

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on February 14, 2017, I was absent from the House and missed Roll Call Votes 88 through 92.

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 88, on ordering the previous question, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 89, on agreeing to the resolution, H.Res. 99, providing for consideration of H.R. 428, the Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act, and H.J. Res. 42, Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to drug testing of unemployment compensation applicants, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 90, on ordering the previous question, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 91, on agreeing to the resolution, H.Res. 116, providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 66, Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees and H.J. Res. 67, Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by qualified State political subdivisions for non-governmental employees, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 92, on passage of H.R. 428—Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act, I would have voted "No."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 89, 90 and 91 on Tuesday, February 14, 2017. At the time, and at the request of the President, I was attending the swearing-in ceremony of VA Secretary Shulkin. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on roll call votes 89, 90 and 91.

HONORING INVESTMENTS IN RECRUITING AND EMPLOYING AMERICAN MILITARY VETERANS ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 244, the Honoring Investments

in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act or the HIRE Vets Act."

H.R. 244 encourages effective, voluntary private sector investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the United States military with annual presidential awards to private sector employers recognizing such efforts.

H.R. 244 directs the Department of Labor to establish a HIRE Vets Medallion Program to solicit voluntary information from employers for purposes of recognizing, by the award of a HIRE Vets Medallion, verified efforts by these employers to:

1. Recruit, employ, and retain veterans
2. Provide community and charitable services supporting the veteran community.

The President shall annually present the medallion and corresponding certificate to recipients at a time to coincide with the annual commemoration of Veterans Day.

Two levels of medallions shall be established, large and small employers, to be designated the Gold HIRE Vets Medallion and the Platinum HIRE Vets Medallion. The bill prescribes awards criteria.

Beginning two years after enactment of this bill, the Secretary of Labor shall submit annual reports on fees, program costs, the number of applications, and the medallions awarded, including the name and medallion level of each recipient.

RECOGNIZING DR. DALE MCCALL

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dale McCall on being inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Dr. McCall has made a great impact on the agricultural industry throughout his life. He devoted 40 years to agricultural education after receiving his bachelors, masters, and Ph.D. degrees from Colorado State University. He has helped the next generation of agriculture producers through his roles as a teacher, Agricultural Education staff member, and even Executive Director of Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

Not only has Dr. McCall given his time to agricultural education, he also has first-hand experience working on the farm. He and his wife have grown a variety of crops including oats, wheat, and milo. He is the current president of the Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union and has received numerous awards for his various agriculture and educational achievements.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes as Dr. McCall pursues his future endeavors. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry

makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Dr. Dale McCall for his accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER MARINE SERGEANT (SGT) DONNIE LEO FORD LEVENS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Marine Sergeant (SGT) Donnie Leo Ford Levens who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on February 17, 2006, during Operation Enduring Freedom. SGT Levens was killed when two CH-53E Sea Stallion helicopters crashed into the Gulf of Aden near Ras Siyyan, northern Djibouti, while on a training mission in the Godoria Range area.

SGT Levens of Long Beach, MS, was assigned to the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464, Marine Air Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, II Marine Expeditionary Force, New River, N.C. He was deployed to Djibouti as part of the U.S.-led Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa, a counterterrorism force. SGT Levens was an Aircraft Ordnance Technician.

SGT Levens's mother Margaret and brother Matt honored SGT Levens by completing their studies at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in 2006. Margaret Levens said Donnie's courage inspired her to go back to school and earn a degree. President George W. Bush delivered the commencement address at the graduation ceremony held in Biloxi. President Bush praised SGT Levens for his service and sacrifice.

SGT Levens will be remembered for his courage and determination to keep America safe.

HONORING MR. RICHARD BIEDENBACH AS VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Richard Biedenbach for his achievement as Veteran of the Year for 2016 by the Greater Canton Veterans Council.

Upon his graduation from Central Catholic High School in Canton, Ohio, Mr. Biedenbach joined the Army in the 1960s, where he was stationed in Berlin, Germany at the height of the Cold War. As a photographer in West Germany, Mr. Biedenbach monitored East German activity near the border between East

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and West Germany. His contributions to the effort against the Soviet Union helped advance the cause for democracy around the world.

After he was discharged from the Army at the rank of E-4 Specialist in 1963, Mr. Biedenbach dedicated his time to his fellow veterans, volunteering to transport veterans to and from the Veterans Affairs clinic in Canton. Today, he is a member of American Legion Canton Post 44, where he serves on the Burial Honor Guard.

On November 11, 2016, Richard was named Veteran of the Year by the Greater Canton Veterans Council for his selfless commitment to caring for and improving the lives of his fellow veterans.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to represent SPC Richard Biedenbach in the United States Congress. He established a patriotic example for all Americans to emulate and I am humbled to recognize Mr. Biedenbach's service to our great nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DUCHESS OUTLET FOR 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE GREATER PITTSBURGH AREA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Caprari Family of Pittsburgh for celebrating the 60th Anniversary of their family business, the Duchess Outlet, last year on Friday, November 11. The Duchess Outlet, which began as a textile manufacturer, operates as a retail clothing outlet and seller of heirloom toys.

