

group. The health and well-being of untold numbers of my constituents in Sacramento are better thanks to the Society's vision, leadership, and efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Thursday, January 11, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of S. 139. While this bill is not perfect, the FISA program is needed to keep the American public safe. I am hopeful that stronger judicial oversight elements will be added in the Senate, as a former special prosecutor, I acutely understand the need for people's privacy rights must be protected at all times.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO REGAIN OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3320, a bill that directs the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization (WHO). This bill requires the Department of State to report to Congress the observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly (WHA) held by the WHO in Geneva, Switzerland. If Taiwan fails to obtain observer status for a particular year, this bill requires the Secretary to include an account of the changes and strategic improvements that the State Department has made to help Taiwan regain observer status in the WHO.

Taiwan first sought to participate in the WHO as an observer in 1997. In 2009, with strong support from successive United States Administrations and Congress, Taiwan received an invitation to attend the WHA as an observer under the name "Chinese Taipei". Taiwan received the same invitation each year until 2016, following the election of President Tsai-Ing Wen of the Democratic Progressive Party. President Tsai-Ing Wen's administration has threatened Taiwan's engagement in the international community and Taiwan has faced increased resistance from the People's Republic of China (PRC) when seeking inclusion in numerous organizations. Taiwan's invitation to the 2016 WHA was received late and included new language conditioning Taiwan's participation on the PRC's "one China principle". In 2017, Taiwan did not receive an invitation to the WHA.

Taiwan remains a model contributor to world health efforts, providing financial and technical assistance in response to numerous global health challenges. Taiwan has invested over \$6 billion in international medical and humani-

tarian aid efforts impacting over 80 countries since 1996. In 2014, Taiwan responded to the Ebola crisis by donating \$1,000,000 and providing 100,000 sets of personal protective equipment. Through the Global Cooperation and Training Framework, the United States and Taiwan have jointly conducted training programs for experts to combat MERS, Dengue fever, and Zika. These diseases know no borders, and Taiwan's needless exclusion from global health cooperation increases the dangers presented by global pandemics.

H.R. 3320 expands the report the Department of State is required to produce discussing Taiwan's status at the WHO and encourages Taiwan's inclusion in this international organization. I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING YOUNG ARTISTS FROM WHITKO HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize seven exceptional students from Whitko High School in South Whitley, Indiana. In September 2017, Whitko High School students participated in the 48th World School Children's Art Exhibition in Taipei, Taiwan. The exhibition is designed to promote artistic exploration and highlight the artistic achievements of students from 42 nations.

I would like to congratulate Whitko High School students Brielle Harrison, Megan Licata, Trysten Tucker, Chase Meade, Derek Stouder, and Katarina Rojas on being selected to participate in this prestigious contest. I also would like to congratulate Julia Seifert, whose painting "Indian Lore" received a bronze prize.

On behalf of northeast Indiana, I would like to congratulate these young artists on their accomplishments. I know that each of these students has a very bright future.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CAPTAIN AARON J. EIDEM

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Aaron J. Eidem of Webb City, Missouri, for his service to this nation and his heroic act of selflessness.

Captain Eidem was an active duty member of the U.S. Army for 20 years, serving as a military police officer and instructor. Having been deployed three times, Captain Eidem earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his valiant efforts on the battlefield. Since 2014, Captain Eidem was an adjunct professor of military science at Missouri State University Army ROTC and was highly respected by students and faculty alike.

Driving home one evening, Captain Eidem witnessed an accident that left a disabled vehicle dangerously protruding into the passing lane along a busy stretch of I-44. Being the man of service that he was, Captain Eidem pulled over to assist the individuals in the ve-

hicle. As Captain Eidem returned to his vehicle and attempted to lead the individuals to safety, a tractor-trailer struck his vehicle, making this his final selfless deed.

I am honored that Captain Eidem resided in my district, and am proud to have represented such an unparalleled person. His service to this nation and to his fellow countrymen will not be forgotten.

TAIWAN TRAVEL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 535, the Taiwan Travel Act.

H.R. 535 reaffirms congressional support for the Taiwan Relations Act and upholds the policy that allows U.S. officials at every level to travel to Taiwan to meet their counterparts, and allow Taiwanese officials to do the same in Washington. The bill also encourages the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) to continue to conduct business in the U.S.

Since the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, ties between the United States and Taiwan have suffered from insufficient high-level communication, largely due to the restrictions that the United States placed on visits by high ranking officials to Taiwan. The United States and Taiwan maintain what the U.S. Department of State calls "a robust unofficial relationship." The relationship has been unofficial since January 1, 1979, when the Carter Administration established diplomatic relations with China and ended formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan. In the absence of diplomatic relations, the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA, P.L. 96-8), enacted on April 10, 1979, provides a legal basis for the U.S. relationship with Taiwan.

