

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote due to extenuating circumstances. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 79; YEA on Roll Call No. 80; YEA on Roll Call No. 81; YEA on Roll Call No. 82; YEA on Roll Call No. 83; YEA on Roll Call No. 84; YEA on Roll Call No. 85; and YEA on Roll Call No. 86.

RECOGNIZING SERGIO PECORI FOR RECEIVING THE 2020 OUTSTANDING PROJECTS AND LEADERS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Sergio "Satch" Pecori, P.E., chairman and CEO of Hanson Professional Services Inc. in Springfield, IL for receiving the 2020 Outstanding Projects and Leaders Lifetime Achievement Award from The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). This prestigious award recognizes Satch's outstanding lifetime accomplishments, leadership skills, and long-term commitment to business and his community.

Mr. Pecori's accomplishments and positive impact on the community have been widely recognized over the years. He was presented with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from UIUC's College of Civil Engineering in 1999. He was a finalist for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2007 and was given the President's Award for Outstanding Leadership and Dedication by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he has received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service and the Boy Scouts of America Abraham Lincoln Council's Trailblazer Award.

Mr. Pecori, was also a recipient of the 2019 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The Medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from diverse ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage and culture.

Mr. Pecori has risen to top of his profession through hard work and dedication. He is an example for all of us to emulate. Satch and his team have engineered numerous projects that have transformed communities and helped local economies thrive. He also leads by example and strives to improve the lives of those around him. Congratulations to Satch, the honor is well deserved.

RECOGNIZING A SPACECOAST SYMBOL OF KINDNESS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend kindergarten students in my Congressional district who have made it a priority and to remind us that kindness "is always possible."

Nearly a year ago, transition kindergarten teacher Ms. Barbara Wilcox inspired her class at Tropical Elementary on Merritt Island in Brevard County, Florida, to join an initiative they called "Together Kind." She shared, "I do a lot of service learning with them, talking about how to be kind to people."

Children often "get it" when adults are slow to respond. That certainly played out strongly in Ms. Wilcox's class. The children wanted to make a difference. They recognized the meaning behind common symbols like the peace sign, the happy face and the heart, for love. And, in their wisdom, they perceived the value of having a symbol to remind the world of the importance of just being kind to one another.

The class designed four candidates for a Symbol of Kindness and took their vision to the world. They shared their symbols on Facebook, through email, and a website they created called togetherkind.com. About 1,000 people from 25 states (and England and Ireland) voted and decided the winner.

The children use social media only through parents and their teacher. But, they learned the power of communication and how to engage people in a meaningful and valuable way. They sold \$1 magnets with the winning Symbol. "Every day we looked to see how many people had signed the petition, and we highlighted, on a map, all the states people are from," said Ms. Wilcox, who's been teaching for 22 years. So, showing a little kindness can teach geography and bringing people together.

Those are some of the things that kindness is about:

Reaching out beyond ourselves and showing respect and care for others. Their symbol builds on the heart as the symbol of love. The heart is enclosed in a circle of arrows and that reminds me that kindness is more than just a noun. Kindness is an "action" word. Kindness happens by doing.

I'm so proud that a class of young people in my district could remind us, "Kindness is always possible" in what they did and in the Symbol of Kindness they have given to the rest of us as a reminder.

I have introduced a resolution to recognize their work as the Spacecoast Symbol of Kindness. Hopefully, their symbol can be carried by our astronauts on some future mission into space to spread their message beyond even our planet. If the nation needs kindness today, we can surely look forward to taking kindness with us to the moon, Mars, and beyond.

Once again, I commend Ms. Wilcox and her class. They remind us that kindness is doing something for another person without expecting anything in return other than the possibility that others will pass on kindness to others. I thank the kindergartners at Tropical Elementary, for this reminder.

CONGRATULATING JEANNETTA POLITIS ON RECEIPT OF THE FNB COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to recognize Jeannetta Politis of First National Bank of Pennsylvania on receiving the FNB Community Spirit Award.

