EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MISHI JAIN

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Mishi Jain is a junior at Elkins High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Thomas Jefferson once said ''The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only objective of [a] good government.'' Jefferson is correct when he describes the objectives of a government. A government's role is not to coerce or force citizens, but, rather, a government's roles include guiding, assisting, and taking care of the lives of citizens. A government's primary obligation is to uphold the best interest of the people and to take actions that will enhance societal welfare.

To begin, the government must function as a mechanism that protects its people from foreign invasions and other threats. In order to fulfill its primary obligation, a government must take all and any actions necessary to protect our nation and its people. It has become evident through past events where the United States was under attack or under threat, and necessary action was taken to preserve the safety and wellbeing of the people. Whether it be against foreign threats or domestic threats, a government must make the nation a safe place to be. Furthermore, governments must also regulate companies and the market to ensure that corruption should not take place. To prevent a situation like that of during the late 1800s where corruption was prominent and big businesses acted as monopolies, a government, like ours today, is needed to ensure that there is a sufficient standard of economic wellbeing and that all businesses are getting a fair chance. Therefore, a major role of the government is to monitor economic practices and place laws to regulate those as well. Finally, a government's obligation is to take care of those who are underprivileged or may not be as lucky as others. It must regulate social security, help out the unemployed, and assist families that are financially unstable. As a government, it is of the utmost importance that it takes into account all of the issues mentioned and ensure that these issues are taken care of. Many people in our country need help, and in order to uphold societal welfare, a government must help out everyone equally.

In retrospect, a government's main and most important role is to secure the lives of its people. These lives are extremely significant and a government must take all actions necessary in the best interest of the society and its people. Therefore, Jefferson was correct and making the assertion that ''the care of human life and happiness [. . .] is the first [. . .] objective of a government.''

REINTRODUCING ''JUSTICE FOR WARDS COVE WORKERS ACT''

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the ''Justice for Wards Cove Act'' to correct a grave injustice against thousands of Asian-American workers that took place over a quarter century ago.

In the 1970s, workers of Filipino, Samoan, Chinese, Japanese and Native American descent traveled north during the summer to work in the fish canneries in Alaska. Management at the Wards Cove Packing Company treated these migrant workers differently from white workers. They were forced to eat in separate dining halls, sleep in separate bunkhouses, and were unable to rise to top-paying positions in the company.

In 1973, two Seattle Filipino labor activists named Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes led several class-action lawsuits on behalf of these Asian-American and Native American cannery workers alleging discrimination in the workplace. In 1989, the Supreme Court ruled against the Wards Cove workers, in Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio, which became a major impetus for the civil rights community to reverse the tide against employee rights. The result was the Civil Rights Act of 1991, which became the most comprehensive civil rights legislation signed into law since the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

However, what most civil rights communities forgot was that in the final hours before passage of the Civil Rights Act, a highly unusual and narrow amendment was inserted by two Senators from Alaska that exempted the Wards Cove workers from the expansive protections against workplace discrimination outlined in the Civil Rights Act. They feared that the Civil Rights Act could be applied retroactively to the workers.

The Senators' amendment was inserted in Section 402(b) of the Civil Rights Act, and its sole target was the Wards Cove workers. To date, the Wards Cove workers remain the only people who have been denied the rights promulgated by the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

Mr. Speaker, while my bill cannot retroactively alter the Supreme Court's ruling or grant retroactive rights for the Wards Cove workers, it does remove Section 402(b) of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 as a symbolic measure to right the wrong.

This is a legislative fight that I started in 1991, when I first introduced this bill. Each time I introduced this bill, it received bipartisan support but was never voted on the floor of the House of Representatives. In 1993, then-President Bill Clinton wrote a letter of support for my bill, stating, ''It is contrary to all of our ideas to exclude any American from the protection of our civil-rights laws.''

Too often, the struggles of Asian-American and other ethnic minorities do not get the attention they deserve by policymakers and law enforcement officials. This issue is about justice and fairness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Wards Cove workers by supporting this bill.

TRIBUTE TO PALLAVI DEV

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

MR. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Pallavi Dev is a junior at Glenda Dawson High School in Brazoria County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

THE NEWTOWN SHOOTING

The worst events in our country's history happened when we least expected them. As citizens we carry on with our normal lives, busy within our own bubble of school, family, work, holidays, and so on. But every so often something happens that shakes the foundations upon which our existence is built, and we are reminded of how fragile our bubble is and how easy it is for someone to pop it.

