District for being named Employee of the Year.

Each school year, principals, teachers and staff members are recognized by the school district with various awards as a reflection of their hard work and dedication to their students and the school as a whole. This year five employees were awarded with the title "Employee of the Year": Cindy Brown from the Education Support Center, Sharon Harper from the Food Service, Charlie Saenz from Maintenance, Laura Aguilar from Operations, and Abel Garza from Transportation. These employees go above and beyond to support the students and faculty in Pearland and we thank them for their exceptional service.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to these dedicated Pearland ISD staff members for being named Employees of the Year. We thank them for all that they do.