

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was otherwise detained in a meeting at the Senate off the floor yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79 (H.R. 1752), and YEA on Roll Call No. 80 (H.R. 886).

CELEBRATING MT. HARMONY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS BECOMING NEWLY PUBLISHED AUTHORS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, the students at Mt. Harmony Elementary School, located in my district, accomplished a terrific feat: they became published authors. Each grade wrote and illustrated a book documenting their recent visit to the National Mall right here in the heart of our Nation's capital. I thank their librarian Melaney Sanchez, Mt. Harmony PTA Treasurer Jennifer Franco, National Mall Education Specialist Ranger Jen Epstein, and everyone else who helped make this extraordinary, hands-on learning experience possible. Together, they took more than 600 kids to Washington, D.C.

During these visits, the students learned about American history and the principles upon which our democracy rests. From the sculpture of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to the statue of President Abraham Lincoln, the dark stone walls commemorating the Americans who died in Vietnam to the quiet fountains that honor the fallen of World War II, they saw monuments and memorials that pay tribute to the men and women who have sustained our country for the past 246 years. Some of the children even had the chance to sing patriotic songs for Veterans at the World War II Memorial. Back at school, students worked together to write down their impressions and sketch what they saw on the field trip.

Mr. Speaker, young Americans like the ones at Mt. Harmony give me hope for this country's future. It is inspiring to see them take such a great interest in America's civic culture and history. We all ought to be grateful to the educators, parents, and community leaders who gave them that opportunity. One day, these children will be the guardians of our great American experiment. They will carry on the same work of the historic figures they learned about on their trip—that sacred American duty 'to form a more perfect Union.' Their authorship of these books proves that they have already started to contribute to that crucial mission. For that, they have my thanks and the gratitude of the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in applauding the students—and authors—at Mt. Harmony.

CELEBRATING DAVID DOUGLASS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this February, I had the privilege of commemorating the 30th anniversary of the tragic passing of a fallen hero, Officer David C. Douglass. On February 18, 1994, Officer Douglass valiantly answered the call of a burglar in the area and tragically lost his life in the line of duty. He was not only a dedicated member of the Lower Township Police Department for 18 years but also served as a lieutenant in the Town Bank Fire Department. His contributions to public safety extended beyond his role in law enforcement; he helped establish the Lower Township SWAT team, instructed at the Cape May County Police Academy, and served as a past president of the Policeman's Benevolent Association. Officer Douglass was a beloved member of our community, known for his integrity, friendship, and mentorship. His legacy lives on through his family, including his wife, son, daughter, and stepdaughter, as well as in the hearts of all who knew him. I thank Officer David C. Douglass for his bravery, his service, and his sacrifice. He will forever be remembered and cherished in our hearts. God Bless Officer Douglass and God Bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Monday March 11, 2024 due to a Helsinki Commission meeting. Earlier in the day I managed the floor time for both bills and advocated in support of them. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Yea on Roll Call No. 79 (H.R. 1752), and Yea on Roll Call No. 80 (H.R. 886).

CONGRATULATING VOICES OF UNITY YOUTH CHOIR

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Voices of Unity Youth Choir as they head to Auckland, New Zealand to compete in the 2024 World Choir Games.

This honor is well deserved, considering the setbacks the choir has faced over the last few years. Perhaps the most significant of these recent challenges was the departure of over 40 of their student participants in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This did not hinder Voices of Unity; they rallied by launching the "Rising With Purpose Rebuilding Initiative," which engaged a new wave of talented North-east Indiana youth.

It was with this soulful new chorale group that Voices of Unity achieved this tremendous success. Unity will be representing Fort

Wayne across the world in the Gospel Music Category of the "Olympics" of the chorale world. This experience will be transformational for the young people involved, and an ideal opportunity for them to represent their community, culture, and Nation to an international audience.

I am proud that our community will be represented by this choir with beautiful song, and I congratulate the singers, staff, and board of Voices of Unity Youth Choir on their great achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE CIVIC WORK, PHILANTHROPY, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OF HAROLD "SANDY" AND CONNIE WOLFINGER AS HONOREES AT THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SALUTE TO OLEAN BANQUET

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the civic leadership, philanthropy, and community service of Harold "Sandy" and Connie Wolfinger. In the last few years, I have come to know them personally as friends, and I have seen firsthand the deep connection they have to the community. I am glad to see that their dedication and passion was recognized on March 7th as honorees at the thirty-eighth Annual Salute to Olean banquet. Each of their stories of self-built business and success is a testament to the importance and hope in the American Dream. In return, Sandy and Connie have generously given back to their community through local civic leadership and philanthropy, which has benefited generations of students across the region.

Harold, or Sandy as he is called by friends, was the first in his family to graduate from college before going into forestry where he worked his way up from humble beginnings in several companies before starting his own—Northern Forests LLC, which continues to be a success thirty years later. Connie is a native to the area, growing up between the communities of Olean, Cuba, and Portville in the heart of the Southern Tier of New York. She spent over thirty years herself as a real-estate broker, specializing in land lease and sales and formed her own company, Field & Stream Real Estate—through which she met her soon-to-be husband Harold as a repeat buyer.

The Wolfinger Family Donor Advised Fund and the Connie and Sandy Wolfinger Fund make possible annual grants to organizations chosen by the Wolfingers across education, home care, and medical assistance to special projects in their community. Since 2019 they are responsible for nearly one hundred thousand dollars in charitable grants and contributions affecting the daily lives of those in our community.

Their deep network and civic mindedness also gave birth to the Right Thinkers—a monthly town hall for public discussion on current events and policy issues where two hundred or more come to listen, learn, and speak their minds to panels of experts and elected officials.

