

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “YEA” on Roll Call No. 60 (H.R. 423 Anti-Spoofing Act) and “YEA” on Roll Call No. 61 (H.R. 582—Karis Law Act).

TRIBUTE TO DR. RAYMOND GORDON KLOCKOW

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Hoosier and my dear friend, Dr. Raymond Gordon Klockow who passed away January 13, 2017. Not only was he a constituent in my district, but he was also a good friend to our family and to our office. Most recently, he served as our county coordinator in Jasper County.

Gordon was born in South Bend, Indiana and graduated from South Bend Central High School in 1965. He then attended Purdue University and received a Bachelor of Science in 1970, graduated from the Loyola University School of Dentistry in 1974 with a Doctor of Dental Surgery, and completed his General Practice Residency at Berkshire Medical Center in 1975. That same year he moved to Rensselaer, Indiana and began practicing dentistry at the Clinic of Family Medicine.

Gordon took a lot of pride in his work. He practiced general dentistry in Rensselaer at the Clinic of Family Medicine from 1975–1983, Hillcrest Family Dental Center, P.C. from 1983–2011, and Sheets Medical Practice from 2014–2015. It was at his dental office where I first met Gordon. It seemed we talked for hours about my family’s profession, dentistry. And of course we talked politics in that first meeting, and every conversation since. But talk from him of politics and American Exceptionalism in every conversation is not surprising to all who knew Gordon. He put a lot of care and dedication to the smiles of so many Hoosiers during the course of his career. Gordon himself was rarely ever seen without a smile on his face and it was infectious to those around him.

One of the many things I admired about Gordon was his servant’s heart. He served as the Jasper County Coroner, a Jasper County Deputy Coroner, and a Newton County Deputy Coroner. He was board certified in Pain Management, Forensic Medicine, Forensic Dentistry, and as a Forensic Examiner. Gordon was also currently a managing partner of Ritz Cinema in Rensselaer where he took great pride in the service he provided for the community.

Some of my most vivid memories of Gordon were at the town hall meetings we have in our district. I frequently asked him to help us with the meetings, sometimes as a host and other times as a participant in the reading of the Constitution. He was the perfect leader, in body and temperament, to do so. Gordon was

the type of individual who always asked what he could do to help and would go above and beyond for anyone who needed him.

Gordon leaves Nancy, his beloved wife for over 27 years, three children, and seven grandchildren to carry on his legacy of service to fellow Hoosiers. Anyone who knew him well knows what a great loss his passing is for the community. Mr. Speaker, we lost a good one last week. He will be missed. Rest in peace Gordon, you will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote on the passage of H.R. 423, the Anti-Spoofing Act (Roll Call No. 60), I would have voted “aye.” This bill would expand prohibitions on “spoofing,” the changing of a cell phone’s identification in order to mislead the recipient of a call or a text message. Fraudulent calls and texts are on the rise, and Congress should update the tools that law enforcement can use to address and prevent lawbreakers.

Had I been present for the vote on the passage of H.R. 582, the Kari’s Law Act (Roll Call No. 61), I would have voted “aye.” This bill would require multiline telephone systems to allow direct emergency 911 calls without first dialing out of the system.

HONORING HODGSON RUSS, LLP AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before you to recognize and honor Hodgson Russ, LLP as the firm celebrates its 200th Anniversary.

Hodgson Russ is not only Buffalo’s oldest law firm, but the city’s oldest continuously operating business, with roots dating back to 1817. The firm has played a pivotal role in the City of Buffalo’s history and has been instrumental in the growth and expansion of the region.

One of the first independent law firms in the nation, it was founded in 1817 by Mr. Hodgson Russ. Today, the firm employs 208 attorneys and more than 275 staff members who continue to follow the same philosophies upon which Mr. Russ originally founded the firm.

The firm extends into industries such as health care, construction, life sciences, railroads, steel, banking, milling and manufacturing. It practices in areas that extend from business transactions and compliance to environment and energy, immigration, tax and real estate to name but a few. Since the firm’s inception, Hodgson Russ provides representation to its clients with the utmost respect and integrity.

Notably, Hodgson Russ has a long and substantial record shaping early Buffalo, producing notable attorneys that played key roles both locally as well as on a national stage.

The founder of Hodgson Russ’s earliest predecessor firm, Mr. Asa Rice, played a key role in the completion of the western terminus of the historic Erie Canal project in 1825.

