

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, due to my surgery and recuperation during the week of November 26 through December 2, 2012, I missed five recorded votes during that week. I would like to indicate how I would have voted had I been present for these votes.

On rollcall No. 609, H.R. 5997, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act, I would have voted "yea" to authorize the use of Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant Program funding to allow for the local use of these funds to enhance emergency medical preparedness programs such as medical surge capacity and preventing the spread of mass disease. This legislation will help ensure that we have the medical tools and resources needed to protect the public.

On rollcall No. 610, H.R. 915, the *Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act*, I would have voted "yea" to establish within Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) a Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) program to foster coordinated efforts among federal, state and local border and law enforcement officials to protect cities and communities from crime along our borders. Southern Arizonans are in the direct path of the most serious drug cartel smuggling activity of any region in the nation and are heavily and disproportionately affected by criminal activities along the border. The BEST program will help to improve the safety and security of my constituents.

On rollcall No. 611, H. Res. 821, a rule to provide for consideration of H.R. 6429, the STEM Jobs Act of 2012,¹ I would have voted "nay" and opposed consideration of the legislation in its current form without amendment.

On rollcall No. 612, a Motion to Recommit H.R. 6429, the STEM Jobs Act of 2012, I would have voted "yea" to amend the bill to strike the provision that eliminates the Diversity Visa program that makes visas available to people from countries that have low rates of immigration to the United States.

On rollcall No. 613, H.R. 6429, the STEM Jobs Act of 2012, I would have voted "yea" to create a STEM Visa program under which foreign students that earn advanced degrees in the high-demand fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) at American universities could remain in our country to work in those fields. The program would provide 55,000 such visas annually. I regret that the legislation takes away the Diversity Visa program in order to add 55,000 visas for STEM graduates. However, finding qualified candidates to fill these positions is a very serious issue in my district, which is home to many high tech companies. These companies are too often unable to find qualified American candidates to work in this industry that is so essential to the growth of our local economy. While my first priority is supporting STEM education and jobs for American students and workers, allowing foreign STEM graduates to work in the U.S. in jobs for which American workers cannot be found will contribute to our economy and global competitiveness.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMPASSION OF THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Taiwanese government who has so generously donated \$1.3 million to the Superstorm Sandy relief effort. The donation will be divided between the State Governments of New Jersey and New York, the City of New York, as well as the United Way International and Habitat for Humanity International. Although the media coverage and national attention on Superstorm Sandy has subsided in the wake of new stories, the impact of the storm continues to be felt by New York and New Jersey citizens. I am moved by this tremendous act of solidarity from our friends thousands of miles away, and I would like to officially recognize this gesture in hopes that the consideration and empathy displayed by the Taiwanese may serve as a reminder to others that this plight is still ongoing. On behalf of the 1st district of New Jersey, the State of New Jersey, and the American people I would like to extend sincere thanks to the Taiwanese people for this act of kindness.

HONORING DIANN JACOX

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Diann Jacox, the superintendent of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, who has announced her decision to retire.

Ms. Jacox is retiring from the National Park Service after 35 years of outstanding service to our country. According to the National Park Service, Ms. Jacox began her career as a historian in the Philadelphia regional office. She was later appointed regional cultural compliance coordinator for 32 parks in the mid-Atlantic area where she worked to incorporate historic preservation requirements with the National Park Service design and construction plans. Ms. Jacox also served as the chief historian of Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park and manager of Washington DC's Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site. In 2004, Ms. Jacox became the founding superintendent of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park in Middletown, Virginia.

I had the privilege of working with Ms. Jacox to create Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park in her capacity as founding superintendent. The park would not have been possible without her leadership and steady hand. Last month the park celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

I want to commend Diann for her tireless years of service and her dedication to historic preservation. I wish her all the best as she returns to Philadelphia in her retirement.

HONORING THE COUNTY OF SOLANO

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I along with Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. MIKE THOMPSON of California invite our colleagues to join us in honoring the County of Solano, California, for its 2012 designation by America's Promise Alliance as one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People."

Selected from 320 applicants across all 50 States in a competitive process, Solano County is the only California community to receive this designation six consecutive times. Over 75 local partners contributed to this most recent application, including community and faith-based organizations, city and county agencies, educational institutions, businesses and service groups serving children, as well as many young individuals.

This application exhibits the outstanding collaboration that has brought repeated recognition to Solano County. Programs involved include the YIPPEE Foundation's Teen Mentoring and Job-Training programs, Lawrence Hall of Science Inventor's Lab, Solano Transportation Authority's "Safe Routes to School," Solano County Court's Teen Interns, Dixon Teen Center, Benicia Library's Teen Librarian, Vacaville Youth Roundtable, Rio Vista Care/Family Resource Center, each of which resulted in strong support for Solano County's children and youth. Furthermore, Solano's school districts and community leaders continue to actively work to raise graduation rates with innovative approaches to tutoring, mentoring, recreation and health activities, as well as volunteer opportunities for youth.

Young people in Solano County have worked hard to achieve academic and personal excellence, and the community has provided them an opportunity to do so. Programs including the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets at Armijo, Jesse Bethel, and Vanden High Schools, the Eagle Scout program, and Solano County 4-H deserve recognition for facilitating thousands of hours of community service. We also recognize our students' determination to reach the regional and statewide Academic Decathlons as well as the effort put forth by each of the volunteers participating in tutoring and mentoring programs at the Matt Garcia Center, The Boys and Girls Clubs, and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters programs.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join with us in recognizing the Solano County Department of Child Support Services, which served as the lead agency for the 2012 application and extend our sincere congratulations to each of the organizations, agencies and individuals involved who have worked tirelessly on behalf of Solano's children and youth.

IN RECOGNITION OF SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCILMAN ROB FONG

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sacramento City Councilman