That someone for the people of Newtown, Connecticut was Adam Lanza, a 20-year-old who killed his mother and 25 other students, teachers, and staff in Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. Twenty of those he killed were young children, between the ages of 5 and 10, who would have had bright futures before them had their lives not been cut short. The motives for Lanza's actions are still unclear, but it is known that he used a military-style rifle to end the lives of those mentioned and his own. The tragedy of this event has intensified the debate over gun control in the U.S., but more importantly, has reminded us to take a break in our busy lives and be thankful for our family, friends, and everything else we have.

Today the grief that has settled over the nation is like a thick fog that seeps into

every corner, never seeming to disappear or be forgotten. Tomorrow it will lift slightly, and ten years from now for many it will have faded to only a memory. However, we cannot allow what happened in Newtown to vanish from our minds. It is a warning to American citizens that something needs to change. Our nation has become a safe haven for people from all over the world who come to seek protection under our democratic government and its infrastructure. But in this moment, the people of America are shaken and the majority of the population is worried for the safety of their own children and families. The path to preventing a catastrophe like the Newtown shooting faces many difficulties ahead. Our government will have to overcome a load of disagreement before a solution is reached. However, I, along with my fellow citizens, have faith that they will take the right action, and that a small quantity of good will come out of this event that has caused an immeasurable amount of pain. At the end of the day, we are all united as citizens who only want the best for their country and the people who live in it.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF VICE ADMIRAL KEVIN M. McCOY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly today to honor Vice Admiral Kevin M. McCoy, United States Navy, who is retiring after more than 34 years of faithful service to our nation, culminating in his service as the 42nd Commander of the Naval Sea Systems Command, NAVSEA.

A graduate of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Vice Admiral McCoy held several key leadership positions over the course of his distinguished career, including the NAVSEA Deputy Commander for Ship Design Integration and Engineering, NAVSEA Deputy Commander for Industrial Operations, and the 80th Commander of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in New Hampshire. He also served aboard USS *Daniel Webster*, USS *L.Y. Spear*, and at the naval shipyards at Mare Island, California; Charleston, South Carolina; Puget Sound, Washington; Norfolk, Virginia and Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Vice Admiral McCoy's initiative, vision and wise counsel were of extraordinary value to the Department of the Navy during a period of significant change and challenge. Leading the Navy's largest Echelon II Command, he oversaw more than 60,000 civil service and military personnel at 38 major shore locations nationwide and an annual budget of more than $30 billion.

A leader in the acquisition community, McCoy stewarded NAVSEA's associated Program Executive Offices through the design, contracting, construction, testing, and delivery of the *San Antonio*-class Amphibious Transport Dock program, the *Virginia*-class submarine program, the *Freedom*-class Littoral Combat Ship program, the *Lewis and Clark*-class Dry Cargo Ammunition program, the Mobile Landing Platform program, the Joint High Speed Vessel program, the *Zumwalt*-class DDG 1000 program, the *Gerald R. Ford*-class Next Generation Carrier program and the USS *George H.W. Bush*. Vice Admiral McCoy was integral to successfully transitioning the Littoral Combat Ship from concept to first deployment in a fraction of the time required for earlier ship classes.

Most notably, he was the driving force behind significant improvements in performance across the shipbuilding industrial base, the execution of maintenance and modernization in both public and private shipyards, process changes to improve the overall readiness of the Fleet, innovative business practices to garner savings for Navy leadership to reinvest in high priority requirements and human capital strategies designed to continue the development of the future workforce.

Under his leadership, the naval shipyard community experienced the highest workload faced by the four Naval Shipyards in two decades, resulting in the execution of 72 major depot-level availabilities, 8 submarine refueling overhauls and an additional 31 minor maintenance periods all supported by a $15.2 billion operating budget. Vice Admiral McCoy's leadership and focus was directly responsible for the successful execution and completion of the bow wave of submarine depot maintenance work begun ten years earlier resulting from an overlap in the life cycle maintenance plan of submarine refueling and depot maintenance work. The annual rate of submarine days lost due to depot availability delays at Naval Shipyards dropped during this period to an all time low of 205 days—the lowest value ever achieved. Compared to historic averages in the 900-plus day range, this is the equivalent of providing the fleet with an additional two submarines for their use every year.

