

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes during the week of January 27th to January 31st, 2020, due to an inability to fly while recovering from an upper-respiratory infection. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 23; YEA on Roll Call No. 24; YEA on Roll Call No. 25; YEA on Roll Call No. 26; YEA on Roll Call No. 27; YEA on Roll Call No. 28; YEA on Roll Call No. 29; NAY on Roll Call No. 30; YEA on Roll Call No. 31; YEA on Roll Call No. 32; YEA on Roll Call No. 33; and YEA on Roll Call No. 34.

CONGRATULATING SHALISHA THOMAS ON HER RECEIPT OF THE 2019–2020 MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Shalisha Thomas on being named a recipient of the 2019–2020 Milken Educator Award.

Described as “the Oscars of Teaching,” this honor is awarded to 40 educators nationally, and Ms. Thomas is the only winner from the State of Arkansas. According to the Milken Family Foundation, Ms. Thomas was given this distinct honor for her efforts to encourage her students through art.

Having received a degree in art education from the University of Arkansas in 2012, Ms. Thomas is also a valuable asset to the young people of the Pine Bluff community in her ability to encourage a high academic standard, build meaningful student-teacher relationships, and set students up for success in all aspects of life.

Ms. Thomas’ work is a shining example of the power of an educator in the lives of young people and the power of service to a surrounding community. I take this time to applaud her on her award and her further successes, and to thank her for her exceptional representation of Arkansas and Fourth District educators.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I regretably missed votes on Friday, February 7, 2020. I had intended to vote “yes” on roll call vote 52, “no” on roll call vote 53, and “yes” on roll call vote 54.

SUPPORT FOR THE LEE OF CALIFORNIA HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 550—TO REPEAL THE AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION OF 2002

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, authorizing military force is the most sobering responsibility Congress has.

Washington’s 10th District includes Joint Base Lewis-McChord, where over 40,000 servicemembers are stationed. I am very aware that every decision I make can affect their lives and the lives of their families. I take that responsibility very seriously.

In 2001, Congress passed an Authorization for the Use of Military Force only three days after the September 11th attacks. Because the country was still trying to determine exactly how we had been attacked, that AUMF was written broadly. In the time since, the 2001 AUMF has been used dozens of times to justify military action.

Subsequently, Congress passed another AUMF in 2002, which authorized military action in Iraq. President Trump cited the 2002 AUMF as justification for his decision to kill Qassem Soleimani in early January, more than 17 years after the AUMF’s passage.

I have advocated for the end of the 2002 AUMF since 2014, during my first term in Congress. But it was only when I joined the House Intelligence Committee last Congress that I fully appreciated the scope and scale of our missions around the world.

I would have joined my colleagues in voting to repeal the 2002 AUMF, and I was proud to cosponsor the underlying resolution. I strongly believe that Congress must reassert its role in decisions of when to use military force. The 2002 AUMF has been used to justify military action that had not been contemplated by Congress. By repealing it, Congress will bring grave decisions about war and military action closer to the people whose lives will be altered by them. I am glad the House voted for such an outcome.

HONORING LILIAN SMITH OF COEUR D’ALENE IDAHO

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Lilian Smith of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. At a young age, Lilian found she had a love for mathematics and a passion to share her knowledge with her fellow students. As she entered high school, Lilian created a non-profit to organize competitive math teams and peer mentoring programs at over 12 local schools in the Coeur d’Alene area. When first starting, Lilian convinced a local elementary school to start an after-school math team, and it grew from there. Through her work, Lilian has recruited dozens of student coaches, mentors, and has even secured

funding for the future growth of her organization, “Growing the STEM.” In just three short years, Lilian has helped over 400 students develop a meaningful skill set in mathematics and undoubtedly many future careers in major STEM fields. Her initiative is seen every day—through her fellow students—and through the community of Coeur d’Alene. As the head math coach at her local high school, Lilian continues to help fellow students excel in mathematics. While it may be difficult to measure the impact she has made, it is clear that this is just the beginning of Lilian’s impact on our community. I thank Lilian for her hard work and dedication to the future of so many Idaho students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I was inadvertently detained and was unable to make votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 41; YEA on Roll Call No. 42; YEA on Roll Call No. 43; NAY on Roll Call No. 44; YEA on Roll Call No. 45; YEA on Roll Call No. 46; YEA on Roll Call No. 47; NAY on Roll Call No. 48; YEA on Roll Call No. 49; NAY on Roll Call No. 50; and NAY on Roll Call No. 51.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF IRA LEWIS

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Chief Ira Lewis, USCG (Ret.) of Harker’s Island, North Carolina, who passed away recently at the age of 101. Mr. Lewis began his career as a fisherman, and then joined the Coast Guard in 1938. He served 21 years on the south shore of Long Island, New York, the final 3½ years as lighthouse keeper at Montauk Lighthouse. After retiring from the Coast Guard and returning to Harker’s Island, Ira worked for 9 years at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station as a civilian. He continued fishing, and tended the local veteran’s memorial, making sure flags were flown and grounds were well groomed.

In 1940 Ira married the love of his life, Maggie Hancock, whom he had met in the second grade. They had two children Ann and Phil, and eventually grandchildren, great-grandchildren, a great great-grandson. Unfortunately, Maggie preceded Ira in death in 1999 after battling cancer.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this veteran, patriot and public servant, Chief Ira Lewis who valiantly carried on the storied tradition of courage, faithfulness and service that characterizes our United States Coast Guard. May we never forget the sacrifices made by those in uniform, past and present, and always keep our dedicated service members in our thoughts and prayers.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE
SURVIVORS WEEK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, this week we honor the second National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

I rise today to lift the voices of survivors who live with the impact of gun violence each and every day.