Each year, the First National Bank of Pennsylvania presents the FNB Community Spirit Award to an employee who provides excellent service to customers and contributes positively to their community through charitable endeavors. FNB selects two recipients from each region and donates \$4,000 to a charity of their choice.

Ms. Politis serves as one of FNB's Business Banking Relationship Managers and is also a dedicated community member with a commitment to volunteerism. She has focused her efforts on helping the next generation, serving as a board member for organizations such as the Harrisburg Young Professionals, Leadership Harrisburg, and The Joshua Group, a non-profit organization focused on the mentoring and guidance of at-risk youth living in the Allison Hill neighborhood of Harrisburg. Additionally, Ms. Politis volunteers with the Harrisburg Rotary Club and Hospice of Central Pennsylvania, caring for those who are most in need among us.

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 Jeannetta Politis on this great honor and thank her for her dedication to the betterment of our communities.

ABORTION RIGHTS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, we are at a critical juncture for abortion rights in America.

Abortion is health care and a fundamental right. But, across the street from the Capitol, the Supreme Court appears ready to overturn precedent to go after reproductive justice. June Medical Services v. Russo is the first abortion case to be heard by anti-abortion Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. They could pave the way for states to ban abortion for 25 million people in the United States.

So, we are standing up. Because we will not be standing by.

Regardless of where they live or how much money they make, individuals deserve the right to control their own bodies and future, and to get the healthcare that they want and need. When women can make decisions about their own reproductive healthcare, including whether and when to have children, they have autonomy over their lives, and their economic security.

So, reproductive justice is about economic justice. That is what is under threat.

And, not just the courts. Opponents of abortion have launched a nationwide, full court press against abortion and women's health.

Last year, 300 bills were introduced across the U.S. to curb or ban abortion. Alabama passed an extreme and callous law that would force teenage survivors of rape and incest, as well as people of any age, to carry a pregnancy without their consent. Texas introduced a bill to make abortion a capital offense.

Then, there is the Trump-Pence administration. Its domestic gag rule insert Donald Trump and MIKE PENCE in between a woman and her doctor. More than four million women and men, including 45,000 in my state, go to Title X clinics for their health care services. Sixty percent of those women consider it their primary care. But, the domestic gag rule bans providers from even talking about abortion or abortion-related services with their patient, even if an abortion is medically necessary.

Americans want more health care, not less. And, abortion is safe and legal, and the law of the land.

So, as the chair of the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Subcommittee, I am proud to fight for women and families and for reproductive justice. In our House Labor-HHS bill, we fought to block the domestic gag rule. But the administration and the Senate Republicans stopped us. We are not giving up.

Instead, the Democratic Majority of the U.S. House of Representatives is fighting for reproductive justice. We have legislation such as Congresswoman BARBARA LEE's EACH Woman Act. The Hyde Amendment is a discriminatory policy that makes access to abortion dependent on your income. That is wrong, and I oppose it. We will continue the fight and we will win that fight in the near term to ensure that women of color, low income women and all women are on equal footing, with regards to reproductive rights.

Making the decision to continue or end a pregnancy is a complex decision and a very personal one. Throughout their pregnancy, a person must be able to make health decisions that are best for their circumstances, including whether to end a pregnancy, without interference from politicians. President Trump does not get a veto.

The Supreme Court should not forget that. The American people, and the voters, will not.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DENNIS HOOD

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my condolences to the family of my friend Dennis Hood, a man who liberated himself and believed in fighting for the rights of others.