However, his acheivements did not stop there. Vice Admiral McCoy led a number of wide-sweeping improvements to ensure that our surface and submarine fleets can reach their expected service lives. For example, he led a series of initiatives to increase support and improve maintenance practices across ship classes, while also modernizing the fleet to keep pace with mission requirements. Vice Admiral McCoy was also the driving factor within the Navy to improve surface ship material readiness. He developed an end-to-end surface maintenance, modernization, and sustainment process to better ensure readiness and meet service life and total ownership costs. This process led to the development of the Surface Ship Maintenance Engineering Planning Program, SURFMEPP, which re-established surface ship maintenance requirements similar to those used by carrier and submarine communities, and the reconstitution of the Regional Maintenance Centers. He also spearheaded the stand up of Surface Team One, which brought together maintenance and modernization stakeholders, operating as a single community, to measure surface fleet materiel readiness. Similarly for submarines, Submarine Team One was chartered to develop, champion, and improve cross-organizational processes for the planning and execution of submarine depot availabilities and provide a structure for the management and long term systematic improvement of cost, schedule, and quality performance.

The cornerstones of Vice Admiral McCoy's corporate operations were sound corporate strategy, mission focus, a dedicated attention to detail, and a devoted commitment to meet fiscal and technical goals. Demonstrating a consistent drive to streamline the organization, he instituted a process for services contracting reviews that ensures constant vigilance of contracting and respect for the tax dollars that fund it. This process is now in use across the Navy. Additionally, through his efforts as the NAVSEA commander, his organization has offered the Navy more than $2.7 billion in Future Year Defense Program savings in response to calls for cost reduction through Total Ownership Cost reduction projects and corporate efficiencies.

As important as his achievements in the shipbuilding maintenance area, Vice Admiral McCoy also took a leading role in the Wounded Warrior Program to offer education counseling, internships, apprenticeships and employment to injured veterans culminated in the hiring of more than 1,500 Wounded Warriors in the NAVSEA enterprise—the largest single-organization Wounded Warrior hiring effort in the nation. Under his leadership, NAVSEA was recognized as a Top 50 Employer Award winner four times.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have been fortunate to work closely with Vice Admiral McCoy both at many appearances before the committee, and working with him and his great staff directly to address workload shortfalls in our submarine maintenance programs. He has consistently been accessible, thoughtful and forthright, and I am grateful for all his assistance. With his retirement, our Navy—and our nation—will lose a tremendous leader and friend both to our men and women in uniform and our defense industrial base. I am sure though that he will write a new, interesting chapter in his life of amazing service to our nation. I thank him and his family for his honorable service in the United States Navy and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him "fair winds and following seas" as he concludes a distinguished naval career.

TRIBUTE TO PAULINA AGYEI

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Paulina Agyei is a sophomore at Travis High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

Even though I myself am too young to vote, I still like to be involved as much as possible in the political process. If not I just become of of the ignorant masses who knows nothing of how our world works, causing them to make asinine comments on political infrastructure. Ignorance is not a quality that should be coveted, it should be sniffed out and destroyed. To be a member of the United States of America one must know the most elementary basics of government.

When you know little to nothing about politics that is when you are swayed by politicians and biased media corporations who will twist and pervert the truth to fall in line with their own beliefs and ideas. The whole point of living is having free will to make our own choices, and think for ourselves. This is impossible when one doesn't arm himself with the best weapon in the universe, knowledge.

That being said, I as a teenager technically have no say in government (i.e. voting) but there are other ways I, and others who fall into the same category as me, can still have our voices be heard and take a stand on issues we feel strongly about.

Now let's say, hypothetically speaking of course, that a Senator from Maryland is lobbying to have a national law pass that will have all dogs be dyed blue. I myself am not a dog owner, but I still feel strongly that dog owners should have a choice in the colors of their dogs. I could then start a petition against the bill, at the same time raising awareness.

Using the newfound power of social media, I could create a Facebook Page about the unjustness that Senator from Maryland wanted to thrust upon the American people. I could raise even more awareness by creating a Reddit page, then a Twitter, and even a Myspace. I would be very involved in the legislation of this law, without even voting.

