

Academy (which was renamed “The West Point Fund” in 1969) and served as the publisher of two alumni publications (ASSEMBLY and the Register of Graduates), while AOG conducted alumni events (such as class reunions), operated a catalogue gift shop, maintained historical and biographical records on graduates, solicited funds for its annual appeal (supplemental AOG operating funds), and exercised editorial responsibility for ASSEMBLY.” While separate entities, the relationship between AOG and WPAF was actually synergistic: AOG represented the graduates from which most of the funds raised WPAF came, and WPAF solicited advertising for AOG’s publications, which the Association could not do given the active duty officer serving as its Secretary-Treasurer.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my votes on the following dates, September 9 through 12, due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: “yea” roll call no. 515; “yea” roll call no. 516; “yea” roll call no. 517; “yea” roll call no. 518; “yea” roll call no. 519; “nay” roll call no. 520; “yea” roll call no. 521; “nay” roll call no. 522; “nay” roll call no. 523; “nay” roll call no. 524; “yea” roll call no. 525; “nay” roll call no. 526; “nay” roll call no. 527; “nay” roll call no. 528; “nay” roll call no. 529; and “yea” roll call no. 530.

TRIBUTE TO CURTIS CREEL

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Curtis Creel, the General Manager of the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA), whose steady hand helped guide our community and agricultural producers through some of the worst years of drought that Kern County and California experienced in recent history.

Curtis was born in Lakeview, Oregon, but has spent most of his life in California. A graduate of California State University, Humboldt, in 1986, Curtis quickly found a position in California’s Department of Water Resources (DWR), and eventually rose to the position of Chief of the State Water Project (SWP) Operation and Planning Branch. In March of 2005, Curtis was hired as the Water Resources Manager for the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA). The KCWA contracts about 25% of the water on the SWP system, which supports some of the most fertile and productive agricultural lands in the United States.

Promoted to KCWA General Manager in 2016, Curtis recognized the strategic importance of planning for the long-term needs of our community. During negotiations on the California water-related provisions of the Water Infrastructure for Improvements to the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016, Curtis’ advice and counsel was invaluable. This bipartisan law

provides increased flexibility to move water from northern California to the Central Valley and southern California to meet our communities’ needs, while protecting fish and the environment. He has also played a critical role in increasing water supply reliability for our region through his support of new surface water storage projects and enlarging existing reservoirs. In addition, Curtis has served on the Board of Directors of the State Water Contractors Association, including as president.

Most recently, Curtis played a major role in advocating for our community as various federal and state agencies work to update the regulations that govern water exports from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. His ability to draw on his more than 14 years of experience as a champion for the SWP at the KCWA, combined with his technical expertise from his time at DWR, has been crucial during this initiative. In California, they say that “whiskey is for drinking, and water is for fighting over.” I have always been impressed by Curtis’ steady hand, his soft-spoken nature, and his continual focus on results, even when things get heated. In his office, there is a quote from President Theodore Roosevelt prominently displayed that says, “Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at the work worth doing.” Curtis loved working in water management and it was critical work worth doing.

Although bittersweet to see Curtis leave, I know that Curtis is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Traci, his son Michael, and his daughter Courtney and her husband Joshua. Curtis can rest assured that the planning and work he has done will continue to put the KCWA, farmers, and our community in the Central Valley of California in the best position possible. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, I want to thank Curtis for his dedication over the last decade as he helped lead our community through crippling drought and fought for commonsense reforms to federal and state regulations to ensure our community received the life-sustaining water it needs to thrive.

RECOGNIZING THE UNVEILING OF THE POW-MIA MONUMENT IN WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the unveiling of the POW-MIA monument in Waterloo, Illinois this weekend. Waterloo was named an official “POW-MIA” city earlier this year by the Jefferson Barracks POW-MIA Museum.

With National POW-MIA Day occurring this weekend, it is important to remember the 82,000 men and women who served our country and did not come home. This new monument honors the bravery and sacrifice of these American patriots and ensures that those who have not been accounted for remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing this momentous occasion for the people of Waterloo and the American heroes they honor.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BOBBY AND RUTH WOOD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Bobby and Ruth Wood from the Walnut Lawn Funeral Home.

After 50 years of service to the residents of southwest Missouri, Bobby and Ruth Wood, owners of the Walnut Lawn Funeral Home in Springfield, Missouri, have decided to retire. The Wood’s established Walnut Lawn Funeral Home in 1989 and over the years have earned their trademark “tender moments-tender care.”

The Wood’s have a long and respected history in the funeral industry. Bobby Wood started his career as a teenager, working in different roles at a local funeral home. Bobby then attended the Gupton-Jones Institute of Mortuary Science in Dallas, Texas, becoming a first-generation licensed funeral director and embalmer. In 1960, Bobby met his wife Ruth who is a registered nurse and a graduate of St. John’s School of Nursing.

Bobby and Ruth live by their trademark “tender moments-tender care.” Along with being licensed funeral directors, both are pre-need counselors and know how to tend to the needs of those in their community. They know how to give members of the community the care they need in order to make them feel comfortable in their most difficult moments. While the Wood’s are leaving their business in good hands with their daughter, there is no doubt that Bobby and Ruth will be missed.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that the Wood’s care for their community deeply and have put in their years serving the residents of southwest Missouri. I wish Bobby and Ruth a long and happy retirement. It is well deserved and well earned.

COMMEMORATION OF CONSTITUTION WEEK WITH THE CORPUS CHRISTI DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 232nd anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), like the DAR Corpus Christi Chapter I represent, we pause every year from September 17 to September 23 to celebrate Constitution Week.

