

IN RECOGNITION OF HONORARY
TAYLOR AUXILIARY POLICE OF-
FICER DAVE GORGON'S SERVICE
TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished public service of Dave Gorgon. He has enriched our community through his positive leadership.

Established in 1962 as a volunteer civil defense organization to assist the Taylor Police Department, the Taylor Auxiliary Police play a key role in safeguarding the public. In addition to helping the full-time police department staff community events like high school sports events and assisting with regular police patrols, the auxiliary police also serve as a reserve force to assist the City of Taylor in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. Additionally, the auxiliary has partnered with the city to further crime prevention initiatives, including Taylor on Watch, an education and outreach program that shares best practices for neighborhood and community safety. These initiatives and the service of officers are well documented by Dave Gorgon, a photographer with the City of Taylor.

Mr. Gorgon is a well-loved member of our local community who is known for his passion and leadership. Known around Downriver as "Mr. Taylor," he has served the city in various capacities, including as an interim member of the Taylor City Council and as a reporter and photographer for the Southgate News-Herald. Those who know Mr. Gorgon laud him as a special person who is always willing to go out of the way to make someone feel special, and positively impact their day. He is a strong supporter of both the Taylor Police Department and the Taylor Auxiliary Police Department and often attends events to take photos of the departments in action and share the good work being done by local officers. Taylor Auxiliary officers credit Mr. Gorgon as a positive force for the community and an irreplaceable member of the department. He is truly deserving of being named an Honorary Taylor Auxiliary Police Officer; we are grateful for his lifetime of service and positivity and look forward to his continued contributions to the Downrivers in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Dave Gorgon for his years of commitment to the community that he loves. His passion and dedicated service have bettered Taylor for years to come.

**HONORING MARTINEZTOWN FOOD
PANTRY**

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the founders of an outstanding organization in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Celebrating the 10-year anniversary since its inception, the Martineztown Food Pantry has provided meals for thousands of families in New Mexico since 2008.

The idea for a neighborhood food pantry was sparked when a young neighbor of Brad Brown and Michael Griego knocked on the door of their home asking if they were interested in buying a pair of his shoes so that he would have money to purchase food for his young wife and child. Brown and Griego felt compelled to address the larger issue at hand and do something to help end hunger in Albuquerque.

The pair started by giving up their gym memberships and donating that money to the Roadrunner Food Bank. Eventually they would establish their own mobile food program known as the Martineztown Food Pantry. Since its creation, this program has brought together a dedicated group of volunteers in the community to pursue a noble cause. They've helped feed 32,000 families for over a decade, totaling 1,612,000 pounds of food.

Dedicated to ending hunger and preserving the dignity of citizens of New Mexico, Brown and Griego truly embody the values of humanitarianism. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Brad Brown and Michael Griego and everyone who volunteers at the Martineztown Food Pantry for their selfless dedication to improving the community, and congratulate them on all they have achieved over the last 10 years.

**JONATHAN GARCIA, OLYMPIAN
AND HOUSTONIAN**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the whirl of skate gliding across the ice transfixed spectators at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games. Competing on the ice is Olympic speed skater, Texan, and Houston native, Jonathan Garcia.

Jonathan has been speed skating since he was 7 years old. His love for skating began when he witnessed Dan Jansen win the speed skating gold medal at the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway. Ever since that time, Jonathan has passionately competed in speed skating and has enjoyed years of success.

Jonathan did not immediately begin speed skating at the ripe old age of 7, as one would assume. He first competed in roller speed skating for 14 years, before switching to speed skating in 2007. His goal was to compete in the Winter Olympic Games, and that wouldn't be possible as a roller speed skater. Jonathan, being the determined and motivated person he is, quickly took up speed skating and began competing in major competitions throughout the country.

Jonathan's first major achievement came during the 2011 to 2012 Short Track U.S. Time Trials where he earned the gold medal in the 1000 meters. After that, Jonathan's career absolutely skyrocketed. He has competed in the World Championships consistently for the past 7 years, even placing in every event he skated in.

Perhaps most impressively, Jonathan has qualified for and competed in the past two Winter Olympics. He placed 28th overall in the 1000 meters at the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games.

In this year's 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, Jonathan finished 23rd in the 500 meters. He was also second among the three U.S. entries to compete in the speed skating competition.

We are beyond thrilled to have a hometown hero representing Team USA and his town of Katy, Texas. Jonathan's determination to succeed and his passion for speed skating will no doubt inspire a younger generation to compete and achieve their wildest dreams.

And that is just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 102 on H.R. 5247, I mistakenly recorded my vote as nay when I should have voted yea.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students, teachers, and communities who work together to support our public schools during Public Education Week.

Our public schools are where our students come to be educated in the fullest sense of the word as citizens of this great country. Our educators strive daily to make every public school a place where we prepare the nation's young people to contribute to our society, economy and citizenry.

Ninety percent of American children attend public schools. Lawmakers of every level can agree that we should all support our nation's public schools and empower local education leaders to manage and lead school districts in partnership with educators, parents, and other local education stakeholders and learning communities. This support includes recognizing how educators and our schools provide important services outside the classroom such as counseling, extra/co-curricular activities, and mental health supports that are critical to help meet students' needs.

As an advocate for public education, I believe we must promote advancing excellence in public education, by implementing continuous improvement and evidence-based practices. Every child has the right to an education and to attend schools that offer a high quality experience and help them reach their full potential.

