

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on July 9 and July 10, 2012, I was in California attending to family obligations. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall vote No. 452, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 453, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 454, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 455, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 456, I would have voted "nay" on the previous question, so that instead of voting on the Patients' Rights Repeal Act, the House could instead vote on H.R. 5542, a bill that focuses on jobs and working families.

On rollcall vote No. 457, I would have voted "nay" on the rule that will govern the 31st attempt this Congress to take away healthcare benefits and patient protections from millions of Americans.

On rollcall vote No. 458, I would have voted "nay."

 TRIBUTE TO RICE UNIVERSITY'S
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rice University for celebrating 100 years of achievement in private higher education.

Since its foundation, Rice University has left its mark on the advancement of arts and sciences as one of America's premier schools. They have consistently been at the forefront in many areas of medical research, and played a key role in the academic and physical foundation of the Johnson Space Center, turning the dream of manned space flight into a reality.

Be it through elite research or first-rate student education, the contributions of Rice University have undoubtedly reverberated through the many areas of scientific advancement throughout the past 100 years. It is an honor to represent this university in our great State of Texas, and it is an honor to have them represent our state to the country and the world.

 CONGRATULATING THE LOS ANGELES
KINGS ON THEIR STANLEY
CUP VICTORY
HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an historic occasion in the history of Los Angeles sports teams. On June 11 the Los Angeles Kings of the National

Hockey League won their first national championship. Today the Stanley Cup calls LA "home", and the nation joins us in calling the Kings, "champions".

The Kings' championship was 45 years in the making. They began the playoffs as the number eight seed. They quickly dispatched the Vancouver Canucks, the number one seed team, four games to one. Next they took on the Saint Louis Blues and swept this number two seed team in four games. They then took on the third seed team the Phoenix Coyotes and earned the title of Western Conference champions for only the second time in Kings' history. This was the first time in NHL history that an eighth seed team beat the first and second seed teams. But our champion Kings went even further by also beating the third seed team as well.

The championship series against the New Jersey Devils was a thriller and the Kings quickly took a commanding three game lead. After a couple of Devil victories, in game six of the series, the Kings regained their momentum and put New Jersey away with a 6-1 victory to clinch the Stanley Cup.

The Kings are only the second number eight seed team in NHL history to advance to the championship series and the first number eight seed team to win the Stanley Cup. Their game six victory on their home ice at the Staples Center was cause for celebration by thousands of Kings fans in Los Angeles and throughout Southern California.

In winning the NHL championship, the Kings join the prestigious ranks of Los Angeles sports teams who have brought championship titles to the City of the Angels, including the Lakers, the Dodgers, the Galaxy, UCLA Bruin and USC Trojan teams, the Strings of the World Team Tennis League, and yes, the former-Los Angeles Raiders.

Congratulations to the Kings team: Jeff Carter, Kyle Clifford, Colin Fraser, Simon Gagne, Dwight King, Anze Kopitar, Trevor Lewis, Andrei Loktionov, Jordan Nolan, Scott Parse, Dustin Penner, Mike Richards, Brad Richardson, Jarret Stoll, Kevin Westgarth, Justin Williams, Drew Doughty, Davis Drewiske, Matt Greene, Alec Martinez, Willie Mitchell, Rob Scuderi, Slava Voynov, Jonathan Bernier and Jonathan Quick.

Special congratulations to Coach Darryl Sutter, General Manager Dean Lombardi and team captain Dustin Brown for leading the team to victory, and to AEG and the entire staff of the Kings organization whose work supports, trains and promotes the team. Thank you all for giving the city of Los Angeles our first Stanley Cup win!

Mr. Speaker, the Los Angeles Kings are the kings of hockey! Let's all celebrate their historic victory!

 PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 387, I was absent due to personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,876,457,645,132.66. We've added \$5,249,580,596,219.58 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

Today marks the 150th anniversary of the authorization of the Medal of Honor by Congress. We must balance the budget so that we may continue to honor properly those who have served this country valiantly.

 HONORING ZACH HUDSON, A TRUE
COMMUNITY HERO
HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Officer Zach Hudson of the Lake Mary, Florida Police Department.

Officer Hudson has dutifully served the citizens of Florida for ten years and the Lake Mary community since 2007 as their Community Relations Officer. His dedication to public safety serves as an example to his fellow officers and neighbors.

Shortly after joining the Lake Mary force, Officer Hudson was dispatched to a residence that housed two elderly ladies. Upon arriving, he realized the home contained no food and had no electricity. The little money they did have, they told Hudson, was alternated each month between food and medicines. He had seen instances such as these on his beat in the past, but he decided, in his own words, that "I'd had enough and I realized something had to be done."

Soon after, Hudson started the Seniors Intervention Group in Lake Mary. With the help of Hudson and hundreds of volunteers, this program provides seniors with essential assistance such as food, money, transportation, vehicle maintenance and help around the house. From helping change doorway illuminating light bulbs to fixing leaky sinks, tasks we can perform easily, no job is considered too small when the safety and well-being of our seniors is concerned.

In early 2010, Hudson's vision had become so popular, it became a non-profit and expanded to all of Seminole County and continues to this day as a crucial resource for hundreds of elderly seniors in Central Florida.

Officer Hudson's contribution is not merely recognized within his community, but the nation as well. Earlier this month, CNN recognized his good work by naming him one of their CNN Heroes of 2012.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Officer Zach Hudson's service to his community, I have asked the Architect of the Capitol to fly an American Flag over the U.S. Capitol Building.

