

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on July 8th and 9th as I needed to attend the funeral services of a close friend.

Had I been present for the following roll call votes, I would have voted Aye on:

Roll Call No. 336, July 8, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 897, Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act;

Roll Call No. 337, July 8, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5441, Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act;

Roll Call No. 340, July 9, 2024: On Motion to Recommit—H.R. 7637, Refrigerator Freedom Act; and

Roll Call No. 342, July 9, 2024: On Motion to Recommit—H.R. 7700, Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act.

Had I been present for the following roll call votes, I would have voted No on:

Roll Call No. 338, July 9, 2024: On Ordering the Previous Question H. Res. 1341, Providing for consideration of the bills H.R. 8281, Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act; H.R. 8772, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025; H.R. 7700, Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act; H.R. 7637, Refrigerator Freedom Act; and the joint resolution H.J. Res. 165;

Roll Call No. 339, July 9, 2024: On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 1341, Providing for consideration of the bills H.R. 8281, Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act; H.R. 8772, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025; H.R. 7700, Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act; H.R. 7637, Refrigerator Freedom Act; and the joint resolution H.J. Res. 165;

Roll Call No. 341, July 9, 2024: On Passage—H.R. 7637, Refrigerator Freedom Act; and

Roll Call No. 343, July 9, 2024: On Passage—H.R. 7700, Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act.

CONGRATULATING THE INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART MARKET ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, we all inhabit one planet with vibrant, colorful rich traditions of folk art. I rise to congratulate the International Folk Art Market, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year for bringing to Santa Fe some of the best of that folk art.

This art gives us a glimpse into the history and cultural traditions across our continents, but also is an economic engine for the families and communities who create these masterpieces.

Since 2004, over a thousand volunteers have shared in this vision as they join forces to make this major economic driver for the art-

ists and the Santa Fe area both possible. For many artists, the revenue feeds their family, and for the collective, the profits go to digging water wells for the village. The first market hosted 60 participating folk artists, and this year my hometown will host 160 artists from over 50 countries. It is one of the largest folk art markets in the world.

This next weekend, the Market will transform the Santa Fe Historic Rail Yard into an international village, with global music, ethnic foods, speakers, and more. The art will come alive in stories, tastes, and dance moves.

Humankind is strongest and kindest when we can celebrate the diverse traditions found in our country, and in our world. Happy Birthday (Feliz Cumpleaños) to International Folk Art Market on their 20th year of bridging cultures.

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY OF LUIS PEDROSO

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tremendous contributions and legacy of Luis Pedrosa, a successful businessman, community leader and philanthropist who has dedicated his life to the prosperity of the Greater Lowell region. He recently retired and will be celebrating his 65th birthday this year.

Luis was born in Sao Jorge, Azores, Portugal in 1959. His family briefly lived in Angola, Africa before returning to the Azores and immigrating to California in 1969. After the passing of his father, his family returned to Portugal before emigrating back to the U.S. and settling in Lowell. After graduating from Lowell High School in 1980, Luis would embark on a professional career where he would go on to found Qualitronics, Inc., co-found Accutronics, Inc., high-end electronics manufacturing companies, that have employed many people in our region. Before retiring, Luis sold both of his companies—a testament to his tremendous career in business.

In addition to his impressive professional career, Luis never forgot where he came from. He is extremely involved in the Portuguese community, so much so that he established the Hélio and Amélia Pedrosa/Fundação Luso-Americana Endowed Chair in Portuguese Studies at UMASS Dartmouth as well as the Saab-Pedrosa Center for Portuguese Studies at UMASS Lowell. He also played an instrumental role in spearheading the effort to bring 24-hour Portuguese programming to local television to serve Lowell and other communities. He is a founding member of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF), where he recruited many individuals, including myself, to serve on its board and support nonprofits in Lowell and beyond. For 27 years, the GLCF has transformed the lives of countless individuals, families and nonprofit organizations in our community by fostering community growth and development through funding, leadership, and collaboration. Luis is also the creator of the Portuguese American Scholarship through the Greater Lowell Foundation which assists graduates of Lowell High School. Through Luis's leadership and efforts, he has made the City of Lowell a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Luis's kindness and wisdom make him a trusted figure for individuals to lean on when experiencing hardship. Most notably, Luis played an integral role in assisting a young woman who was studying at Middlesex Community College to receive her nursing degree. After a car accident left her vehicle totaled, she reached out to Luis, who without hesitation was able to assist her in finding a new vehicle so she could continue her studies and fulfill her practicum.