Established in 1956 by Sam and Theresa Caprari, the Duchess Coat & Suit Manufacturing plant was a major garment producer for northeastern Pennsylvania and employed over 150 workers. As the business grew, the Duchess opened a discount retail outlet that offered raincoats, wool jackets, leathers, and outerwear.

When Sam and Theresa retired, they handed over the business to their son Paul and his wife Paula. The Duchess Outlet expanded their inventory with suits, sport jackets, outerwear, and name-brand raincoats. The store also began carrying Madame Alexander Dolls and opened a Doll Museum. The Museum now has more than 1,000 pieces, dating from the 1930s to the present.

In addition to operating the Duchess Outlet, the Caprari family has a long record of service to their community and country. During World War II, Sam Caprari served as a military aircraft-manufacturing instructor. He was a member of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club, the Elks Club, and the Italian American Association. Theresa is the Vice-President of the Business and Professional Women's Club Association. She was also a member of National Federation of Independent Business and the Pennsylvania Mental Health Association.

Paul Caprari is the founder of Hear for You, a program that provides hearing aids to those who cannot afford them. Paul also serves with the Knights of Columbus Council 372 as a 4th Degree Knight. Paula Caprari has received

multiple honors and awards for overseeing Duchess Outlet Doll Museum, including being recognized by the Madame Alexander Company. Julio Caprari is also a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus with Council 372. As Co-Chairman of Pittsburgh City History Day, Julio has worked with Misericordia University and Luzerne County Agency on Aging to preserve the history of Greater Pittsburgh.

It is an honor to recognize the Caprari family as they celebrate the Duchess Outlet's 60th Anniversary. May they continue to serve their neighbors and community in the Greater Pittsburgh Area with distinction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, due to other commitments, I missed the following roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll call no. 86, I would have voted yes. Roll call no. 87, I would have voted yes.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) TIMOTHY R. OSBEY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant (SGT) Timothy R. Osbey who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation February 16, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SGT Osbey lost his life along with Army Sergeant (SGT) Joseph Andrew "Drew" Rahaim when a roadway collapsed and their vehicle rolled into a canal at Forward Operation Base Iskandariyah, Iraq.

SGT Osbey, a Mississippi Army National Guard soldier and Pike County native, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment (Mechanized), Mississippi Army National Guard, McComb, MS. SGT Osbey served as an emergency medical technician. Before he entered the military, SGT Osbey excelled in track at the University of Southern Mississippi. During his funeral, Rev. Alphonse Patterson remembered SGT Osbey as a gifted athlete who also achieved academic success. SGT Osbey was a University of Southern Mississippi graduate.

Major General (MG) Harold A. Cross, Adjutant General of the Mississippi Army National Guard, presented SGT Osbey posthumously with a Bronze Star medal for meritorious service and a Mississippi Medal of Valor.

SGT Osbey will always be remembered as a role model who inspired so many others he served with. SGT Osbey is survived by his wife, Willie Marie Dickerson Osbey and daughter, Saderia Osbey.

HONORING WAYNE OLDHAM

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, from time to time members of this House rise, address the body to honor events in their districts, members of their communities, or occurrences in their towns. To be read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is an honor our constituents cherish. Today, though Mr. Speaker, the honor is all mine to rise and tell this body about one of the Tennessee 7th Congressional District's most cherished and devoted citizens, Wayne Oldham, as his life and homegoing is celebrated this week.

Wayne was born in Montgomery County and made his life there and at every stage of his life, he would be found championing the conservative cause. From creating the Austin Peay State University College Republican chapter still in existence today, to being the longest serving State Executive Committee member of the Tennessee Republican Party, Wayne had a drive and a passion to support the people and causes he held dear. There was never a meeting too small or a race too insignificant for Wayne to attend and support. He was a fixture in Clarksville and his absence will be felt for years to come.

There are those whose light shines so brightly, boldly, and consistently that we are confident their legacy will remain long after they are gone. I join with family, friends, political activists, neighbors, committee members, and all those who will miss Wayne's supportive phone calls, his never-fading friendship, and his heart-felt laugh. I ask my colleagues to join with me in remembrance of my dear friend. May his life's work be a reminder in serving the world around us, no matter how big or small.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHARLES BARTLETT

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Bartlett on being posthumously inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Mr. Bartlett made a substantial impact on the Colorado agriculture industry throughout his lifetime. He got his start at an early age, when he undertook a supervisory role on his family's farm when he was 20 years old. Dedicating his time to protecting Coloradan's water and agriculture, he became Chairman of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and co-founded First FarmBank and FarmBank Holding Company.

Mr. Bartlett maintained a commitment to education in his community. He served on several school boards including the Board of Cooperative Educational Services and the Bufalo School District Board of Education. He received numerous prestigious awards, including