In conclusion it is extremely important to be as involved as possible in the political process that runs essentially our whole lives as Americans.

CONGRATULATIONS CHAIRMAN JAMES G. REBHOLZ

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate James G. Rebholz, Chairman of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR. James is serving his second and final term with the ESGR and I am very grateful for his service.

Chairman James Rebholz has demonstrated great leadership throughout his tenure with the ESGR by helping the Department of Defense agency fulfill its mission developing and promoting a culture of employer support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve and their families. Throughout his 31 years of service in the United States Air Force Reserve, his long history of community service, and his success as a small business owner, James has proven his dedication to our great nation. His programs have been extremely beneficial in working with John Green, Chairman of the South Carolina ESGR, and Major General Bob Livingston, the South Carolina Adjutant General.

As Chairman James Rebholz's service with the ESGR comes to an end, I would like to wish him and his wife Jean Boser best wishes in the future.

TRIBUTE TO LAUREN AHART

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Lauren Ahart is a senior at Stephen F. Austin High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

It is crucial for everyone in the United States to be involved with the political process because every vote counts and you have the right to represent what you believe. In my opinion, if someone does not vote they should not complain about anything that goes on in the country. Therefore if someone wants something to be different or to make a change, they must put their voice out there to be heard. This concept of speaking out for what one believes is held sacred throughout society and should be maintained during political times.

If someone votes, they have expressed their thoughts and have helped the tally. The number of people that vote conclude the winner. So, obviously it would be smart if everyone marked their ballet for the people they want to rule so we will get a reliable source of votes. The number of people that did not vote was terribly low, during the 2012 presidential election, which makes me frustrated. The right of freedom to vote is something that we should take advantage of and without it our country would not be how it is today.

People that fight for the freedom everyday and give up their lives so we can have all the rights we do today, would find it disrespectful if they knew that someone was simply staying home and not voting. If the right causes are not supported and the issues of the times are not addressed, our society are at risk for a less secure and overall quality of living. As a citizen, everyone should be able to participate and take one hour from your day to stand up and pay your respect for our country and its governing bodies.

From my point of view, when someone votes they are speaking their values and beliefs, and showing what they would like to see in this country. It's the participant rate that helps guide our country for the greatest good of all. If you want to live the life you dream of, you must help the cause of a healthy political process. The decision to vote should be a given, but because the people have not cared as much about what happens this leads to our country not reaching the full potential of a fair democracy. So please take part in putting your ideas and your wants for America out there, be knowledgeable at election time and ultimately go vote your ballet.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for a vote on Thursday, May 23. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 181.

HONORING MEGAN EMILIANI

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

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Megan Emiliani is a sophomore at Travis High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

DESEGREGATION IN SCHOOLS

In 1964, the Civil Rights Act was passed. Civil rights issues in our nation have a long history dating back to the Civil War but this legislation came at a critical time during the 1960's civil rights movement. The 1964 Civil Rights Act, introduced by President Kennedy and signed by President Johnson, opened the door to providing more opportunities and limiting discrimination for all minorities. The legislation dealt with voting rights of minorities, prohibited segregation in public places, and addressed desegregation in public schools. While the 1954 Supreme Court ruling on Brown vs. the Board of Education had already began the process of desegregating schools, the Civil Rights Act continues to enforce equality in schools. It encouraged desegregation in public schools to help give minorities more rights in education.

Not long ago, schools were separated by color. Since the Civil Rights Act, schools claim that race is not important and should not affect the way a student is viewed. However, my experience has been that students, while not separated by schools, are still classified by race. When we take PSAT, TAKS, or STAAR test, why do we have to check a box with our race? Why is race a factor looked upon when reviewing test scores? Students and their test scores are being categorized by race. Additionally in our society today, there are many multiracial people, including myself, but on those tests you only get to choose one box. I am Mexican, Spanish, Italian, Hungarian, Irish and I am sure a few other things. What box should I pick? On some forms mixed is an option, but that does not seem accurate either. I am the American Melting Pot.

America is a group of immigrants and to separate us by such limited race designations does not help to end segregation. The

purpose of the Civil Rights Act was to help create equality, and every time we have to check off a box, it only emphasizes the differences. I am proud of my heritage, but I do not think classifying me by this really says who I am as a student. I am an American.