

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.

The need for hard work will always be there and I encourage you to never shy away from a tough challenge. You have shown what you can accomplish when you put your heart and mind to doing something worthwhile. So, each of you should be extremely proud of your accomplishments.

You have worked hard to receive a wonderful education, so be confident of your abilities and be optimistic as you meet the future head on.

Our society faces many challenges right now, and politics can seem more divided than ever, but I can tell you from my own experience that there is no greater honor than service to your community.

I want to thank President Jackson and the faculty again for the honor of being with you today. I want to thank the families and friends for letting me share in the celebration of these graduates. And, of course, I want to thank you, the Class of 2024 for the opportunity to be with you today. I wish you all the best in the years to come. May God Bless.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, on July 22 and July 23, 2024, I missed votes on the House Floor. Had I been present, I would have voted:

YEA: Roll Call No. 356;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 357;
 YEA: Roll Call No. 358;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 359;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 360;
 YEA: Roll Call No. 361;
 YEA: Roll Call No. 362;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 363;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 364;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 365;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 366;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 367;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 368;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 369;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 370;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 371;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 372;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 373;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 374;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 375;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 376;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 377;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 378;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 379;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 380;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 381;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 382;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 383;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 384;
 NAY: Roll Call No. 385; and
 NAY: Roll Call No. 386.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 364.

TRUMP RELIEF FOR FAMILIES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during the last three years, Americans have endured the highest inflation in 40 years, costing the average family \$13,000 more a year to buy the basics.

Under President Donald Trump, inflation was 1.4 percent. Since then, costs have risen over 20 percent. Families saw prices for Fourth of July celebration staples skyrocket:

Ground beef was up 23 percent
 Sodas up 22 percent
 Hot dogs up 16 percent
 Ice cream also up 16 percent . . . just to name a few.

House Republicans and Donald Trump are committed to stopping reckless spending and restoring fiscal responsibility.

Corrupt Judge Merchan has unintentionally re-elected Donald Trump and removed Biden, clearly earning my invitation to the Trump Inauguration. Unethical conduct backfires.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops as the Global War on Terrorism continues. We do not need new border laws; we need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on July 22, 2024, I was not recorded on Roll Call vote No. 356 and No. 358. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call vote No. 318 and No. 320.

COMMEMORATING THE TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the bicentennial of the Town of Ellington, New York. Founded in 1824, Ellington has proudly stood the test of time, exemplifying the quintessential qualities of small-town America.

Ellington, nestled in Chautauqua County, was named after Ellington, Connecticut, reflecting the origins of many of its early settlers who brought with them a pioneering spirit and a commitment to building a new life in the burgeoning frontiers of New York State. From its inception, Ellington has been characterized by its picturesque landscapes, rolling hills, lush forests, and fertile farmland. These natural features have shaped the town's identity and continue to be a source of pride and beauty for its residents.

Agriculture has always been the cornerstone of Ellington's economy. The town's long tradition of dairy farming, crop production, and livestock rearing has sustained its residents and fostered a deep connection to the land. Family-owned farms, some of which have been passed down through generations, are a testament to the town's enduring agricultural heritage.

The people of Ellington are the heart and soul of this town. It is a close-knit community where tradition, hard work, and neighborly support are valued and celebrated. Annual events such as the Ellington Town Picnic bring residents together, reinforcing the bonds of friendship and community spirit that have always been a hallmark of this town.

Ellington is home to several historical sites that reflect its rich heritage. These include well-preserved homes and buildings from the 19th century and the Ellington Town Hall, which serves as a hub for local government and community events. The preservation of these sites is a testament to the town's dedication to honoring its past while looking towards the future.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the bicentennial of Ellington, New York, we honor a town that embodies the enduring values of hard work, tradition, and community spirit.

CELEBRATING DAVID KRUG'S EXCEPTIONAL CAREER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate David Krug and his illustrious career at the City of Buffalo's Department of Permits and Inspection Services. After a career spanning almost four decades, Mr. Krug retires from his position as Coordinator of Plans.

Mr. Krug began his journey four decades ago when he achieved the top score on the 1986 Building Inspector Examination. This outstanding achievement foreshadowed the next four decades of an exceptional career of service and dedication.

Throughout his time at the Department, Mr. Krug has provided excellent service to the citizens of the City of Buffalo, ensuring each project is diligently worked on and completed.

While Mr. Krug was officially the Coordinator of Plans, his benevolence and helpful nature extended far beyond the department. He would consistently lend a hand to his coworkers and help them find solutions for a myriad of code-related matters. He became the go-to person within the office due to his positive approach and willingness to help.

It is difficult to sum up a career of nearly 40 years, but during his tenure, Mr. Krug served under nine different commissioners, issued tens of thousands of permits, witnessed the construction of countless large-scale projects, including the HSBC building, and played a pivotal role in enhancing the city's landscape through his involvement in initiatives such as the Green Code and the implementation of the Hansen System.

Continuing the trend of kindness and cooperation, Mr. Krug has also been an active and respected member of the AFSCME Local 650 Union and a cherished participant in the