

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 20, 2017, I missed votes due to unavoidable flight delays. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on roll call votes no. 173, 174 and 175.

**SAN JACINTO COLLEGE NAMED
5TH BEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
IN THE NATION**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Jacinto College of Houston, TX, for being named the fifth best community college in the country by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program.

Ten top-notch community colleges were nominated for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence Award for the schools' student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings for graduates and accessibility and success of minority and lower income students. San Jacinto was recognized because of its extreme focus on supporting and working with students to ensure they are the most equipped to find a job and prepare for life after graduation. Between 2007 and 2015, the number of certificates and associate degrees San Jacinto College has awarded has increased by an impressive 140 percent. San Jacinto College works closely with local workforce to develop degree programs that match employment needs and their strong leadership is paying off for their students and our local money.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to San Jacinto College for being named the fifth best community college in the country. We are proud of their strong commitment to prepare students for life after graduation. Keep up the good work.

**RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
THE U.S. COAST GUARD SECTOR
ST. PETERSBURG AND HONORING
THE LIFE OF ANDREW DILLMAN**

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the courageous men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg, located in Florida's 13th District, and a brave St. Petersburg resident, Andrew Dillman.

Last week, amid high winds and rough seas, the U.S. Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg, led by its Commander, Captain Holly Najarian and Deputy Commander Randall Brown, responded to multiple search-and-rescue calls. Within a 12-hour timespan, they assisted 18 individuals in distress, seven of which were pulled from the water.

Pinellas County is a peninsula, on the peninsula of Florida. As such, we are fortunate to have three major Coast Guard Commands, Sector St. Petersburg, Station Sand Key, and Air Station Clearwater, that patrol our waters every day. The work they do is indispensable, and to those seven people pulled from the water last week, it was the difference between life and death. I salute the Coast Guard for their service, protecting our people, property, and national security along our coastline. And I will fight for them, providing the resources needed to carry out their critical mission. Their budget should be strengthened, not depleted or diminished.

Sadly, last week we were also reminded of the importance of the U.S. Coast Guard through tragedy. One of my constituents, Andrew Dillman, a brave young man and crewman for a local boat charter company, perished in the turbulent waters off Shell Key attempting to rescue a college student under his care. A powerful rip current overtook Andrew and Chinese student Jie Luo. I offer my deepest condolences to their families, and our prayers are with their loved ones during this most difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, putting service before self is a hallmark of the U.S. Coast Guard, and Mr. Dillman exhibited that same spirit with his actions. This willingness to sacrifice represents the best of who we are as human beings. We give thanks for their courage, may it inspire us to always be our brother's keeper.

I am humbled to have this opportunity to honor the service of our U.S. Coast Guard and the life of Mr. Andrew Dillman. May he rest in eternal peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, on March 20, 2017, I was unavoidably detained during Roll Call vote numbers 173, 174 and 175. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 173, YEA on Roll Call No. 174, and YEA on Roll Call No. 175.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, due to my participation in a meeting with President Trump at the White House, I was unable to vote on Roll Call 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, and 135. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call 129: "Nay"
Roll Call 130: "Nay"
Roll Call 131: "Nay"
Roll Call 132: "Aye"
Roll Call 133: "Nay"
Roll Call 134: "Aye"
Roll Call 135: "Aye"

**CINCO RANCH STUDENTS WIN 3RD
IN C-SPAN'S VIDEO COMPETITION**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jayden Fitts and Keaton Urioste of Katy, TX, for winning third place in C-SPAN's national 2017 StudentCam competition.

Since 2006, C-SPAN has invited middle and high school students to produce short documentaries on an issue of national importance. This year students were asked to answer, "Your message to Washington: What is the most urgent issue for the new president and Congress to address in 2017?" Jayden and Keaton's documentary, "Putting Unemployment Out of Business," focused on America's unemployment problem and what can be done to fix it. Jayden and Keaton were awarded \$750 for their hard work. The two students are freshmen at Cinco Ranch High School.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Jayden and Keaton for winning third place in the 2017 StudentCam competition. We are very proud of them and look forward to their future successes.

**VETERANS 2ND AMENDMENT
PROTECTION ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, on March 16th, 2017, during debate on H.R. 1181, the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act, the official positions of several veteran services organizations were discussed. To clarify remarks I made during that debate, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) did not take an official position on H.R. 1181 prior to the House's consideration of the bill, nor has IAVA publicly discussed why they have not taken a position on this bill in the 115th Congress. I regret any confusion that may have been caused by my remarks.

