

HONORING U.S. CAPITOL POLICE
SERGEANT CLINTON HOLTZ

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Capitol Police Sergeant Clinton Holtz. Sergeant Holtz served this Congress every day, working to keep us safe, willing to put his life on the line. But he was more than a police officer. He was a beloved son and brother. He had an exciting career before joining the police force, playing professional basketball across the globe, and he was also my friend. Sergeant Holtz was always ready with a kind word or a funny story; willing to swap stories with an old cop like me. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends as they mourn him. He will be greatly missed but always remembered.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER
HABERLAND FOR RECEIVING
THE 2013 CRITICAL LANGUAGE
SCHOLARSHIP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Christopher Haberland, a resident of Herndon, Virginia, who is a recipient of the 2013 Critical Language Scholarship.

The Critical Language Scholarship Program was established in 2006 by the Department of State as part of an effort to train American young people in languages that are critical to our nation's global interests. For three months, attendees are immersed in an intensive cultural environment that teaches a new language, new culture, and new sense of self. The CLS program is remarkably competitive; in 2013 nearly 4,000 students from around the country applied, but only 597 were accepted. Due to his impressive academic success, I am proud to say that Christopher Haberland was one of those chosen.

Participants in the Critical Language Scholarship Program do more than simply enrich their own understanding and appreciation of a foreign culture. Their deep understanding of these critical regions ensures that our nation has capable individuals that can work on issues vital to the interests of the United States. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service of Christopher Haberland, and in wishing him heartfelt congratulations on his achievements.

TRIBUTE TO MEREDITH OCKMAN

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Meredith Ockman, recipient of the Palm Beach County National Organization for Women (NOW) Blood, Sweat, and Tears Award and tireless advocate for justice and equality.

Meredith, who currently serves as Vice President for Florida NOW, has truly dedicated her career to community service. She has worked with Compass: The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of the Palm Beaches to teach safe sex education, and has bravely defended women seeking abortion care from harassment and intimidation.

Her impact includes grassroots advocacy as well. She organized participants for the March for Women's Lives, and has served NOW in several capacities, including as Legislative Director for Florida NOW and President of Palm Beach County NOW.

With her limited spare time, Meredith volunteers with several organizations and is the President of the Women's Health Foundation of South Florida. In honor of her tireless efforts on behalf of South Florida women, I am pleased to recognize Meredith Ockman for her amazing achievements and wish her continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Monday, February 10, 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 55, and "yea" on rollcall vote 56, and "nay" on rollcall vote 57.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTING NATIONAL SERVICE AND REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Promoting National Service and Reducing Unemployment Act, to address one of the greatest workforce tragedies resulting from today's economy—our unemployed young people—and to spur economic growth and alleviate strain on state and local governments. This tragedy is not only hurting our young people, it is costing our government \$25 billion each year through lost tax revenue and other costs. While over 10.4 million Americans are unemployed, my bill targets the 3.8 million young people who have not had a fair chance to ever use their high school and college education, which this nation has strongly urged them to get.

What is particularly disappointing is the high unemployment rate for young people who heeded our advice to graduate from high school and college, only to try to enter the workforce in the worst economy in generations. The total unemployment rate was 7.3 percent compared to 16.3 percent for young adults aged 16 to 24 even during the recent summer. Hundreds of thousands now compete for unpaid internships wherever they can find them. By significantly expanding AmeriCorps, my bill, without needing a new administrative structure or bureaucracy, would allow unemployed young people to earn a stipend suffi-

cient to support themselves and to obtain work experience and secure a good work history to help them obtain future employment. The net cost of the expansion would be low, because these young people would be providing urgently needed local services that are being dropped or curtailed because of federal, state, and local budget cuts, such as after-school programs, tutoring, and assistance for the elderly.

The bill would significantly expand job opportunities for young people who have played by the rules but find themselves unemployed in this economy. It would increase the number of participants in the AmeriCorps State and National program from approximately 78,000 to 500,000 full-time participants. Participants receive a living allowance, which most find sufficient to meet their basic needs, and are also eligible for an education award equal to the value of a Pell grant, for school-loan forbearance, health care benefits and child care assistance. By expanding the program, we would reduce the number of unemployed young people, provide them with the work skills and experience they would not get while unemployed, and help cash-strapped states and local governments provide services that they would otherwise have to cut.

For some time, it has been clear that policies to address today's unusually stubborn unemployment need to be targeted in order to be effective. Without significant targeting, young graduates will continue to face their first years as adults without jobs and with no way to acquire work experience. They deserve better. I ask my colleagues to support this urgently needed targeted assistance for young, unemployed Americans.

IN HONOR OF THE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND BILL LAWSON AND MRS. AUDREY LAWSON

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the 60th wedding anniversary of two respected and revered individuals, Reverend Bill Lawson and Mrs. Audrey Lawson. Married January 28, 1954, while Reverend Lawson was attending Central Baptist Theological Seminary. The Lawsons are pillars of the Houston community, who have reared four successful children.

In 1962, Reverend Lawson alongside his first-lady Mrs. Lawson founded the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church with just thirteen members. Reverend Lawson went on to serve as Senior Pastor at the church for 42 years before retiring to focus on his work in the community, through the William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity (WALIPP).

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to have the opportunity to pay tribute to two individuals who have so selflessly and faithfully served their community. They are exemplars for all those who aspire to greatness through service and mentorship of others. I pray that God will grant them many more years of love and happiness.