

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I missed votes last week because I tested positive for the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 230; NAY on Roll Call No. 231; NAY on Roll Call No. 232; NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I was absent for the votes scheduled on Friday, December 4, 2020, due to a conflict in my schedule. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

VICTORVILLE MAYOR GLORIA GARCIA RETIRES

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the retirement of Gloria Garcia from the Victorville City Council.

Mayor Gloria Garcia was born and raised in Victorville, CA. Gloria attended Victor Valley Sr. High School, Victor Valley College, and Skadron College of Business. She was elected to the Victorville City Council in November 2012 and was appointed Mayor by her fellow Council Members in December 2014. She was reelected in 2016, and continuously reappointed as Mayor by her colleagues on the council. Gloria's time on the council has been marked by many successes in Victorville. Her focus on public safety, new infrastructure, road maintenance has led to great improvements and safer neighborhoods in Victorville.

Mayor Garcia has served the council with honor and integrity, and her commitment to good government and transparency has served the citizens of Victorville well. Although her second term has seen Victorville and its Council experience discord and disruption, Gloria has remained steadfast and focused on working for the people of Victorville. I will truly miss Gloria's face on the council dais, and I wish much happiness and success in her future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWARD LANE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of longtime Fresnan and Pearl

Harbor survivor, Edward Lane, who passed away on September 6, 2020. He was a proud husband, father, public servant, leader and a survivor.

Edward was born on December 2, 1936 in San Francisco, California. Although he was not born in Fresno, he always considered it home. Growing up, he frequently moved across the country due to his father's military career, but he always returned to Fresno. He graduated from San Joaquin Memorial High School in 1954 and attended Fresno State in 1958 with a degree in marketing.

Edward's life took an interesting journey, beginning with the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. His father was responsible for overseeing a military hospital in Hickam Field, Hawaii when World War II began. His home was only two blocks away from Pearl Harbor. During the attack, an anti-aircraft shell landed on his family's house. Fortunately, it did not explode and he survived. Telling the "December 7th story" was an annual event for the family.

Edward often thanked his parents and big brother, Mike, for teaching him work ethic. These skills led him to his 36-year career with the State of California's Employment Development Department (EDD). He was appointed by several governors to serve in many senior management positions during his tenure. He worked to establish EDD as an important and active asset in communities throughout the state and maintained his belief in the positive power of government to respond to the needs of individuals and the community at large.

Edward was a big sports fan. A Fresno State season ticket holder for over 60 years, he rarely missed home football and basketball games. However, his biggest passion was tennis. He was active on and off the court for over 47 years in the Fresno tennis community. He captained two teams that won national championships and served as a club president. He loved animals and had pets ranging from dogs, cats, to a small rhesus monkey from South Africa.

Edward is survived by his wife and best friend for over 60 years, Jean Lane; children Brian, Valerie, and David; grandchildren Michael, Nicholas and Alyssa Bavaro; son-in-law Vince Bavaro; and daughter-in-law Lucy Gonzalez.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and honoring the life of Mr. Edward Lane. His leadership and story will be remembered for many years to come. We join his family, friends and community in honoring his great life and legacy.

HONORING THE STAFF MEMBERS REPRESENTING CALIFORNIA'S 21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the individuals who dedicated their time and talents to the constituents of California's 21st Congressional District. During my time in office, my staff made incredible strides in improving the lives of thousands of people, and it did not go unnoticed. I want to recognize and thank the following individuals for their service and dedica-

tion to helping others with great gratitude for a job well done:

Christopher Bornmann; Gilbert Felix; Gabriel Garcia-Contreras; François Genard; Andrew Godinich; Jared Henderson; Rebecca Kahn; Joel Kasnetz; Joseph Lopez; John Lynch; Lindsey Madrigal; Lucine Mikhajian; Araceli Muñoz; Nandini Narayan; Virginia Peñaloza; Fabiola Rodriguez; Cody Sedaño; Amanda Stayton; and Jannett Tapia.

