

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

Texas Christian University. Jackson had the chance to enroll early and start practicing with the football team in Fort Worth, but instead decided to stay to help the Panthers make history. It was Bryson Jackson that hit a three-run home run against Tomball Memorial that clinched the team's trip to State.

It's been a tough season for the Panthers with many tough opponents. One of the tougher games was against Santa Fe High School; just over 24 hours after 10 lives were lost at Santa Fe High School. The Kingwood Park Panthers stepped off the bus wearing "Santa Fe Strong" warm-up shirts. After the game, the Panthers presented the shirts to the Santa Fe players after every player hugged the entire team. It was an emotional game that meant so much more than baseball. One of the Panthers, Jason Rendon, said "We played the strongest team in Texas, and now we play for them."

No matter what the outcome of this weekend might be, these boys have shown true class and have represented the Kingwood community well. So this weekend, head to the Dell Diamond and support the Kingwood Park Panthers as they fight for the State Championship title.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING COMMUNITY CHAMPION GRACE BEAL

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a young lady from my congressional district, 16-year-old Grace Beal. Grace is the daughter of David and Corri Beal and the older sister of Eliza and Lucy Beal. Grace is a Sophomore in High School but has proven herself to be wise beyond her years and honorable in every sense of the word.

In 2009, when Grace was just 7 years old, her youngest sister Lucy died of a congenital heart disease. The loss of 11-month-old Lucy was an absolute tragedy that devastated the entire Beal family and led to a painful mourning period. However, in the midst of grief, Grace developed a sincere desire to honor Lucy's memory and make a difference for those who will unfortunately experience similar circumstances.

When Grace reflects on Lucy's journey she is reminded of the hardships but also recalls the kindness and compassion her family received from the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP). Even after all of these years, Grace is quick to praise the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and applaud their unwavering dedication to patients and families in need of support. Therefore, beginning in fourth grade, Grace decided to express her appreciation by organizing a book drive which resulted in a donation of 600 books to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Library. The following year, while in fifth grade, Grace came up with the fundraising idea "Laps for Lucy" through her swim team, which raised over \$3,400 for Child Life at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Grace continued to create new initiatives and once again, in sixth grade, she hosted "Lovies for Lucy" by collecting over 150 blankets for the Children's Home of Pitts-

burgh, another facility that played an influential role in Lucy's journey.

By seventh grade, Grace created "Layups for Lucy" which initially began as a 3-on-3 basketball tournament but has developed into much more. Now an annual event, Layups for Lucy has raised over \$70,000 and continues to evolve and prosper each year. Grace was invigorated by raising money and helping others, which led to her decision to create a Layups for Lucy fund and become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Grace is quick to attribute the success of the event to the involvement of her friends and family, Neshannock High School students and staff, and members of the New Castle community who have been actively involved and extremely generous.

In addition to her philanthropic involvement, Grace is a member of her high school volleyball and basketball teams, she serves as a student government representative, participates in various academic clubs and has been selected to National Honor Society. Grace's community involvement and exceptional volunteerism have caught the attention of many and inevitably led to several prestigious honors. Grace was a 2018 Distinguished Finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, a 2016 Jefferson Award finalist for the Most Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, the recipient of the Lancer Pride and Promise Award and she qualified to receive the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award.

In sum, Grace displayed resilience in the face of adversity. She turned her pain into passion and created a commitment to helping others. Grace has demonstrated outstanding civic and charitable responsibility and has thrived as a leader, encouraging others to get involved and give back. Although she has already accomplished so much, Grace has no plans to slow down now. Grace is energized by helping others and she will continue to strive for greatness and uplift those in need, however necessary.

In serving her community, the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and the memory of her sister Lucy, Grace is an absolute inspiration. Her compassion and generosity have positively influenced the lives of many and will continue to do so for years to come. Therefore, on behalf of the Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I would like to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to Grace Beal, an admirable young lady, a selfless individual, and a true Community Champion.

RECOGNIZING PAT VOLKMAR

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pat Volkmar, a middle school teacher in Great Falls, whose passion for education takes his students beyond the classroom and into the business world.

Through support from the Great Falls community, Pat Volkmar launched and advises Grizz Biz, a program that provides students with opportunities to learn valuable skills, operate a business, and earn a paycheck.

Middle school students, young men and women from 12 to 14 years old, run every aspect of Grizz Biz, including hiring, production,

marketing, management, and accounting. Students develop important trade skills, including woodworking, engraving, and ceramics.

Those wishing to join Grizz Biz must prepare and submit resumes as well as interview with their peers.

The program provides the next generation with experience they will carry with them into their future careers and endeavors. They develop entrepreneurial and leadership skills as well as confidence for opportunities beyond the classroom.

Grizz Biz will build on its success at North Middle School by expanding to East Middle School next school year. Pat Volkmar is the driving force behind it all.

For his commitment to create a unique, valuable education experience and the countless hours he spends inspiring young Montanans, I recognize Pat Volkmar for representing the spirit of Montana.

HONORING COLONEL PHILLIP J. DEPPERT

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Phillip J. Deppert for his 28 years of military service and congratulate him on his retirement. COL Deppert assumed command of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) in Monterey, California in 2015 and has served this post and our community with distinction. COL Deppert's accomplished career is an inspiration, and I am honored to recognize his service to our country and our community on the central coast of California.

COL Deppert entered active duty in 1990 with the 82d Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 1994, he transferred to the Military Intelligence Corps and served in the Republic of Korea as a Battalion Intelligence Officer and in the United States (1995–1998) as the Group Military Intelligence Detachment Commander and Group Senior Intelligence Officer. During this time, COL Deppert took part in numerous Special Operations assignments where he supported the Geographic Combatant Commanders' worldwide contingency planning tasks.

COL Deppert then completed Command and General Staff College and served as the chief, Division Analysis and Control Element, and Military Intelligence Battalion Operations Officer for the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division (2003–2005). During this time, COL Deppert served in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. He was then transferred to U.S. Special Operations Command Headquarters where he served as the Special Operations Branch Chief and as the first Director of Intelligence for the U.S. Special Operations Command Interagency Task Force. COL Deppert then became the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division Senior Intelligence Officer when he served in Iraq during Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

After an assignment as the Deputy Mission manager in Mexico, COL Deppert earned a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College. COL Deppert then served as the