

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my district on Thursday, March 30, 2000, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 89–95. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 89 on Agreeing to the Kasich Amendment; Rollcall vote 90 on Agreeing to the Weldon Amendment; rollcall vote 91 on Agreeing to the Stearns Amendment; roll call vote 92 on Agreeing to the Paul Amendment; rollcall vote 93 on Agreeing to the Tancredo Amendment; rollcall 94 on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions; and rollcall vote 95 on Passage of H.R. 3908, Making Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for F.Y. 2000.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on roll call votes 90, 94 and 95. I would have voted "nay" on roll call votes 89, 91, 92, and 93.

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO DEACON
WILLIE MARTIN, SR.**HON. CARRIE P. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great honor to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Deacon Willie Martin Sr., as he celebrates his 100th birthday on April 8, 2000 in Pineland, South Carolina. Congressman JAMES E. CLYBURN, my distinguished colleague from the 6th District of South Carolina, joins me in this tribute.

Although our celebrant lives in South Carolina, he travels to Miami-Dade County to visit his daughter, Mrs. Rosanna McCormick, who has been a resident of the city of Opa-Locka since 1950. Deacon Martin's grandson, Freddie L. Judson (Rosa), also resides in Miami-Dade County. Accordingly, our centenarian is an ex-officio resident of the 17th Congressional District of Florida, and I am extremely delighted indeed to have the privilege of representing the members of his immediate family.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Deacon Martin for the exemplary life with which God saw fit to bountifully bless him. The hallmark of excellence that defined his life for a century truly evokes a magnificent longevity of service to others in his role as a deacon of Bethel Baptist Church in Pineland, South Carolina. Amidst the ever-enduring presence of God, our celebrant has touched people from all walks of life through his genuine consecration to both their social, moral and spiritual enhancement.

His charitable spirit deeply nurtured his home into an oasis of love and encouragement for his family and countless others who sought refuge and comfort within its sanctuary for so many years. Deacon Martin's centennial birthday is indeed a joyous occasion when his loved ones and friends can truly take comfort in giving testimony to his exemplary dedication to his Christian stewardship.

Buttressed by his faith and his willingness to serve others under the aegis of his church, God has truly seen fit to bless him with the longevity of an extraordinary life. The happy occasion on April 8, 2000 will eloquently symbolize a historic testimony of the respect and admiration he has forged in his community and church-family.

I wish him warmest congratulations on this magnificent milestone of his life!

HONORING JAMES H. "JIM"
PATTERSON**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor James H. Patterson—a devoted father, husband, friend and transportation industry leader—who passed away Saturday morning. Jim Patterson was 55 years old and resided in Blackhawk, CA, with his wife Theresa, son Jimmy and daughter Laura.

Before moving to California, Jim was born and raised in Portland, OR, and the proud son of Howard and Dorothy Patterson. Jim was with United Parcel Service since 1966 and was serving as vice president of Public Affairs for the Northwest Region upon his formal retirement in December. Jim had served in many positions during his tenure, including being one of the youngest regional managers in the history of the company.

Jim was truly a remarkable person. He had the respect of everyone that had the pleasure to work with him. Jim's keen insight and knowledge of the industry was unparalleled. His uncanny ability to assess complicated political situations and offer appropriate remedies was remarkable. And Jim's humor would disarm the fiercest of opponents and ultimately result in their affection and respect.

Jim's devotion to his friends and family was well known. Jim loved talking to people and getting to know people. In addition, he loved collecting cars and most of all—spending time with his two kids.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to all of Jim's family and especially to Theresa, Jimmy and Laura.

IN HONOR OF SAINT EDWARD
HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Year 2000 state champion Saint Edward High School wrestling team. Their four-year hold on Ohio high school wrestling's top honor shows no sign of weakening.

The Saint Edwards High School wrestling team, year in and year out, finds a way to keep their edge. This past month, the team won its fourth straight state championship, winning in resounding fashion. The Eagles'

final tally of 186.5 points was nearly 100 points greater than the second place finishers. Five individual state champions set the tone for the Eagles' overwhelming dominance. Seniors Mason Lenhard and Mark Jayne each won their third titles. Jayne and senior Ryan Bertin both finished undefeated. Freshman Ryan Lang and senior Zak Schweda round out the Eagles' roster of title winners.

The 2000 Eagles squad fulfilled with ease the sort of expectations that any sporting dynasty raises. This year's state championship was the school's sixteenth all-time, a new state record. St. Edward's point total for the 2000 state tournament was the third highest in Ohio history. The Eagles' total of five individual state champions was one short of the all-time state record. The journey to Columbus was a difficult one: the Eagles grappled through what was widely recognized as the toughest schedule in school history. Taking on the best teams from across the nation, the Eagles were undefeated, finishing 14 and 0.

The 2000 Saint Edward wrestling team was, in a way, all about the journey. As Coach Gregg Urbas commented, "What we have is a room full of the hardest working kids you'll ever see, and they are very coachable. They all love this sport. Their work ethic is contagious. Those qualities will take you a long way in this sport. All of our 16 state championship teams were a little different. This team is loaded with wrestlers who kept improving week by week."

Saint Edward's dominance doesn't end at the state level. Two Eagles recently played pivotal roles in Ohio's state team's winning the national championship. Mason Lenhard and Ryan Bertin both won national titles in setting the pace for a "Buckeye Smackdown" at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

My fellow Members of Congress, join me in congratulating the 2000 state champion Saint Edward wrestling team. The Eagle grapplers do honor to my district, to my state, to their school, and to their sport. Their recent success at both the state and national levels is a deserved reward for many days' hard work done well and done right.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING WAYNESVILLE
SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ERWIN MORRISS**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career is nearing an end. Mr. Erwin Morriss, of Waynesville, Missouri, is retiring after 39 years in the education profession.

Mr. Morriss began his career in 1961 as a biology teacher and athletic coach at Jefferson City High School. In 1966, he became a teacher, coach and athletic director for Maryville schools. After that, he started his 31 years of service to the Waynesville School District as the Wood Junior High School Assistant Principal. Mr. Morriss moved to Waynesville High School in 1970 to be the Assistant Principal, and then served as the Principal for four years. He assumed the duties of