Unfortunately, I cannot be there with them because we are voting on a supplemental budget to provide money with which to fight the coronavirus, and I figured that I ought to be here to perform that duty. Therefore, I have asked one of my young staffers, Gerard Moorer, to read the following statement at his service:

Dennis Hood lived at ABLA and Lathrop. He was actively engaged and involved in the

activities of these developments. Dennis was a colorful character with an outgoing personality. He never went any place and you didn't not know that he was there. He made use of the section 3 provision in the Public Housing Act and developed a small construction company. Dennis argued, protested, marched, demonstrated, swore, drank whiskey, cussed and did everything under the sun to try and have his way, and if he could speak, I am sure he would say, I did it my way. "For what is a man, what has he got, if not himself, then he has naught, to say the things he truly feels and not the words of one who kneels. The record show I took the blows and did it my way."

Yes, it was Dennis' way.

He was my friend and supporter, and I was his friend and supporter.

CLAIRE "NELLIE" POOLE

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and honor the legacy of the Woodbury Heights, New Jersey resident Claire "Nellie" Poole.

On Tuesday, March 3, 2020, family and friends gathered to celebrate the life and honor the legacy of Mrs. Claire Poole a resident of Woodbury Heights, New Jersey, and a loving and caring woman who dedicated her life to her family, workers and public service.

Mrs. Claire Poole, "Nellie" as many called her, worked for the Camden County Board of Social Services as a Social Worker before her retirement. In addition to her service with the county, Mrs. Claire Poole was heavily involved with labor unions and worker's rights organizations and served as the President of Women of Labor, Chairperson of the Union Organization of Social Services, President of CWA Local 1084 Union, and served as the 2nd Vice President of Central Labor Union-AFL CIO.

Community and public service were Mrs. Claire Poole's life-long passions. She was a member of Woodbury Heights Borough Council and was very involved with the Woodbury Heights Democratic Club. She even served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984, 1988 and 2000. In addition to her public service and political life, she served on numerous United Way campaigns, was a former President of the Woodbury Heights Senior Club, and was a member of the Gloucester County Senior Club. In her religious life, Mrs. Poole was also involved in St. Margaret's Church where she was part of the bereavement committee.

Mrs. Poole was the wife of the late Joseph F. Poole. She was a devoted mother to Valerie Dzindzio (Mark) of Clayton, Robert Clayton (Elizabeth) of Woodbury, Maureen Leo (Dominick) of Clayton, and step-mother of Joseph "Michael" Poole (the late Diane) of Deptford, James Poole of Woodbury and the late Frank Clayton, Jr., Russell Clayton (Theresa) and Kevin Clayton. She was the beloved sister of Edward Charlton (Theresa) of Collingswood and the late Frances Andrews, Teresa Logan and Hilda Minderjahn.

Additionally, she was a loving grandmother of 14 and great-grandmother of 11. "Nellie" leaves behind many nieces and nephews and her cat, Tabitha.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Mrs. Claire Poole of Woodbury Heights, New Jersey.

TAIWAN ALLIES INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE (TAIPEI) ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a strong believer in diplomacy and global cooperation, I believe it is vitally important for the United States to support Taiwan as they seek to gain membership in global organizations such as the WHA and Interpol. Furthermore, I believe that our nation should do what it can to allow Taiwan to foster and grow its diplomatic relationships around the globe.

Since 2016, the People's Republic of China has systematically been trying to undermine the diplomatic independence of Taiwan on the international stage, luring Taiwan's partners to change their allegiance from Taipei to Beijing under the "One China" policy. The People's Republic of China has also been blocking Taiwan's access to global organizations such as the World Health Organization. We have only recently started to see some of the negative impacts of these actions.

Mr. Speaker, the United States should continue to stand strong with our democratic partner and encourage other allies to strengthen their relationship with Taipei.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BISHOP

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on March 2, 2020, I was unable to vote because I was with constituents from my district to participate in an event with the President of the United States in North Carolina.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79, and YEA on Roll Call No. 80.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF OFFICER DAVID KELLYWOOD

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Officer David Kellywood. Officer Kellywood was a White Mountain Apache Police Officer who was killed in the line of duty last month.

David Kellywood grew up in the White Mountain Apache community in rural Arizona.

He bravely protected and served his community for four years as a corrections officer, a detention officer, and then a police officer.