

to my representational duties and thus not present for rollcall Votes 7 through 23. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall 7 I would have voted "aye." (Johnson (GA) Amendment to H.R. 712, Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015).

2. On rollcall 8 I would have voted "aye." (Cummings/Connolly Amendment to H.R. 712, Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015).

3. On rollcall 9 I would have voted "aye." (Lynch Amendment to H.R. 712, Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015).

4. On rollcall 10 I would have voted "aye." (Jackson Lee/Johnson (GA) Amendment to H.R. 712, Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015).

5. On rollcall 11 I would have voted "aye." (Cummings/Connolly Amendment to H.R. 712, Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015).

6. On rollcall 12 I would have voted "aye." (Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 712, Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015).

7. On rollcall 13 I would have voted "no." (On Passage of H.R. 712, Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015).

8. On rollcall 14 I would have voted "aye." (Johnson (GA) Amendment to H.R. 1155, SCRUB Act of 2015).

9. On rollcall 15 I would have voted "aye." (Cummings/Connolly Amendment to H.R. 1155, SCRUB Act of 2015).

10. On rollcall 16 I would have voted "aye." (Cicilline Amendment to H.R. 1155, SCRUB Act of 2015).

11. On rollcall 17 I would have voted "aye." (DelBene Amendment to H.R. 1155, SCRUB Act of 2015).

12. On rollcall 18 I would have voted "aye." (Jackson Lee/Cicilline Amendment to H.R. 1155, SCRUB Act of 2015).

13. On rollcall 19 I would have voted "aye." (Pocan Amendment to H.R. 1155, SCRUB Act of 2015).

#### MINNESOTA'S FARMING FATHER

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Oliver Kelley, who was born on this day in 1826. Kelley, a native Bostonian, realized that Minnesota was a land of great opportunity and moved there in 1849.

Although he had no experience farming, Kelley became a "book farmer" and everything that he first learned about agriculture, he got from reading. Kelley's thirst for knowledge, great intuition, and progressive methods allowed his farm in Elk River to thrive.

In 1864, Kelley became a clerk for the U.S. Bureau of Agriculture. Through his work, he recognized the importance of agriculture to our Nation and, in 1867, helped found the National Grange, a society and advocacy group for rural America.

Oliver Kelley's role in agriculture led to his induction into the National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame in 2006.

The Kelley farm remains an important part of our community. Today, it is a historical property that teaches thousands of Minnesota school kids about agriculture.

Minnesotans are certainly grateful for Kelley's efforts, which have largely contributed to agricultural success in our country, and we are proud to have his legacy maintained in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District.

#### CELEBRATING WILLIAM "BILL" RAY

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of an extraordinary man, William "Bill" Ray.

Bill laughed often, and he loved much. His charm and gentlemanly character won the respect of many people in my community.

Bill worked in my district office as a community liaison and caseworker for 13 years. You know what? He made a difference in people's lives. He was genuinely interested in people and things, from the Boy Scouts to Native Americans and to veterans. He knew how to find the best in others, and he gave the best of himself.

Bill loved his wife, Rhonda, and their son, Jeffrey, with all of his heart and soul. He loved his country and our military. He was a true patriot. Bill was noble in character, genuine in spirit, and very kind of heart.

Rhonda, Jeffrey, you have my deepest condolences on the passing of your husband and father. I am blessed to have known him and to have worked with him.

#### PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, 54 million, that is the number of lives that have been cut short in our Nation by abortion over the 43 years since the Supreme Court's infamous Roe v. Wade decision. That is 54 million children who were never given the chance to experience the world around them, and 54 million human beings who were denied the natural and inalienable right to life that our Founding Fathers enshrined in the Declaration of Independence.

As a father, I have watched my son grow from his first sonogram to a very active 2-year-old. He looks to me for protection, for guidance, for comfort. So too do society's most innocent and vulnerable count on us to defend them.

During his visit to the U.S. in 1987, now-Saint Pope John Paul II remarked: "The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless ones."

I believe we must reach out to mothers in distress, as well as the child that they are bearing. There are few more vulnerable and defenseless than the unborn.

On the 22nd of this month, hundreds of thousands of Americans will arrive here in our Nation's Capital for the annual March for Life. I look forward to joining them as we work toward that day when our great Nation will recognize the right to life for all Americans, especially our unborn children.

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. CÁRDENAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, mothers and children from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador come to this Nation for protection. They are running from certain death, rape, and persecution in their own country.

This administration has deported more immigrants than any other in the history of the United States. We were told that violent criminals would be targeted. Yet, mothers and children are being deported. Not only do these raids tear families and neighborhoods apart, they waste taxpayer dollars that should be used on other priorities.

We spend \$14,000 per mom and \$14,000 per child when they are chased down and deported. Some are sent to their country to their death.

So let's focus on real threats to our Nation. Let's focus on working with all of our Western Hemisphere neighbors and work to solve the Central American refugee crisis together.

#### ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS

(Mr. LOUDERMILK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, for those who haven't been in the House Chamber, surrounding the inside of this beautiful building are effigies of great philosophers and lawgivers that have influenced the founding of our Nation. One of those, to my right, is that of Sir William Blackstone.

Now, Blackstone had great influence upon our Founders, especially that of Thomas Jefferson. In fact, it was Blackstone who influenced the three enumerated rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Mr. Speaker, let me read from Blackstone's Commentary, the very document which influenced Thomas Jefferson to make life the very first right that is given by government.

