

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Teresa A. Rodges has dedicated her life to helping others in need. From organizing post-secondary education programs to creating affordable mammogram screenings for underprivileged women, she is a role model to the community and the epitome of an excellent leader. She has changed and saved the lives of many people through her service. I am pleased to honor Mrs. Rodges as the Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority recognizes her as its 2012 Woman of the Year.

HONORING PRESIDENT MA OF TAIWAN FOR HIS RE-ELECTION VICTORY

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor President Ma of Taiwan for his re-election victory. I believe that the people of Taiwan and the United States have a reason to celebrate President Ma's second inauguration, which occurred on May 20, 2012.

I hope that during his second term, President Ma and the United States can work together to address the concerns that both our countries share, such as enhancing our mutual security, and exchanging ideas to improve the health care of both of our societies.

These efforts, with the countless successes in the past and the close relationship we have maintained with Taiwan, assure a bright and peaceful future for both of our countries.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM HUELSKAMP**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 302, the Grimm Amendment to H.R. 5854, I inadvertently voted yes when I intended to vote no. I believe every worker should be able to decide for themselves whether or not they would like to join a union. Project Labor Agreements violate workers' rights and inhibit business growth. No one should ever face compulsory membership in any group. Given our current fiscal situation, the last thing Congress should be doing is imposing more burdensome regulations on businesses and workers. I am proud that Kansas is a Right-to-Work state, and I am committed to promoting workers' rights at the federal level.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 31, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 5854) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be present for the vote on the Grimm Amendment to H.R. 5854, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. I want to state for the record that I strongly support this amendment, and had I been present, I would have voted yes.

Mr. GRIMM's amendment would strike the anti-project labor agreement language inserted into the bill. This bi-partisan amendment is an important defense against Republican attacks on labor and project labor agreements.

As a Member of Congress, I take the responsibility to protect workers' rights seriously, and I support economic solutions that protect and lift all Americans—not just the privileged few—in order to create a safe and prosperous nation for all. A cornerstone of this economy are Project Labor Agreements, which are pre-hire agreements that establish the terms and conditions of employment to ensure tax payer funded projects use local workers to finish on time and under budget.

It is time to rebuild our economy in a way that is consistent with our values. Until all Americans are back to work, more must be done on behalf America's middle class and working families. Project Labor Agreements are a vital part of this process, and I strongly support all attempts to protect them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on May 30, 2012, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Votes 294, 295 and 296.

CONGRESSIONAL SHADOW DAY FOR FOSTER YOUTH

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support of National Foster Care Month, which is observed in May to increase awareness of the challenges faced by children in the foster care system. Yesterday, I participated in Congressional Shadow Day for Foster Youth and had the pleasure of being shadowed by Dontysha Torry of Washington, DC. Dontysha shares the experience of over 400,000 children in America who are a part of our Nation's child foster care system. I would also like to urge my colleagues to not lose sight of the challenges facing thousands of children who find themselves in the foster care system. These 400,000 children are our children, and the responsibility for their successful development into adulthood remains our responsibility. This is why foster care polices should be

shaped, or reconsidered with the aim of: 1) increasing the amount of eligible parents willing to adopt; 2) minimizing traumatic changes in a child's educational career and developmental process; 3) curbing the risk of homelessness in early adulthood; 4) and addressing the serious realities of sexual abuse.

I would be remiss if I did not also mention the importance of remaining mindful of the impact foster care policy has on underprivileged communities. African-Americans, who make up approximately 60 percent of my constituents in Brooklyn, but approximately 12 percent of the larger U.S. population, make up a staggering 27 percent of children who enter foster care. Unfortunately, African-Americans are more likely to remain in the foster care system longer and in many instances will never be permanently placed.

Finally, we all know that often quoted proverb "it takes a village to raise a child." Similar to villages, which comprise of a number of different community members that serve different purposes, the community established to support foster care children should also be a diverse one. The success of a child is dependent on the influence of a number of persons including: those willing to adopt; those willing to serve as court appointed special advocates; and those willing to serve as tutors and higher education counselors. Let us all encourage our community members to get involved regardless of how minor one may assume their role to be. We can hardly imagine the impact a small deed may have on a child.

As National Foster Care Month comes to an end, I urge all of my colleagues to join the Foster Youth Caucus and support initiatives and legislation that brings to issue what foster youth face in the nation to light.

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER VOLUNTEERS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Prince William County Juvenile Detention Center Volunteers.

JDC Volunteers ensure the efficiency of Juvenile Detention Center's after-school program. They treat the youth with respect, dignity and worth, becoming role models for youth who wish to change their lives. The volunteers promote healthy social, educational, emotional, and physical development. The JDC Volunteers are truly an integral part of the center, as well as these children's lives.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of volunteers for the Prince William County Juvenile Detention Center:

Joshua Ahmadi, Jean Andreas, Antonio Ante, Mileydi Ante, Warren Anthony, Alex Arevalo, Jose Argueta, Melis Argueta, Anthonese Barlow, Beverly Barnes, Tina Barnett, Edwardo Barrow, Paul Bauer, Robin Bauer, Matt Behnke, Katherine Best-Brown, Patricia Black, Renee Blakey, Leah Bogden-Collins, Barbara Borthwick, Patrick Bowens, Diana Bowers, Angela Brown, Michael Brown, Renee Brown, Peggy Bruhn, Richard Buckholt, Isabella Buckley, William Burrell,