

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 625 on H.R. 5281, On Motion to Concur in Senate Amendments #1 and #2, and in #3 With Amendment, To amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify and improve certain provisions relating to the removal of litigation against Federal officers or agencies to Federal courts, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was absent because gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted, "nay."

HONORING RONALD G. YELENIK

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ronald G. Yelenik, Assistant General Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Mr. Yelenik is retiring after 35 years of distinguished service at the CPSC.

Mr. Yelenik began his career at the CPSC in 1975. Prior to joining the CPSC staff, he was a Law Professor at Antioch School of Law, a Director of East New York Legal Services, a staff attorney at Brownsville Legal Services, and a Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica.

Mr. Yelenik has held various legal positions at the CPSC, chiefly within the Office of Compliance and Field Operations, and most recently in the Division of Compliance within the Office of the General Counsel. He currently manages a staff of 12 attorneys, providing leadership in devising legal strategies to ensure that manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers of dangerously defective and hazardous products are held responsible for harm caused to consumers. Over the years, he has been an excellent mentor to staff attorneys and legal interns.

Over the course of his long and distinguished Federal career, Mr. Yelenik helped negotiate numerous major product recalls with such firms as Wal-Mart, Cosco, and Fisher-Price. The Fisher-Price recall involved ten million battery-powered Power Wheel ride-on cars that presented a fire hazard to children. This toy recall was one of the largest and most expensive recalls in CPSC's history.

Mr. Yelenik has also served as lead counsel in some of the largest monetary civil penalty cases in the CPSC's history for reporting violations under section 15(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act. The cases include a \$4 million civil penalty against the McDonald's Corporation in 1999; a \$1.75 million penalty against Dorel USA (Cosco/Safety 1st) in 2001; and a \$1.1 million penalty against Fisher-Price in 2001. In 2009, he negotiated a \$2.3 million civil penalty against Mattel for multiple violations of the lead paint ban in children's products. The Mattel violations were one of the catalysts that led to the passage of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008.

During his tenure at CPSC, Mr. Yelenik has played a major role in protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury posed by

consumer products. He has demonstrated inspiring leadership and has been a valued employee at the CPSC.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to thank Ronald G. Yelenik for his honorable service to our Nation and I wish him a rewarding retirement.

HONORING JILL K. DUFFY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jill Duffy for her 8 years of distinguished public service on the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors.

Born in Los Angeles, Ms. Duffy moved to Humboldt County at a young age. She completed her education at Humboldt State University, where she studied Environmental Engineering. After serving for 15 years as an Environmental Compliance Analyst for the City of Arcata and 4 years on the McKinleyville Community Services District Board, she was elected to represent Humboldt County's 5th Supervisorial District in 2002.

Throughout her two terms, Jill has been a capable and enthusiastic voice for the citizens of Humboldt County. She has provided competent leadership on a variety of issues, including protection of our rich natural resources. She was appointed by the governor to sit on the Statewide Watershed Monitoring Advisory Committee and was the county representative for Klamath River dam removal negotiations. She was also a stalwart advocate for securing county access to water rights on the Trinity River.

Jill has been active on numerous committees and boards, including the California State Association of Counties Working Group for Compact Negotiations for Indian Gaming, Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development Council, California Water Environment Association, North Coast Pollution Prevention Committee, Humboldt Bay Shellfish Technical Advisory Committee, McKinleyville General Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee, Redwood National Park Association, Redwood Coast Energy Authority, Humboldt County Code Enforcement Task Force Subcommittee, North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, Arcata-Eureka Airport Terminal Building Decoration and Advertising Committee, and the Humboldt Transit Authority.

Whether through her efforts to safeguard our region's unique environmental assets or champion the rights of towns to participate in the county planning process, Ms. Duffy has been a proven relationship builder and diligent representative.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time to acknowledge and thank Jill Duffy for her 8 years of commendable leadership and unwavering commitment to the citizens of Humboldt County.

