

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF DE-
SHAUN SWANSON

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart, as I grieve along with the entire City of Indianapolis for the loss of a young man whose life was cut tragically short by senseless gun violence. Today, we remember De-Shaun Swanson, a 10-year-old boy who was taken from this world too soon on Saturday, September 19, 2015.

Although he was only with us for a short time, I am confident that the memories of De-Shaun can provide some solace in the face of this tragedy. De-Shaun was one of six children and a fifth grade student at Stony Brook Elementary. Family and friends have described him as an energetic young man who loved to rap, play football, with his team the Steelers, and joke around.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending prayers to De-Shaun Swanson's parents, Antwuan Lawrence and Shannon Swanson, his siblings, friends, coaches, teammates, teachers, as well as the entire Indianapolis community. I pray that God rests his soul and gives peace and comfort to his family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast roll call votes on September 25th. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

On roll call 508, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 509, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 510, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 511, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 512, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 513, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 514, I would have voted No.
On roll call 515, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 516, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 517, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 518, I would have voted No.

HONORING JILL JOHNSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jill Johnson upon her retirement from the Napa County Office of Education. Jill has served in this office for 30 years, and she will end her career as Director of General Services this September. Her commitment to our local community is notable and deserving of recognition.

Over the past thirty years, Ms. Johnson has led a remarkable career. She began as an aide, and worked her way up to teacher, and eventually head teacher. Her administrative

background includes time as purchasing agent and purchasing supervisor. She then moved on to become an Admissions Coordinator for Fairs, and currently serves as the Director of General Services for the Napa County Office of Education.

In addition, Ms. Johnson has been awarded several titles and held several offices throughout her professional experience. She served as an Alternate Board Member for the North Bay Schools Insurance Authority. She was part of the California Schools of Business Officials as a Sacramento Section Director, as well as part of the Sacramento Section Research and Professional Development Committee. Jill is a former member of the Sunrise Soroptimist and is currently a Member of the School Nutrition Association and Women of the Moose.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Jill Johnson at this time and thank Jill for her invaluable service and wish her a most enjoyable retirement. Her commitment to serving her community and her level of dedication will not be easily replaced.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, 2015, I missed rollcall vote number 495 and number 496 due to difficulty traveling because of a broken leg. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 495 and 496.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT
SHUTDOWN AVOIDANCE ACT OF
2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, although it appears the federal government will narrowly avert a shutdown on October 1, the second shutdown since 2013, I rise today to offer the District of Columbia Government Shutdown Avoidance Act of 2015 to permanently authorize the District to spend its local funds during a federal shutdown and therefore to remain open during a shutdown. Congress has recently exempted D.C. from shutdowns on an annual basis, and this bill simply makes those exemptions permanent.

The District has an \$8 billion local budget, which is comprised entirely of local revenue sources, such as taxes and fees. The District should be free, as every state and city is, to spend its own local funds during a federal shutdown. The shutdowns involve congressional disputes about federal funding, but the federal government does not provide a dollar of D.C.'s local budget. The D.C. government should never have to wonder whether it will be part of a federal shutdown, have to prepare in case of a shutdown, or even have to ask Congress to be exempted annually. No Member of the House or Senate has spoken in favor

of shutting down the D.C. government, and I do not believe any Member wants to shut down the D.C. government and bring a large, complicated city to its knees over purely federal matters in which the city is not involved.

There is unprecedented bipartisan and bicameral support, as well as support from the Obama administration, for preventing D.C. shutdowns. In fiscal years 2014 and 2015, for the first time ever, Congress exempted D.C. from shutdowns for an entire fiscal year (fiscal years 2015 and 2016, respectively). The pending House and Senate fiscal year 2016 D.C. Appropriations bills each exempt D.C. from shutdowns for fiscal year 2017.

Among the most important reasons for a permanent shutdown exemption would be the significant financial and operational benefits for the District. If the District shuts down, it could default under certain financing agreements and leases. The financial importance of eliminating shutdown threats to the District were definitively shown recently. The three leading bond rating agencies have cited the annual shutdown exemption as a positive credit factor in upgrading or maintaining their ratings on the District's bonds. The city's partners, Wall Street and vendors alike can charge a risk premium for the uncertainty created by shutdown threats. A permanent shutdown exemption would undoubtedly improve D.C.'s creditworthiness even more.

The 650,000 D.C. residents do not suffer alone when vital city services cease during a shutdown. Federal officials, federal buildings, foreign embassies and dignitaries, businesses and tourists rely daily on the city's services as well. Successive continuing resolutions (CRs) do not help much. Not only do successive CRs make it difficult for the city to plan its activities for the year, they increase the city's costs of doing business. Shutdown threats force the District to invest time and money preparing contingency shutdown plans.

Although federal shutdowns have shut down the District in the past, the District did not shut down during the 2013 federal shutdown, only because D.C. was able to use previously appropriated contingency funds to remain open. However, the District had to severely ration its payments, risking its credit standing, and if the federal shutdown had continued for much longer, the District would have exhausted those funds and shut down, too.

It is clear that Congress does not intend such risks and consequences to the District. Congress loses nothing by allowing the District, which submits a balanced budget, almost always with surpluses, each year, to remain open.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. VALERIE
JONES

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Dr. Valerie Camille Jones, Ed.D. an educator at the Ron Clark Academy located in my congressional district. I am proud to share that the President of the United States recently honored Dr. Jones with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and