

the option of participating in programs at Lone Star College-Kingwood. They are taught about the disability services that are available and the accommodations to support them in class. With guidance, these students have the option to be successful college students.

At the age of 23, Shae graduated from Lone Star College-Kingwood on May 12 of this year with an associate's degree in education. She has big plans for her future. She does not let her diagnosis limit or define her. Shae utilizes the advocacy skills she learned to help students at Whispering Pines Elementary School, where she works as a tutor for special needs students. She intends on paying it forward by becoming a math teacher who helps special needs students like herself. When asked why she wants to be a special needs teacher, Shae replied "My experiences help me to help other children who are struggling. I can say to them, 'I know what you're going through.'"

Despite a large obstacle, Shae has embraced her uniqueness and always finds a way to accomplish her goals. She has the strength and willingness to overcome, and that is a quality that not all people possess. Congratulations, Shae, on all that you have accomplished and the best of luck with conquering the professional world.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Tuesday, June 5, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call votes 231, 232, and 233.

CONGRATULATING ROB WIDMER

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rob Widmer, who will retire this month after more than twenty-two years of service to Heartland Community College in Bloomington-Normal.

Rob has been in higher education for over forty years—half of which he spent with Heartland. He joined the college in 1996, serving as the vice president of business services until 2013, when he began his role as Heartland's third president. I can attest that he has been a great advocate for community colleges and technical education.

During his time there, Heartland expanded into one of Central Illinois' primary institutions for workforce development and is now among the state's most renowned community colleges.

This week, the newly-revitalized quad at Heartland's campus will be dedicated as the Rob Widmer Quad, in recognition of Rob's service to the school.

While he plans to travel and spend time with his four sons and ten grandchildren, I know Rob will continue serving the Bloomington-Normal community with his time and talents.

Congratulations, Rob, and best wishes on this new chapter of life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARTHA PEEK UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Martha Lyon Peek upon her retirement as the Superintendent of the Mobile County Public School System.

Martha Peek, a native of Bayou La Batre, Alabama, has worked in the Mobile County School System for over forty years. Throughout her four decades, she has served as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and deputy superintendent. Notably, she was the first female superintendent to serve in the 180-year history of the Mobile County Public School System.

Her career in education follows behind a line of her family members who have been continuously serving in the Mobile County School System since 1908. She represents the third generation in her family to work in education, and her career carried on an important family tradition.

Martha Peek was formally named Superintendent in July 2012 after serving as Deputy Superintendent since 2008. Prior to that, she was Assistant Superintendent for Academic Affairs, Executive Director of School Improvement and Accountability, and Principal at Dixon Elementary School. Her career in education started in 1972 as an elementary teacher at Alba School before she went on to work at Fonville Elementary School and Brookley Elementary School.

During her tenure, Martha Peek oversaw the largest school system in the State of Alabama with over 56,000 students. She successfully changed the perception of Mobile schools, improved test scores, and increased the graduation rate. She should also take great pride in the strides she made in establishing signature academies to help connect students with the skills they need to thrive in the local workforce.

Beyond her work in the school system, she is an involved community and civic member. She serves as a board member for the United Way of Southwest Alabama and Junior Achievement of Mobile and as a representative on the American Heart Association's National Superintendent Roundtable. Additionally, she is a member of the Leadership Alabama Class XXVI. In 2015, AL.com recognized her as one of the Women Who Shape the State of Alabama.

On behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District and the countless students she impacted throughout her remarkable career, I wish Martha Peek, and her husband, Tyler, all the best upon her retirement. Her legacy will live on in the Mobile County Public School System for years to come.

2018 HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESEARCH CONFERENCE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan sailed westward past South America, he was struck by the serenity of the waters that lay before him. He then proclaimed this body of water Pacifico, meaning "peaceful."

This Pacific Ocean was thus a fitting backdrop for a meeting of a group of people attempting to bring peace into the lives of those affected by human trafficking.

Last month, the Human Trafficking Radar Research and Data Roundtable hosted their annual Human Trafficking Research Conference. Overlooking the Pacific Ocean from their venue in Point Loma, California, individuals committed to ending human trafficking gathered to discuss and share important research and ideas.

The featured speakers of the conference included accomplished academics and professionals, leaders in their fields to combat human trafficking. Two of the speakers, however, delivered a strong message by their mere presence together at the conference.

Ebony Jones suffered sexual abuse as a young girl. Soon after her eighteenth birthday, she found herself a victim of modern day slavery. Since escaping her trafficker, she has become a strong advocate for victims of human trafficking. Motivated by her own personal experience, Jones has worked to spread her message, people outside of low-income backgrounds are not immune to exploitation by traffickers.

Armand King once spent time behind bars for his life of crime, trafficking young women. But now, he's left his former life behind him. Armand is co-founder of Paving Great Futures, an organization that strives to drive at-risk individuals from a life of crime to opportunities of legitimate, respectable professions. King says he was lucky to be alive, and he relishes the opportunity to provide a unique and important perspective on human trafficking at the conference.

Together, near the very spot where the first Europeans landed in California several hundred years ago, Armand and Ebony urged the conference to pursue a new beginning: a world without human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, America needs more individuals like Ebony Jones and Armand King coming together to discuss ways in which we can reduce or eliminate human trafficking altogether. This scourge on humanity traumatizes the lives of thousands of people around the world, and their perspectives and support are a valuable asset as we continue the fight against this heinous crime.

Above all, Armand and Ebony strive to bring to the world what Magellan saw in those serene waters all those years ago: peace.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and not present for one roll call vote on Wednesday, June 6, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call Vote No. 237—Motion to Recommit with Instructions—Water Resources Development Act of 2018—YES.