HONORING JOHN TROUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John Trout. John is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 45, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, John has earned the God and Country award and represented the United States at Peak 2010, an international Scout Jamboree in Darby County, England. John has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. John built an outdoor patio for the Juda House, a long-term homeless shelter in St. Joseph, Missouri. John also designed a playground and ornamental flower garden for the Juda House.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending John Trout for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL ASSOCIATION

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association. This Association was instrumental in reforming the flood and navigation system along the Mississippi River after the 1927 flood, which was one of the greatest peace-time disasters our nation has seen. This disaster wrecked the levee system and devastated over 12 million acres and drove 600,000 people from their homes. Losses were estimated at \$400 million.

A shining star in this disaster was the quick work of this Association by organizing a congressional tour at the height of the flood by special train and boats. This effort paved the way for legislation developing the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project to build a levee system to tame the Mississippi River's forces. Today, this levee system still protects hundreds of thousands of families from flooding and facilitates transportation in our inland water ways system.

The Association still lives on under the great leadership of Mr. George Grugett. Mr. Grugett's career is an example for all of us to follow. He has served as the Executive Vice President of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association since 1980. During his service

to this Association, he has successfully brought together Members of Congress, senior officials within the Army Corps of Engineers, and levee boards along the Mississippi River in order to promote and develop the flood and navigation system that is so important to our economy.

I can confidently say that with Mr. Grugett's leadership we have made numerous strides in the areas of flood control and water navigation. I ask the entire House to join with me to commend Mr. Grugett for his leadership and dedication to this Association as it marks its 75th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF PAT LOE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pat Loe, on the occasion of her retirement from the San Benito County Board of Supervisors. It has been a pleasure working with Pat on various projects and she will be missed by many.

Pat is a lifelong resident of San Benito County. Prior to her service on the San Benito County Board of Supervisors, she worked for Tiffany Motor Company for 34 years.

Pat first began her career in politics when she was appointed to the San Benito County Planning Commission where she served for 10 years. Her leadership on the Commission prepared her to run for a seat on the Hollister City Council. Pat served on the council for four years and made some momentous advancements for women. She became the first woman to break the glass ceiling and serve as Mayor for the City of Hollister allowing many other councilwomen to follow suit.

On March 5, 2002, Pat was elected to the San Benito County Board of Supervisors, District 3. The County district seat is unique, wholly within an urban area, geographically in central Hollister, defined by its established homes, and its population is dominated by longtime Hollister residents. Pat was reelected on June 6, 2006 to serve a second term of four years. She was Chair of the San Benito County Supervisors in 2006 and also served as Vice-Chair in 2010.

Pat served on various committees including the Council of Governments, Local Agency Formation Commission, Veterans Park Commission, Children and Families First Commission, Community Action Board, Intergovernmental Committee, Juvenile Justice Commission, Local Task Force, Behavioral Health Board, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, City Revolving Loan Fund Committee, Gang Prevention Task Force, and National Association of Counties. She also served on various sub-committees: Community Development Block Grants, Ethics, Library Vision Committee, Governance, Redevelopment, Agency Revolving Loan Fund Board, and New Courthouse Project. She also served on other community organizations such as the Homeless Task Force, Emmaus House and Relay for Life.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, I would like to extend our Nation's deepest gratitude to Pat Loe for all of her years of service. I wish her well and hope she enjoys the time with her family and friends. This is not a goodbye for I know that Pat will continue to serve the County of San Benito on other capacities. Pat clearly loves the County of San Benito, and she's changed it, for the better—with her unique brand of gentle persistence.

A SALUTE TO THE HONORABLE
RICHARD L. HUGHES FOR HIS 15
YEARS OF PRINCIPLED SERVICE
ON THE 67TH DISTRICT COURT

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me as I salute Richard L. Hughes upon his retirement from the 67th District Court in Burton, Michigan, after 15 years of proud and principled service.

