

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 87, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

## HONORING IRVING LADIMER

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man commonly referred to as the "Mayor of Riverdale," Mr. Irving Ladimer, a staple of the northwest Bronx community and a dear friend. Irving turned 100 years old on February 16, 2016, and I am so grateful to be able to help celebrate his reaching that remarkable milestone by honoring him in the hallowed halls of Congress.

Irving has contributed a great deal to the Riverdale neighborhood, both professionally and through his work in various community groups. As an attorney specializing in health care issues, Irving's compassion for his fellow man was always evident. Incredibly, Irving maintains his distinguished law career to this day, and still travels into his law firm's office in Manhattan every week to work. Irving's legal expertise has also been put to work as a law professor at institutions such as Yale, Columbia, and New York University, where he taught on a wide array of topics from patient safety, rights for the elderly, ethics, and nutrition.

Irving has also dedicated a great deal of time to the community. As a trustee at his synagogue, he has volunteered to help the aging and still offers his legal expertise to those in need. Irving also generously gives his time to the Catholic Health Services Center and has teamed up with local officials to reach out to schools and community centers to offer civics lessons about the constitution and government. It has always been important to Irving for his fellow community members to be more civic-minded, and as a member of the Ben Franklin Reform Democratic Club he has made huge strides in advocating for that type of civic engagement.

Without question, Irving has been an influential member of the community. He is the most spry 100 year old I've ever met, and I wish him nothing but the best and thank him for all he's done for the Bronx.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen conflict, I unavoidably missed the following votes on February 24, 2016 and February 29, 2016.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. On roll call No. 85, I would have voted "nay" (Feb 24) (On Ordering the Previous Question for Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3624) to amend title 28, United States Code, to prevent fraudulent joinder).

2. On roll call No. 86, I would have voted "nay" (Feb 24) (On Agreeing to the Resolution for Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3624) to amend title 28, United States Code, to prevent fraudulent joinder).

3. On roll call No. 102, I would have voted "yea" (Feb 29) (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4238, "To amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities").

## OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,080,123,823,020.74. We've added \$8,453,246,774,207.66 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

WELCOME ABIGAIL WESSON  
SYDNOR AND ANNA LOUISE  
SYDNOR

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Chad Sydnor, Military Legislative Assistant for Senator RICHARD BURR, and his wife, Alli Sydnor, on the birth of their twin girls. Abigail Wesson Sydnor and Anna Louise Sydnor were born at 8:10 a.m. on Friday, February 19, 2016, at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Virginia. Abigail weighed six pounds and measured 19 inches long and Anna weighed five pounds and three ounces and measured 18 and 1/2 inches long. They are the first children for the happy couple and I have no doubt their talented parents will be dedicated to their well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Abigail and Anna's grandparents, Robert and Christal Blakely of Great Falls, Virginia, and Charles and Cindy Sydnor of Snow Camp, North Carolina. Congratulations to both the Blakely and Sydnor families as they welcome their newest additions of pure pride and joys.

A BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF  
MYONG MOK BAE AND KEI ZA  
RYU BAE

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill to provide relief for Mr. Myong Mok Bae and Mrs. Kei Za Ryu Bae. Mr. and Mrs. Bae are eighteen-year residents of Guam, who currently face removal by the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Baes came to the United States in June 1997 as immigrant entrepreneurs. Although unforeseen natural disasters and economic hardships hampered the success of their investment, the Baes remained active members of the Guam community. They continue to serve as goodstanding members of the community who have no criminal history and pose no risk to public safety or national security.

Removal of the Baes would cause them to suffer extreme hardship. The Baes arrived in Guam from Korea, a country which they have now not seen in 15 years. They are an elderly couple with no family or community in Korea, and with no means of gainful employment at this stage in their lives.

This bill would provide the Baes relief from this extreme hardship by establishing their eligibility, under the Immigration and Naturalization Act, for either an immigrant visa, or an adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or an adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident. The bill provides a timeline of two years to allow the Baes to file, and pay the applicable fees, for the appropriate status. Finally, the bill reduces by two, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to those whose country of origin is Korea.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this legislation to relieve the Baes from the extreme hardship that would result from their removal, and to allow them to remain in the United States—the place they have lived for nearly two decades and the place they call their home.

HONORING WESTCHESTER JEWISH  
COUNCIL 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
GALA

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, organizations which strive to instill and promote core values and traditions play an indispensable role in any community. The Westchester Jewish Council continues to play prominent roles in assisting the Jewish community of Westchester, through social action, education, youth, dialogue with elected officials, and instilling Jewish values to promote interfaith dialogue within the Westchester community. Their value to our local communities is of the utmost importance and of great value to us all.

Since 1975, the Westchester Jewish Council has served as a prominent organization in the

Westchester Jewish community and plays a key role in fostering relationships with organizations, law enforcement, and community leaders, both inside the Jewish community and the community at large. Additionally, their work involves interfaith initiatives and events aimed at communicating and coordinating services and programs for the Jewish community. Furthermore, the Westchester Jewish Council provides meaningful opportunities to engage in volunteer work throughout the community.

