

Never let it be said that this generation stood idle and let liberty slip from our fingers, never let it be said we let a day go without remembering what our forefathers did for us.

I have honored that promise on the battlefields in Vietnam, in Iraq and in the halls of Congress.

My number one mission, as always, is to protect our God given rights. Not take them away!

Today, not tomorrow, we must decide whether we want to manage our own destiny, in our states, in our cities and towns as individuals or whether we want a Washington bureaucrat locked away in some distant Federal building spying on us, telling us how to manage our own lives, families, doctors and our schools!

Do we determine our own destiny or let government bureaucrats run our lives?

The time for choosing is once again upon us.

Mr. Speaker, my dear Patriots, friends and neighbors, the battle is here now, today, not in some distant jungle or desert, and we must decide whether or not we want a brighter future for ourselves and our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, We, together, today, must decide whether our uniquely American culture made up of people respectfully representing every cultural, religious, and ethnic background on earth is a nation divided or united in a common cause for freedom and the opportunity liberty offers each of us.

We must choose whether we will join our friends and neighbors defending liberty and opportunity or become grease for the wheels of big government.

In respectful civil disobedience, I for one will not submit to the chains of tyranny. I fly the Stars and Stripes in my yard not the red hammer and cycle!

I choose to continue the fight for a smaller, non-intrusive, fiscally responsible, constitutional government. I choose Freedom for America! I choose prosperity for America!

Mr. Speaker, I pledged to the citizens of my State, and to the American people, that as their elected representative I will work to: Restore liberty, not restrict it; Shrink government, not expand it; Reduce taxes, not raise them; Abolish programs, not create them; Promote the freedom and independence of citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and Observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them. I trust I honored that pledge.

I praise God for my American roots and pray that HE may continue to Bless all of us and this great nation.

I want to thank my fellow citizens and members of Congress for the privilege, honor and experience to serve in the 113th Congress these last 24 months. And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to wish the 114th Congress my very best wishes.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 9, Wednesday, Decem-

ber 10, and Thursday, December 11, 2014, I was out on medical leave continuing to recover from surgery and unable to be present for recorded votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on roll call vote No. 552 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 5781); "no" on roll call vote No. 553 (on passage of H.R. 5781); "no" on roll call vote No. 554 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 775); "yes" on roll call vote No. 555 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1000); "yes" on roll call vote No. 556 (on approving the journal); "yes" on roll call vote No. 557 (on passage of S. 2244); "yes" on roll call vote No. 558 (on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4681); "yes" on roll call vote No. 559 (on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719); "yes" on roll call vote No. 560 (on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204); "no" on roll call vote No. 561 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 776); "no" on roll call vote No. 562 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5806); "no" on roll call vote No. 563 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 83 with an amendment); and "yes" on roll call vote No. 564 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5699, as amended).

URGING NOMINATION OF HARRY CHAPIN IN THE SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Harry Chapin, and to urge the Songwriters Hall of Fame to nominate him for induction. Harry Chapin is known not only for his powerful songwriting but also for his philanthropy and activism, as he spent his life fighting hunger and poverty in his Long Island community and around the world. His eminence as a songwriter and as an activist proves that he is deserving of this honor. I am also submitting for the record my letter to the Songwriters Hall of Fame as well as a letter from Sandy Chapin, Harry's wife.

Though his musical career lasted only a decade, Harry Chapin's talent lives on through his timeless songs and powerful storytelling. He wrote over 400 songs in that time, including classic songs like "Taxi" and "Cat's in the Cradle;" released nine albums; and wrote a Broadway musical, "The Night That Made America Famous." He also wrote songs for television and film. He was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame in 2006.

Furthermore, Harry's humanitarian work serving the people of Long Island deserves to be remembered and honored. He donated half of his concert revenue to charity and founded various organizations that continue to fight hunger and poverty on Long Island and around the world. Harry co-founded WhyHunger, a grassroots organization that supports over 8,000 community groups nationwide in their efforts to develop innovative programs to eliminate hunger and provide sustainable, health food sources. He founded New York City's Hunger Hotline and Long Is-

land's first food bank, Long Island Cares, which today distributes more than six million pounds of food every year. Long Island Cares also provides community members with nutrition education, job training, and veterans' services, because Harry understood that ending hunger requires addressing the root causes of poverty. In 1977, he lobbied Congress and President Carter to establish a Presidential Commission on World Hunger, on which he served as an active member. For all of his humanitarian work, Harry posthumously received a Congressional Gold Medal in 1987. His legacy lives on with the Harry Chapin Foundation, which continues to support charities that fight hunger and poverty, as well as organizations that support arts education.

Harry Chapin's contributions to music and to the world should not be forgotten, and again I encourage his nomination to the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

STEVE ISRAEL,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 16, 2014.

BOARD MEMBERS,
Songwriters Hall of Fame, New York, NY.

TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME: I write today to ask for full and fair consideration for Harry Chapin, a Long Island treasure, as a nominee for induction into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. In his life, Harry Chapin was known not only for writing songs that resonated but also for his philanthropic efforts and activism to combat hunger and poverty both in his Long Island community and around the world. His eminence as a songwriter and as a leader in the fight against poverty and hunger proves him truly deserving of this honor.

Though his musical career lasted only a decade, Harry Chapin's enduring legacy ensures that his talent will live on through his timeless songs that reverberate across generations. During that brief period, Harry wrote over 400 songs, including classics like "Taxi" and "Cat's in the Cradle;" released nine albums; and wrote a Broadway musical, "The Night That Made America Famous." He also wrote songs for television and film. He was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame in 2006.

Harry's unparalleled humanitarian work serving the people of Long Island also deserves recognition. Along with donating half of his concert revenue to charity and founding various organizations to fight hunger and poverty on Long Island and around the world, Harry also served as a powerful voice lobbying Congress and President Carter to establish a Presidential Commission on World Hunger, on which he served as an active member. For all of his humanitarian work, Harry posthumously received a Congressional Gold Medal in 1987. His legacy lives on with the Harry Chapin Foundation, which continues to support charities that fight hunger and poverty, such as Long Island Cares, as well as organizations that support arts education.

Today, I'm proud to give much deserved recognition to Harry Chapin's contributions to music and to the world in the House of Representatives. Harry's legacy is timeless and should not be forgotten. I once again ask for full and fair consideration for his nomination to the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,
STEVE ISRAEL,
Member of Congress.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2013.

BOARD MEMBERS,
Songwriters Hall of Fame, New York, NY.

BOARD MEMBERS OF THE SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME: I am writing to ask that you might consider Harry Chapin as one of your