I fully support H.R. 535 and encourage officials at all levels of the U.S. government to travel to Taiwan to meet their counterparts. Official travel between our countries is an integral part of developing stronger diplomatic ties, and our international trade relationship makes this bond between us particularly important. Taiwan is currently our 10th largest trading partner, and in 2016 this partnership totaled an estimated \$84.9 billion.

Our established trade partnership with Taiwan continues to help bolster the United States economy also by providing and sustaining jobs. According to the Department of Commerce, in 2015 U.S. exports of goods and services to Taiwan supported an estimated 208,000 jobs domestically. It is essential we support H.R. 535, the Taiwan Travel Act to encourage strong diplomatic partnerships between the United States and Taiwan.

ILLINOIS 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINEES

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to proudly announce the service academy

nominees for Illinois' 18th Congressional District.

Twenty-three remarkable individuals have been selected for admittance into the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, or U.S. Air Force Academy. These young men and women have gone through a rigorous and competitive application process, making them the most impressive and outstanding group of individuals. This group gives me confidence in America's future.

I would like to thank the members of our selection panel including veterans and community leaders who volunteered their time, talents, and attention to this process. I would also like to thank the parents for raising these exceptional young adults. Finally, I would like to thank the nominees themselves for their dedication to serving this great nation.

The Illinois 18th congressional district service academy nominees are:

Andrew Kim—Washington, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy & U.S. Military Academy.

Aminah Jones—Springfield, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy & U.S. Naval Academy.

Justin McCabe—Morton, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Naval Academy & U.S. Military Academy.

Francesca Verville—Edwards, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Matthew Borrowman—Washington, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Jordan Sanchez—Elkhart, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Bryant Williams—Springfield, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Christopher Voegle—Bloomington, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Justin Sharp—Bloomington, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Kyle Campbell—Riverton, IL, U.S. Military Academy.

Paul Oelkers—Edelstein, IL, U.S. Military Academy.

Shane Hickman—Normal, IL, U.S. Military Academy.

Tessa Leman—Eureka, IL, U.S. Military Academy.

Kaden Schmittner—Bloomington, IL, U.S. Military Academy.

Micah Weiss—Sherman, IL, U.S. Military Academy.

Steven O'Rear—Lincoln, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

Molly Day—Normal, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

Christopher Leanos—Metamora, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

Dominic Signa—Germantown Hills, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

Matthew Tungett—Rochester, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

William Hudson—Washington, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

Duncan Bradshaw—New Salem, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

Stephen Brown—Bloomington, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

IN HONOR OF COURTNEY WILBURN
BEING NAMED ALABAMA'S 2018-19
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF
THE YEAR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Courtney Wilburn for being named Alabama's 2018-19 Middle School Principal of the Year.

Courtney is the principal at White Plains Middle School in Calhoun County. She has served in that role since 2011. She has also served as a teacher and assistant principal and was Calhoun County's Principal of the Year in 2012.

Courtney was raised in the area and attended Anniston City Schools and graduated from Jacksonville State University. She has been working in education for 17 years.

On January 8th, she was surprised at an event at the school with the news of the honor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Courtney on this distinct honor and thanking her for her service to education.

DHS INTERAGENCY COUNTERTERRORISM TASK FORCE ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4555, DHS Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act.

This legislation provides the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with the authorization to assign their workforce to participate in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces. Participation in these task forces will aid in counterterrorism information sharing and combat the threat of terrorism and associated risks to the United States, as determined by DHS.

To continue to fight terrorism domestically and worldwide, I believe it is critical for agencies overseas to have open communications with one another. The more counterterrorism information that the DHS and other task forces overseas share, the more effectively these agencies can strategize. We must provide our security agencies with this critical asset to defend our country and citizens. Encouraging DHS personnel to participate in international task forces could create new solutions and help save the lives of our armed forces and personnel overseas. This task force could also assist the DHS in being more properly prepared to take on any counterterrorism efforts in the U.S.

As a former member of the Armed Services Committee, I have long advocated for protecting our personnel overseas. I strongly believe in providing our U.S. security agencies with the proper training and communication tools to successfully fight terrorism. This legislation will provide the DHS with the appropriate authorization to share information with allies overseas and will bring us one step closer to rooting out terror worldwide. H.R. 4555 will allow DHS personnel to not only build relationships with allied counterterrorism task forces overseas but also help better prepare them to take on terrorism at home.