

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was absent from votes last week for personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 72; YEA on Roll Call No. 73; NAY on Roll Call No. 74; and YEA on Roll Call No. 75.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on May 17, 2018, had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call vote No. 198 and No. 199.

On May 18, 2018, had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call vote No. 203.

HONORING SAND IN MY SHOES AWARD RECIPIENT TONY ARGIZ

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Tony Argiz, recipient of this year's prestigious Sand in My Shoes Award from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. Tony Argiz is an exemplary community leader and illustrates the "sand in my shoes" tenet of life that sets Miami apart as a fantastic place to live and work.

The Sand in My Shoes Award takes its name from a letter Damon Runyon wrote to his friend Bill, a Hollywood movie producer, detailing why he had opted to stay in South Florida rather than return to California to write a movie script. He wrote:

"The truth of the matter is, Bill, we've got sand in our shoes. It's pretty difficult to explain that to anyone who doesn't know what it means. It means a land covered with sunlight . . . warm and soft. It means white and pink houses, with red and blue and green roofs . . . It means palm trees whispering mysteriously and tall melaleucas nodding their plumed heads to every breeze. It means big fat porpoises playing in Biscayne Bay and gaunt pelicans patrolling the sky at dusk, and folks fishing from bridges all day. . . . It means Hialeah and stately avenues of giant palms and pink flamingo, black swan and wild duck. . . . Turquoise blue waters of the ocean lapping white beaches and always the sun shining down in kindly warmth. . . . It means Bimini where the big game fish lurk and the nearby Keys where the ghosts of bearded old buccaneers still guard their buried treasure. . . ."

Originally from Cuba, Tony Argiz came to the United States with Operation Pedro Pan. He lived at a Catholic boarding school in Tampa until his parents came over, five years

later. He credits his early years in Florida with giving him the hunger for education, for hard work, and for success. He later attended Florida International University on a baseball scholarship, an experience that taught him the value of teamwork.

Today, Tony is Chairman and CEO of Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLC, one of the top 40 accounting firms in the nation. In 1986, he was appointed to Florida's Board of Accountancy, which he later chaired. He has served on the American Institute of CPAs Nominations Committee and on the PCP Executive Committee and its Technical Issues Committee. He is also a leader among South Florida nonprofit organizations, as chairman of the Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation and of Facts About Cuban Exiles.

I am pleased to recognize the contributions of my friend Tony to the greater Miami area and to celebrate his extraordinary achievements as a community leader.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained at the time of the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 70; "yea" on Roll Call No. 72; "yea" on Roll Call No. 73; "yea" on Roll Call No. 74; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 75.

RECOGNIZING THE RACHEL CARSON COUNCIL'S "CLEAR CUT" REPORT

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the important work of the Rachel Carson Council (RCC), which is named after the visionary marine biologist, nature writer and environmentalist who was a proud resident of Silver Spring, Maryland.

Founded and based in Bethesda, the RCC pays tribute to Rachel Carson's imperishable legacy by linking environmental, health, and social policy solutions "with the goal of building a more just, sustainable, and peaceful future."

The RCC recently released a comprehensive report called "Clear Cut," examining wood pellet production and its adverse effects on the health and sustainability of our forests and communities. The report details the process by which Southeastern forests are being cut down, chopped up, and dehydrated before being shipped and burned as carbon-intense fuel.

According to the report, despite being touted as a "green" alternative to fossil fuels, the sourcing of wood pellets contributes to widespread deforestation and pollution throughout much of the American Southeast. In North Carolina alone, the largest producer of wood pellets, Enviva, clear cuts more than 50 acres of forest each day. Left standing, these forests would help control the climate, maintain the

biodiversity of our ecosystems, and filter our air and water.

Following this environmentally invasive sourcing process of clear-cutting, pellets are burned, producing Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NO), and carbon monoxide (CO₂), all of which pose serious health risks to human beings. Although the pollutants emitted by wood pellet mills are indiscriminately harmful to nearby inhabitants, the RCC report notes that wood pellet mills have been disproportionately constructed near poor communities of color, which are bearing the disproportionate burdens of deforestation, including poor air quality and increased flood risks.

Although the environmental drawbacks of wood pellet production are clear—wood pellet mills emit approximately 65-percent more CO₂ per megawatt hour than modern coal plants—the RCC argues that the industry has continued to mislead the public about the sustainability of this practice. Moreover, the RCC's report concludes that the expansion of the wood pellet industry is making it harder for us to maintain our environmental standards and address the global crisis of climate change.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to review the well-researched and well-documented "Clear Cut" report by visiting the RCC website at www.rachelcarsoncouncil.org. We must keep the profound concerns raised in this report in mind as we enact environmental, forestry, and energy policies and work to protect the public health and safety.

