

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2020

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD how I would have voted during the first session of the 116th Congress for the following votes had I not been unavoidably detained: YEA on Roll Call No. 44, YEA on Roll Call No. 45, YEA on Roll Call No. 88, YEA on Roll Call No. 89, YEA on Roll Call No. 119, YEA on Roll Call No. 120, YEA on Roll Call No. 218, YEA on Roll Call No. 219, YEA on Roll Call No. 296, YEA on Roll Call No. 585, YEA on Roll Call No. 586, YEA on Roll Call No. 610, and YEA on Roll Call No. 611.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COREY STANDELY FOR RECEIVING THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2020

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Corey Standley of Seven Lakes High School in Katy, TX and the University of Oklahoma for earning the Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship last year.

Corey is one of only 550 students who received scholarships. Through the scholarship, he traveled to Dushanbe, Tajikistan over the summer where he was immersed in the culture and the Persian language.

The Critical Language Scholarship is a merit-based award that gives American students the opportunity to study one of the fifteen critical languages to our nation's world engagement abroad. It aims to help students increase their fluency in the language they are studying and learn more about the culture surrounding it.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Corey on his outstanding achievement. His commitment to learning and diligence in his studies earned him this honor. Corey has made Katy and TX-22 very proud.

IN HONOR OF LEONARD BERNHARDT

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2020

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Leonard Bernhardt, who passed away just before Christmas.

Last year, I was pleased to nominate Leonard and his late wife, Georgene, for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's Angels in Adoption award. Each year, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute selects individuals, families, and organizations from across the nation who have dem-

onstrated a commitment to improving the lives of children in need of permanent, loving homes.

Leonard and Georgene worked tirelessly over the years with Holt International Children's Services to find homes for orphaned and abandoned children. They supported family preservation programs for children and families in Korea, Vietnam, Mongolia, Romania, India, and Uganda. Their generosity, compassion, and dedication to adoption and helping birth families made them stand out in Beaverton, Oregon—and around the globe—as an extraordinary couple, very deserving of this award.

I was honored to meet Leonard Bernhardt in November when he visited Washington, D.C. with his family to receive this award. I am saddened by his loss and so grateful for the service of Mr. Bernhardt and his family to Beaverton, the nation, and countless children and families across the world.

HONORING THE LOWER DAUPHIN FALCONS' BOYS SOCCER TEAM ON THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2020

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, today I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Lower Dauphin Falcons on their inspiring play at the PIAA 3A State Soccer Championship.

Led by coach Gerry Lynch, the Falcons were a force to be reckoned with in their 2019 campaign, winning 18 of 22 contests for a final record of 18–3–1.

This is the Falcons' fourth championship season in five years, and their first win since 2017. This year, the Falcons contested successfully against Northern York's stout defense, scoring three goals to close out the first half. The Falcons held their advantage for the remainder of the game.

These remarkable young men put in their full effort and resolve this season—and we are incredibly proud of them for their performance, success, sportsmanship and teamwork.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Tenth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate the Lower Dauphin Falcons on their dedication to excellence. We look forward to their continued success.

OFFICER ROB GRIEVE RETIRES FROM THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2020

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding law enforcement career of California Highway Patrol Officer Rob Grieve, who retired on December 27, 2019 after 28 years of service.

After completing CHP Academy in 1992, Officer Grieve was assigned as a traffic officer to the Baldwin Park area. He spent four years in Baldwin Park before briefly transferring to the

Rancho Cucamonga area. Officer Grieve was then transferred to the Victorville area in 1997, where he spent the remainder of his career as a peace officer.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I offer my sincere gratitude to Officer Grieve for his 28 years or protecting and serving our community, and I wish him an enjoyable and relaxing retirement. Over the course of his career he has personified the California Highway Patrol motto "Safety, Service, and Security" with hard work, dedication, and professionalism.

CONGRATULATING SHERIFF RAY C. GERRINGER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2020

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to recognize Sheriff Ray C. Gerringer of Montour County. Sheriff Gerringer is retiring after 40 years of dedicated service to the Montour County community. His bravery, compassion, and commitment to public safety has made our communities safer and stronger.

A lifelong resident of Montour County, Sheriff Gerringer has been a leader in law enforcement throughout his long tenure of service to our great Commonwealth. After graduating from Columbia-Montour Vocational-Technical School, he began serving the citizens of Montour County in 1977 as a part-time dispatcher. Shortly after he served as a full-time correctional officer at the county prison.