The Westchester Jewish Council also sponsors various educational roundtables which foster Israel advocacy and Jewish education, initiatives that are paramount to the organization's mission. The Westchester Jewish Council works together with 150 other organizations to help facilitate Westchester Jewish traditions and culture by supporting and hosts various community-wide events aimed at celebrating Jewish history and heritage. The wide variety of services they offer are meaningful, indispensable, and cultivate the important traditions of the community.

On February 6th, 2016 the Westchester Jewish Council will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary Gala. I want to congratulate the entire organization on the occasion, and thank them for the invaluable work they have done for the entire Westchester community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 102, H.R. 4238, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities, had I been present, I would have voted yes.

#### HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. ROSE BAENKE

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Rose Baenke was born on February 24, 1926, in Chicago, Illinois. At an early age, she developed a passion for politics. When she turned 18, she voted in her first election and has taken pride in the honor and privilege of voting ever since.

In 1992, Mrs. Baenke and her husband moved to the community of Nesbit, Mississippi. She became involved in the local political scene and was a charter member of the DeSoto County Republican Women, a group in which she remains an active member. At age 90, she participates in the club's events and dedicates her time and effort to the group's mission.

Mrs. Baenke has been politically involved at the state level as well. She says that her crowning achievement was assisting Governor Phil Bryant's successful campaign to be Mississippi's 64th Governor. She has served in

leadership positions with the DeSoto County Republican Women, which has enabled her to become an effective voice in the Republican Party. As an active citizen, she also served two terms on the Mississippi River Commission.

Currently, Mrs. Baenke resides at Wesley Meadows Retirement Community in Hernando, Mississippi, where she works tirelessly to urge other residents to remain engaged and informed on political issues. Specifically, she asks other residents to exercise their right, which was earned at a very high price, to vote.

I would like to wish Mrs. Baenke a Happy 90th Birthday and extend my deepest appreciation for her passion and dedication to her country and state.

#### CAPTAIN WIELENGA ASSUMES COMMAND OF HESPERIA SHERIFF'S STATION

### HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Captain Gregg Wielenga, who was recently promoted to the position of Captain for the Hesperia, California Sheriff's station. Captain Wielenga is a twenty-five year veteran of law enforcement and has served with the department since 1990.

Over the course of his distinguished career, Captain Wielenga has served the citizens of San Bernardino County in a variety of ways. His assignments have included Patrol Deputy in Needles, Detective in the Victor Valley, and Sergeant at the county's jail facilities. Prior to Captain Wielenga's recent promotion he served as the Lieutenant at the Hesperia station.

I would like to congratulate Captain Wielenga on his new position. He exemplifies the professionalism of the men and women of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. I am honored to have him serving the people of Hesperia and wish him the best of luck.

#### WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK

### HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, March 6th marks the beginning of Women in Construction Week. The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) takes this week to highlight women in the construction industry. Chapter 11 of NAWIC is located in San Antonio, which I represent. This week allows thousands of NAWIC members across the country to raise awareness of the opportunities available to women in the construction industry and emphasize the growing role of women in the industry.

In sincere appreciation, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this week as Women in Construction Week.

#### HONORING DAVID FORD

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend and trusted employee, David Ford, who today is being honored by the Black Dems of Westchester for 50 years of incredible service to the community.

David has been a resident of Mt. Vernon for 53 years and an active member in the community his entire adult life. He has pursued his two great passions—community service and politics—with great vigor and has accomplished a great deal in both fields over a long and impressive career.

First elected Chairman of the Mt. Vernon Democratic Party in 1969, David inherited a club in a rock bed of Republican politics. For the next 27 years he served as Chairman and oversaw a complete political switch in the area. When he left the position in 1996, every elected official in Mt. Vernon was a Democrat, whereas none were in 1969.

David has also made his mark in the community through engagement with various civic organizations and as Commissioner of the Mt. Vernon Water Department, a role he served in for 33 years until his retirement in 2009. He has been President of the Mt. Vernon Lions Club, the Mt. Vernon YMCA, and the Citizens Veterans Association. As Board Chairman of the Mt. Vernon Neighborhood Health Center for 30 years, David was instrumental in turning a small program with 19 employees into one of the largest Health Care Centers in the region, employing over 400 people serving 40,000 patients annually. It is no wonder then why David has received countless honors in the community, including the Torch Liberty Award from the Anti-Defamation League and the "Citizen of the Year" Award from the YMCA.

But for all of his accomplishments in the community, I will always value David's incredible hard work as one of my most trusted and talented special assistants, a role he still serves in to this day. I congratulate David on this well-deserved and wonderful recognition from the Black Dems of Westchester, and thank him personally for all he has done to better the Mt. Vernon community. I am proud of David for all of his hard work, but I am even more proud to call him a friend.

#### HONORING STEVEN AND KATHERINE DIEBERT AS THEY CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Steven and Katherine Diebert on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Steven and Katherine Diebert were married on February 26, 1966 in Fresno, California. They met as young students at Roosevelt High School by the drinking fountain; however, their paths unknowingly had crossed as children in 1953 when Steven was one of