

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016, I missed roll call vote 557 and 558.

On roll call vote 557, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on final passage of H.R. 3537, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2015.

On roll call vote 558, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage of H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act.

On September 27, 2016, I missed roll call votes 559, 560, 561, and 562.

On roll call vote 559, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on ordering the previous question.

On roll call vote 560, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the resolution.

On roll call vote 561, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on ordering the previous question.

On roll call vote 562, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the resolution.

HONORING LENNIE ROBERTS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lennie Roberts, a tireless advocate for our open spaces and wild creatures, a conscience for elected officials on the local, state and federal level for all things environmental and a personal friend for over 35 years. Lennie will be honored today with the extremely rare "Guardian of Nature Award" from the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter for her four decades of exemplary service. This is only the second time in the chapter's 83-year history that this honor will be bestowed. There is no one who comes close to Lennie Roberts in vigilance of our environment.

Lennie served on the original California Coastal Commission after it was established by voter initiative in 1972. In 1974, she was a founding docent for Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. Whether as policymaker or docent, Lennie Roberts seems to advocate and educate because the laws of nature command her to these tasks.

One of Lennie's greatest accomplishments was her fight against construction of a six lane freeway at Devil's Slide, a treacherous stretch of Highway 1 along California's beautiful coast. Instead, Lennie Roberts had the audacity to proffer to Caltrans a pair of tunnels. These tunnels now connect communities long threatened with periodic isolation when massive rock and debris slides, or the loss of the roadway, occurred during storms.

Construction came after a decades-long, hard-fought battle by the so-called tunnelists. A handful of visionaries saw that San Mateo's beautiful coast could be protected and the public's safety ensured.

Vast stretches of the Santa Cruz mountain range from San Mateo through Santa Clara

counties have been preserved because Lennie and her friends established, with voter approval, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Working with local philanthropists such as Tom Ford and the Peninsula Open Space Trust, Lennie's vision of a permanent mechanism to identify and preserve precious tracts of land has given the Bay Area a crown jewel: huge Redwood forests, hundreds of miles of walking and riding trails, recreational opportunities for people and pets, and habitat that nourishes endangered and threatened species. In part because of Lennie's advocacy, local farmers and ranchers now transition agricultural lands into permanent conservation, often permitting sustainable agriculture to remain on the property even when the land is in public ownership.

Lennie's interests are not simply in the mountains. The coast and coastal waters, and streams that serve as endangered species habitat, are all enriched and preserved through her efforts. Vast stretches of open space along the coast have been preserved by a local ordinance, passed by voters, that was inspired by Lennie's direction and standards.

The Yosemite Trust is an important steward of Yosemite National Park, and Lennie is an active member of the trust's board of directors. The planning and long-term vision for John Muir's most precious place on earth is in skilled hands through Lennie's thoughtful advocacy.

Some say that Lennie Roberts knows every square inch of rural San Mateo County. I can tell you that she certainly knows every square inch that is worth preserving. At the same time, she is also willing to support thoughtful development and this includes using land within already-developed areas for housing and public services. In short, she is a public steward and compromise is often offered but only with the public's best interests in mind.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representative to join me in honoring San Mateo County's version of a Mount Rushmore figure, Ms. Lennie Roberts. Where Caltrans once proposed to carve a bypass, we might carve her visage although she would undoubtedly oppose such a sacrilege against the pristine nature of our coast, and perhaps file a lawsuit, if anyone seriously made such a proposal. The Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter may be honoring Lennie Roberts with a Guardian of Nature Award, but in truth they are only stating the obvious over the past many decades. Mother Nature has no greater local and regional guardian, and we are all honored to call her friend and leader as she is honored on October 1st for her lifetime of achievement in service to this nation's environment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARAB
AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arab American Civil Rights League on the day of the organization's 5th annual Fight for Justice Gala. The ACRL plays an integral role in advocating on behalf of the constitutional and civil rights of Arab Ameri-

cans through its legal and outreach efforts and continues to serve as a driving force toward meaningful change.

The ACRL was founded in 2011 in Dearborn, Michigan to protect and advocate on behalf of the wider Arab American community. The organization acts as a conduit between Arab Americans and the media to ensure adequate and accurate representation on issues affecting the Arab American community. The ACRL is dedicated to combating negative stereotypes through education and outreach, and providing legal representation for individuals whose civil rights have been violated.

The organization plays a vital role in addressing discrimination and helps shape public policy initiatives that protect and preserve Arab Americans' civil rights. ACRL also works to better the wider community through charitable efforts, including recent efforts to provide bottled water to families in Flint.

The ACRL has effectively served the Arab American community at a time when the principles of religious tolerance and respect are under threat. The ACRL's efforts show that, in a time of uncertainty, there is far more that unites us than divides us. We must all come together to combat the most extreme elements of society while recognizing our common humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the ACRL. The organization serves in the public interest through its anti-discrimination initiatives, and it is my hope that it continues to be an effective advocate for the Arab American community.

TRIBUTE FOR PASTOR JAMES
MODLISH**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor James Modlish of the Huerfano Community Bible Church in Walsenburg, Colorado. Pastor Modlish, through his faithful service and commitment to God, has served individuals and families across Colorado and the country for the past fifty years.

Born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado, Pastor Modlish received a Bachelor of Theology degree from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. He went on to receive his Doctorate of Divinity from Hyles-Anderson College in Hammond, Indiana. After receiving his Ph.D., Pastor Modlish got to work establishing churches across the nation.

In 2007, after establishing churches in Wisconsin, New York, Washington State, and Idaho, Pastor Modlish came back to Walsenburg in Huerfano County, Colorado, where he and his wife planned to retire. God seemed to have other plans for Pastor Modlish. Shortly after moving to Walsenburg he formed the Huerfano Community Bible Church. Today, the Huerfano Community Bible Church has grown to a congregation of 120 people.

Not only has Pastor Modlish spent his life spreading the gospel in communities across the United States, he has also prioritized sharing God's word across the world. Pastor Modlish has visited 26 different countries to inspire missionaries and share the good news of