In 1832, partners Joseph Clary and Millard Fillmore drafted the first Buffalo city charter, playing a pivotal role in the city’s municipal incorporation. A few years later, it was partner Nathan Hall who led the effort to create the Buffalo public school system, the first tuition-free, tax-supported public school system in the State of New York.

The Hodgson Russ legal family more than made its contribution in and around elective public office as well. In 1849, Millard Fillmore was sworn in as the 12th Vice President of the United States, and sixteen months later, upon the death of President Zachary Taylor, was inaugurated the 13th President of the United States. A few years later, Grover Cleveland joined the firm as a clerk and in 1859 was admitted to practice, after which he would, during the period 1870–1892, be successively elected Sheriff of Erie County, Mayor of Buffalo, Governor of New York and twice as President of the United States. The firm’s role in the history books continues in 1901 when Hodgson Russ partner John Milburn played an instrumental role in bringing the Pan-American Exposition to Buffalo. A sad postscript: President William McKinley—wounded by an assassin’s bullet at the Exposition—succumbs to his injuries at Mr. Milburn’s home on Delaware Avenue, on the site where Canisius High School now stands.

While the firm honors its illustrious past, it remains focused on the future, providing emerging businesses and new industries with business-focused legal advice that contributes to the growth of our overall economy. The firm is also known for providing charitable contributions through their financial support of more than 250 organizations, as well as its work providing pro-bono legal services throughout local communities.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize and honor the Hodgson Russ Law Firm. I would also ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Hodgson Russ, as they celebrate their Bicentennial with an event planned for Thursday, January 25, 2017 at their offices at the historic Guaranty Building, a National Historic Landmark designed by renowned architect Louis Sullivan. Hodgson Russ has produced leaders in Congress and the Court System, in the NYS Senate and Supreme Court. This local Buffalo firm produced a president of the World Bank and not one, but two Presidents of the United States. It is my distinct honor to join current president Rick Kennedy and the many partners, associates, clerks, and other members of the Hodgson Russ legal family as they celebrate this momentous occasion.

SOLIDARITY WITH AMERICANS PARTICIPATING IN WOMEN’S MARCHES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the millions of Americans who participated in Women’s Marches around the country on Saturday.

I attended the march in DC, and it was heartening to see such incredible enthusiasm.

According to Metro, the system has not seen crowds that large since Barack Obama's first inauguration.

But not even 72 hours after more than 500,000 mothers, daughters, husbands, and fathers descended onto our nation's capital in collective opposition to President Trump's appalling misogyny, the House majority has decided to double down on its anti-woman, anti-health care assault.

The only bill to be considered under a rule on the floor this short work week, H.R. 7, is yet another attempt by the majority to restrict a woman's right to choose and put Congress between a woman and her doctor.

As it cloaks itself in a complete state of denial about the message America sent them on Saturday, the House majority is taking its cue from President Trump.

The House majority and the White House seem bound and determined to ignore the powerful message sent by a protest march that no doubt shook the Eisenhower china.

COMMENDING KAZAKHSTAN ON 25
YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD an opinion piece written by our former colleague, the gentleman from American Samoa, Mr. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, who was the first Asian-Pacific American in U.S. history to serve as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, which had broad jurisdiction for U.S. policy affecting the region, including Central Asia. Mr. Faleomavaega also founded the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia, and his work continues to influence the region today.

In 1991, Kazakhstan gained its independence from the Soviet Union. For some 15 years, I have been honored to work closely with the government of Kazakhstan in various capacities—as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs; as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment; as Ranking Member; and as founder of the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia.

I am proud of Kazakhstan for the great progress it has made since independence, and I especially commend President Nursultan Nazarbayev for his leadership on nuclear non-proliferation. Upon inheriting the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal and the world's second largest test site from the Soviet Union after its collapse, President Nazarbayev voluntarily chose to dismantle and disarm with the help of U.S. assistance.

His act was both heroic and principled. For this, I have repeatedly called upon the Nobel Peace Prize Committee to recognize the deeds of President Nazarbayev as well as former Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar, who co-authored the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program, which has contributed to world peace, in untold ways.

