

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to vote on the previous question and the Brecheen Amendment No. 24.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 359, and YEA on Roll Call No. 387.

RECOGNIZING THE SMITHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Smithfield High School Boys' Soccer team on winning the Class 4 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement. Located in Smithfield, Virginia, the Smithfield High School Packers were able to bring the Class 4 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Smithfield Boys' Soccer team won the game two to zero and advanced to the state tournament.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young men to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Smithfield High School Boys' Soccer team on winning the Class 4 Region A Championship.

CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHAKERS IN AMERICA

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone for a treasured group in my state. August 6, 2024, marks the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the Shakers in the United States. Since 1774, the Shakers have been consistently dedicated to the pursuit of faith and community, enriching Maine and national culture in countless ways.

The Shakers embody the essential American values of inclusivity and equal treatment and have remained committed advocates of pacifism and nonviolence. They have been steadfast champions of racial and gender equality since their early existence, as evidenced by their community's leadership structure and their welcoming of members and neighbors regardless of their race or national origin. Their message is one of universal humanity—a message that is more relevant and necessary than ever.

Throughout their long history, the Shakers' ingenuity and craftsmanship have contributed immeasurably to the development of American

arts, agriculture, and manufacturing. Collectively, we continue to benefit from Shaker inventions such as the circular saw blade, the flat broom, and the paper seed envelope. Their sustainable agricultural practices, incorporating water power and regenerative farming, put them on the forefront of environmental stewardship. And their renowned furniture, architecture, and crafts continue to inspire makers, scholars, and artists around the world.

Today, Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in New Gloucester, Maine, is the last remaining settlement in the world where Shakers continue to live, work, worship, and steward their legacy. They are an important community hub—hosting events and workshops, involving local young people, and preserving and sharing knowledge of rural Maine life.

I'm honored to have experienced their warm hospitality and kindness, and I'm proud to represent them in Congress. I wholeheartedly congratulate them on 250 years of community, peace, and progress in America, and I know their message will continue to resonate for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF AURELIA GONZALEZ LOPEZ

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of Aurelia Gonzalez Lopez.

Aurelia was born July 25, 1924, in Buenavista, Mexico. She migrated to the United States in 1990, establishing a new life in the City of Pomona for the last 34 years. Raising her family is one of her proudest accomplishments. She had 12 children with her husband, and now her family has expanded to 43 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

On behalf of the 35th Congressional District, I congratulate Aurelia on this incredible milestone. It is my honor to represent people like her who bring so much to family and neighbors. I am grateful for her 34 years of residency in my district I hope that she enjoys much happiness in the coming year.

HONORING THE SERRES FAMILY CENTENNIAL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Serres Family as they celebrate 100 years of the Serres Ranch. The longevity of this great dynasty is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to the Serres family's creativity, tenacity, dedication, and commitment to our vibrant agricultural community.

Serres Ranch was originally owned by Fighting Joe Hooker after the Mexican American War and the Bear Flag Revolt. Mr. Hooker sold the property to George Watriss from New York. Mr. Watriss moved his family onto the land after the purchase in 1857 and partnered with the Serres Family. The property

was known as the Watriss-Serres Ranch. The property was fully acquired by the Serres Family in 1924 establishing Serres Ranch.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Serres Ranch cultivated row crops, grapevines, and operated a thriving dairy farm. Generations of the Serres Family, including John Pierre and John Pierre "Toots" Serres, dedicated their lives to nurturing the land and preserving its legacy.

The entrepreneurial spirit of the Serres family manifested in Serres Construction, founded in 1929 by Franklin Watriss Serres and his father John Pierre "Toots" Serres. This venture evolved into Serres Corporation under the leadership of John Pierre Serres, reflecting the family's commitment to innovation and economic growth.

Today, Serres Ranch stands as a model of sustainable agriculture and family stewardship. It is managed by John Pierre Serres and Judy Serres, alongside their children John, Buck, and Taylor Serres.

The legacy continues with the fifth generation overseeing the farming of their estate's vineyards and creating delicious wines that honor their rich family history. Today, the ranch encompasses 200 acres, with 130 acres dedicated to grapevines, all sustainably grown and climate adaptation certified. The diverse enterprises under the Serres Family umbrella, including Serres Ranch, Serres Corporation, and Serres Ranch Wine, exemplify their dedication to preserving the land and fostering community.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Serres Family for their dedicated service to our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor them as they celebrate their centennial year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, due to travel disruptions, I regrettably missed votes on July 22. Had I been present, I would have voted: Nay on Roll Call Vote 357, the Pro Codes Act, and Yea on Roll Call Vote 358, the Water Resources Development Act.

RECOGNIZING STACEY LEAVANDOSKY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the most dedicated public servants I have had the pleasure of working with—Stacey Leavandosky. Stacey, who is retiring from public service in August, has served on Capitol Hill for 27 years, including 18 years as Chief of Staff in my Washington, D.C. office. Her service to my California district, to the Congress, and to the American people has been steadfast and invaluable.

