

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call No. 140. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

HONORING DANA GERSHON

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the leadership of Dana Gershon, whose term as Board President of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) comes to an end on June 30th. She has helped to navigate and grow the organization despite a tenure that coincided with COVID. She is a dedicated, tireless, and passionate advocate for women, children, and families who has represented the organization to world leaders including President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff. Dana has guided the organization through our Jewish values of b'tzelem Elohim, we are all created in G-d's image; kavod ha bri'ot, respect and dignity for all and tzedek tirdof, the pursuit of justice. These values inform her perspective, inspire her efforts, and drive her work to ensure everyone has the full range of health care, enough to eat, and a safe place to call home; in which we can all each achieve financial security while caring for our health and family; in which every young person is affirmed at school, gets unbiased information about their health, and is safe; that no matter who we are or where we are from, we all can access education, economic opportunities, and a court system committed to justice for all; and in which our democracy is strong and stable.

Dana has been a leader and trusted partner of mine, organizing grassroots advocacy efforts for critical legislative priorities, including the Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act, the Black Maternal Health Omnibus Package, the Immigrant Safety and Empowerment (WISE) Act, the Violence Against Women Act, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the Enhanced Background Checks Act, the assault weapons ban and countless other initiatives that would enhance equity and social justice.

Dana Gershon has been a social justice activist and leader in the Jewish community since high school. A graduate of Combined Jewish Philanthropy's (CJP) Acharai program, Dana held a number of leadership positions during the nearly twenty years that she and her family lived in Boston: she served as President of the Board of Trustees of the Rashi School (the Boston area Reform Jewish Day School) from 2010–2012 and was Co-Chair CJP's Boston-Haifa Connection. Dana was instrumental in the founding of Parents at the Center in Haifa, Israel, early intervention for underserved children and their families. She has been a Director on the national board of NCJW since 17, and is a member of the Executive Council of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Dana's work has been expansive and impactful and I thank her for her collaboration and best in her future endeavors.

**CONGRATULATING BEN F. KOLB
MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR EARNING
HISTORIC STATE AND NATIONAL
RECOGNITION IN THE SCHOOLS
TO WATCH PROGRAM**

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben F. Kolb Middle School students, teachers and administrators by congratulating them on being nationally recognized in the Schools to Watch Program, Kolb Middle School, located in the City of Rialto, was one of 36 new California schools selected in the Schools to Watch program in 2023.

The Schools to Watch program recognizes schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to academic excellence, foster positive school culture and support holistic student development. Schools chosen for this prestigious award are high-performing, model schools that demonstrate responsiveness to the needs of young students, social equity and exceptional academic performance.

Today, I offer my hearty congratulations to former Principal Armando Urteaga and his dedicated staff for their commitment to their students for not only developing a well-rounded academic curriculum, but also providing Social-Emotional Learning support. By ensuring their students develop healthy identities, learn how to manage their emotions and make responsible and caring decisions, Kolb Middle School has allowed Rialto students to thrive.

I'm incredibly proud of the hard work of our Kolb Cougars and celebrate the accomplishments of all the California schools recognized as Schools to Watch this year.

HONORING PERRY MILLER

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mrs. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Perry Miller, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Region Airport Commission, which owns and operates the Richmond International Airport.

Perry is an airport executive with a distinguished career spanning three decades. He graduated from Texas Southern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Airway Science and a Master of Science degree in Transportation Planning and Management. Perry began his airport career with the Houston Airport System, where he spent 25 years serving in several capacities that are critical to the smooth functioning of our Nation's airports, including airport operations, maintenance, properties management, and business development. His positions there included Airport Manager of Ellington Airport, Airport Manager of William P. Hobby Airport, and Interim Manager of George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

In 2015, Perry became the Chief Operating Officer of the Jackson Municipal Airport Au-

thority in Jackson, Mississippi. In 2019, Virginia was fortunate to have Perry accept the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Region Airport Commission. In the four years since he has been there, Perry has successfully led the Richmond International Airport through the COVID crisis, has worked to increase the level of air service for the Capital Region, and has undertaken a comprehensive infrastructure program to meet our region's current and growing needs.