In 1986, Sheriff Gerringer became the Chief County Detective for the Montour County District Attorney's office. There he participated in hundreds of criminal investigations that resulted in convictions. Sheriff Gerringer was elected Montour County Sheriff in 2004 a position he has honorably held for the last 15 years.

Sheriff Gerringer has dedicated his life to protecting and defending the Montour County community. The many years he has spent on the frontlines of public safety demonstrates his selflessness. He has truly answered the call to serve.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sheriff Gerringer on his retirement and thank him for his many years of dutiful and honorable service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ATTORNEY MORRIS REED, JR.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2020

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Morris Reed, Jr., a personal injury and criminal defense attorney, and dedicated community leader. After serving in the New Orleans legal community, Mr. Reed passed away on Monday, December 23, 2019 at the age of 42.

Mr. Reed was a beloved father of one and husband of Mrs. Alisha Reed. A native of New Orleans and a graduate of St. Augustine High School and Louisiana State University, his passion for the law became paramount when he earned his Juris Doctorate from Southern University. With much perseverance and enthusiasm, Mr. Reed soon delved into the challenging world of criminal cases at the Orleans Parish Criminal District Courthouse, where he once clerked. He was also a proud member of the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee (OPDEC), the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Mr. Reed was a treasure to us all. He lived a fulfilled life doing what he loved to do. We are forever grateful to Mr. Reed for his eternal impact and we keep his friends and loved ones near and dear to our hearts.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Morris Reed, Jr.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NIRDESH OSWAL FOR RECEIVING THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2020

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Niradesh Oswal of Sugar Land for earning a State Department Critical Language Scholarship.

Niradesh is a student at the University of Texas at Austin and one of only 550 students to receive a scholarship. Over the summer, he traveled to Nizhny Novgorod in Russia where he was immersed in the Russian language and culture.

The Critical Language Scholarship is a merit-based award that gives American students the opportunity to study one of the fifteen critical languages to our nation's world engagement abroad. It aims to help students increase their fluency in the language they are studying and learn more about the culture surrounding it.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Niradesh. He earned this incredible achievement through his hard-work and dedication to his studies. Niradesh has made Sugar Land and TX-22 very proud.

IN RECOGNITION OF BATTALION CHIEF ROBERT K. BROOKS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 3, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Battalion Chief Robert K. Brooks as he retires after 35 years of dedicated service to the Flower Mound Fire Department. Over the course of his career, he demonstrated continued commitment to the Fire Department by preserving the safety of citizens in Denton County and by educating future generations about the importance of fire safety.

Mr. Brooks began his career as a dedicated volunteer firefighter in January of 1983, earning a position as a paid firefighter in 1984. His continued service to the Fire Department resulted in a promotion to Shift Lieutenant and service as the Department's Emergency Medical Service coordinator. In addition to his duties as a firefighter and paramedic, Mr. Brooks played an integral role in the development and supervision of the Department's Safety and

Fire Education Team as well as the clown program.

In 2014, Mr. Brooks received the honor and responsibility of serving as the Training Battalion Chief for the Flower Mound Fire Department. In this position, he undertook the task of instructing 112 certified firefighters and mentoring new recruits. Throughout his service as Training Battalion Chief, he served as a leader and role model to all firefighters of the department.

In addition to his duties at the Fire Department, Mr. Brooks never hesitated to invest time educating local youth. For over 15 years, Mr. Brooks conducted engaging fire safety programs for Flower Mound and Highland Village elementary school children while dressed as Smokey the Bear. In addition to portraying Smokey himself, Mr. Brooks wrote the scripts. As a commendation for his investment in children's education, he was twice awarded the Flower Mound Fire Department Educator of the Year award. His service-orientation ultimately also earned him the Rotary Vocational Service Excellence Award in 2018.

From his entry into emergency response as a volunteer firefighter to his current position as Battalion Chief, Mr. Brooks dedicated his life and career to the safety of his community. Thanks to his encouragement and commitment to education, his influence not only challenged young firefighters to become reliable and competent defenders of public safety, but also encouraged children to learn of fire dangers and implement safety plans. The quality of life and community safety Flower Mound residents enjoy today is a tribute to Mr. Brooks' dedicated leadership, determination, and work ethic. It is my honor to recognize Battalion Chief Robert K. Brooks for his public service and for the role model he leaves for future responders to follow.