

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes in the House on March 8, 2017. If I had been present, I would have voted "Yea" on Roll Call No. 136, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2017.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP
JOSEPH J. MADERA**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bishop Joseph J. Madera, who passed away on January 21, 2017 at age 89. Bishop Madera was a loving son, brother, and leader of the Central California Catholic community, who was called "the people's bishop" by those he served.

Born on November 27, 1927, Bishop Madera was raised in Mexico. He entered the seminary at age 15, studying priesthood in Coyoacan, a neighborhood in Mexico City. After being ordained on June 15, 1957, Bishop Madera was sent to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles where there was a need for priests who understood the needs of Catholics of Mexican descent. He served in Los Angeles for 15 years until 1976, when he became a pastor in Fowler in the San Joaquin Valley. Four years later, in 1980, he was ordained bishop for the Diocese of Fresno.

While Bishop Madera of Fresno, Bishop Madera created specialized ministries for families and youth, and became very involved in the Hispanic community. He started an education television station in Fresno to spread his message on Catholicism, which would later become Channel 49 (KNXT). In 1991, Bishop Madera became an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese for the Military Service until his retirement in 2004.

Bishop Madera was known as the bishop for the people. He had a passion for getting to know all his worshippers, and always wanted to be actively involved in the community. He was the first Hispanic to lead a California diocese since 1896, overseeing eight counties of 348,300 Catholics, half of whom were Hispanic. Bishop Madera spoke four languages, and was unique amongst other Bishops in the United States because he was from a Mexican background.

Bishop Madera is survived by his sister Carmelita and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Bishop Madera, whose passion, selfless service, and kind heart made an instrumental impact on the lives of those in the Valley. His humble nature and great character is something to be remembered. I join the Catholic and Hispanic community in honoring his life, his love for his worshippers, and passion for making a difference. He will be greatly missed.

REMEMBERING WILLIE
SUMMERVILLE**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Willie Summerville, a friend and beloved community member, who passed away on March 7, 2017 at the age of 72. Willie served as choirmaster for the Saint Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Champaign for over 50 years, and was a longtime music teacher in Champaign and Urbana schools and the University of Illinois. In addition, he served as choir director for several community choirs.

The impact Willie left on the community stretches far beyond the conductor's podium. Willie found a passion in teaching others. He served as outreach coordinator for the African American Studies Program at the University and taught classes on African-American and European sacred music. He also offered his talents to music students of all ages through private lessons in voice and piano.

Willie first arrived in Champaign-Urbana in the 1960s when he came to the area to play tuba for the Marching Illini. Since then, he has become a well-established musician and a respected community leader.

Willie was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, and most of all, he was a treasure in the Champaign-Urbana community who will be greatly missed. His love for music and his devotion to the community will always be remembered. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

MIKAH VEGA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mikah Vega for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Mikah Vega is a 12th grader at Mountain Range High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mikah Vega is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mikah Vega for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE 2017 FAIRFAX
COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 39th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will present 125 awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze and Silver Medal of Valor.

Seventy-eight awards will be bestowed upon first responders who serve with the Fairfax County Police Department in recognition of their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

SILVER MEDAL OF VALOR

Sgt. Joseph L. Furman, MPO Gene M. Taitano, PFC Stephen K. Carter, PFC Lane M. Leisey (2), PFC Matthew R. Long, PFC Gershon L. Ramirez, Det. Michelle M. Warren.

BRONZE MEDAL OF VALOR

2Lt. Camille S. Neville, 2Lt. Charles H. Riddle, Sgt. Matthew A. Guzzetta, Sgt. Ari D. Morin, MPO Mary Hulse, MPO Michael D. Riccio, MPO Mark S. Yawornicky, PFC Michael H. Burgoyne Jr., PFC Silvana B. Masood, PFC Kenyatta L. Momon, PFC Christopher W. Munson, PFC Amanda B. Paris, PFC Steven L. Randazzo, PFC Nicholas A. Shivley, PFC Todd B. Sweeney, PFC Kurt T. Woodward, Det. David J. Faulk, Animal Caretaker II John W. Good, Volunteer Coordinator Cynthia E. Sbrocco.

CERTIFICATE OF VALOR

1Lt. M. Pirnat, 2Lt. Marc H. Mitchell, 2Lt. Edward S. Rediske, Sgt. Michael A. Comer, Physician's Assistant Craig DeAtley, MPO Jason E. Reichel, MPO Adrian K. Steiding, PFC Brandy L. Andres, PFC James A. Burleson, PFC Jason E. Chandler, PFC Christopher B. Hutchison, PFC Richard A. Juchnewicz, PFC Jonathan L. Kaminski (2), PFC Jonathan D. Keitz, PFC John P. Kolcun, PFC Russ E. Lephart, PFC David A. Neil, Jr., PFC Matthew W. Stanfield, PFC Dustin D. Tewillager, PFC Stephen T. Vaughn, Det. Anthony N. Taormina, Ofc. Kenneth D. Baxter, Ofc. Andrew K. Kuremsky.

LIFESAVING AWARD

2Lt. Edward S. Rediske, Sgt. John H. Kim (2), Sgt. David Kroll, PFC Kyle R. Bryant, PFC Arthur Y. Cho, PFC Gregory S. Cox, PFC Timothy S. Evans, PFC John E. Matusiak, PFC Katherine A. Montwill, PFC William M. Mulhern (2), PFC Nathan L. Musser, PFC Marian I. Nedeltchev, PFC Edwin M. Pastora,

PFC Kyle M. Proffitt, PFC Scott H. Reeve, PFC Justin P. Robinson (2), PFC Nicholas A. Shivley, PFC Jonathan K. Steier, PFC Matthew E. Weaver, PFC Frederick R. Yap, PFC Sung B. Yoon, Ofc. Kenneth J. McNulty, Ofc. Matthew F. Schafer, Ofc. Stacey L. Wells.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2017 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

HONORING ANTHONY GIBSON II

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a multi-talented gentleman, Mr. Anthony Gibson II. Mr. Gibson has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to achieve.