My staff went above and beyond to serve our district by developing meaningful legislation, completing hundreds of casework, answering thousands of constituent inquiries, keeping in contact with constituents both in person and through media, and much more.

Because of their efforts, we accomplished incredible things in the 116th Congress. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring these public servants and giving them the recognition they deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ROBERT PITTS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Robert Pitts. Bob represents the best of our greatest generation, and I am forever indebted to him for his service to this nation. As a fellow member of the 150th Combat Engineer Battalion, I am grateful for the precedent set by these brave soldiers.

Bob was born in 1923, the second oldest of ten siblings. In the height of the Great Depression, Bob often found himself working odd jobs after school to support his family. In the 8th grade he dropped out and attended Boston Trade School to train as an electrician.

In 1943, Bob enlisted in the United States Army. After training in Ft. Devens, he joined the 150th Engineer Battalion, an experimental unit comprised mostly of New England locals. After Basic and Engineering Training, Bob relocated to New York to continue his training as an electrician. The outfit returned from West Virginia and trained in a mock German village at Camp Edwards. On Christmas, Bob deployed with the 150th on the Queen Mary to Europe.

While overseas, Bob was assigned as battalion photographer. His duties included taking photos of unit operations, which often placed him in the line of fire. He was awarded the Bronze Star for actions under fire while operating in Germany. He was also awarded the rank of Tech5. After VE Day, TSGT 5 Pitts and his unit were sent to Czechoslovakia and returned to the states with different outfits. What distinguishes the 150th is their continued relationship. For more than sixty years the unit enjoyed annual gatherings. After the war, Bob pursued his interest in engineering at MIT. He worked on some of the earliest computers and earned the title Electronic Engineer Assistant.

Mr. Pitts was married to Eleanor M. Hathaway for 48 years before her passing in 1998. Together, they had three children; Robert, Nancy, and Richard. His youngest built and maintains the webpage for the 150th battalion, honoring his father's memory and the accomplishments of the unit.

Robert Pitts was an outstanding man dedicated to family, faith, and country. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE
JARED HUFFMAN HONORING
MAYOR GARY PHILLIPS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gary Phillips as he retires a distinguished tenure of public service as Mayor of the City of San Rafael.

Mayor Phillips earned his undergraduate degree and Master of Business Administration from Humboldt State University. He applied his education throughout his professional career as a certified public accountant and business executive as well as an elected official. He and his wife Linda settled in San Rafael 48 years ago. They proceeded to raise a family and became committed to improving the quality of life for the residents of San Rafael.

Mayor Phillips' first role as an elected official for the San Rafael community was as a member of the former Dixie School Board, where he served for eight years, including twice as president. He was elected to the City Council in 1994 and served three terms before retiring in 2007. In 2011, he decided to run for Mayor when Mayor Al Boro retired after nearly 20 years of service. As an elected official, Mayor Phillips drew upon his business acumen, standing up for small businesses, working to improve education, and responding to the changing needs of the community.

Over the years, Mayor Phillips developed a deep record for going to bat for San Rafael residents, demonstrating steady leadership through trying times. This includes navigating financial challenges, homelessness and housing, securing funding to improve fire service, and the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. At every critical moment Mayor Phillips has worked to provide the people of San Rafael with the support and resources they need. He is also known at City Hall for his ability to form consensus and adhere to principles, and for his thoughtful, hands-on approach to leadership—invaluable qualities in a mayor.

It has been my pleasure to work closely with Mayor Phillips' on a number of key issues, including homelessness, gun violence reform, discrimination, and securing funds to dredge the San Rafael Canal. I have also had the pleasure of working with him in his role as Chair of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) to find solutions for rail and multimodal transportation through the downtown.

Mayor Gary Phillips has been an unwavering champion for his community across his nearly 30 years, and I am certain his public service is not complete. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in honoring him for his many positive contributions to the residents of San Rafael and the entire North Bay Area and in wishing him well in his next endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was not present for roll call votes on December 2, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 228.