Throughout his life, Luis has been the recipient of numerous recognitions from distinguished organizations for his work in our community. He has been recognized as the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers Person of the Year, as well as being named a recipient of the prestigious George L. Duncan Award of Excellence. He was selected to receive the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator Award and the International Institute American Dream Award and was inducted into the Lowell High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. In the face of so many well-deserved accolades, Luis has remained humble, accessible, and down to earth—a surprise to no one who has had the pleasure of knowing him.

Luis is known for his love for his family and friends, his kindness to those around him, his entrepreneurial spirit, and his immense pride in the City of Lowell's Portuguese Community. Luis's legacy will continue to leave a lasting and positive impact for many generations to come.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT THOMAS MCCALL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Thomas McCall of Frisco, Texas and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. He has served and uplifted our community through his leadership and dedication.

Tom was born and raised in Yonkers, NY. Due to life hardships, he was quickly educated in the meaning of mortgage payment and food on the table. He attended Manhattan College, graduating in 1972 with a BSBA in Accounting and his CPA designation, which led to the beginning of a long and prosperous career in which he earned a reputation as a determined account executive. Over 30 plus years of work, Tom had multiple assignments but only 3 employers. He launched his own business. McCall Asset Management, in 1998 in Frisco, TX and it is still going strong. Tom met his wife, Karen, during college and they married in 1975. They raised 2 kids and have 2 wonderful grandchildren.

Throughout his career, Tom has been present in his community through his charitable giving of time, talent and treasure as seen in his involvement with Boy Scouts of America, Leadership Council, St. Baldrick's Children's Cancer Research, Hope for Vision, and Serving HIM (Healthcare International Ministries). A devoted man of faith, Tom attends Holy Cross Catholic Church The Colony with his wife, Karen, where he serves as Volunteer Finance Chair. on the Pastoral Council

and as an Educator. Since 1985 he has been actively involved with Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, and is a past Trustee. He lives the Catholic Christian life of servitude. I am proud of Tom's lifelong contributions to our community, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Tom with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on July 9, 2024, I was unable to cast my vote on: H.R. 7637—Refrigerator Freedom Act. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 341.

RECOGNIZING MR. FRANK KIM'S SERVICE TO ORANGE COUNTY AS THE ORANGE COUNTY CEO

HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Frank Kim's service to Orange County, California, as the Orange County Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Frank Kim has served Orange County for 29 years, including the last nine years as the Chief Executive Officer for Orange County. During his tenure, he worked with the Board of Supervisors, City Councils, and public and private stakeholders to develop leading edge mental health care services and create a new model of care for the homeless. He managed Orange County's successful emergence from bankruptcy, the completion of major public infrastructure projects, including 100-year flood protection for the Santa Ana River, and major improvements to John Wayne Airport, a new Civic Center, and state-of-the-art animal shelter. These represent just a small portion of his accomplishments. It was an honor to work closely with Frank during my two-terms as an Orange County Supervisor, particularly in my two years as Chairwoman of the Board in 2017 and 2020. His support and level-headed management during the COVID-19 pandemic were invaluable to me and to the people of Orange County.

Mr. Kim should be commended for all his hard work throughout his career and his dedication to improving the lives of Orange County residents.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Frank Kim for his service.

RECOGNIZING PAULINE PEARSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TROY E. NEHLS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of my constituent

Pauline Pearson of Richmond, Texas. Being a pioneer resident of the Pecan Grove area for 28 years, it is my honor to wish her a Happy Birthday on this momentous milestone.