Blackstone said: "Life is the immediate gift of God, a right inherent by nature in every individual; and it begins in contemplation of law as soon as an infant is able to stir in the mother's womb."

That is one of the foundations of this Nation, that life begins at conception.

And our Founding Fathers understood that it was a great philosophy and that is when the protection of law begins.

On January 22, 1973, we departed from that philosophy with the decision of *Roe v. Wade*. Since then, over 57 million American lives have been taken because of that decision. Mr. Speaker, that number is equivalent to the population of Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Tennessee. That one decision, Mr. Speaker, has not only figuratively, but literally changed the landscape of America.

#### EAST NICOLAUS HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, before the holiday break, I rose to congratulate the East Nicolaus High School Spartans from Sutter County for advancing to the CIF Division VII-AA football championship game. At that time, they were about to make a 500-mile trip to San Diego to face Coronado, a school four times their size.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that the Spartans may have been the underdogs in the game, but that didn't matter to them. On December 28, they won the championship game 16-6. Quarterback S.J. Brown threw for a touchdown and rushed for another. Donovan Switalski had 25 carries for 135 yards. On defense, quarterback Eddie Herrera intercepted two passes.

Those are great individual efforts. As a former lineman for the University of California Bears, I know it takes a full team to pull out a win like this and also a coach.

I congratulate Coach Travis Barker and the entire East Nicolaus team for making Sutter County and the entire Third Congressional District very proud.

#### BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, when the House sends the budget reconciliation bill to the President this evening, he has a chance to help hardworking American taxpayers by signing it and saving taxpayers over \$500 billion over the next 10 years.

It does that in two ways. First, it repeals most of the unaffordable ObamaCare program, which has raised the cost of health insurance and health care for millions and millions of hardworking Americans. It also removes all Federal taxpayer funding from Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the country, which receives over half a billion taxpayer dollars a year and does 330,000 abortions a year. In fact, it is the largest abortion provider in America. Instead of funding

the largest abortion provider in America, we direct those funds to over 10,000 community health centers.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the President agrees and saves hardworking American taxpayers billions of dollars.

#### DEFENDING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

(Mr. ROKITA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, any constitutional lawyer should know that Congress is supposed to write the laws and the executive branch is supposed to follow them, as written. Implementing more gun control through executive fiat is not what is needed, and it is not what is legal.

Enforcement of the current law is what is needed by this executive, and it is what this President should be doing. Instead, for example, he lets prisoners out of jail to contribute to the violence.

Mr. Speaker, the right to self-defense is God-given. It is vital in order to protect people and property against criminals, and it is a hedge against tyrants, and it shall not be infringed.

To those who would challenge these rights, Mr. Speaker, I leave you with these words: "A well-regulated militia necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

#### BORN ALIVE SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson, whose words marked the beginning of this Nation, said: "The care of human life and its happiness, and not its destruction, is the chief and only object of good government."

Yet, Mr. Speaker, 43 years ago, our Supreme Court mandated abortion on demand in America, and 57 million innocent little American babies have since been slaughtered before seeing the light of day in this, the land of the free and the home of brave.

Mr. Speaker, this House passed the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act months ago to protect helpless children who survive abortion and are born alive. Yet at this very moment, that bill to protect born-alive children languishes in the United States Senate for lack of six Democrat votes and a veto threat by Barack Obama.

It is time for the President of the United States and each Senator and all of us, as Americans, to ask ourselves in our own hearts if this is who we truly are.

□ 1745

#### WE MUST SPEAK UP FOR THE INNOCENTS

(Mr. LAMBORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise today to speak for those whose lives have been tragically cut short in the wake of *Roe v. Wade*. A staggering 57 million innocent girls and boys have been aborted in this country since that horrible decision 43 years ago. *Roe v. Wade* remains one of the most heinous acts of judicial activism in the history of the United States.

As a father of five and a grandfather of three, I know that every child is a wonderful gift from God. Our country was founded upon the sacred truth that all deserve the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The perverse belief that an unplanned child does not possess the same value as that of any other child should have no place in our society. There may be unplanned children, but there is no such thing as an unwanted child.

Later this month, thousands of pro-life patriots will come to Washington to peacefully march in support of life and against the national disgrace that is abortion. I am pleased to be among those fighting against this greatest human rights injustice of our time. We must continue to pray, and we must continue to speak up for the innocents who cannot speak for themselves.

#### 57 MILLION INNOCENT LIVES LOST

(Mr. BABIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today in memory of the 43rd anniversary of the Supreme Court's tragic decision in *Roe v. Wade*. Since *Roe v. Wade*, we have lost 57 million innocent lives. May God rest their souls. That is an astounding and absolutely heart-numbing loss.

Countless lives have been impacted by abortion. Each one of those 57 million children had a future destroyed by abortion.

Even Norma McCorvey, the plaintiff known as *Roe*, revealed in 1995 that she had, in fact, become pro-life and is now a vocal opponent of abortion and the abortion industry.

Mr. Speaker, the sanctity of human life must be protected. We have a duty to protect the lives of all Americans, especially the most helpless and innocent of all, the unborn.

I stand with the thousands of Americans who will soon gather on The Washington Mall to serve as the voice of 57 million unborn babies whose lives were tragically taken through abortion.