

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 165, 166, 167, 168, and 169. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on roll call votes number 165, 166, 167. I would have voted Nay on roll call votes 168 and 169.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH D. BURKE, RECIPIENT OF THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF SAINT PATRICK SWINGLE AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph D. Burke, Esq. Today, Mr. Burke will receive the Swingle Award from the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick during their 103rd annual banquet.

Joe is a partner at Burke Vullo Reilly Roberts. He has practiced law for thirty-two years focusing on commercial law and civil litigation. Joe is admitted to practice before the United States and Pennsylvania Supreme Courts, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. He has been named a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer four times by Thomson Reuters. He has been recognized by the Martindale Hubbel Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers for the past seventeen years. He is a Fellow of the American and Pennsylvania Bar Foundations, as well as the Litigation Counsel of America. He is also a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Professionalism Committee.

An alumnus of Scranton Preparatory School and Lehigh University, Joe graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Government. He received his Juris Doctorate from Delaware Law School of Widener University. While at Widener he was a member of the law review, The Delaware Journal of Corporate Law, and received the 1982 Moot Court Competition Best Advocate Award.

Joe has a long record of service to the community throughout his professional career. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth. He is the former President of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce. He is a past member of the Board of Trustees of the Scranton Preparatory School and Chair of its Ignatian Identity and Mission Committee. He also served as Co-Chair of the North Penn Legal Services Campaign and for eight years as Lawyers Division Chair of the United Way of Wyoming Valley.

He and his wife Kathleen have been blessed with three children, Elizabeth Davis (Christian), Joseph Jr., and Michael, and two grandchildren, Burke Christian Davis and Whitney Elizabeth Davis. Joe and Kathleen actively support the work of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Foundation, Coaches vs. Cancer, Endure for the Cure, the Cath-

erine McAuley Center, St. Joseph's Center, and Marley's Mission.

It is an honor to recognize Joseph D. Burke, Esq. as the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Swingle Award recipient. He is well deserving of praise for his service to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, this week I missed Roll Call Number 168. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call No. 168—No.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 162.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (SFC) CLINT DANIEL FERRIN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant First Class (SFC) Clint Daniel Ferrin who paid the ultimate sacrifice defending our great nation March 13, 2004, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SFC Ferrin was killed along with three other soldiers when their Humvee struck a roadside bomb in Baghdad, Iraq.

SFC Ferrin was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 504th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. SFC Ferrin grew up in North Ogden, Utah and later moved to Mississippi where he attended his senior year of high school in Picayune. He joined the Army after graduation. SFC Ferrin's father, Dan, says Clint became interested in military service after hearing the stories about his grandfathers who fought in WWII in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army. When he decided to join, SFC Ferrin wanted to be a paratrooper even though he had a fear of heights. He was able to overcome that fear and distinguished himself as a soldier during his 12 years of service.

During his funeral, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints area president said SFC Perrin loved his country, his family, and his God. SFC Ferrin was given a 21-gun salute at the cemetery in front of approximately 100 family members and friends. SFC Ferrin was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

"His son Zachary would always tell his friends that his dad was a hero," Dan said.

"He was a very good soldier and a very good dad. I'm so proud of him."

SFC Ferrin is survived by parents, Dan and Rosemary Ferrin; brother, Army Specialist John D. Ferrin; wife Melinda; and their children, Zachary and Madison.

IN RECOGNITION OF BILL JONES, "MAN OF THE YEAR" GREATER WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Jones of Mountaintop, Pennsylvania as he is honored by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick "Man of the Year" during their 72nd annual banquet on March 17.

Bill Jones currently serves as President and CEO of the United Way of Wyoming Valley. Since joining the organization in January 2012, he has led the local United Way in making transformational and historic changes in the way the organization serves the community. Under his administration, the United Way has become a leading and passionate voice on critical issues related to childhood poverty in the Wyoming Valley.

Prior to the United Way, Bill served as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania. During his twelve-year tenure he was involved in growing and developing programs that served children and youth, the elderly, the homeless, those with mental illness, and families in poverty. He also spent fifteen years in the banking industry and was Vice President and Community Development Manager for PNC Bank.

Bill is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Misericordia University and earned his Master of Business Administration degree from Wilkes University. In addition, he graduated "With Distinction" from the Stonier School of Banking at the University of Delaware.

I join with the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in congratulating Bill on becoming their "Man of the Year." I congratulate him on his achievements, and I wish him the very best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO ADAM KOCH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Adam Koch and his teammate Tyler Cooney, both students at Dallas Center Grimes High School in Grimes, Iowa, for winning second prize in C-SPAN's national 2017 StudentCam competition.

Since 2006, C-SPAN has been partnering with local cable affiliates across the country to work with middle school and high school students to create documentaries on issues important to the nation. For this year's competition, students were asked to address the question: "What is the most urgent issue for the new President and Congress to address?"

Adam and Tyler decided to focus on energy issues and made a documentary titled, "Powerhouse of the Prairie." The short film zeroed in on the important role that wind energy and ethanol production plays, not only in Iowa's economy, but the economy throughout the entire country. I was fortunate enough to contribute to their project by discussing the importance of energy independence as it pertains to our country's national security. Their documentary will premiere on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. E.T. on April 7 and will play throughout the day.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Adam and Tyler for earning this outstanding award. The experience and knowledge they gained working on this project will be invaluable for years to come as they move forward with their education. It is because of young Iowans like them that I'm proud to represent our great state in Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Adam and Tyler and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 2, 2017, I missed roll call votes Nos. 122 through 123 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted yea and nay, respectively.