While I have no illusions about whether or not we can bring about a nuclear-weapons free world, I do have some thoughts because, like Kazakhs, Pacific Islanders share a similar history. From 1946 to 1958, the United States used the Republic of the Marshall Islands—a Micronesian nation of atolls and islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean—as its Cold War nuclear testing ground, detonating 66 nuclear weapons including the first hydrogen bomb, or Bravo shot, which was 1,000 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Acknowledged as the greatest nuclear explosion ever detonated, the Bravo test vaporized 6 islands and created a mushroom cloud 25 miles in diameter.

The U.S. nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands also set a precedent for France to use the islands of the Pacific for its own testing program after getting kicked out of Algeria where it conducted 17 nuclear tests from 1960–1966. To this day, radioactive material is still seeping out of the Sahara desert as a result of French nuclear testing.

Having been defeated in Algeria and emboldened by U.S. nuclear testing in the Pacific, France detonated approximately 218 nuclear devices in Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls in French Polynesia. Consequently, these islands also seep radioactive materials and are no longer inhabitable.

This is why I share President Nazarbayev's vision, especially as Kazakhstan has just celebrated its 25 years of independence. My position regarding this matter is no different than the position the United States took during a joint meeting between President Obama and President Nazarbayev on April 11, 2010 when President Obama noted that "the U.S. appreciates the leadership of President Nazarbayev and the contribution of Kazakhstan to nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation."

My position is also no different than the stance taken by former President George H.W. Bush, who welcomed President Nazarbayev to the White House and his son, President George W. Bush, who also welcomed President Nazarbayev to the White House and declared our commitment "to strengthen the long-term, strategic partnership and cooperation between our nations."

I thank Kazakhstan for all it has done to re-shape the world, post Cold-War, and I stand with President Nazarbayev as he champions nuclear disarmament among possessor states and prevents proliferation to new states.

In broader terms, I also commend Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Kairat Umarov for all he has done to strengthen the U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship. I have known him for nearly 15 years and I know firsthand of his tireless efforts to promote goodwill between Kazakhstan and the United States. His great work for and on behalf of our nations is deserving of inclusion in the Congressional Record for historical purposes, as his contributions are unparalleled.

I also commend Mr. Roman Vassilenko who now serves as Deputy Foreign Minister and previously served as Chairman for the Committee for International Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, and also as Counselor for the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the United States. Like Ambassador Umarov, I have known Deputy Foreign Minister Vassilenko for nearly 15 years. I have watched his career soar as he has put his talents to use for the Republic of Kazakhstan. His impact in communicating Kazakhstan's policies to its citizens and communicating its foreign policy to international audiences and governments

through digital diplomacy has been nothing short of revolutionary.

I also note the work of Mr. Aibek Nurbalin who I also met some 15 years ago when he worked as the Congressional Liaison for the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the United States, and later as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary of State for the Republic of Kazakhstan. Mr. Nurbalin left no stone unturned in promoting the cause of Kazakhstan and in making certain that President Nazarbayev's policies and agenda were known and supported, especially in the U.S. Congress.

I have known many diplomats during the course of my service as a Member of Congress. Never have I known diplomats who worked harder on behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan than Ambassador Umarov, Deputy Foreign Minister Vassilenko, former Deputy Chief of Staff Aibek Nurbalin, Secretary of State Kanat Saudabayev, and current Foreign Minister Erlan Idrissov. It was often said that Roman and Aibek were the left leg and the right leg of my dear friend, Kanat Saudabayev, when he served as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States. If they were the legs, Ambassador Umarov was his heart. And, current Foreign Minister Idrissov is to be fully commended for taking the U.S.-Kazakh relationship to the next level, and beyond. His service, like the service of Ambassador Umarov and Secretary Saudabayev, is also unmatched.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence, I would be remiss if I did not publicly honor these outstanding diplomats for all they have done to help build an independent nation worthy of its place in the world community. I also cannot let this historic occasion pass by without once more commending President Nazarbayev for leading the way for a nuclear free world. As a Pacific Islander, it is my sincere hope that the world will follow his lead as we work together for this cause, which is good.

HONORING QUINN HALL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Quinn Hall. Quinn is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Quinn has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Quinn has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Quinn has led his troop as the Patrol Leader, became a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, and earned the rank of Warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. Quinn has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Quinn constructed an octoball arena for his youth group at Liberty United Methodist Church in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Quinn Hall for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.