HONORING THE NATIONAL COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION'S COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the National Court Reporters Association's Court Reporting and Captioning Week.

The NCRA supports and promotes excellence among those who capture and convert spoken words to text. These skills provide a foundation of public transparency for our courts, government hearings, and even our very own House of Representatives.

Court Reporting and Captioning Week is a nationwide initiative. It brings awareness to the importance of the work that court reporters and captioners do. Without the records they provide, assuring accountability and oversight over government institutions would be impossible. For this reason, court reporters, captioners, and the NCRA stand as part of the foundation of our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I commend the NCRA for its work and the work of its members, and I congratulate the NCRA on celebrating Court Reporting and Captioning Week.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE WALTER BEAMAN JONES, JR., MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great American and a distinguished member of this House, the Honorable WALTER B. JONES, Jr.

The Honorable WALTER B. JONES, died on Sunday, February 10, 2019 after a long illness.

In addition to being a beloved and highly respected member of the House, WALTER JONES was also a small business owner and a veteran of the National Guard.

His presence will be greatly missed and we all mourn his loss and extend our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

WALTER BEAMAN JONES, Jr. was born February 10, 1943 in Farmville, North Carolina to Walter B. and Doris Long Jones, where he was raised.

Madam Speaker, WALTER JONES attended Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, Virginia and graduated in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in Wilson, North Carolina.

Shortly after graduation WALTER JONES joined the North Carolina National Guard while also working as an executive with his family's business supply company.

In 1982, WALTER JONES, the son of Congressman Walter B. Jones, Sr., was first elected as a Democrat to the North Carolina House of Representatives.

After serving five successful terms and being known for his advocacy of campaign finance reform and lobbying reform, in 1994, WALTER JONES sought and won a seat in the United States House of Representatives representing the Third Congressional District of North Carolina.

WALTER JONES was a dedicated and tireless advocate for his community and always put the interests of his district before the interests of his party.

In Congress, WALTER JONES was an effective and powerful voice for those serving on active duty as well as veterans.

In 2000, WALTER JONES fought to help clear the names of two Marine pilots wrongly blamed for the deadly crash of a V-22 Osprey.

In 2016, the Navy issued a clarification about the cause of the fatal crash.

Anyone who met WALTER JONES knew of his tenacity and abiding love for the military.

WALTER JONES fought against the corrosive influence of money in politics for much of his career.

As co-chair of the Campaign Finance Reform Caucus, WALTER JONES pushed for reforms to lessen the impact and role of large campaign contributions and called for the repeal of the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United, v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), which opened the floodgates for dark money and super PACs, and he advocated for public financing of election campaigns.

During his quarter century of service in Congress he served on the Committee on Armed

Services as well as its Subcommittees on Tactical Air and Land Forces and on Military Personnel.

Madam Speaker, a dear colleague has fallen but he will not be forgotten.

We are all saddened by the passing of the Honorable WALTER B. JONES, Jr. but we are happy to have served with him and our prayers and condolences are with his family and loved ones.

Madam Speaker, WALTER B. JONES, Jr. was a faithful public servant, a great legislator, and a good man, who will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the Honorable WALTER BEAMAN JONES, Jr., of North Carolina.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

**MEETINGS SCHEDULED
FEBRUARY 13**

Time to be announced

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on cyber operations to defend the midterm elections.

SVC-217

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Janice Miriam Hellreich, of Hawaii, Robert A. Mandell, of Florida, Don Munce, of Florida, and Bruce M. Ramer, of California, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and a routine list in the Coast Guard.

SD-G50

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the invasive species threat, focusing on protecting wildlife, public health, and infrastructure.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 380, to increase access to agency guidance documents, S. 396, to amend section 1202 of title 5, United States Code, to modify the continuation of service provision for members of the Merit Systems Protection Board, S. 394, to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions, S. 195, to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain a website accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, S. 196, to save taxpayer money and improve the efficiency and speed of intragovernmental correspondence, S. 395, to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule, S. 406, to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce, S. 375, to improve efforts to identify and reduce Governmentwide improper payments, S. 315, to authorize cyber hunt and incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, S. 333, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, S. 74, to prohibit paying Members of Congress during periods during which a Government shutdown is in effect, S. 387, to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, H.R. 504, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and the nominations of Dennis Dean Kirk, of Virginia, to be Chairman, and Julia Atkins Clark, of Maryland, and Andrew F. Maunz, of Ohio, both to be a Member, all of the of the Merit Systems Protection Board, and Ronald D. Vitiello, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To receive a briefing on asset recovery in Eurasia.

SD-562

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration
Business meeting to consider S. Res. 50, improving procedures for the consideration of nominations in the Senate, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by committees for the 116th Congress, and committee rules.

SR-301

2 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold a joint hearing to examine the current condition of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative.

SD-G50

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A