

one of my constituents, as she embodies the very essence of the American spirit.

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**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

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**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on January 3 to January 6, January 9 to January 10, and on January 13, 2017, circumstances beyond my control necessitated my absence from the House and I, therefore, missed votes. I expect my absence to continue through February 3, 2017 and therefore am requesting a leave of absence from the House.

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**CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. BRADLEY AND KATHERINE MORROW UPON THE BIRTH OF THEIR SON, FINNEGAN FOX MORROW**

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**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor constituents of mine, Mr. and Mrs. Bradley and Katherine Morrow, on the birth of their son, Finnegan Fox Morrow. Bradley and Katherine are residents of Jefferson City, Missouri and welcome their new son into their family along with older brother Bennett.

Bradley and Katherine were married on September 15, 2012 and Finnegan was born on September 15, 2016, which made for a wonderful 4th wedding anniversary present. Bradley works for Division of Professional Registration with the State of Missouri and Katherine is a marketing designer for a Jefferson City magazine.

Many family members have been excited to welcome Finnegan, including maternal grandparents Milton and Cherie Barr, paternal grandparents Sally, Michael and Elizabeth Morrow, and paternal great-grandparent Joseph Morrow.

I ask you to join me in congratulating the Morrow family on this new addition to their family.

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**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

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**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for roll call votes 66 and 67 on Monday, January 30, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted “Yea” on roll call votes 66 and 67.

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**TRIBUTE TO ABBY BERNSTEIN**

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**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Abby Bernstein, a passionate advo-

cate for the rights of the aviation safety inspector and technician workforce of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Abby is retiring from the Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS) union this month after 33 years of service. I am confident that and all of my colleagues who have worked with her, will miss her wise advocacy and kind demeanor.

Abby's career with PASS began in 1984, when she was the union's first, and only, employee. She remained PASS's only employee and ran the union's legislative and membership departments singlehandedly for many years thereafter. Throughout her career, Abby has fought to ensure safety inspectors and technicians are able to do their important work on behalf of the American people in keeping our aviation system running safely and smoothly.

For years, Abby has fought tirelessly for increased aviation safety inspector staffing and improved FAA oversight of the aviation system, and I hope she will retire knowing that the flying public is safer as a result of her work. She was pivotal in joining my colleagues and me in key legislative efforts at various points in the 2000s to improve the FAA's oversight of maintenance, repair, and overhaul work performed on U.S. airlines' fleets at foreign repair stations. She also worked relentlessly to preserve the inspector workforce from unnecessary delegations of authority to the private sector.

Not only has Abby worked to improve aviation safety, but she has also vigorously protected the rights and interests of PASS's members at every turn. When Congress exempted FAA employees from Federal personnel and procurement rules in 1996, Abby fought hard, and successfully, to preserve the rights of FAA employees to organize and to bargain collectively. From the 1990s to today, Abby has been a key ally in efforts to prevent the privatization of FAA air traffic control jobs. She has remained steadfast in her belief that the employees who safeguard the safety and efficiency of the aviation system must remain Federal employees. I would be remiss if I did not note, in particular, Abby's invaluable assistance in the last Congress to counteract, once again, ill-advised efforts to privatize the air traffic control system.

In my own work with Abby on important issues of aviation safety and policy, I have come to know her as a thoughtful, inquisitive, and intellectually curious advocate. In fact, she has such a strong desire to learn and expand her horizons that, having graduated from the University of Maryland in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in management and consumer studies, she returned to her alma mater and obtained a second degree eight years later in computer and information sciences.

Abby's retirement will mark the end of an era for PASS and, indeed, for all of us who have collaborated with her over the years in pursuit of a safer, better aviation system. Although we will miss her, I hope my colleagues will join me in helping send Abby into retirement with all of our very best wishes and most of all, with tremendous thanks for a job well done.

DECLARATION OF FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017, AS HARMONY HOUSE DAY

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**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harmony House of Springfield, Missouri, for all the work the organization does on behalf of survivors of domestic violence and declare that Friday, February 10, 2017, be Harmony House Day.