Mr. Gibson graduated from Vicksburg High School, and now, he is attending Mississippi State University majoring in Civil Engineering.

He has been inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, Gamma Beta Phi, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, National Society of Black Engineers, and American Society of Civil Engineers among others.

Anthony has a wide variety of engineering experiences including design, hydraulic/river research, geotechnical practices and project management.

Mr. Gibson had internships at J5 Broadus, the City of Vicksburg, and the Corps of Engineers (ERDC). Currently, he is a co-op student for Brasfield & Gorrie, one of the largest engineering/construction firms in the southeast. He is located in Birmingham where the firm is headquartered.

Anthony is the son of Patricia Brown and Anthony Gibson II.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Anthony Gibson II for his hard work, dedication and a strong desire to achieve.

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Springfield News-Leader and its dedication to 150 years of excellence in journalism.

The Springfield News-Leader was first published on April 4, 1867, and has been a vital part of the Springfield, Missouri, community ever since. After 150 years, the Springfield News-Leader has reached almost 55,000 consecutive days of print, for both morning and evening newspapers.

In January of 1927, after several changes in name and ownership, the newspaper was officially known as the Springfield Daily News. 120 years later, in 1987, after printing both a

morning and evening edition, the afternoon edition of the newspaper was discontinued and consolidated with the morning edition to become the Springfield News-Leader.

Today, the Springfield News-Leader is combined with a number of other print publications, websites and digital marketing services as part of the News-Leader Media Group. This group is the largest multi-media marketing solutions company in southwest Missouri, serving the local and regional business community.

For 150 years, the Springfield News-Leader has caught the moments that have shaped our nation, Missouri and Missouri's 7th Congressional District. I am confident that in the next 150 years the Springfield News-Leader will continue to be the newspaper that keeps the people of the 7th District informed and up-to-date. Congratulations to the Springfield News-Leader.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARK V. DENNIS

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of fallen Navy Hospitalman, 3rd Class, Mr. Mark V. Dennis.

Mr. Dennis was born on September 21, 1946, to Charles and Vera Dennis of Miamisburg, Ohio, where he grew up with his brother and two sisters. He went on to serve in the United States Navy in a Marine unit as a medical corpsman during the Vietnam War. A man of strong faith, Mr. Dennis also served as acting chaplain for his unit, and had dreams of being a missionary after completing his service.

Sadly, those dreams would not be realized. He was killed in action when his helicopter crashed after taking enemy fire in South Vietnam in the summer of 1966. At such a young age, 19 years, Mr. Dennis made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country.

In 1970, a photograph in Newsweek magazine showed a Prisoner of War with an uncanny resemblance to Mark. Devastated by the loss, and plagued by nagging doubt, his family, led by his brother Jerry, began a quest for answers as to what happened to Mark.

Last August, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency released a report determining through DNA testing that the remains from the deadly helicopter crash are those of Mr. Dennis. Thanks to the Dennis family's determination, and work by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, we now know conclusively that Mr. Dennis died while serving and protecting his country.

Mr. Speaker, the Dennis family has been through a lot over the years. I pray that they will now have the closure they so deserve. Mr. Dennis will soon be laid to rest alongside his parents at the Garden Sanctuary Cemetery in Seminole, Florida, with full military honors.

I am humbled to honor the life of this young man, and all of our servicemen and women who were taken from this Earth too soon. May he, and his family, now finally find peace.

RECOGNIZING EDWARDSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL'S SENIOR GUARD MARK SMITH

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edwardsville High School's senior guard Mark Smith, who is now better known as Mr. Basketball of Illinois for the 2016–2017 season.

Mark received the Mr. Basketball honor after a senior season in which he filled up the stats sheet. Over the course of the season, Mark averaged 21.9 points, 8.2 rebounds, 8.4 assists, and 2.1 steals per game. He recorded double figures in 31 of the Tigers' 32 games, and had eight games in which he scored more than 30 points. In the championship game of the Ottawa sectional, Mark scored a career-high 45 points in Edwardsville's win over Danville.

Outside of Mark's individual statistics, the Tigers' boys basketball season was an unforgettable one in the Metro East, as the team finished 30–2 and played in the Class 4A Super-Sectional in Normal.

In addition to the Mr. Basketball honor, Mark was named the "Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year," and has scholarship offers from multiple Division 1 schools.

I had the opportunity to meet Mark at an event for the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities last month, and was truly impressed by this young man. I am proud to congratulate Mark on his spectacular senior season and receiving this honor, and look forward to continuing to follow his basketball career.

RECOGNIZING THE CLARKSON UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and skill of the Clarkson University Women's Hockey Team, who just ended their already impressive season by winning the NCAA Division I championship.

Led by Coach Matt Desrosiers, the Golden Knights defeated the number one seeded Wisconsin Badgers for the championship title. This is the team's second Division I title, with the Golden Knights being the only team outside of the Western Conference to ever win the championship.

Under the leadership of seniors Corie Jacobson, Jessica Gillham, Genevieve Bannon, McKenzie Johnson and Carly Mercer, the team was able to regroup from a rough early season and achieve this impressive victory. Junior goaltender Shea Tiley was an instrumental part of this victory, allowing zero points against the strong Wisconsin offense.

In New York's 21st District, we are incredibly proud of all of these women and their incredible achievements. I hope that their hard work and dedication serve as an inspiration for generations to come.