

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House of Representatives voted on the Retail Investor Protection Act, which passed by a wide margin of 245–186. Allow me to make a clarification on my vote. I fully support this legislation and meant to vote ‘yea’ on final passage, not ‘no’. Unfortunately, by the time I noticed the error, the vote had closed and I was unable to correct it. Voting ‘no’ was not my intention.

I am pleased the Retail Investor Protection Act passed the House with broad support. Like many of my constituents, and others across the country, I have serious concerns about the negative impacts that the Department of Labor’s proposed ‘fiduciary rule’ will have on the retirement savings options available to employees. I believe that the Retail Investor Protection Act properly addresses these concerns and contributes to the financial security of millions of Americans.

On October 26, 2015, I joined my House colleagues on a letter to the Secretary of Labor that urged the Department to withdraw the proposed rule and commit to a process that avoids the arbitrariness, uncertainty, and inadequate analysis embodied in the proposed rule. I remain fully committed to these views and support the entirety of the Retail Investor Protection Act.

RECOGNIZING MR. STEPHEN LARSEN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank Dr. Stephen W. Larsen, President of the Hartford Healthcare Behavioral Health Network, for 25 years of devotion to improving the continuum of mental health services in Connecticut. With more than 40 years of experience in behavioral health and healthcare management, Steve has been an invaluable resource to Hartford Healthcare and the community at large. He has accompanied the organization through many periods of growth and change, including Hartford Healthcare’s acquisition of Natchaug Hospital and their expansion to reach even more of Connecticut’s residents by opening nine satellite hospitals throughout the state. Under his watch, the Behavioral Health Network expanded to offer more services than ever before, including in-home psychiatric services and a treatment program for adolescent girls involved in court proceedings.

During his career, Steve’s work stretched all across eastern Connecticut, a very diverse population with many mental health needs. Steve demonstrated a remarkable sensitivity to this diversity, which as the Congressman for that region I admire greatly. In particular, Steve successfully spearheaded an effort to give Medicaid patients from Windham County opportunity to receive care for mental illness at Windham Hospital and Natchaug Hospital,

rather than New Haven or Hartford. This was a very competitive national process that Steve successfully navigated.

A testament to his achievement and vision, Steve was appointed by the Governor to the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council. He is a corporator of Lawrence & Memorial Hospital and serves on the East Lyme Board of Finance and received the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems’ 2010 Grassroots Leadership Award for his work in elevating the importance of grassroots advocacy within the association. He has advocated tirelessly for increased coverage and funding for quality mental health services on a federal, state and local level. Adding to his many awards and recognitions, Steve received the 2015 American Hospital Association Connecticut Grassroots Champion Award.

Although Steve will be retiring at the end of this year, the effect of his decades of devotion to the mental health horizon in Connecticut will be felt for years to come. I ask my colleagues to please join me in wishing Dr. Stephen Larsen a restful and enjoyable retirement.

DIRECT SELLING

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be a founding co-chair of the Direct Selling Caucus, which was established in January and announced at a Direct Selling Association (DSA) event with participants and constituents from around the country.

As a full time student, direct selling provided me with the flexibility necessary to pay for college while in school. Running my own business was an extremely rewarding experience and served as great preparation for my career in public service. It is a vibrant sector of the economy that embraces entrepreneurship and helps people achieve their American dream.

More than 18 million Americans located in every state, Congressional district and community choose to become involved in direct selling. It contributes more than \$34 billion to the U.S. economy annually. As economic uncertainty places more emphasis on needed flexibility that opportunities to work independently provide, direct selling will continue to grow and prosper.

Just as important to the continued success of direct selling are the safeguards that the industry, through the Direct Selling Association’s leadership, put into place. They promote high standards of business ethics and consumer protection.

On October 29, 2015, hundreds of direct sellers from across the country will come to Washington, DC to emphasize the importance of direct selling to the economy and remind policymakers of the opportunity it provides to pursue meaningful independent work. I hereby request that October 29, 2015 be recognized by this House as Direct Selling Day.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF BRIAN BALLENTINE, TROOPER GARDNER, AND TROOPER JOHNS

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Brian C. Ballentine of Liverpool, New York and Troopers Michael L. Gardner and David A. Johns of the New York State Police. On September 5, 2015, Trooper Gardner and Trooper Johns, with the help of private civilian Mr. Ballentine heroically saved a 4-year old child.

On September 5, Trooper Gardner and Trooper Johns responded to an amber alert issued by the Vermont State Police while traveling on the New York State Thruway. As Trooper Gardner and Trooper Johns spotted a vehicle that matched the description of the vehicle in the amber alert they received a radio call advising that a private citizen, Mr. Ballentine, had called 911 to report that the van was in fact the suspected vehicle. With this confirmation Trooper Gardner and Trooper Johns were able to stop the vehicle and safely rescue the 4-year old child.

Trooper Michael L. Gardner is a 12-year veteran of the New York State Police. He has been stationed in Troops D and B and has been assigned to the New York State Thruway in Troop T since October of 2012. Trooper Gardner is currently stationed at State Police Syracuse in Dewitt, New York.

Trooper David A. Johns in an 8-year veteran of the New York State Police. He has been stationed in Troops B and D and has been assigned to the New York State Thruway in Troop T since October of 2009. He is currently stationed at State Police Syracuse in Dewitt, New York.

Mr. Brian C. Ballentine of Liverpool, New York has lived in the Central New York community his entire life and I am proud to recognize his exemplary actions in our community.

I am honored to recognize Trooper Gardner, Trooper Johns, and Mr. Ballentine for their heroic actions on September 5, 2015. The 4-year old girl is now out of harm’s way thanks to these three brave men. Trooper Gardner’s and Trooper Johns’s efforts in this situation exemplify the finest traditions of the New York State Police and I wish them continued success in their careers.

HONORING APOSTLE RICHARD D. HENTON

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Apostle Richard D. Henton who made his heavenly transition on October 22, 2015. Apostle Henton was called into the ministry in 1948 and rose to become one of the most prolific speakers of our day.

Apostle Henton served in ministry for 66 years, 50 of those as pastor of the 5,000 member Monument of Faith Church located in my district. Apostle Henton also founded the