

portion of Fairfax County, a 2012 State Department Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) recipient. Ilene was selected for this competitive award based on her academic ability, exemplary citizenship, and her commitment to learning and mastering a foreign language of critical importance.

While studying in Chandigarh, India, Ilene studied at the Punjabi Summer Institute and focused on creating a strong foundation for both her language fluency and her cultural competency. She participated in daily educational activities and built relationships with young leaders from all over the world with a focus on the Punjabi language, one of the thirteen "critical needs" foreign languages determined by the Department of State. The CLS program—a key component of the National Security Language Initiative—provides fully-funded, group-based, language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences to U.S. students overseas. The accelerated program of study over 8–10 weeks is approximately equivalent to one full year of language study, and includes extracurricular activities designed to supplement the formal curriculum.

Ilene is a student at the New College of Florida. It is inspiring to see young people who are interested in international educational and developmental experiences such as these. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleges to join me in recognizing Ilene Gillispie's achievements and wishing her continued success in her academic and professional pursuits.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be on the Floor for rollcall vote 659. Had I been present I would have emphatically voted "no."

RECOGNIZING AMANDA MICHETTI AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Amanda Michette, of Springfield, as a 2012 State Department Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) recipient. Amanda was selected for this competitive award based on her academic ability and her commitment to learning and mastering a foreign language of critical importance.

While studying in Amman, Jordan, she was a participant in the Arabic Summer institute and focused on improving both her language fluency and her cultural competency. The CLS program—a key component of the National Security Language Initiative—provides fully-funded, group-based, intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences to U.S. students overseas. The accelerated program of study over 8–10 weeks is approximately equivalent to one full

year of language study, and includes extracurricular activities designed to supplement the formal curriculum.

Amanda is a student at James Madison University. It is inspiring to see young people who are interested in international education and developmental experiences such as these. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleges to join me in recognizing Amanda Michette's achievements and wishing her continued success in her academic and professional pursuits.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 17, 2012, I missed two votes because my flight from Little Rock to the Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI) was cancelled along with a number of others because the airport was closed due to fog. I flew into Reagan National Airport later in the evening.

If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 627 (H.R. 4606) and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 628 (S. 3193).

RECOGNIZING BENJAMIN BISSELL AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Benjamin Bissell, of Fairfax Station, as a recipient of the 2012 State Department Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) and a participant in the CLS Russian program.

The CLS Program, created in 2006 as a key component of the National Security Language Initiative, has had more than 3,350 participants who have acquired specific skill sets in business and language, as well as cultural perspectives unique to their experiences. The CLS Russian program covers approximately one academic year of university-level Russian study over an eight-week period. Mr. Bissell, a fourth year student at the University of Virginia, studied in Vladimir, Russia, for the entirety of the program.

Mr. Bissell followed his passion for politics in demography and linguistics, specifically Russian, which led him to the program. With his admirable determination to learn more about the international impact of demography, and to enhance his cultural experiences and knowledge, he successfully completed the program and was awarded this outstanding scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Benjamin Bissell's achievements and wishing him continued success in his future academic and professional pursuits.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker. I was not present during the rollcall vote No. 623, on December 12, 2012. I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) and to congratulate it on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award winning, public-private coalition formed to fight drunk driving, drugged driving, and underage drinking in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Through educational and innovative public programs, WRAP is credited with keeping Washington area alcohol related death rates consistently below the national average. Programs and resources include Youth Outreach, Adult Outreach, and Public Education programs designed to educate students and the general public on the dangers of alcohol and drugs, particularly driving while under the influence. Through the WRAP Holiday SoberRide program, individuals who are impaired can request a free cab ride home. Since SoberRide was launched in 1993, 55,851 free cab rides have been provided, preventing possible accidents and deaths.

In 1982, the year that WRAP was founded, 26,173 people in the United States lost their lives in alcohol-related car accidents; 60% of all traffic fatalities involved drunk driving. Due to the tireless efforts of WRAP, other organizations such as MADD and SADD, local and state police, and enforcement of more stringent anti-drunk driving laws, alcohol-related traffic fatalities decreased to 9,878.

Since 1997, WRAP has sponsored an annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony to honor local law enforcement professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the fight against drunk driving. It is my honor to enter the following names of the 2012 Law Enforcement Award of Excellence recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Officer Brandon Smith, City of Alexandria Police Department
 Officer Avery Carroll, Arlington County Police Department
 Police Officer Harold Morris, Fairfax County Police Department
 Deputy Alexander Brackle, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office
 Trooper John W. Cabrera, Maryland State Police
 Officer Roderick Saunders, Metropolitan Police Department
 Police Officer John Romack, Montgomery County Department of Police
 Corporal Christopher Lord, Prince George's County Police Department
 Police Officer Jeremy A. Schenck, Prince William County Police Department
 Officer Ronald Pisano, United States Park Police