

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 539, the Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act (Roll Call Vote no. 88), I would have voted “aye”.

Had I been present for the vote on H.R. 276, the Recognizing Achievement in Classified School Employees Act, (Roll Call Vote no. 89) I would have voted “aye”.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD H. ROBERTS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my good friend Ronald “Ron” Roberts, who passed away in San Diego, California on Monday, February 4, 2019. Ron was a dedicated public servant and he will be deeply missed.

Throughout his life, Ron worked to improve the community around him. In the first phase of his public service, Ron worked as a California Highway Patrol officer. By the time he retired, Ron had risen to the rank of sergeant. After his career in law enforcement, Ron began what would eventually be a twenty-four-year dedication to the city of Temecula. Ron was first appointed to the Temecula Traffic Commission in 1990, the year after the city incorporated.

In 1992, Ron was elected to the Temecula City Council, where he would ultimately serve five consecutive terms, from 1992 to 2014, including five terms as the city’s mayor. The impact of Ron’s leadership and hard work is on display today throughout Temecula, particularly in its infrastructure, facilities, parks and libraries. In fact, the city honored Ron by naming its busiest library the Ronald H. Roberts Temecula Public Library. Ron was also rightfully proud of his work granting public use of the Duck Pond at the corner of Ynez and Rancho California roads and revitalizing Old Town Temecula. Extraordinary cities like Temecula don’t exist by accident—they come to fruition thanks to the vision and activism of tireless advocates like Ron Roberts.

Ron is survived by his wife, Jeanne; son Ron, Jr. (wife Kara); daughter Wendy (husband Sam); and five grandchildren. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Roberts family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Ron. Although Ron may be gone, the many contributions he made to his country, community and family will have a lasting impact.

RECOGNIZING OAKWOOD POLICE CHIEF RANDALL MOON’S SERVICE

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Randall Moon,

who is retiring this week after serving as Oakwood City Police Chief for the past 25 years.

Mr. Moon started with the Oakwood Police Department in 1990 and was quickly promoted to Chief in June of 1994. Over the past 29 years, Mr. Moon has witnessed the police force grow from seven officers to sixteen officers and has been key in assisting the department as they have worked to grow the department with an ever-changing city. Through it all, he is most proud of “maintaining an excellent workplace, with excellent pay and benefits.”

Mr. Moon credits a presentation on bike safety, given to his second-grade class by two Georgia State Patrol troopers, as the catalyst for his desire to work in law enforcement. Ever since, Mr. Moon knew law enforcement was his calling, and he has since served in law enforcement for over 34 years, including 29 years in Oakwood.

He leaves his successor with a few words of wisdom: be a friend, be a family, as that’s what sets Oakwood apart from other police departments.

The citizens of Northeast Georgia are fortunate to have men like Mr. Moon serving our communities. I thank Mr. Moon for his exemplary service, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PERSHING RIFLES

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the history, service and accomplishments of the National Society of Pershing Rifles, whose members and alumni will observe the organization’s 125th Anniversary during its national convention, March 14 through 16 in Kansas City, Missouri.

In 1891, Second Lieutenant John J. Pershing, then a military instructor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, selected a top-tier group of cadets to “promote the highest ideals of the military profession,” among other things, within the Nebraska cadet corps. In 1894, the group was named The Pershing Rifles, in honor of their founder and mentor. Lieutenant Pershing would go on to become Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in World War I, and remains the only active duty American to be awarded the rank of General of the Armies of the United States.

Since its humble beginnings, the Pershing Rifles have vastly expanded, and now numbers more than 600 ROTC cadet and midshipman members spread across more than 60 campuses nationwide. Now in its 125th year, members remain steadfast in their determination to carry on the organization’s original goal of promoting excellence in the military arts.

The mission of the National Society of Pershing Rifles is to aid in the development of successful officers in the Army, Navy and Air Force; foster camaraderie and esprit de corps among all three Reserve Officers’ Training Corps programs; further the purposes, traditions, and concepts of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, and give

civilians an opportunity to be part of a military organization without formal commitment to the military.