In recognition of Perry's distinguished career, his peers in the airport community previously elected him to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Airport Executives, the world's largest professional organization for airport executives. Founded in 1928, AAAE has 9,000 members from more than 800 airports.

Most recently, Perry became the Chair of AAAE, the highest volunteer leadership position within this prestigious national organization. Achieving this senior position is clear testimony to Perry's distinguished career in the airport community, the high regard his fellow airport executives have for him, his high level of professional achievement, and his dedication to public service.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Perry Miller on this significant accomplishment. We are grateful for his many contributions to our Nation's aviation system and look forward to his continued contributions in the years ahead.

**EMPLOYER REPORTING
IMPROVEMENT ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3801, the Employer Reporting Improvement Act.

This bill streamlines reporting requirements for small businesses when it comes to health insurance coverage information.

This bill will reduce administrative burdens and make it easier for businesses to comply with the Affordable Care Act.

More specifically, it permits employers to electronically file certain documents related to employees' health coverage if the employee has previously agreed to electronic statements.

The bill further streamlines reporting by allowing employers the option to use covered individuals' full name and date of birth if the employer is unable to collect the covered individuals' taxpayer identification number.

Currently, small businesses can be left in limbo by the IRS, sometimes for years, without knowing whether they correctly filed their health insurance coverage information.

The Employer Reporting Improvement Act reins in the IRS' ability to penalize American small businesses and gives them peace of mind that they won't be unfairly hit with a penalty.

Thanks to these streamlined procedures, small businesses will now have more time to focus on running their business, providing opportunities for their employees, expanding their business, and serving their customers.

In my home district of Houston, nearly 97 percent of the region's businesses are considered small businesses.

These small businesses employ 44 percent of the region's workforce, over 1.2 million employees across the city of Houston.

These small businesses continue to rise as over 150,000 new business applications were filed across Houston last year.

The city ranks 10th nationally in new businesses per capita and these businesses continue to drive the city's economic growth upwards.

Further, nearly 35 percent of these small businesses with 50 or fewer employees are minority-owned and Houston ranks 5th in the nation for minority entrepreneurship.

Small businesses are not only vital for Houston, but for our entire nation.

Across America, small businesses account for over fifty-nine million jobs, constituting nearly half of the national workforce.

Overall, they generate one third of all U.S. business revenue, approximately 13.7 trillion dollars annually.

This bill helps to relieve the burdens of complex paperwork and uncertainty on these small businesses and best equips them for success in Houston and across the nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3801 and in supporting small businesses by streamlining reporting processes.

HONORING COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Colorado School of Mines Men's Cross Country Team for winning the 2022 NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championship.

This has been an exceptional season for the School of Mines' cross country program. They managed to achieve a record-setting victory, beating the second place team by 133 points—the largest margin in NCAA history. They were honored for this achievement at the White House following the close of the season, which was another first for the program. None of this would have been possible without Coach Chris Siemers. The School of Mines Men's Cross Country Team has flourished under his leadership. His efforts were also recognized by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association, who deservedly chose him for their National Coach of the Year Award.

It is my honor to congratulate the School of Mines Men's Cross Country Team for their success. I hope there will be many more championships to celebrate in the future.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL U.S. METALCASTING WEEK

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of National U.S.

Metalcasting Week and to highlight the significant contributions made by the metalcasting industry to our nation's economy and security. Metalcasting, an essential manufacturing process, plays a pivotal role in various sectors, including aerospace, automotive, defense, agriculture, infrastructure, and many others. This week-long celebration provides us with a unique opportunity to recognize and appreciate the achievements of this vital industry.