The generosity and pride that Connie and Sandy have for the Southern Tier is tangible,

and many are better off because of their efforts. Given the above, I ask that this legislative body pause in its deliberations and join me in recognizing Harold "Sandy" and Connie Wolfinger for their decades of service and generosity to their community and upon being named as 2024 Salute to Olean Honorees.

CELEBRATING JAYSON CAGLE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, last month, I had the honor of celebrating Jayson Cagle, a remarkable young man from Pittsgrove, South Jersey, who has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with Boy Scouts of America Troop 1058. Jayson's journey to Eagle Scout is not just a personal triumph but a testament to his unwavering commitment to making a positive impact in his surroundings. His Eagle Scout project, improving his high school's music room, reflects his dedication to both his community and his passion for music. As a graduating high school senior this year, Jayson has been accepted into Seton Hall University's School of Diplomacy and International Relations, where he hopes to learn how to serve his country on the global stage. Jayson's commitment to service and leadership is an inspiration to us all. I'm proud to congratulate him for his achievements and I wish him all the best. God Bless Jayson and God Bless the United States of America.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT YSMAEL R. VILLEGAS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Ysmael R. Villegas, a distinguished American hero from California's 39th Congressional District. Born in Casa Blanca in 1924, Villegas, the eldest of 13 children, exemplified the values of our diverse community.

Formerly an "orange picker," Villegas answered the call to serve during WWII, displaying extraordinary bravery at the Battle of Luzon. Tragically, on March 20, 1945, one day before his 21st birthday, he made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. President Truman posthumously awarded him the Medal of Honor on October 19, 1945.

Colonel G. B. Appleman presented the medal to his widow at Camp Haan on November 1, 1945, in our very own Riverside district. The ceremony drew thousands, a testament to the profound impact of Villegas's heroism on our community.

As we commemorate what would have been his 100th birthday, let us remember Staff Sergeant Villegas's selflessness, dedication, and love for family. May his legacy inspire future generations, and the heroism of Staff Sergeant Villegas remains etched in the history and hearts of California's 39th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE MOROZ'S SERVICE TO THE HENRY FORD MUSEUM AND THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Moroz, the Director of External Relations and Special Assistant to the President at The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement. His longstanding dedication to education and the preservation of history is worthy of commendation.

George got his start in public service with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, serving as Vice President for Development from 1989–1996. In that position, he was in charge of all fundraising activity and government relations for the organization. Armed with that experience, he then took up his position at The Henry Ford, where he has been a driving force in the growth and evolution of the museum over the last three decades.

George's passion for enriching the lives of Michiganders is exemplified by his 27 years of dedication to The Henry Ford and the broader museum community. Throughout his career George worked tirelessly to advocate for the importance of museums such as The Henry Ford and worked with museum advocates on local, state, and national levels. His years of advocacy resulted in the longstanding partnership between the Michigan Museum Association and the Tourism Industry Coalition of Michigan, strengthening the relationship between these critical cultural markers.

George worked tirelessly for 16 years with federal and state partners to bring the John Dingell Transit Station to its current location adjacent to The Henry Ford campus, creating opportunities for visitors from all over the country to access this national treasure. George further played a pivotal role in the restoration and creation of key community sites such as the Greenfield Village, Rouge Oxbow, and Central Farmer's Market Vegetable Shed that will provide enjoyment for generations to come.

Recognizing a greater need for community engagement, Mr. Moroz created and oversaw the Diversity and Inclusion Centered Equity (DICE) initiative, laying the groundwork for Henry Ford's DEAL programming that continues today. These programs have worked to ensure Henry Ford serves as an inclusive cultural hub and carry on George's beliefs in collaboration and community building.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the many accomplishments of George Moroz over the last 30+ years. We thank him for his service, dedication, and leadership in advancing and preserving the cultural heritage of the State of Michigan, and wish him the best in retirement.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 15, 2024, AS "MORQUIO A SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY"

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas: Morquio A syndrome, a classification of Mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS) disorders, is a rare, progressive genetic disorder that affects approximately 1 in every 300,000 births;

Whereas: individuals affected by Morquio A syndrome do not have or do not produce enough enzymes that break down sugar chains naturally in the body;

Whereas: the buildup of sugars negatively impacts the skeletal system and eventually the organ systems;

Whereas the condition of Morquio A syndrome worsens over time and there is no cure;

Whereas there is only one FDA-approved medication for Morquio A syndrome, a synthetic version of the enzyme that patients lack;

Whereas this treatment is a four-hour weekly infusion that helps slow the rapid progression of the disease;

Whereas patients receiving treatment for Morquio A syndrome often need to see numerous specialty doctors frequently and may also require many services for school-age children;

Whereas it is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious health condition, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, state, and national levels;

Whereas "Morquio A Syndrome Awareness Day" is expected to be observed in the United States for years to come, providing hope and information for patients, caregivers, and families around the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

Supports the designation of "Morquio A Syndrome Awareness Day"; and

Recognizes the importance of, with respect to Morquio A syndrome—

Improving awareness;

Encouraging accurate and early diagnosis;

Advancing research;

Developing new treatments, diagnostics, and cures; and

Identifying regulatory pathways for drug development of ultrarare diseases like Morquio A syndrome.

CELEBRATING IAN CROWLEY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this February, I had the pleasure of attending the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Ian Crowley, a young man who is a model of dedication, perseverance, and commitment to community service. During his time in the Scouts, Ian has learned the importance of preserving and celebrating our history, a lesson which inspired his