

the rest of his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, we must do better for our nation's veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes on Monday, February 1, 2016. Had I been present for roll call vote number 46, H.R. 2187, the Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act, I would have voted "yea." Had I been present for roll call vote number 47, H.R. 4168, the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 1, 2016, I was absent from the House because I was unavoidably detained. Due to my absence, I did not record my vote on the first vote of the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call 46.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOE MOOSE'S SELECTION AS THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION'S 2015 WILLARD B. SIMMONS INDEPENDENT PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Joe Moose for his selection as the National Community Pharmacists Association's (NCPA) 2015 Willard B. Simmons Independent Pharmacist of the Year. Dr. Moose and his family have been providing top of the line care to residents of the state of North Carolina for four generations, and this most recent honor illustrates yet again the profound impact he has had on our community.

Since receiving his Doctorate of Pharmacy from Campbell University's College of Pharmacy and Health Science, Dr. Moose has dedicated himself to providing the best care possible for his patients while also focusing on helping future generations of pharmacists. Dr. Moose currently serves as the primary instructor at the University of North Carolina's Eshelman School of Pharmacy's Community Pharmacy Residency Program, while also volunteering his time to instruct future pharmaceutical students at his alma mater, Campbell University, as well as Wingate University's School of Pharmacy.

Dr. Moose also serves on multiple committees and boards for the state of North Carolina, including the Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee as well as co-chairing the Medicaid Drug Regimen Review Board. As a result of his tireless efforts, Dr. Moose has been the recipient of multiple awards and honors, with his latest being the NCPA's 2015 Willard B. Simmons Independent Pharmacist of the Year. This award, according to the NCPA, recognizes an independent pharmacist for exemplary leadership and commitment to independent pharmacy and to their community. Dr. Moose received this award at the NCPA 2015 Annual Convention on October 11, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Joe Moose for receiving this prestigious distinction, and wishing him and his family well as they continue to serve the people of North Carolina with high-quality care and exceptional customer service.

URGENCY OF ADDRESSING FELONY DISENFRANCHISEMENT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the first Restoration Tuesday of February to talk about the issue of felony disenfranchisement, an issue that is critical to voting rights in our country.

Felony disenfranchisement dates back to before the Jim Crow era. It is inconsistent with the values we cherish most in our country today and it contradicts the narrative that we've moved beyond the sins of our past. The United States should not be a country where past mistakes have endless consequences with no opportunity for second chances.

5.85 million Americans are denied the right to vote because of these laws. 4.4 million are out of prison, living in our communities, paying taxes, working, and raising families, yet they remain unable to vote, shut out from our democracy.

Denying this right of citizenship further punishes individuals who re-enter our communities and counters the expectation that citizens have rehabilitated themselves following a conviction. The United States should not be a country where past mistakes have countless consequences with no opportunity for redress.

My home state of Alabama is one of 12 states that do not automatically restore voting rights to people who have served their sentences. Alabama has one of the nation's highest disenfranchisement rates. Nearly a third of African American men in my home state have permanently lost their right to vote. Regardless of the amount of time they've been out of prison, they have been completely excluded from the electoral process.

These state laws that bar 5.8 million Americans with felony convictions from voting date back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During the decades following passage of the Fifteenth Amendment, lawmakers across the country worked tirelessly to invalidate the black vote. As the Jim Crow era began to gain ground, these bans were strengthened.

While poll taxes and literacy tests were effective tools in their arsenal, statutes allowing

the subjective and permanent exclusion of large numbers of minorities from the democratic process were a particularly potent weapon in their efforts to undermine African-American political power.

Those who championed these bans were clear on their intent. In 1901, disenfranchisement in Alabama was extended to all crimes involving "moral turpitude"—applying to misdemeanors and even non-criminal acts. The president of the constitutional convention argued the state needed to avert what he called the "menace of Negro domination."

In 2016 we are still operating under some of the same laws that were cornerstones of Jim Crow. Our nation's existing patchwork of federal law disfranchising people with criminal records perpetuates entrenched racial and socioeconomic discrimination. We've clearly fallen woefully short of achieving our ideals. We can and must do better.

Rep. JOHN CONYERS has introduced a great piece of legislation to restore voting rights in federal elections to the millions of Americans who have been released from incarceration, but continue to be denied the right to vote. I encourage all of my colleagues, from both sides of the aisle, to support the Democracy Restoration Act of 2015, a bill to restore voting rights in federal elections to people who are out of prison and living in the community.

RECOGNIZING ROSE STRONG ON HER 70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, It is my distinct honor to recognize Ms. Rose Strong on her 70th birthday.

Born in Minden, Louisiana, the 12th of 13 children, Ms. Strong grew up to defy the odds of her time and distinguish herself as an effective leader.

Known as a pioneer among women in the 1970s and 1980s, Ms. Strong was elected as a City Councilwoman of Columbus, Georgia in 1984, making her the first African American woman elected in Muscogee County. She went on to be appointed by President George H.W. Bush as Deputy Director, Intergovernmental Affairs of the U.S. Department of Transportation in 1989.

At the age of 70, Ms. Strong continues her impressive career, currently holding the position of Vice-President and Spokesperson of T.E.C.H. for the World, Inc.

Aside from the contributions Ms. Strong has made in her professional life, she has recently been honored at her local place of worship, The City Church in Seattle, as one of its "Pillars."

She is also the proud mother of two children who have followed in their mother's footsteps of serving their community. Rozalyn Strong is a Doctoral Candidate and an educator in the Lake Washington School District. Mack Strong, Jr. is a retired Seattle Seahawk full-back and currently works as the Western States Director of the NFL's Legends Community.