Every year, over 36,000 Americans are killed in acts of gun violence and approximately 73,330 more are shot and injured.

Every day in America, one hundred people die and hundreds more are wounded by gun violence. Even more are threatened or witness gun violence.

America's gun death rate is 11 times greater than that of other developed countries.

This is why House Democrats have passed commonsense legislation like H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act, and H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Check Act, to help End Gun Violence to keep our communities safe. Yet Leader MCCONNELL continues to block a vote on this crucial step forward.

This is SHAMEFUL.

The American people deserve ACTION. Not political gamesmanship.

We must stop the bloodshed and the tears. Our children and our communities deserve more than just thoughts and prayers—they deserve action.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, due to traveling with President Trump to North Carolina, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 52; Yea on Roll Call No. 53; and Nay on Roll Call No. 54.

HILLSBORO CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, the City of Hillsboro, and Washington County on the 125th anniversary of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce. The City of Hillsboro has grown from its agrarian roots to emerge as an economic engine in the State of Oregon.

Since the Hillsboro Chamber was founded in 1895, it has worked tirelessly with local business and community leaders to bring greater opportunities to the people of Hillsboro. When the Southern Pacific Railroad arrived, the ability to export wheat, hops, berries, onions, and dairy helped expand a commercial district in the community that eventu-

ally led to the formation of the Chamber. The Chamber emerged as an advocate for farmers and community members and, over time, the economic prospects of a once sleepy agrarian town expanded. During the Great Depression, the Hillsboro Chamber committed itself to unifying the community in difficult financial times, helping to lift spirits with celebrations such as Happy Days, Hillsboro Bargain Days, and the Harvest Festival. The Chamber also helped the local economy survive by partnering with the City of Hillsboro to administer funds that were used to employ workers to expand runways at the airport, build a post office and hospital, and improve a municipal water system. These early investments in infrastructure have helped make Hillsboro and the surrounding region a hub for the semiconductor and high technology industry. Silicon Forest, as it is known today, will continue to lead the way in development of new technologies and innovative thinking.

Even with the expansion of the economy and growth of modern industry, the Chamber has continued to support small business owners and community members, making sure they have the opportunity to participate in the growing economy. In 1995, The Hillsboro Chamber created the School to Career Program, which has developed an important workforce pipeline to connect high school students from schools throughout Washington County to career opportunities in their communities. By connecting employers to educators and community leaders, the Hillsboro Chamber is also at the forefront of rethinking post-secondary opportunities for its community members.

The 125th anniversary of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce is a testament to how a collaborative commitment between multiple stakeholders makes a community better for everyone. Although Hillsboro and the surrounding region look very different now, the spirit of collaboration and seeking opportunity in Hillsboro remains the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Thursday, February 6 and Friday, February 7. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: NAY on Roll Call No. 38; NAY on Roll Call No. 39; NAY on Roll Call No. 40; NAY on Roll Call No. 41; YEA on Roll Call No. 42; YEA on Roll Call No. 43; NAY on Roll Call No. 44; YEA on Roll Call No. 45; YEA on Roll Call No. 46; YEA on Roll Call No. 47; NAY on Roll Call No. 48; YEA on Roll Call No. 49; NAY on Roll Call No. 50; NAY on Roll Call No. 51; NAY on Roll Call No. 52; YEA on Roll Call No. 53; and NAY on Roll Call No. 54.

RECOGNIZING LAUREL WALSH

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Laurel Walsh

of Greenville, North Carolina. For more than 35 years, she has been the first face people would see at St. Peter Catholic School. She answered the phone, led tours, maintained enrollment records, helped handle billing, and also served as school nurse. For 20 years she even served as athletic director. Not only that, but for all those jobs, and for all those years she never once brought home a paycheck. Although a few people in leadership were aware, most in the St. Peter family thought Mrs. Walsh was a paid employee. Her secret was safe until about two months ago when the school established an endowment in her honor. In announcing the creation of the Laurel Walsh Fund, school officials revealed that this longtime employee was, in fact, a volunteer.

Teacher Joe Hughes who has worked with Walsh for three decades said: "She's just so kind to everyone. She's just a fine person, just a good example of what a human being should be, what Christ called us to be."

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this incredible volunteer, but more importantly, a wonderfully faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, and my personal friend, Laurel Walsh.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances directly related to the betterment of the community I serve, I had to miss voting on H.R. 5678 and all accompanying amendments. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 52; Yea on Roll Call No. 53; and Nay on Roll Call No. 54.

IN HONOR OF GENE AND PEGGY
RADIN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gene Radin and Mrs. Peggy Radin of Jessamine County, Kentucky. Both Mr. and Mrs. Radin are honored veterans of our great nation.

Mr. Radin joined the United States Coast Guard in 1948. He served for 43 years and earned the rank of CWO4 prior to his retirement in 1991. Chief Petty Officer Peggy Radin served in the Coast Guard for 20 years. Between the two of them, they devoted 63 years of service to America.

Following retirement from the Coast Guard, Mr. and Mrs. Radin began serving their fellow veterans by volunteering at the Thomshood Veteran Center in Wilmore, Kentucky. Mr. Radin recently completed 25 years of volunteer service. In addition, for many years Mr. Radin has placed American flags at the graves of Coast Guard servicemen and women at Camp Nelson National Cemetery on the Saturday before Memorial and Veterans Days.