For decades, Stacey Leavandosky has offered her expertise on a wide variety of policy issues and the legislative process, while simultaneously leading staff as a capable, respected manager. Stacey first interned for her

hometown Representative, George Hochbrueckner of New York, and was hired as his Staff Assistant in 1993. She quickly rose through the ranks on Capitol Hill, serving as Assistant Director of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation (CDCD) under Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard, Legislative Director to Representative Lynn Woolsey, Executive Director of the CDCD, and, finally, as my Chief of Staff. Throughout her more than 20 years working with me, she has been a senior advisor on the Committee on House Administration, Ethics Committee, Immigration Subcommittee, and House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

During Stacey's years on the Hill, our country faced many challenges. From 9/11 to the COVID-19 pandemic, from the anthrax scare to January 6th, with droughts and floods and a number of other obstacles, Stacey has shown an unparalleled commitment to our staff, to the constituents in my district, and to the American people. She has been a constant voice of reason, with a belief that government can be a positive force for change and improvement. She embodies the kind of public servant many aspire to be.

Stacey Leavandosky is a good and kind person. She is a leader worth following. She is wise and rooted in integrity. She has been a mentor to countless interns and staffers, and those fortunate enough to work with her know she is someone to impress and to admire.

I have strategized with, confided in, and sought counsel from Stacey Leavandosky. Through wins and losses, through political crises, Stacey has been by my side, unwavering in her commitment to our democratic republic. My team and I will miss her dearly, and I wish Stacey and her family the very best in this next chapter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, on July 23 I regrettably missed the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: No on Roll Call Vote 381, Boebert Amendment No. 7; No on Roll Call Vote 382, Boebert Amendment No. 8; No on Roll Call Vote 383, Boebert Amendment No. 9; No on Roll Call Vote 384, Boebert Amendment No. 18; No on Roll Call Vote 385, Boebert Amendment No. 20, and No on Roll Call Vote 386, Brecheen Amendment No. 23.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I had to miss yesterday's votes due to illness. During that time, I was unable to make Roll Call Votes No. 359 through No. 386. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

NO on Roll Call No. 359, H. Res. 1370 On Ordering the Previous Question;

NO on Roll Call No. 360, H. Res. 1370 On Agreeing to the Resolution;

YES on Roll Call No. 361, S. 3706 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass;

YES on Roll Call No. 362, S. 227 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass;

NO on Roll Call No. 363, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 364, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 365, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 366, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 367, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 368, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 369, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 370, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 371, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 372, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 373, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 374, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 375, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 376, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 377, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 378, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 379, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 380, H.R. 7887 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended;

NO on Roll Call No. 381, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 382, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 383, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 384, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 385, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment; and

NO on Roll Call No. 386, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast my vote for S. Amdt. 227 on July 23, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 362.

SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on Friday July 19th, 2024, I

was otherwise detained due to the nationwide CrowdStrike/Microsoft Outage and was unable to deliver the commencement address at Southeastern College. The following are the remarks I prepared to share with the graduating students:

Campus President Melissa Jackson, esteemed faculty, members of the class of 2024, family members, and distinguished guests, what an honor it is to be with you today.

I want to thank President Jackson and Dean Herlene Williams-Ancar for the opportunity to speak to such a remarkable group of men and women.

In my role as a U.S. Congressman, I serve as a senior Member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, as well as a member of the Caucus for Career and Technical Education, so I am especially grateful to be here with you today.

As a grateful father of four sons, I want to give a special greeting to all the families here today. My wife Roxanne and I have had our fair share of graduations and know firsthand how proud you are of your husbands and wives, sons and daughters, and mothers and fathers. What an exciting time for you.

We are here today to congratulate and celebrate the more than 70 members of this years' graduating class, who have put in countless hours of hard work to reach their goals. What an esteemed group of students you are.

Your accomplishments speak for themselves, and you deserve recognition for all the hard work you have put in to reach this point. You have sacrificed spending time with your families and given up most of your free time to push yourself and receive the certificate or diploma you are about to be awarded.

Each of you has a different story as to how you came to this precise moment. Many of you may not have picked up a textbook in years, yet jumped back into becoming a student, all while managing the other aspects of your life. Whether it be working full-time to provide for yourself and your family or trying your best to be a superstar parent or spouse, you were able to juggle all these responsibilities and receive a degree. Just one of these tasks is a job all in its own, so the dedication to your studies should be celebrated and admired. And your commitment to contributing to our workforce is admirable.

As you well know, Southeastern College is a unique and challenging place to learn. The education you have received in the fields of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Medical Assisting, Radiologic Technology, Surgical Technology, Cosmetology, and Professional Clinical Massage Therapy have prepared you for a new professional career ahead.

Because of the knowledge you have obtained during your time here, you are now the best equipped to assist within the profession you have chosen to benefit the lives of your neighbors and community.

I am sure the hours spent reading quietly alone in a library or surrounded by your noisy family at home have satisfied a thirst you all share for knowledge, and they will serve you as you head on to future endeavors. Your accomplishments have allowed you to be far more knowledgeable and will set you apart from others applying for jobs within your field of choice.

In a National Teacher Appreciation Day Proclamation in 1988, former President Ronald Reagan stated that "Education is a lifelong process that benefits individuals and entire communities and countries and helps lay the foundation of the future."

Over the course of your life, you have learned countless lessons, many of which have been obtained through reading a textbook, and others from your personal experiences.