I support predictable and adequate funding for our public schools so that students have classrooms and up-to-date resources as well as well-prepared educators. Our school buildings should have manageable class sizes to allow teachers to provide students the attention they need to succeed. Furthermore, I believe that public tax dollars should support public schools that are accountable to parents, educators and the communities they serve.

As a product of the public school system in Northwest Missouri, I reiterate my support for

public education and pride in our public schools. I will continue to promote the promise and purpose of public education, to elevate the great things happening every day in our public schools, and to engage communities about strategies that help students succeed. I affirm my commitment to fight for resources and support for public schools, and will be steadfast in my efforts to support policies that would protect these values.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 102, and YEA on Roll Call No. 103.

HONORING THOMAS H. MCCARTHY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE 47TH ANNUAL BUFFALO IRISH CENTER CIVIC LUNCHEON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Thomas H. McCarthy, who has been selected to serve as Honorary Chairman of the 47th Annual Civic Luncheon to benefit the Buffalo Irish Center. A proud Buffalonian, born and raised, Tom is a graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas School, Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School, Canisius College, and Simmons School of Mortuary Science.

One year after graduating from Simmons, he founded the Thomas H. McCarthy Funeral Home. Through his funeral home business, he has provided care and compassion to neighborhood families during difficult times.

Tom is a dedicated community servant. He served in the Buffalo Fire Department for 37 years, retiring as a Lieutenant. Additionally, he is a member of the Knights of Columbus, an organization of nearly two million Catholic men. Tom embodies their principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

Organizations that benefit from Tom's stewardship include his alma mater, Bishop Timon, where he raises funds for student scholarships with the Hillery Foundation. For almost 60 years, he has been a member of the Blackthorn Club, a group which encourages the camaraderie and connection of its members with Irish ancestry through social events. At one point, he served as President of the Club.

Married for 63 years, Tom and his wife Mary Ellen have raised six children together. They now have twelve grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Alongside his wonderful family, Tom has been an active participator in this Luncheon since the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Thomas H. McCarthy here today, to recognize his countless contributions to the Irish community in Buffalo, and the Western New York community as a whole. His time and talents

have made a difference in the lives of so many, and he is deserving of our most sincere gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 102 and 103 on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call 102 and Yea on Roll Call 103.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF CHARLES EDWARD WERN, JR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Charles Edward Wern, Jr., 85, who passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018, at home with his family by his side.

Charles was born on November 11, 1932 to Charles E. Wern, Sr. and Mary Lyke Wern. After graduating from Vienna High School in 1950, he completed his undergraduate degree at Duke University where he played both basketball and baseball. Upon graduation, Chuck served in the U.S. Army for two years and played professional basketball and baseball in Europe after his time in the Army. Chuck later returned to the United States and graduated from Ohio Northern law school in 1959. Chuck practiced law in the Warren, Ohio area for over 57 years.

Chuck married the love of his life, Maureen Ann McGlone on November 14, 1990. They shared a long and happy marriage filled with love, respect, and laughter. Together, they had three children. Nothing brought him more pride and joy than being a part of their lives. All three children followed in his footsteps and began practicing law.

Chuck's passion for sports and competition never faded. He coached JFK baseball and golf, he was an avid golfer winning several area events including the Trumbull Country Club Championship. He was the co-chair for two of the PGA tournaments when the tour was coming to the Valley. He crossed off a big "Bucket List Item" when he became a minority owner of the Mahoning Valley Scrappers. For the past 18 seasons, Chuck and Maureen enjoyed hosting over 50 Scrapper players.

Chuck always believed you have an obligation to support your community whenever the opportunity presents itself. He lived that philosophy, serving on numerous committees throughout his life in the Mahoning Valley. Specifically, he served over a span of 20 years on the Mahoning Valley Economic Development Corporation, serving as its Chairman for three different terms. He served as both past and present Chairman of the Warren Commerce Industrial Park. He was a Trustee of Warren General Hospital for several years, Chair of the Blessed Sacrament Building Fund

Drive, Chairman and Trustee of the Warren Philharmonic Orchestra Association, Trustee of the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley and most recently served on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross. He was also a recipient of the American Heart Association's "Heart of The Community" award honoring heart patients who give of their time and talent to the community.

He will be deeply missed by his wife, Maureen; three children and eight grandchildren, Atty. Happy (Atty. Giovanni) DiCenso and Luca, Rocco and Valentina of Pepper Pike, Atty. Charles E. (Melissa) Wern, III and Chase, Cole and Clay of Denver and Atty. Theodore "Ted" (Georgia) Wern and Evan and Owen of Chicago; his sister, Marjorie Turner of Gillette, Wyo.; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, James McGlone of Struthers, Kitty (William) Brown of Canfield, John (Sally) McGlone of Jamestown, Pa., Michael (Lori) McGlone of Boardman, Matthew (Judi) McGlone of Canfield and Lorraine McGlone of Hudson; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Peg and Joe McGlone; his brother-in-law, Joseph McGlone; his niece, Jaqueline Turner; his nephew, Chet Turner; and several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Chuck was a valued member of the community, and I know he is dearly missed. I extend my sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, I regret not being present for two vote sessions. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of the Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2017, H.R. 4465, Roll Call No. 103, and against the Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2018, H.R. 5247, Roll Call No. 102.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF JEFF WITMER, TAYLOR AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished public service of Commander Jeff Witmer, the 2017 Taylor Auxiliary Police Officer of the Year. He has protected the City of Taylor and its residents for over 14 years.

Established in 1962 as a volunteer civil defense organization to assist the Taylor Police Department, the Taylor Auxiliary Police play a key role in safeguarding the public. In addition to helping the full-time police department staff community events like high school sports