**RECOGNIZING LISA COHEN,
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DI-
RECTOR OF THE WASHINGTON
GLOBAL HEALTH ALLIANCE**

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lisa Cohen, the Founder and Executive Director of the Washington Global Health Alliance. As Lisa steps down from her ten years of service to the organization, we acknowledge the successes of the WGHA under her leadership, and we thank her for her tireless service to the greater Puget Sound region.

WGHA was founded with the goal of facilitating collaboration between various health

and globally-focused organizations—empowering them to more effectively face the most challenging global health issues. Under Lisa Cohen's leadership, the WGHA has done exactly that; it has channeled the resources of Washington's vibrant healthcare sector.

In the time that I have represented Washington's 9th District, I have had the privilege of attending many WGHA forums and healthcare advocacy meetings. In the past ten years, Lisa Cohen has moderated more than 100 panels and presented to over 50,000 people. WGHA now has over 70 members who, because of her commitment to collaboration, are now better able to serve the communities they touch. It has been an honor to watch WGHA as it has built an international network that achieves more in a more efficient manner.

Lisa Cohen has not only helped to set WGHA on a path to success, she has tirelessly served the greater Puget Sound community. Her list of accomplishments include channeling resources to many of those who are most at-risk in our community, mapping the state's global health community, co-founding Global to Local, and leading the Washington Global Health Fund and Global Health Nexus. As a huge proponent of collaboration, Lisa has helped to form Washington's organizations into a community, so that they can collectively tackle the world's most pressing issues.

Lisa Cohen's unique ability to bring people together has left our community better equipped to handle future health challenges. As she takes her next steps, I know she will continue to make a positive impact and help to make our world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the global health work that Lisa Cohen has done in our community and wish her well in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST FUND ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, America's water systems are in crisis. The American So-

ciety of Civil Engineers 2017 report card graded our wastewater infrastructure a D+, while drinking water received a D. While our clean water needs are estimated to be nearly \$11 billion per year, appropriations for clean water infrastructure have averaged just \$1.4 billion per year over the past five years. Drinking water infrastructure is in worse shape—the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that we need to invest over \$19 billion annually to ensure the provision of safe tap water, while Congress appropriates less than \$1 billion. Though most of our water and wastewater systems are 75 to 100 years old, these growing challenges are not due to age alone: federal investment has fallen more than 85 percent since 1977.

Our failure to maintain and improve our water infrastructure doesn't only result in a poor grade on paper, it has real and dangerous outcomes, like the ongoing lead crisis in Flint, MI or lead-tainted water in Portland Public Schools. Water infrastructure-related problems are not confined to attention-grabbing headlines. Last year alone, American communities suffered more than 250,000 water main breaks and saw overflowing combined sewer systems—causing contamination, property damage, disruptions in the water supply, and massive traffic jams. These problems will only increase. It is time to establish a dedicated trust fund for water infrastructure similar to the Highway Trust Fund.

In honor of Water Week, today, I'm introducing the Water Infrastructure Trust Fund Act. This bipartisan bill will provide a small, deficit-neutral source of revenue to help states replace, repair, and rehabilitate critical clean and drinking water facilities. Half of the trust fund revenue will be distributed to local governments as grants and loans through the existing Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for wastewater treatment construction, while the other 50 percent will be distributed through the existing Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to finance projects to meet federal drinking water standards.

The Water Infrastructure Trust Fund Act is a step in the right direction to addressing our growing water challenges, keeping our kids and families healthy and our communities safe, livable, and economically secure.

SUGAR LAND SENIOR REGENERON STS FINALIST

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bryon Xu of Sugar Land, TX, for being named a Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) 2017 finalist.

Bryon was awarded \$100,000 for winning fourth place out of 1,749 high school seniors for his project, Direct Determination of Ocean Temperature Profiles from Seismic Oceanography. He developed a method of measuring ocean temperature that can fill in the gaps existing with current techniques, such as satellites and probes. The Regeneron STS award is based on students' originality and creative thinking, as well as their achievement and leadership. In his spare time, Bryon is a member of the Mu Alpha Theta club for mathematics, coaches a local Mathcounts team and tutors science. He has also developed a web app to help with Science Olympiad event.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Bryon Xu for winning fourth place in this esteemed competition. We are confident he will have a successful future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, because of flight cancellations due to inclement weather, I was unable to vote on Roll Call 159, 160, and 161. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call 159: "Aye"

Roll Call 160: "Aye"

Roll Call 161: "Nay"