Officer Hudson represents the very finest of our nation's law enforcement. I am honored

and humbled that he has served the district I represent. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the heroic duty of Officer Zach Hudson.

IN HONOR OF THE ERICK J.
UMSTEAD MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sabrina Umstead Smith, and her husband Roosevelt Smith, for their work to provide resources and financial support for the families of chronically ill children by founding the non-profit organization, The Erick J. Umstead Memorial Foundation, Inc.

In 1988, Sabrina lost her first husband in an apartment fire while expecting a child. As a result of oxygen deprivation caused by the fire, the child was born with underdeveloped lungs and cerebral palsy. Tragically, just three years later her young son succumbed to these medical disabilities.

Sabrina knows the challenges of caring for a chronically ill child. Motivated by a desire to make a tangible difference in the lives of chronically ill children and their parents and caregivers, she founded the Erick J. Umstead Memorial Foundation.

The foundation provides numerous services, to the families of chronically ill children, students, and medical professionals. Caregivers Count provides grants to financially disadvantaged parents and caregivers. Future Health Care Leaders offers scholarships for undergraduates who intend to pursue providing care to chronically ill pediatrics. The Assistive Technology Program awards grants to hospitals and pediatric facilities to purchase specialized equipment and devices that facilitate the developmental progress of chronically ill children. In addition to financial aid, the foundation also provides a resource center for parents on their website, and distributes donated pajamas for chronically ill children.

Mr. Speaker, Sabrina's endless dedication to chronically ill children and their families should not go unrecognized. I join all of South Jersey in thanking her for her efforts.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF
PASTOR EMERITUS LOCKS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the Reverend Sidney A. Locks, Jr., retired from the helm of Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church (CMBC) in Greenville, North Carolina as a legendary figure in the Greenville community. Under the directive of Pastor Emeritus Locks, CMBC honed its capacity for community outreach and effected "giving" as an inseparable hallmark of CMBC's congregation.

Pastor Locks was born the son of a preacher in Opelousas, Louisiana. Through his father's ministry he was called to spread the word of God to others. After earning a Master's in Divinity from the Interdenominational

Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia, Pastor Locks embarked on a 30 year career in the ministry, preaching to congregants about the love and compassion of God.

Determined to reflect the same spirit of love and compassion regularly evoked in his sermons, Pastor Locks weaved those virtues into the fabric of Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, where he began pastoring in 1989. Ten years later, Hurricane Floyd presented Locks and CMBC congregation with the opportunity to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to service. When Hurricane Floyd ravished North Carolina's shores—destroying homes and disrupting lives—CMB gathered resources to feed, clothe, and provide refuge for the victims of the storm.

CMBC leadership during the storm's recovery efforts won the Pastor and the CMBC congregation many followers, helping to position the church as an epicenter for community work. Even today, community leaders recall being cared for by the church after surviving days without food. Others starkly remember the congregation's efforts to lift the spirits of the families who felt hopeless at that time.

Under Pastor Lock's leadership, Cornerstone secured 44 apartment units to convert into a senior living facility; built a Family Life Center; and founded numerous programs to assist members of the congregation and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the extraordinary work of Pastor Sidney Locks, Jr., and ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring his commitment to God, to country, and to community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 388 I was absent due to personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 4402

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I was disappointed that the House passed the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2012 (H.R. 4402). Like many people, I am deeply concerned about our country's, and the world's, increasing dependence on unstable and unreliable Chinese mining practices to provide the "rare earth minerals" that our industries need. However, the legislation passed by the House waives almost all environmental laws for all types of hardrock mining, even though the mining of these materials can be extraordinarily dangerous and toxic. This incredibly broad waiver hurts communities, public lands, and the environment, and supports big, mining industries at the expense of the American taxpayer.

I had hoped that H.R. 4402 would serve as an expression of our commitment to make

sure the United States is properly supplied with these minerals that are essential for the economy and our national security. Instead, I am disappointed because my colleagues failed to tailor the legislation to specifically meet this need and included an overly broad definition of "rare earth minerals." This bill would have benefited from a clear definition of what the rare earth minerals are, which would have been achieved by an amendment offered by my colleague, Representative TONKO. Instead, the sweeping exemptions from environmental regulations have created a partisan issue where none existed before.

I sincerely hope that when this issue is revisited in the future, we are able to work in a bipartisan manner to strike a balance that allows us to acquire our necessary supplies in a way that is efficient, safe for our workers, and protects the environment.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5972) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I regretfully rise in opposition to the FY13 Transportation Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill. I would like to extend my appreciation to Chairman LATHAM and Ranking Member OLVER for their hard work on this bill. They were forced to make difficult decisions due to the low allocation that the Ryan Budget provided. Regrettably, this violation of the Budget Control Act, which was agreed to last year, led to devastating cuts to the Housing and Urban Development housing assistance program.

At a time when so many Americans have lost their homes or are struggling to keep them, this bill falls far short of meeting our nation's housing needs.

This is especially true for those who have fallen on hard times and those who are the poorest and most vulnerable among us.

By systematically underfunding HUD's three major rental assistance programs: Housing Choice vouchers, Public Housing and Section 8 Project-based Rental Assistance this bill increases the chances of greater homelessness in our country especially for those already living in unstable housing conditions.

My home state is a perfect example of how the deep cuts to housing assistance in this bill will negatively impact those with the greatest housing needs.

California has an estimated shortage of 1.6 million affordable rental units and an average wait of 37 months for HUD-assisted housing.

Further reducing funding for affordable housing will only increase the number of extremely low income households who are living