Since 1976, Harmony House has been an active force for good in the Springfield-Greene County community. What started out as an all-volunteer grassroots network sheltering survivors of abuse in their own homes, has over the past 41 years answered more than 76,000 SAFEline calls, served over 450,000 meals and provided over 408,000 safe bed nights to more than 16,000 women and children from around Greene County, Missouri.

February 10, 2017, will mark the beginning of a new era for Harmony House. Going forward, Harmony House will continue to serve those in need and continue to change lives but in a new location with both enhanced and expanded capabilities. Harmony House's empowering work, as the only domestic violence shelter in the area, will reach more people and help more families operating from a newly renovated, top of the line, facility.

I am honored to recognize Harmony House and commend the organization for its service and hard work over the years. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Harmony House and observing Friday, February 10, 2017, as Harmony House Day.

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HONORING THE WALKER COMPANY

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**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2017*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special group of Kentuckians. They are the Walker family; Arthur, Sr. (Deceased), Arthur, Jr., Art III and Bryce Walker. They make up the Walker Company, which was created in 1933 and whose corporate office is located in Montgomery County, Kentucky.

The Walker Company has been chosen by Gateway Area Development District to receive the Regional Outstanding Business for 2016 Award. They have been a major employer over the years, employing hundreds of people and enabling them to provide a good living for their families.

The Walker family has made many philanthropic contributions, mostly anonymously, to needy projects over the years, including GED programs, scholarships for students, and the recent BuildSmart Campaign of the MCTC new Rowan Campus. The Walkers were instrumental in the location of the Maysville Community Technical College Satellite location in Mt. Sterling.

The Walkers support recreation and sports in many ways. They have been involved since the beginning with Easy Walker Park in Montgomery County, where thousands of children

across many states have enjoyed the park facilities. They also worked with Menifee County on their new Little League Baseball field, where 70 children play every day for most of the year.

Disaster assistance is no stranger to the Walkers. If a major event happens in a surrounding county, they drop everything and will even pull off of a job and bring their equipment and operators to help open roads, clear debris, just to help their neighbors. Morgan and Menifee Counties can both attest to this when the tornadoes hit in 2012.

The Walkers give of their time to serve on boards on the local, state and federal level and share their business expertise and professional engineering experience with others. The Walker Company members continue to be remembered for their generosity and I am honored to recognize them before the United States House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF JOHN W. WIESNER

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John W. Wiesner. On January 26, 2017, the Wiesner family lost a father, a grandfather and a great-grandfather, and our district lost an icon. Those who knew John W. Wiesner are better people today thanks to his wise counsel. His philanthropy, business, faith, and family are all admirable examples of what to aspire to because John made the most of his 88 years.

While known locally as the chairman and CEO of the Wiesner auto dealerships, John's story is admirable. Born in Richmond on November 13, 1928, John was raised in Hempstead where he met and married his childhood sweetheart, Elizabeth. Shortly after, they started a family and built an automotive empire. A graduate of Southern Methodist University and member of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, John went from working in his father-in-law's Sorsby Motor Company to later purchasing it in 1954. John and Elizabeth moved to Conroe in the 1970's and purchased the Buick Pontiac Dealership. Throughout the last few decades, the Wiesner dealerships continued to expand, employing over 500 people in Conroe, Huntsville, Tomball and Rosenberg.

A consummate gentleman, John leaves a legacy to be proud of with his son, Don, his six grandchildren and great-grandchild. However, because John did not showcase his good deeds, the full extent of his philanthropy may never be known.

As a Mason, a Shriner, a Paul Harris Fellow, Sam Walton Business Leader, Time Magazine Quality Dealer, Man of the Year, and Key Man—just to name a few of his many accolades—family, faith, and doing business the right way mattered the most to my friend.

Since 1974, Don Wiesner has been working alongside his father who was proud to welcome the 4th generation to serve in the family business. It is no surprise that the Houston Business Journal acknowledged the Wiesners as a top 10 Family Owned Business in Houston.

