

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 483, H. Con. Res. 281, honoring the ultimate sacrifice made by Johnny Micheal Spann, the first American killed in combat during the war against terrorism in Afghanistan, and pledging continued support for members of the Armed Forces. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 484, H.R. 3282, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 400 North Main Street in Butte, Montana, as the "Mike Mansfield Federal Building and United States Courthouse." Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 485, H.R. 10, the Railroad Retirement Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday morning December 6, 2001, I was unavoidably detained and as a result missed 1 rollcall vote.

Had I been present, the following is how I would have voted: Rollcall No. 476—"Nay."

(On agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 305—Providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules)

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE KOCH,
CLINTON TOWNSHIP DEMO-
CRATIC CLUB

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this year the Clinton Township Democratic Club will host its biennial Awards Banquet, where members come together to celebrate the achievements of two of its members with food, laughter and fun. Honoring distinguished individuals who have shown outstanding dedication and service to the club as well as their local communities, this year they chose to honor two very special people, State Senator Ken DeBeaussiaert and Clinton Township Democratic Club President Christine Koch. Over the course of my career in Congress, I have had the honor of recognizing individuals from all over my District and State. Today, however, I have the distinct pleasure of honoring my two good friends, Ken and Chris.

I have had the great honor of knowing and working with Chris for over 25 years, beginning in 1972 when Chris and I joined forces in a community action group called Locofocos. Entering public service in 1977 as a member

of my Congressional District Staff, Chris dedicated so much of her time and effort to serving her community. In her role as administrative aide, Chris represented the 10th Congressional District well, serving on more community boards and volunteer organizations than I could possibly name. Among the many visionary projects Chris sponsored as her personal mission, one of the closest to her heart has been the development of a district-wide bike path. Even today, she continues her dedication as President of Comprehensive Youth Services, Inc., Secretary of the Salvation Army Advisory Council, Secretary of the Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority, and Secretary of Michigan Housing Counselors.

Faithfully committed to the Clinton Township Democratic Club, Chris has been a member since its inception, serving as club secretary and later, as President since the mid 1990's. Dedicating her time to organizing club picnics and banquets, facilitating the Democratic Club's annual student luncheons, and serving as liaison to the Tenth District and the Michigan Democratic Party, few have shown the outstanding leadership and dedication to an organization as Chris has for so many years.

It gives me great pleasure to honor one of my district's most tireless advocates for the Democratic way of life, Christine Koch, for her leadership and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting her for her exemplary years of service.

TEACHERS: DO NOT BLAME
"AMERICA FIRST"**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, since the eleventh of September, our nation has demonstrated a genuine solidarity and an enthusiastic sense of patriotism. In the process, many parents have struggled to find the right way to tell their young children about the horrific nature of the terrorist attacks on our nation. Indeed, the events of September 11 brought to the fore unsettling questions about the problem of human evil and hatred.

As parents have sought to instill patriotism in their children—telling them about the decent values that America represents and the civilized traditions our nation carries on—it seems that some teachers are sending young students the "Blame America First" message. Chester E. Finn Jr., president of the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, and a former assistant secretary of education, has observed that the curricular guidance coming from state and local education leaders suggests that the United States brought the September 11 attack on itself—through its "imperial" foreign policy and "ignorance" of other cultures.

Nothing could be further from the truth; this is not the kind of overly politicized message students should be hearing. I'd like to commend Mr. Finn for exposing this activity. I'd also like to commend former Education Secretary William Bennett for developing an alter-

native to this kind of anti-Americanism. Mr. Bennett's education firm K12 has creating an instructional resource for parents and teachers to use in teaching children about patriotism. Available on the K12 website and geared for most ages, the lessons—ranging from civics, history, and geography to singalongs and storybooks—emphasize the principles that make America the beacon of liberty it is today.

The September 11 terrorist attacks may prove to be the largest, most significant event in our lives. We need to ensure that our children understand what caused it; we need to make sure the truth is not lost in a fog of political correctness.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 287

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, Earlier this year, while on a visit to South Africa, I had the chance to learn about a fascinating partnership between governments and conservationists. The Peace Park movement is a great success story and one that the world can learn from, particularly in our present world, which is beset of conflict, turmoil and uncertainty.

In 1997, Dr. Anton Rupert and His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands formed the Peace Parks Foundation of South Africa, a not-for-profit organization, to establish and develop transfrontier conversation areas straddling international borders. Countries participation in a "Peace Parks" do not concede any national sovereignty but do allow the free movement of people and animals across the borders within the park. The goal of these parks are to create jobs, sustainable economic development and peace and understanding between the countries themselves as well as an appreciation of the importance of conservation.

Today eight separate peace parks either exist or are under development. These transfrontier conservation areas parks encompass a total area of 232,000 square miles and straddle borders from Tanzania in the north to South Africa in the south. One of the most ambitious plan of the Peace Parks Foundation is the consolidation of the land and its resources of the South Africa Kruger National Park, Mozambican Coutada 16 conservation area and the Zimbabwean Gonarezhou National Park into the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park—the largest conservation area in the world.

In October 2001, the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park was inaugurated when forty elephants from South Africa were released into Mozambique. Less than ten years ago this border symbolized the division and conflict between these countries and their peoples. For example, the apartheid-era South Africa government erected an electric fence along its border areas. Today the electric fence, which led to much acrimony and conflict between South Africa and Mozambique, is being dismantled, and the land mines are being removed and destroyed. The Great Limpopo