PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed seven votes on December 7, 2005. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on S. 467 (Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005); "yes" on H.R. 4096 (Stealth Tax Relief Act of 2005); "yes" on H. Con. Res. 196 (Honoring the pilots of United States commercial air carriers who volunteer to participate in the Federal flight deck officer program); "no" on the Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair regarding H.R. 3010; "no" on H.R. 4340 (United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act); "yes" on H.R. 4388 (Tax Revision Act of 2005); and "yes" on H.R. 4440 (Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005).

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON S. 467, TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE EXTENSION ACT OF 2005

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House insist on its amendment to the Senate bill (S. 467) to extend the applicability of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCAUL of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees:

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of the Senate bill and the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. OXLEY, Mr. BAKER, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mrs. KELLY, Messrs. KANJORSKI, CAPUANO, and CROWLEY.

Provided that Mr. ISRAEL is appointed in lieu of Mr. CAPUANO for consideration of sections 4, 5, and 7 of the Senate bill, and sections 103 and 105 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of sections 2 and 6 of the Senate bill, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SENSENBRENNER, GOODLATTE, and CONYERS.

For consideration of the Senate bill and the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SESSIONS.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 3010, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

Messrs. REGULA, ISTOOK, WICKER, Mrs. NORTHUP, Ms. GRANGER, Messrs. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, SHERWOOD, WELDON of Florida, WALSH, LEWIS of California, OBEY, HOYER, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE OF HON. GARY G. MILLER OF CALIFORNIA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Pat Fabio, District Representative of the Honorable GARY G. MILLER of California, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil subpoena, issued by the Superior Court of Orange County, California, for testimony.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

PAT FABIO,
District Representative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, due to a long-scheduled meeting with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs this afternoon regarding the future of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Veterans Cemetery, I was unable to be present on the floor during rollcall votes 612, 613, and 614. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 612, ''yea'' on rollcall No. 613, and ''yea'' on rollcall No. 614.

REDISTRICTING IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over the last 48 hours a number of us had the displeasure of reading in The Washington Post an article detailing the antics of the process of redistricting in the State of Texas. Many of us who were engaged in that process a good year or two years ago remember sitting down and presenting a very fair case to the Justice Department lawyers that the plan that was offered by Texas Republicans would undermine the Voting Rights Act and be discriminatory.

Lo and behold, though we presented a very fair case, and the Justice Department lawyers agreed with us and wrote accordingly, what came out of the Justice Department was completely different. I cannot imagine any greater abuse of power than what happened in the Texas redistricting plan, where the lawyers for the Justice Department, civil servants who did their work and indicated that the plan would violate the Voting Rights Act of 1965, were not allowed to prevail.

I would ask the Attorney General present now to investigate what occurred with respect to the Texas redistricting plan. We all know politics are in play, but they should not be in play in the works of our various executive agencies to provide the truth to the American people.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

JUSTICE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Kenneth Lee Boyd committed a violent and vicious crime on the evening of March 4, 1988, in North Carolina. On that night, Boyd armed himself with a .357 Magnum pistol and committed cold-blooded murder against members of his very own family.

On that evening, Boyd picked up his children from his father-in-law's home and told the boys they were going for pizza. But that was a lie. With the pistol sitting in the seat of the car between Boyd and his children, he went back to his father-in-law's home, a place where his estranged wife was staying.

His 13-year-old son, Christopher, sensing something was up, tried to hide that pistol. And when Boyd pulled up to his father-in-law's driveway, Christopher, frightened, jumped from the car and ran to warn his grandparents and his mother.

Boyd then approached the house and began his shocking shooting spree. He first shot and killed his father-in-law, Thomas Curry, through the door. He then found his estranged wife in the doorway of her bedroom. He shot her several times and then went outside and reloaded his murder weapon, came back and shot her some more. In the end, it was decided Julie Boyd was shot a total of eight times.

Boyd went back outside, shot some more, and this time at his brother-in-law, Craig Curry, who was moving Boyd's children and a nephew to a wooded area to safety. The bullet missed Craig, who was trying to hide in the woods.

Boyd then returned to the home, called 911, informed the operator he had just killed his wife and father-in-law and told them to come get him. When the police arrived, he surrendered.

Last week, finally, Kenneth Boyd became the 1,000th execution to take place in the United States since the Supreme Court allowed the death penalty to resume in 1976. Last week, Kenneth Boyd was finally punished for his sins and crimes that he committed over 17 years ago.