IN HONOR OF MARCY RAWITSCHER

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marcy Rawitscher, who will retire this spring after teaching for 28 years at Souhegan High School in Amherst, New Hampshire.

Marcy is a resident of Amherst, and is a distinguished graduate of both Middlebury College and Harvard University. Marcy has served as a mentor and inspiration for countless students during her years at Souhegan High School. Through Marcy's leadership, she founded the Eastern Studies elective program and the World Studies Program for Souhegan 11th grade students. Marcy was once even a contestant on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" television program during Teachers' Week.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Marcy for her many years of service and being a part of what makes the Granite State's public schools so special. Her legacy of teaching will continue through the countless students she has inspired. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Marcy on her retirement and wish her the best of luck in the years ahead.

S. 2155, THE ECONOMIC GROWTH, REGULATORY RELIEF, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S. 2155 because it will undermine critical safeguards that protect consumers, communities, and the country from another financial crisis. In the wake of the financial crisis of 2008, Congress passed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, comprehensive legislation aimed at curbing the risky behavior of big banks and predatory lenders. Many communities in Oregon and around the country are still recovering from the Great Recession, and we should not roll back the regulatory safeguards that are allowing our economy to rebound.

As a former consumer protection attorney, I am deeply troubled by the data breaches that have affected people across the country. Just

last year, the credit-reporting agency Equifax allowed the sensitive information of 148 million Americans to be exposed in a data breach. Individuals were urged to enroll in free credit monitoring, and to consider placing a freeze on their credit. Instead of providing further protections to the millions of people who were affected, this bill will harm them by preempting state credit freeze laws. We should be strengthening consumer rights, not weakening them.

The bill also undermines the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA), which requires lenders to report on key data regarding home-mortgage lending in underserved communities. In 2015, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau finalized a rule that requires lenders provide detailed HMDA data about their loan practices to better understand the gaps in access to credit that exist. This bill expands the existing reporting requirement exemption for certain financial institutions, and would exempt nearly 5,400 banks from reporting that data. As long as underserved communities continue to struggle to access home loans, we should continue to collect the data necessary to shed light on the gaps in accessibility.

S. 2155 does include certain provisions to help consumers, including a provision making it easier for financial professionals to identify and report instances of financial fraud against seniors, and a provision to require the Social Security Administration to combat identity fraud. The bill also provides much-needed regulatory relief to our credit unions and community banks. These institutions were not engaging in the risky and speculative behavior that led to the recession, and they have always served an important role in our cities and towns. The bill also provides tools for community banks and credit unions to work with customers who are victims of data breaches. Although I support these commonsense reforms, the bill ultimately will undermine consumer protections, not bolster them. I urge my colleagues to oppose the legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KERN RIVER VALLEY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Kern River Valley Healthcare District.

Nestled in the rolling hills of the southern Sierra Nevada mountain range in Kern County, California, the Kern River Valley Healthcare District was established in 1967 to serve the towns of Kernville, Lake Isabella, Wofford Heights, and many other communities that call the Kern River Valley home. Over the years, the District has grown with the community it serves, providing care for an area that once numbered in the thousands to now playing an integral role in a community with a population now in the tens of thousands.

The Kern Valley Hospital forms the core of the District's services. Recognized as a small rural hospital, Kern Valley Hospital offers both inpatient and outpatient services, capable of hosting up to 27 patients in its Acute Care Unit at a time. The hospital also has a robust

skilled nursing program, offering classes, activities, and 24-hour care for up to 74 patients. To keep at the forefront of a rapidly-developing field, the hospital has recently begun offering telemedicine to provide its patients the best treatment at the greatest convenience.

The work accomplished in the District would not be possible without the assistance of the Hospital Foundation and Auxiliary, which was established shortly after the hospital's inception in 1968. The Pink Ladies and Blue Guys of the Auxiliary help make the work of the District possible, investing countless volunteer hours as companions to hospital residents, as behind-the-counter volunteers at the hospital gift shop and the Lake Isabella Thrift Store, and as community fundraisers so that the hospital can purchase new equipment to better provide for the community it serves. These men and women view each other more as family than colleagues, united not out of obligation, but out of a genuine love of the hospital, its mission, and the Kern River Valley community. Since 2004, the Auxiliary has raised nearly \$2 million for the Kern Valley Hospital, helping and saving countless lives.

I would like to thank District Board Chairman David Derr, along with Board Members Kathryn Knight, John Blythe, Barbara Casas, and Charlie Busch, as well as the doctors, nurses, staff, and volunteers that have made the Kern River Valley Healthcare District the cornerstone of the community that it is today. The success and local support enjoyed by the District is a testament to its key role in the community, and I look forward to seeing the District continue to serve the Kern River Valley for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me to celebrate 50 years of service on behalf of the Kern River Valley Healthcare District and to wish the District another 50 years of continued success.

KINGWOOD PARK BASEBALL—
STATE BOUND**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Kingwood Park Panthers are heading to the Texas UIL State 5A Baseball Championship for the first time in program history. It was a resounding game 3 win over Tomball Memorial this past weekend in College Station that sealed the Region III Championship. They will head to Dell Diamond Stadium in Round Rock, Texas to face off the V.R. Eaton Eagles this Thursday.

Coach Bruce Cox came to Kingwood Park 5 years ago talking about playing at the Dell Diamond. He has had faith in his community since day one and has pushed the team to play like every game is a championship game. Coach Cox started out this season by intentionally scheduling five games against 6A schools ranked in the top 25 in the state. 12 of the 15 out-of-district games were against 6A teams. Coach Cox knew that the Panthers would quickly learn to handle the competition, and it certainly paid off. The Panthers have played this entire season with heart, grit, and respect for the game.

Kingwood Park senior Bryson Jackson has signed to play both football and baseball for