John's community spirit lives on in his dedication to the First United Methodist Church in Conroe and numerous boards and organizations from the YMCA, County Fairs, the Appraisal District, Youth Services, Economic Development, Chambers, Rotary, the Salvation Army, American Heart Association, Junior League, the performing arts, scholarships, the American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts, Crime Stoppers, Montgomery County Performing Arts, National Dealer Council, Houston Automotive Dealers Association, GMAC Dealer Advisory Board, Texas Automobile Dealers Association, Pontiac-GMC Division Dealer Council, South Central Region Dealer Council, Nations Bank Conroe, Conroe Symphony Orchestra, and more.

When I served as a local chamber executive, I had the privilege of working alongside John on key projects such as the creation of the North Harris Montgomery Community College (now Lone Star College System). This is just one example of how John's involvement helped make our community a better place. John and Elizabeth, their sons Howell and John III, are together again in the loving arms of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

IN RECOGNITION OF EMILY TORRANCE RECEIVING THE ATHENA YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emily Torrance for receiving the ATHENA Youth Leadership Award in recognition of her public service to better the Ann Arbor community. Emily's advocacy on behalf of less fortunate in the Ann Arbor community has helped improve the lives of the homeless.

Ms. Torrance has distinguished herself with her volunteer and philanthropic achievements that have achieved concrete results on behalf of Ann Arbor's homeless population. As a sixth grader, Ms. Torrance started S4 the Homeless after an encounter with homeless people on a cold day. In order to provide resources for those in need, Ms. Torrance hand knit and sold scarves. With the profits from these sales, she began bulk purchasing sub-zero sleeping bags at discounted rates. She was able to contact social services and work with these organizations to distribute the sleeping bags to help those in need. These provided shelter and warmth during the cold winter months in southeast Michigan. Ms. Torrance has since pivoted the organization's direction to sell services and better provide for the needs of the homeless.

Ms. Torrance is now in 9th grade but continues her work to provide aid to those in need through S4 the Homeless. She advocates for the homeless through her school and in the community at large, and her efforts are instrumental to raising awareness and driving action to better provide for these individuals. Emily has motivated others to be more active within their communities, and it is inspiring to see her begin the journey of public service at such a young age. It is my hope that Ms. Torrance continues to serve her community in new and innovative ways in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Emily Torrance for her years of service to the Ann Arbor community through S4 the Homeless. Ms. Torrance's advocacy on behalf of those less fortunate is inspiring and worthy of commendation.

STOP, OBSERVE, ASK AND RESPOND (SOAR) TO HEALTH WELLNESS ACT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today during National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, I introduced the Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness Act along with my colleagues Representatives ADAM KINZINGER, TONY CÁRDENAS and ANN WAGNER. It is a companion to S. 1446, which was introduced by Senators HEIDI HEITKAMP and SUSAN COLLINS. This bipartisan bill supports efforts underway at the Department of Health and Human Services to combat human trafficking by directing the Secretary to establish a pilot program to be known as 'Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond to Health and Wellness Training' to provide training on human trafficking to health care providers at all levels.

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery that uses force, fraud or coercion to lure millions of men, women and children in countries around the world annually, including here in the United States. Human trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking, and generates billions of dollars in profits each year, making it the second most profitable form of transnational crime behind drug trafficking.

Recognizing the key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims, providing life-saving help and bringing traffickers to justice. Human trafficking, however, is a hidden crime and victims rarely seek help because of cultural barriers or out of fear of their traffickers or law enforcement.

While victims are often difficult to identify, a reported 68 percent of trafficking victims end up in a health care setting at some point while being exploited, including in clinics, emergency rooms and doctor's offices. Despite this, out of more than 5,680 hospitals in the country, only 60 have been identified as having a plan for treating patients who are victims of trafficking and 95 percent of emergency room personnel are not trained to treat trafficking victims.

Our bill aims to ensure health care professionals are trained to identify and assist victims of human trafficking, and help close the gap in health care settings without plans for treating trafficking victims. I want to urge my colleagues to pass this important legislation so that health care professionals can better identify trafficking victims, provide victim centered care and help bring perpetrators of human trafficking to justice with the help of law enforcement as well as social and victims service agencies and organizations.