IN HONOR OF DENNIS MCBRIDE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dennis McBride as he leaves the Board of Education of the Redwood City Elementary School District after serving 17 years. This brief introduction of Dennis does not begin to do him justice.

Let me offer you the image of the Energizer Bunny, unceasingly banging on a drum and looking a bit cool at the same time. This is Dennis. Let me also acknowledge that this might be the only time that comments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD refer to a Certified Public Accountant as "cool." The word fits Dennis.

He began his love affair with education as a parent volunteer with the cooperative preschools in which his two children were students. He then hopped to the nearby elementary school where he became active in the site council and organized field trips, such as when he took a class to visit a leading computer manufacturer. He served on the site councils of every school attended by his two children. While some parents coach soccer, Dennis coached other parents and teachers in how to solve problems, raise funds, helped teachers, and did so much more. That's a drum-banging, cool dad.

As a CPA, Dennis volunteered his professional talents for numerous parcel tax and bond measures. The funds raised built classrooms throughout the elementary and high school districts and sustained the curriculum to the best degree possible despite economic circumstances. It is estimated that over 25,000 pre-K through eighth grade students, and additional high school and community college students, were benefitted by Dennis' work. In the buildings created, in the music programs sustained, in the special education students aided, and in dozens of other ways large and small, Dennis created a legacy that will last for at least two generations.

Dennis has always been unassuming in his collaborative ventures with other school district trustees from around the county, but many eventually made their way to Dennis as they sought answers to tough financial and personnel issues. For years he's been a leader within the San Mateo County School Boards Association, going so far as to find new leaders for recognition through the association's annual Kent Award.

How much energy does this man exude? Well, ask yourself, how many school district trustees visit nighttime staff to see how they are holding up? How many trustees show up in the morning at dangerous intersections to

witness what parents are worried about? How many trustees visit every school in the district, check out cafeterias, write handwritten thank you notes to teachers, staff and parents? Many would show up at school events when invited, but how many are known on campuses where middle schoolers call out their names? This is Redwood City's public servant, Dennis McBride.

Not content to contribute to his community solely through its schools, Dennis served as the treasurer or board member or both for multiple community organizations including the Police Activities League, the workforce housing committee of the school board, and on the board overseeing faculty/staff housing for the San Mateo County Community College District. He's also served on the education advisory committees of two members of the state legislature and as treasurer for the Sequoia Awards, a community scholarship program recognizing low income high school students with big college or technical education dreams.

Dennis McBride's contributions don't end with education. From 2006 to 2013, he served as treasurer for the Santa Clara University Law School Board of the Northern California Innocence Project and on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula.

In all those cartoonish ads for batteries, some of the other bunnies run out of juice but the Energizer Bunny keeps going. In contrast, I think even the Energizer Bunny would give up before Dennis McBride. It has been my privilege and honor to serve with Dennis. We are sorry to see him go, and so sad that his drum will not be beating for us again. We wish Dennis, his wife, Lori, and his sons Cory and Casey much happiness in the coming years.

Madam Speaker, a one-man band has now retired from public life, but the beat goes on because everyone wants to make Dennis proud as they follow his lead, his laughter, and his kind heart.

FROM HAARETZ: "ISRAEL'S WAR ON PALESTINIAN CHILDREN" BY GIDEON LEVY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, when military force and violence are used to oppress, dehumanize, and deny fundamental human rights to an entire civilian population—women, men, and children—it is an injustice that is antithetical to America's values and our self-proclaimed belief in promoting dignity, equality, and justice for all. The Israeli military occupation of Palestine is such an injustice. Settlement expansion, home demolitions, the military detention of children and state sponsored violence are the weapons used as Israel seeks to annex Palestinian land and destroy any prospects for Palestinian self-determination.

The violence used by Israel against Palestinians, especially children, is shocking and abhorrent. Late last week a particularly grotesque act of state sponsored violence took place when a 13 year-old Palestinian boy living under military occupation in the West Bank