Judge Hughes was first appointed to the bench in 1994. He ran successfully for the balance of the judicial term in 1996, and was twice re-elected to the position in 1998 and 2004. But his tenure on the bench was merely a capstone to his many years of formal public service. Dick's story is truly the archetype of "local boy makes good." Not many years after graduating from the Detroit College of Law in 1968 and practicing law in Detroit for a time, Dick and his wife Suzanne moved their young family to their long-time homestead in Otisville, just miles from where he was raised.

Dick practiced law in the community for 26 years before his appointment. During that time and continuing today, Dick was active in his church and as a Rotarian in the Davison and Burton clubs.

In formal service to the community, Dick truly carried on a long family tradition of holding public office. He was urged by community members to serve on the Lakeville School Board when the district was in the midst of challenging financial times. He served nearly a decade, and 6 years as president. True to his nature and sense of practicality, Dick successfully reduced the board member's compensation to just \$1 a year during the lean years.

When Dick was appointed to the 67th District Court bench in 1994, he was presented the gavel of our great-great grandfather Julian Peters who was Justice of the Peace for 24 years in Rochester, Michigan. We are all grateful that Dick has carried on our family's tradition of proud public service in the judicial branch of government.

I know that Dick's thoughtful expertise on the bench will be missed. The Burton community is fortunate, however, that Dick's son-in-law Mark Latchana will carry on Dick's tradition of proud and principled service after Mark's successful election to the seat this past November.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join my salute to my cousin, Dick Hughes, for his commitment to excellence on the bench, his dedication to community and family, and

his tireless service to the public. I wish Dick, his wife Suzanne, their children Beth and Michael and their families the very best enjoyment of Dick's formal retirement. I have no doubt that although he is shedding the black robe, his service to the community will continue in earnest for many years to come.

“THIS LAND IS MY LAND”—CSM
ROCKY SHAPLA, UNITED STATES
ARMY

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a great American story, and patriot, Command Sergeant Major Rocky Shapla of Murray, Kentucky. CSM Shapla has lived the American Dream, arriving in the U.S. from Yugoslavia at the age of 15. With nothing but the shirt on his back he would rise up to become a CSM in the United States Army . . . because of his leadership and drive. He has fought in wars, just like all of our forefathers who wear the name Patriot . . . because of their service to country. With over 41 years in the service, his resume is an outstanding one to say the least. Rocky has been recovering from injuries sustained in Iraq. He loves the Army, and he loves this country. As he put it, "only in America can you come here without nothing, rise up to become a CSM in the United States Army, and have dinner at the White House with the President. Its time for this Kentucky Thoroughbred to come back home to that blue grass that he so loves, Kentucky and his family. I ask that this tribute penned in his honor by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

THIS LAND IS MY LAND

This land is my land . . .
This land is our land . . .
All in this Country Tis of Thee so grand . . .
Are but born, such fine son's . . . such son's
of liberty who stand . . .
But, some sons come from far across the seas
. . .
To but live the American Dream . . .
So many of our future great Americans, new
daughters and sons . . .
Who but new lives have begun . . .
All in their fine pursuit, of most precious
freedom . . .
Who raise their hands and take that oath
. . .
With tears in eyes, as all in their hearts as
this means the most . . .
The ones who do it the right way . . .
But, with their own fine lives, are but will-
ing to pay!
As they assimilate, into this great melting
pot . . . as its for them we pray . . .
The ones who will so proudly, wear that uni-
form . . .
As in their fine hearts, their love of country
beats ever on . . .
Willing to face death, giving up all until
none lies left . . . as they march on . . .
Living the American Dream, raising a fine
family . . . daring to dream!
Rising up through the ranks, into a Com-
mand Sergeant Major . . .
As to him, Rocky we give such thanks . . .
From one war to the next, Rocky's fine life
for us has so been pledged!