Alumni of the Pershing Rifles have fought with valor and distinction as military and naval officers in every American conflict since the Spanish-American War. Distinguished alumni include former Secretary of State Colin Powell, among many other notable American military, political, professional, and cultural leaders.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise and recognize 125 years of service to the nation since the formation of the Pershing Rifles. Throughout their history, they have strived for excellence in all that they do and have clearly lived up to the vision of their founder. I can think of no tribute more fitting, to honor the living legacy of General of the Armies John J. Pershing and his vision for military and civic excellence.

HONORING ARTURO ELÍAS AYUB, MR. AMIGO OF THE 82ND ANNUAL CHARRO DAYS FIESTA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Arturo Elías Ayub, who has been named Mr. Amigo 2018 by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, Texas. A Mexican businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist, Mr. Ayub has enjoyed a distinguished career spanning over three decades. Currently, he serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Multimedia and Strategic Alliances of America Movil, Director of Uno TV, and President of the Instituto TELMEX del Deporte.

This year, from February 23rd to March 2nd, citizens on both sides of the Rio Grande will gather to celebrate the 82nd Annual Charro Days Fiesta in Brownsville, Texas and Fiestas Mexicanas in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. The events of Charro Days commemorate our shared history, culture and positive cross-border relationship. The Rio Grande binds our city, and there isn’t a line or boundary that can eradicate the memories and friendships that have flourished over generations.

Since 1967, as part of the festivities, the Mr. Amigo Association, whose mission is to promote the international friendship and goodwill between the United States of America and the Republic of Mexico, identifies an individual to be Mr. Amigo. The honoree must be a distinguished Mexican citizen, who has contributed to the friendship and understanding between the U.S. and Mexico and has excelled in their profession, exemplifying the highest standards in their professional lives.

Mr. Amigo 2018, Arturo Elías Ayub, hails from Mexico City. Since graduating from Anahuac University with a bachelor’s degree in business management and a graduate certificate in senior business management from IPADE Business School in Mexico City, he has contributed significantly to the community in which he lives, making him the perfect candidate for Mr. Amigo. After serving as CEO at Sociedad Comercial Cadena, Ayub held many positions at TELMEX; his work developing critical alliances and partnerships beyond the region contributed to the international growth of

TELMEX. However, some of his most notable and impactful contributions have derived from the work he has spearheaded as CEO of TELMEX Telcel Foundation.

In his position as TELMEX Telcel Foundation CEO, Mr. Ayub has brought the resources of the foundation to projects in education, health care, natural disaster relief, human development, and sports. An avid soccer fan, he translated his passion for the sport into efforts to support social justice and increase access to highly-anticipated global sporting events to the Americas. *Ganar-Ganar* magazine, a specialized publication about corporate social responsibility, selected TELMEX Telcel Foundation as the recipient of the 2013 Social Responsibility and Sustainable Award for their work in organizing the 2012 Homeless World Cup. Additionally, under Ayub's leadership, Claro Sports delivered broadcasting of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi to more than 50 television broadcasters in the Americas.

This year's Mr. Amigo award serves to recognize the positive work Mr. Ayub has contributed to our international relationship. It is also a message of hope as he continues to help our communities, and in doing so, he inspires the next generation of leaders.

Today we honor Arturo Elías Ayub for his dedication to socioeconomic change, business development, and philanthropy. I join Brownsville and Matamoros in welcoming Mr. Ayub to Charro Days.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures. If I were present for roll call votes, I would have voted "aye" for the following votes:

Roll 88, February 25, 2019: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 539, the Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act of 2019.

Roll 89, February 25, 2019: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 276, Recognizing Achievement in Classified School Employees Act.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL CAROL A. TIMMONS

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of my colleagues Senator TOM CARPER and Senator CHRIS COONS of Delaware, to honor and congratulate Major General Carol Timmons for a lifetime of dedicated service to our country.