I admire and thank Ms. Strong for her lifetime of leadership and dedication to country and community. I am extremely proud to call

her a friend. May she have a happy 70th birthday and enjoy many more to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS FOR BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS ACT OF 2016

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Fairness for Breastfeeding Mothers Act of 2016, a bill that would require buildings that are either federally owned or leased to provide designated private and hygienic lactation spaces for nursing mothers. For years, federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have encouraged breastfeeding—the benefits are so great that the Affordable Care Act amended federal law to require employers to provide a designated, non-bathroom space for returning employees to pump breastmilk for their newborns, ensuring that new mothers would be able to continue this essential practice even after returning to work. My bill would extend this requirement to include not just employees, but visitors and guests to federal facilities across the nation.

In Washington, D.C. alone, there are millions of tourists who visit federal sites, such as the Lincoln Memorial and the Smithsonian Institution. Increasingly, families understand the unique benefits of breastfeeding, and visitors to these buildings who have newborns and babies should have a private space to breastfeed or pump. The benefits of breastfeeding are well documented—breastmilk contains antibodies and hormones that boost babies' immune systems, and studies have shown lower risks of asthma, diabetes, respiratory infections, and other diseases among breastfed babies. Moreover, breastfeeding also has benefits for nursing mothers, who, research has shown, have lower risks of diabetes and certain forms of cancer. Given the significant public health benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and baby, already recognized in federal policy, my bill is a logical next step to ensure visitors to federal sites have access to clean, hygienic, and private spaces to nurse or pump.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which would provide access to designated lactation rooms for guests to federally owned or leased buildings.

HONORING THE MOST VENERABLE ORDER OF THE HOSPITAL OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since 1888, the members of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem have promoted peace and health in the Middle East through their hospital in East Jerusalem, Gaza, and the West Bank.

In 2015, the hospital and associated clinics treated over 125,000 patients—including

15,000 through mobile outreach. The Order has a strong foundation in Christian ideals, and a motto of "Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum: For the Faith and in the Service of Humanity," which speak to the inspiring scope of their global contribution.

The Order also features a diverse membership, who vow to "serve our lords, the sick and the poor," and to fulfill this promise through volunteer service, fundraising, and monetary donations. I would like to congratulate Priory/Regional Chair, Julian V. Brandt III, CStJ, of Charleston, South Carolina, for his dedication for the significant work that the Order is accomplishing around the world.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 2016 marks the 10th anniversary for the School of Science and Technology (SST) located in my district in San Antonio, Texas. SST provides a K–12 curriculum concentrated on educating students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). In the rapidly changing world of science and technology, it is critical that our students receive STEM education from an early age. For a decade, SST has provided students with such an opportunity.

SST has been ranked among the top high schools in Texas for multiple years and has received the Bronze, Silver and Gold rankings from US News and World Report. This is a testament to the school's dedication to providing STEM education to students in the San Antonio area.

As Chairman of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee, I am committed to ensuring that our nation's youth have the scientific and mathematical skills to thrive in a technology-based economy. And I commend SST for its continued efforts to provide advanced STEM education to K–12 students.

In appreciation of all they have done, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 10th anniversary of SST.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMERCIAL UAS MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the UAS industry is booming in Oregon and nationwide, but our laws and regulations are stifling innovation instead of encouraging it, forcing American companies to look overseas to test new technology. We must not miss the opportunity to harness the benefits and utility of UAS technology, which will bring advances in safety and efficiency in nearly every sector of the economy.

Today, I am introducing the Commercial UAS Modernization Act, which creates an interim framework that will promote American innovation in the rapidly growing field of un-

manned aircraft systems (UAS) and will facilitate the safe integration of UAS into the National Airspace System.

While the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is in the process of creating a regulatory framework for commercial UAS operation, the FAA's existing approach to UAS integration and regulation has been piecemeal at best. As a result, we are behind other countries in developing a regulatory regime that encourages growth of this burgeoning industry, and U.S. companies are being overtaken by competition in Canada, Europe, and Asia. This legislation offers a uniform and comprehensive approach that offers our drone industry a sensible path forward.

The UAS industry expects to produce more than 100,000 U.S. jobs, with \$82 billion in economic impact, within a decade after these regulations are complete. The potential social and economic benefits of this technology go far beyond package delivery and capturing photos and video footage. Around the world, UAS are being used to inspect critical infrastructure and conduct land surveys, fight forest fires and support emergency and disaster response, transport medical samples and supplies, analyze and manage crops, detect oil spills and predict volcanic eruptions, catch poachers, and deliver high-speed Internet to remote or underserved areas. Full integration of UAS into the national airspace could revolutionize the way entire sectors of our economy and governments function.

The Commercial UAS Modernization Act provides a much-needed update to federal rules, making it clear that flying smartphones should not be regulated like Predator drones.

IRAN TERROR FINANCE TRANSPARENCY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3662.

The focus of the JCPOA is to achieve the long desired objective of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. We must be vigilant in our verification and enforcement of that agreement.

Iran's breach of the UN Resolutions regarding ballistic missiles is serious, but it is a distinct issue that requires its own targeted response. That is why President Obama was right to impose separate sanctions on Iran for its ballistic missile violations.

As Mr. ENGEL has indicated, this legislation is nothing but a blatantly partisan attempt to re-litigate the JCPOA. It was drafted without consulting a single Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and passed out of Committee without a single Democratic vote.

Let us focus together on holding Iran accountable for all its actions—with respect to JCPOA, its ballistic missile program, and its support for groups in the region that have engaged in terrorism. But it is a sad day when our Republican colleagues play political games with important national security and foreign policy matters.