Metalcasting is the process of pouring molten metal into a mold to create intricate shapes and components used in a wide range of applications. From the engine blocks that power our vehicles to the turbine blades that generate electricity, metalcasting is at the heart of modern industrial production. It enables the creation of complex and durable metal parts that are essential for countless industries, fostering innovation and progress.

One cannot understate the economic significance of the metalcasting industry. According to the American Foundry Society, metalcasting contributes over \$44 billion to the U.S. economy annually and employs over 200,000 skilled workers. These jobs are spread across the nation, supporting local economies and providing stability for communities. The industry's direct and indirect impact cannot be ignored, as it contributes to our nation's prosperity and competitiveness on the global stage.

Moreover, metalcasting plays a critical role in national security. Defense systems, such as tanks, aircraft carriers, and missile guidance systems, rely on the durability and precision of metalcast components. The industry's ability to produce advanced materials and components that meet the stringent requirements of our armed forces is essential for maintaining a strong national defense.

National U.S. Metalcasting Week serves as a platform to raise awareness about the technological advancements and environmental achievements of the industry. Over the years, metalcasters have embraced innovation and sustainability, adopting cleaner and more efficient processes. By reducing energy consumption, minimizing waste, and recycling materials, the industry is actively contributing to environmental preservation and sustainability goals.

Furthermore, Metalcasting Week provides an opportunity to showcase the critical role of education and workforce development in sustaining this industry's success. It allows us to celebrate the skills and craftsmanship of metalcasting professionals while inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in this field. By investing in training programs and promoting STEM education, we can ensure a pipeline of talented individuals to support the continued growth of the metalcasting industry.

National U.S. Metalcasting Week is a time to celebrate the achievements of an industry that is vital to our nation's economy, security, and technological progress. The contributions of the metalcasting industry are felt in numerous sectors and touch the lives of millions of Americans. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing and appreciating the dedication and excellence of metalcasters, not only in Indiana's Second District, but all across the United States.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF MR. ZEDDIE COLEY

HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 90th birthday of Mr. Zeddie Coley, a remarkable member of the OH-11 community.

Mr. Coley was born in Albany, Georgia in 1933 and graduated from Monroe High School in 1950. He earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1953 from Albany State College, where he also became a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated. In 1974, he completed his master's degree in education from Cleveland State University. After receiving his formal education, Mr. Coley served in the United States Army.

Mr. Coley was married to Shirley Ann Jackson (1932–2019) for 68 years and together they have two daughters, Carma Coley (Warrensville Hts.) and Cynthia Coley-Anderson (Chicago), both retired teachers. He is the proud grandfather of five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Coley began his teaching career in 1955 in the Cleveland Public Schools system as a fourth-grade teacher at Wade Park Elementary. Moving forward, he continued his career in the East Cleveland City Schools as a science teacher, retiring as an administrator in 1984. He continues to maintain contact with many of the students he has taught throughout the years.

Since 1964, Mr. Coley has lived in the Lee-Harvard Community. There, he served as an active member of the Harvard Community Services Center, a member of their Board of Trustees for 27 years and as president of the Walden Avenue Street Club for 30 years. In addition, he served as an Education Association Committee Chairperson. During his tenure, he was active in hiring several principals in the Lee-Harvard area schools and spearheaded the track and field stadium renovation committee for John F. Kennedy High School. Mr. Coley has received numerous honors—Harvard Community Services Center's Lifetime Achievement Award, Senior of the Year for Ward 1, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Black Diamonds Award, John F. Kennedy's Community Volunteer Award, and the Neighborhood Leadership Award, to name a few.

He has been an active member of the East Zion Baptist Church for over 60 years. As an avid gardener, he takes pride in harvesting vegetables to share with his neighbors. When asked what he loves most about Cleveland, he says, "Cleveland gave me my wife, which makes me love it the most."

Happy birthday to Mr. Coley.

STEVEN HELMICK

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Steven Helmick of Donald R. Roberts Elementary in Little Rock for being named the 2023 Arkansas Elementary School Principal of the Year.