She was born a twin sister in Rosebud, North Dakota, and has lived a life worthy of many memories. Having grown up working on a family farm and studying in a one room prairie schoolhouse in North Dakota, her story is truly one of the great American frontier.

She was the proud wife to her husband, Robert, and a dear mother to her daughter, Sharon. They traveled across the country for work in California, and eventually moved to the Great State of Texas in 1996. She has brought joy and happiness to everyone who has crossed paths with, and her life story is a testament to her strength, wisdom, and resilience.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Pearson on behalf of the people of the great state of Texas. Happy 100th Birthday to Pauline. May God continue to bless her and her family with abundant health, unending happiness, and boundless love.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT ANN HARRIS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Ann Harris of Frisco, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Ann has dedicated herself to serving and uplifting our community.

Ann was born in Reading, Pennsylvania in 1952. She attended the University of Miami, graduating Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Education in 1974 and went on to earn a Master of Education in 1976. Relocation to Houston, Texas allowed Ann to obtain a job teaching physical education in Middle School. After 3 years, she transferred to Spring Branch ISD to become the Head Women's Varsity Basketball Coach. During this time, she met the Houston Rockets' Coach, Del Harris, whom she married in 1987. They moved several times, including to Milwaukee and LA, before returning to Texas, ultimately settling in Frisco in 2000.

Since then, Ann has been actively involved with numerous community organizations in North Texas. She served as the Development Chair for the Frisco expansion of City House and cofounded both The Frisco Giving Tree and StepUP Frisco. She was selected as one of the Top Ten Women in Collin County, received the Spirit of Frisco Award from the Frisco Chamber of Commerce, and was named Person of the Year in 2022 by Frisco Style Magazine. Ann is strong in her faith, attending Gateway Church in Frisco, recognizing her greatest pride as her husband, their 5 children and grandchildren and that all have become believers in Christ.

I'm confident Ann will continue to make a positive impact in our community through her passion and commitment to bringing awareness to and supporting those in financial crises and homelessness for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Ann with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

CELEBRATING NEGRO ELECTION DAY

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Negro Election Day, otherwise known as Black Picnic Holiday, which is celebrated on the third Saturday of July.

Decades before the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, enslaved and free peoples participated in the colonies' first democratic voting system, holding elections of a king or governor to advocate for their community's needs.

First recorded in 1741 in Salem, Massachusetts, the tradition grew to include Africans from across New England and eventually became known as the Black Picnic. Over the centuries, the event shifted to include track and field events, jazz dances, choir performances, and more. The honoring of Negro Election Day reflects the resilience of New Englanders of African descent. To enshrine its significance, the Massachusetts State Legislature passed S. 2703 on February 17, 2022, establishing the third Saturday in July as a state holiday.

In the words of Massachusetts State Senator Joan B. Lovely from Salem, "We must continue to commemorate the meaningful milestones African Americans have contributed to Massachusetts and our Nation today and in all the days going forward." It is with those words that I ask you to please join me in honoring the history and celebration of Negro Election Day.

RECOGNIZING CLIFFORD STRICKLAND

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Technician Fifth Grade Clifford Strickland of Fowler, Colorado, a fallen World War II soldier considered missing in action until December of 2023.

Clifford was a U.S. Army Technician out of Charlie Company, 803rd Engineers Battalion. He was stationed in the Philippines where he was constructing vital landing strips for U.S. forces when the military of Japan attacked the islands. Clifford and his fellow soldiers bravely defended the island for several months before he was captured in April of 1942, forced into the agonizing Bataan Death March, and taken to Cabanatuan Prison Camp where he died months later. After he was buried, it took 81 years to identify Clifford's remains.

In service of his country, Clifford made the ultimate sacrifice and we are eternally grateful for his courage in the line of duty. On June 29, 2024, Clifford will finally return home where he will be buried surrounded by family and loved ones in Florence, Colorado.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Clifford's service and sacrifice. We are thankful to have him home after all these years.