After graduating from William Penn High School in 1977, Timmons enrolled in college and enlisted in the Delaware National Guard. With a childhood dream of becoming an airplane pilot, her career in flight would begin that very summer on a C-130 airplane in Savannah, Georgia. Despite her love of airplanes, Air Force rules prevented women from

flying combat-mission planes, like the C-130. Due to these unfair regulations, she joined the Army National Guard in 1980 and would learn to fly Army helicopters, like the UH-1 Huey.

Undeterred and committed to her dream, Timmons joined the Air Force Reserves where she flew noncombat support missions. She soon realized her dream as federal laws ended the discriminatory prohibition on women flying in combat missions, and during Operation Desert Storm, then-Captain Timmons would become one of the first women to fly in combat. Following that operation, her career would come full circle as she rejoined the Delaware National Guard—flying the same C-130s she first learned to operate.

On January 8, 2012, then-Brigadier General Timmons would make history by becoming the Delaware Air National Guard's first female commander, and again on February 1, 2017, when she was promoted to the rank of Major General and named Adjunct General of the Delaware National Guard—the Governor's chief military advisor commanding 1,500 soldiers and 1,100 airmen.

During her storied 42-year career, she earned a Bronze Star for her service in Afghanistan and has flown over 5,200 hours in the cockpit, including 400 combat hours during contingencies, spanning Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Joint Guard, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Inherent Resolve. She served on the National Guard's Joint Diversity Executive Council and the Air Force Reserve Policy Committee. She has received numerous honors, including induction into the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame and the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame.

By refusing to compromise on her dream, Timmons broke down barriers, blazed trails, and inspired women to let nothing stand in their way in service to our nation. I join Senator CARPER and Senator COONS in thanking Major General Carol Timmons for her over four decades of service to our state and country, and we wish her the very best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on February 25th and 26th in order to attend the funeral of Judge Russell B. Sugarman, a civil rights giant from Memphis. If present, I would have voted YES on H.R. 539, H.R. 276, Motions to Order the Previous Question, H. Res. 145, and H. Res. 144.

I would have also voted YES on H.J. Res. 46, a resolution of which I am a cosponsor, to stop President Trump's unconstitutional attempt to circumvent Congress's authority.

I would have also voted YES on S. 47.

DAVID ELDER

HON. TROY BALDERSO

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Mr. BALDERSO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of David Elder, a

committed public servant, loving husband, and devoted father and grandfather. David passed away on February 23, 2019 at the age of 70. He was a dedicated public servant to Worthington, Ohio, for 36 years.

David's admirable career of service to Worthington began when he interned while completing his master's degree at The Ohio State University. Skillfully demonstrating his capabilities as an intern, he was hired in 1971 to serve as an administrative assistant. Over the course of the following decade, David proved he possessed a dedicated work ethic, which helped him advance in his career. He was appointed as Worthington City Manager in 1981, a title he held for 26 years. Though he left office in 2007, his legacy is not forgotten. His strong ethical character, enthusiastic compassion, and devoted service to his home town made him the consummate example of a public servant.

Though he will be missed dearly, I am confident that his memory will live on through his exemplary life's work and will continue to serve as an inspiration for individuals considering a path in public service. Please keep his beloved wife, Ann, daughters Stephanie and Lauren, and numerous grandchildren in your prayers as they celebrate David's life in the coming days.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably detained and unable to make votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yea on Roll Call 88, the Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act (H.R. 539), and Yea on Roll Call 89, the Recognizing Achievement in Classified School Employees Act (H.R. 276).

RECOGNIZING THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this week marks the 27th anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly in what was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Khojaly, which is located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was once home to 7,000 people. That was before Armenian armed forces massacred over 600 unarmed people—including 106 women and 83 children—and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their horrific injuries. More than one hundred children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were completely killed.

Even though a ceasefire went into effect over two decades ago, more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, remain occupied and more than 1 million