RECOGNIZING THE ASIAN TRADE, FOOD FAIR, AND CULTURAL SHOW

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Asian Trade, Food Fair, and Cultural Show that will take place this weekend in West Palm Beach, Florida. The Asian Fair has brought our community together to celebrate Asian culture for 24 years now, and I look forward to seeing what this year has in store.

The Bangladesh Association of Florida organizes this annual event to celebrate the contributions of the Asian community in America. This year, 48 countries will be represented through live music, dance performances, and authentic cooking demonstrations.

I'd like to recognize the Bangladesh Association of Florida for their hard work on this event and for their dedication to promoting cultural diversity in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) LERANDO J. BROWN, JR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Sergeant (SGT) Lerando J. Brown, Jr., who died while in service to our great nation on March 15, 2008, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SGT Brown gave his life while deployed in Balad, Iraq.

SGT Brown, of Gulfport, was assigned to the 288th Sapper Company, 223rd Engineer Battalion, Mississippi Army National Guard based in Houston, Mississippi. At the time of his death, SGT Brown was the 48th Mississippian to die in Iraq since March 2003. SGT Brown served in Iraq beginning in September 2007. He arrived with more than 90 other members of the 288th.

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Powell of the Mississippi Army National Guard said this was Brown's first deployment. SGT Brown's wife, Candice, described her husband as a man who loved to make her laugh. She said SGT Brown constantly told her he loved her through phone calls and e-mails.

SGT Brown's service and sacrifice will always be remembered.

SUPPORTING VT HALTER MARINE, INC. OF PASCAGOULA, MS

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House an injustice served upon a Mississippi shipbuilding company in my district by a number of Democratic senators on March 7, 2017 during the Senate debate over H.J. Res. 37, the Congressional Review Act repeal of OSHA's rule implementing the Obama Administration's Fair Play and Safe Workplaces executive order. During the debate, these senators accused VT Halter Marine, Inc. of Pascagoula, MS of disregarding the safety of its workers, citing examples of long-past accidents. I know for a fact that this couldn't be further from the truth.

The company has enlisted the services of safety experts to develop a new safety management system to improve upon its culture of safety. Since 2011, VT Halter has been guided by its 5-Year Safety Strategic Plan. The plan promotes a comprehensive, all hazards management approach to every aspect of the shipbuilding process. Activities include a safety stand-down at all facilities for a full day of re-training; Safety Leadership Training and an OSHA 30-Hour Maritime Course for all key personnel; specific training for new employees; weekly safety meetings; tool tracking systems to ensure proper safety equipment is issued to employees; Confined Space rescue training; safety teams which conduct daily inspection of production areas; and Safety Director attendance at the OSHA 2090 Shipyard Employment, Fall Prevention, and Competent

Person Training program. The company has complied with all OSHA safety directives and reporting requirements, and is in good standing with the agency.

V. Halter has worked diligently to obtain both government and commercial shipbuilding and repair work to maintain jobs for more than 900 working class families in my district. The economic impact of Halter's work ripples throughout the local economy through suppliers and other small businesses, and the company is considered a key player in the shipbuilding industrial base.

The accusations made on the Senate floor appear to be motivated by the desire to embarrass Senate Republicans and the President over the decision to repeal the Obama Administration OSHA regulations. In singling out VT Halter as political cannon fodder, the senators making the accusations have unfairly damaged the reputation of the company and have put its Mississippi workers in a state of confusion and anxiety over their future. The commercial shipbuilding market is in a major down cycle, and the Gulf Coast shipbuilding industry is struggling to find enough work to keep their people employed. By professing to speak on behalf of the workers, these senators have in fact jeopardized the company's ability to sustain these good, high-paying jobs. I've been told that the workers have actually approached Halter's CEO to see if they should circulate a petition to correct the record about Halter's treatment of its workforce. Unlike the Senators in question, I have been to VT Halter Marine and have spoken to these Mississippi workers. VT Halter takes excellent care of its people, striving both to keep them safe and employed, and I am extremely disappointed that certain liberal senators would attempt to construe their safety record just to fit their political aims.

TRIBUTE TO ALISA ROTH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alisa Roth, owner of Bloom Works Floral in Council Bluffs, Iowa, for receiving the 2017 Deb Dalziel Woman Entrepreneurial Award presented annually by Iowa's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC).

Since 1999, the Iowa SBDC has been awarding women entrepreneurs who have made a major impact in their communities and changed the direction of their own lives. The award is named in honor of Deb Dalziel, a longtime advocate of women entrepreneurs and director of America's SBDC Iowa from 1987 to 1999.

Established in 2004, Alisa has built Bloom Works Floral into one of Council Bluffs' premier small businesses. In the first 5 years of operation, she was able to grow the business so much that she had to move to larger locations with bigger storefronts on two separate occasions. Her tireless work ethic and dedication to her craft is unmatched, making her a highly respected entrepreneur in Council Bluffs and a top regional authority in her industry.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Alisa for earning this outstanding award. Her tireless work ethic and dedication to her community have had, and will continue to have, a