In 1765, James Wilson stated, “Without liberty, law loses its nature and its name, and becomes oppression. Without law, liberty also loses its nature and its name, and becomes licentiousness.” The Constitution enshrined the timeless yet precious principles of limited government and protection of God-given liberties. It not only established a nation, but it became the foundation of a self-governing, free-people.

The United States Constitution remains as a testament and beacon of hope to those that do not share our freedom. One hundred and

sixteen congresses and forty-five presidents later—through many challenges, our Constitution has withstood the test of time. We must continue to guard these blessings earnestly and never take them for granted.

This is precisely the mission of the DAR Corpus Christi Chapter. Since its conception in 1927, the DAR Corpus Christi Chapter has promoted citizen education and the preservation of American history. They have worked to connect the past with the present by digitizing genealogical records and helping others identify their patriot ancestors for the betterment and education for our children. I know our community joins me in thanking DAR Corpus Christi Chapter, for their volunteer efforts to preserve American history, promote patriotism, and secure the values of our Constitution.

I ask my colleagues to join me, and the Corpus Christi Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter, in observing Constitution Week, and the God-given, blessings of liberty it established.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE REACHED 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE AND THE RECIPIENTS OF THE HOUSE EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD AND THE OFFICERS' AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S TEAM PLAYER AWARD

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, Ranking Member RODNEY DAVIS and I wish to recognize today a special group of dedicated and exceptional employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and of the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives, and congratulate those who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the recipients of the House Employee Excellence Award and the Officers' and Inspector General's Team Player Award.

The House's most important asset is its remarkable and steadfast employees, whose work is essential to keeping the operations and services of the House running efficiently and effectively. The employees we acknowledge today are distinguished by their hard work, dedication, professionalism, and teamwork; support of House Members, their staffs and constituents, and for their daily contributions to the overall operations of the House. These employees, whose work is often performed behind the scenes, possess an extensive range of responsibilities and skills that support the legislative process, ensure the security of this great institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to more efficient and productive House support operations. These devoted employees have accomplished many important things across a diverse range of activities, and the House of Representatives, its Members, staff, and the American public is better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the individuals named below for 25 years of loyal service to the House. Collectively, the employees listed below represent 200 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Teresa Austin, Office of the Clerk; Donald Berger, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Susan Cole, Office of the Clerk; Andrew Elias, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Joe Novotny, Office of the Clerk; Melissa Oulahyane, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Michael Thames, Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Kenneth Wenzel, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

We also recognize and congratulate the House employees receiving the House Employee Excellence Award. This is a merit-based award, given to one employee from each of the House Officers' and Inspector General's organizations. Selected employees exhibited outstanding overall job performance and displayed a willingness to go above and beyond the requirements of their job for their organization throughout the last year. We honor the individuals named below for receiving this prestigious award.

Jyothi Katikanani, Office of the Clerk; Susan Kozubski, Office of Inspector General; Ryan Moran, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Brandon Spriggs, Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

And finally, we recognize and congratulate the House employees being presented the Team Player Award. This award recognizes the value the House Officers and Inspector General place on working collaboratively across all House organizations to strengthen and protect the institution of the U.S. House of Representatives. On a rotating basis, the Officers and Inspector General take turns nominating a member of another organization's staff who has exhibited the characteristics of a Team Player. These awardees have demonstrated a collaborative attitude, commitment to achieving team objectives, respect and support of their teammates, and dedication to the betterment of House operations. We honor the individuals named below for receiving this distinguished award.

Omar Awan, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Kevin McCumber, Office of the Clerk; Saad Patel, Office of Inspector General; Emily Scanlon, Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

On behalf of the entire House community, I want to once again congratulate, acknowledge, and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officer, the Inspector General, and collaboratively across these organizations. Their long hours, hard work, diverse skills, and team spirit are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service and dedication to the House set an example for their colleagues and raises the bar for the employees who will follow in their footsteps. I applaud all our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and our great nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on September 17, 2019 for Roll Call Vote 531. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: "nay" on Roll Call Vote 531.

INTRODUCTION OF AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE OUTSOURCING DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2019

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce the Aircraft Maintenance Outsourcing Disclosure Act. I want to thank Congressmen LEE M. ZELDIN (R-NY) and GILBERT RAY CISNEROS, Jr. (D-CA) for their support as original cosponsors.

Our bipartisan legislation would require airlines to disclose the maintenance history for their aircraft fleets, specifically the location and date an aircraft underwent heavy maintenance. Airlines would be required to post this information online, distribute it with tickets, and communicate it to passengers upon request.

Airlines would also be required to report to a new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) database that tracks the maintenance history of their aircraft fleets. This public database will also indicate whether maintenance was conducted in the United States or abroad; by FAA-certified mechanics or not; or by airline employees or third-party contractors.

Recent airline incidents raise serious concerns about the increasing trend of maintenance being outsourced, particularly to countries in Central America and Southeast Asia. Foreign outsourcers do not have to be FAA-certified and are not subject to the drug and alcohol testing required in the United States for mechanics. Outsourcing has eliminated thousands of middle-class jobs in the United States and created significant safety concerns for passengers.

Airline passengers have the right to know if planes are serviced by qualified mechanics in the United States, or whether maintenance is outsourced to foreign countries with lower safety standards. Our bipartisan bill prioritizes transparency for passengers and supports the creation of new middle-class jobs in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join us in cosponsoring the Aircraft Maintenance Outsourcing Disclosure Act.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IN SYRACUSE AND NEW YORK

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of the League of