

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.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ACCREDITED ACH PROFESSIONAL DAY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tuesday, February 11, as National Accredited ACH Professional (AAP) Day. This day highlights the importance of the AAP credential, as well as celebrates the achievements and contributions of AAPs nationwide.

The AAP credential is the standard of excellence in ACH payments competency. AAPs are recognized payments industry experts on subjects ranging from the NACHA Operating Rules to sound risk management practices, and as such, are highly regarded by financial regulators and examiners. They play a key role in the individual organizations they serve and the greater industry as a whole, imparting knowledge and supporting practices that help ensure continued confidence in ACH payments and the safety, security, and reliability of the ACH Network.

The ACH Network, administered by NACHA—The Electronic Payments Association, provides for the efficient exchange of direct account-to-account payments for consumers, businesses, and governments. Annually, it processes more than 21 billion electronic payments—including more than 5 billion Direct Deposit transactions—totaling almost \$37 trillion. Through their expertise, AAPs help safeguard the quality of the ACH Network and the billions of transactions that flow through it. To be awarded the AAP credential, individuals must pass a comprehensive exam, which is administered by NACHA each fall. The exam tests an individual's knowledge of a variety of subjects including the NACHA Operating Rules, the ACH Network and other payments systems, technical and operational ACH requirements, risk management, and payments-related regulations. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the more than four thousand AAPs nationwide by recognizing today as National Accredited ACH Professional Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize passage this week of three important pieces of legislation: H.R. 2431, the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2013; S. 25, the vehicle which included the military retiree COLA fix and SGR bill; and H.R. 3448, the Small Cap Liquidity Reform Act. Additionally, I would like to make clear that I would have opposed S. 540, the Debt Limit Extension. Unfortunately, I was not able to vote on final passage of these important bills because of much needed hip replacement surgery. I guess I'm finally being paid back for playing rugby all through college and dental school.

H.R. 2431, National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2013,

is important legislation that will provide critical benefits for ranchers, waters users and local communities allowing them to better prepare and respond to extreme drought conditions that are continuing to plague the West as well as rural communities.

S. 25 reverses the cost of living adjustment (COLA) cuts for working-age military retirees that was found in the Bipartisan Budget Act. I voted against the flawed Bipartisan Budget Act because it increased spending levels by \$45 billion in one year and \$63 billion over the course of two years. To pay for those increases, the Bipartisan Budget Act erased various, if not all, spending cuts from the Budget Control Act which passed back in 2011. Additionally, the Bipartisan Budget Act reduced the annual retirement COLA for working age military retirees by one full percentage point. I found this provision to be completely unacceptable and don't believe we should be balancing our budget on the backs of our veterans. As S. 25 repeals this provision that penalizes our military retirees and includes a payfor, I would have supported this legislation.

H.R. 3448, the Small Cap Liquidity Reform Act of 2013 is important legislation that establishes an optional liquidity pilot program which will benefit the securities of small emerging growth companies.

Finally, I want to reiterate that I would have opposed S. 540, the Debt Limit Extension. Back in 2011, we reached an understanding that if we're going to raise the debt ceiling and not jeopardize the nation's credit, then we need to attach reforms to each debt ceiling increase so that we reduce the need to constantly raise the debt ceiling and we start living within our means. This increase violates those principles. Although some like to call this a "clean" debt ceiling increase, there is nothing clean about borrowing another trillion dollars; this is as messy as it gets and the term "clean" is propaganda as far as I'm concerned. The bottom line is that our nation has a spending addiction—it's past the point of a problem—when we must continually raise the debt ceiling to accommodate our dangerous spending habits. At what point does it stop? How is it possible that we couldn't include a single reform in this legislation? I don't want our country to default but I wouldn't have voted to give the President a blank check. The federal government will collect an estimated \$3 trillion in taxes from October 1, 2013 until September 30, 2014. We do have the ability to live within our means and it's time we make the hard decisions necessary to make that happen.

Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted in support of these three important bills with a "yea" vote on rollcall Numbers 55, 60 and 62. I would have opposed increasing the debt ceiling and voted "nay" on rollcall Numbers 61.

IN HONOR OF THE NOMINATION OF
RENEE PATRON FOR LEUKEMIA
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Renee Patron for being nominated for

Leukemia Woman of the Year, an award given by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Ms. Patron earned her bachelor's degree in communications with a minor in marketing from Eastern University in St. Davids, PA. During her time at college, a friend of hers named Dina Innella suffered from leukemia. Selflessly, Ms. Patron cared for Ms. Innella during her time of need. While she didn't expect any recognition for her kindness, another friend nominated her through the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to recognize her dedication.

After college, Ms. Patron went on to become a successful small business owner, opening Events by Renee. She is the programming and event co-chair for the Public Relations Society of America, in addition to being a founding member of a Philadelphia women's networking group called Femmefessionals. In her free time, she volunteers with the Big Brothers Big Sisters Philadelphia chapter and with the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Patron is a role model for her kindness and sacrifice. I join all of South Jersey in thanking Ms. Patron for her dedication and wish her best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE BELLEVUE
DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Bellevue Downtown Association on the occasion of its 40th anniversary. This non-profit organization is made up of passionate community members and has played a key role in creating the flourishing downtown that the citizens and businesses of Bellevue, Washington enjoy today.

Over the last 40 years, Bellevue has been transformed into a thriving business center that is home to roughly 1,300 businesses and 45,000 workers. I am confident that this rapid economic development would not have been possible without the work of the Bellevue Downtown Association, as their efforts have made this area an inviting location for both businesses and residents.

In particular, much of Bellevue's growth as a rising entertainment and cultural scene in the area is largely bolstered by the Association's impressive lineup of annual events. From a jazz festival and summer concert series, to the Eastside's largest Fourth of July celebration, the Bellevue Downtown Association's efforts have made downtown Bellevue more than just a great location to do business, but an appealing, culturally diverse place to live as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize the work of the Bellevue Downtown Association. Without its voice and hard work, downtown Bellevue would not be the economic and cultural center that it has become today.