630. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on all three of these measures:

S. 1405, which designates the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site; S. 3167, the Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act of 2010; and H.R. 6510, which allows the Military Museum of Texas to purchase the property on which it operates.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT VINCENT WAYNE ASHLOCK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of United States Army Staff Sergeant Vincent Wayne Ashlock, who died on December 4, 2010, while serving in Khost Province, Afghanistan. Wayne, as he was known to his family and friends, was a loving father, husband, brother, and son who devoted his life in equal measures to his family and our nation. Public service was his calling, and while his death leaves a void in the lives of his family, friends, and comrades, Staff Sergeant Ashlock's patriotism, loyalty, and love, will remain an example to all who had the privilege to know him.

Wayne was born in San Jose, California on May 10, 1965. He grew up in the small farming and military town of Merced in the heart of California's San Joaquin Valley. He enjoyed a small town childhood surrounded by brothers and sisters playing little league baseball and exploring Bear Creek.

Wayne began his military career by enlisting in the Army at age eighteen. He served for ten years on active duty before leaving the Army for civilian life. Following the 9/11 attack, his sense of duty and patriotism led Wayne to enlist in the California National Guard. As a Guardsman, Wayne deployed to Iraq, where he drew on his military experience to help train Ugandan troops. He later sought deployment to Afghanistan. To accomplish this, he transferred from the California National Guard, which had no immenant Afghanistan deployments scheduled, to the Mississippi National Guard which did. Once in there, Wayne served with the 287th Engineer Co., 176 Engineer Bde., 101st Airborne Div. (Air Assault). His unit was assigned to help clear homemade bombs and discover ambushes in front of other units. During his military service, Wayne earned many awards and commendations, among them the Army Commendation Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with a Bronze Service Star, and the Iraq Campaign Medal with a Bronze Service Star.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Angela, and five children, Kali, Jesse, Steven, Erica and Christopher, two grandchildren, Addison and Brady, brothers Ryan, Lonnie, and sister Dawn, his mother Margot, and grandmother Bonnie.

Madam Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in expressing our heartfelt condolences to Staff Sergeant Ashlock's family. Their loss is our nation's loss. Their pain is our nation's pain. Public service was his calling, and while his death leaves a void in the lives of his family, friends, and comrades, Staff Sergeant Ashlock's patriotism, loyalty, and love, will remain an example to all who had the privilege to know him.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM OBERSTAR

SPEECH OF

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my distinguished colleague from Minnesota, the Dean of our delegation, Chairman JIM OBERSTAR. For nearly four decades, Chairman OBERSTAR has been faithfully serving the Eighth Congressional District of Minnesota in this great body.

From humble beginnings, Chairman OBERSTAR worked to put himself through college in the Minnesota Iron Range mines. After graduating Summa Cum Laude from the college of St. Thomas, he began his tenure in Congress as a congressional staff member. To his final post in Congress as Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chairman OBERSTAR has committed his life to public service and serving the great State of Minnesota.

A native of Chisholm, Minnesota, Congressman OBERSTAR has proudly served the people of Northeast Minnesota for 18 terms, the longest serving Member of Congress from Minnesota.

In his four years as Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chairman OBERSTAR has been instrumental in keeping America moving. From his efforts to create more cycling and hiking paths to his work on aviation and aviation safety, Chairman OBERSTAR has done remarkable work in Congress. His knowledge of transportation issues will be a great loss to this body.

He leaves a strong legacy as his name will be forever tied to important highway, airline and rail safety legislation. His passion for intermodalism is unmatched.

As Chairman OBERSTAR departs, I will miss his knowledge of all things historical and his linguistic talent, specifically his love for French Creole, a language which he picked up while studying in Haiti after college.

In the few short years I have been in Congress, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside Chairman OBERSTAR as a fellow Minnesotan. Chairman OBERSTAR is leaving some large shoes to fill. His wisdom, guidance and expertise will be greatly missed and I thank him for his service to our great State.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes on December 14, 2010, and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 628: ''yes''; rollcall No. 629: ''yes''; rollcall No. 630: ''yes''.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence from votes cast on December 14, 2010. My voting percentage is over 95% for the 111th Congress, and I rarely miss votes, but due to a prior commitment scheduled before we knew the House would be in session on Tuesday, I was unable to make it back to Washington in time for votes.

On the three votes I missed: to approve S. 1405, the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site Designation Act, had I been present, I would have voted ''aye;'' to approve S. 3167, the Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act of 2010, had I been present, I would have voted ''aye;'' to approve H.R. 6510, To direct the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Houston, Texas, to the Military Museum of Texas had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM OBERSTAR

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand with colleagues to honor a Minnesota icon, dean of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation and my good friend, JIM OBERSTAR. When I was first elected to Congress in 2006, JIM was one of my first mentors, always there with helpful advice and counsel.

JIM was also there on the sad evening of August 1, 2007, when the Interstate 35W Bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota collapsed into the Mississippi River, killing 13 people and injuring near 100 more.

I worked closely with JIM that evening and the days following along with my fellow colleagues in the Minnesota Delegation to immediately respond to horrific bridge collapse and then, with Jim's help, the House passed the next day a bill to provide funds to rebuild the bridge.

This story that I share with you tonight about JIM's work on the Interstate-35W Bridge is just one of many that I have from my four short years here in the House.

So JIM, let me say on behalf of my constituents from the Fifth District and the entire state of Minnesota, thank you for your incredible service to Minnesota and the entire nation for the past 36 years.

Your contributions will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING BEULAH B. ROMAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beulah B. Roman as she celebrates her 105th birthday on December 19. A