

the rest of his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, we must do better for our nation's veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes on Monday, February 1, 2016. Had I been present for roll call vote number 46, H.R. 2187, the Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act, I would have voted "yea." Had I been present for roll call vote number 47, H.R. 4168, the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 1, 2016, I was absent from the House because I was unavoidably detained. Due to my absence, I did not record my vote on the first vote of the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call 46.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOE MOOSE'S SELECTION AS THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION'S 2015 WILLARD B. SIMMONS INDEPENDENT PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Joe Moose for his selection as the National Community Pharmacists Association's (NCPA) 2015 Willard B. Simmons Independent Pharmacist of the Year. Dr. Moose and his family have been providing top of the line care to residents of the state of North Carolina for four generations, and this most recent honor illustrates yet again the profound impact he has had on our community.

Since receiving his Doctorate of Pharmacy from Campbell University's College of Pharmacy and Health Science, Dr. Moose has dedicated himself to providing the best care possible for his patients while also focusing on helping future generations of pharmacists. Dr. Moose currently serves as the primary instructor at the University of North Carolina's Eshelman School of Pharmacy's Community Pharmacy Residency Program, while also volunteering his time to instruct future pharmaceutical students at his alma mater, Campbell University, as well as Wingate University's School of Pharmacy.

Dr. Moose also serves on multiple committees and boards for the state of North Carolina, including the Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee as well as co-chairing the Medicaid Drug Regimen Review Board. As a result of his tireless efforts, Dr. Moose has been the recipient of multiple awards and honors, with his latest being the NCPA's 2015 Willard B. Simmons Independent Pharmacist of the Year. This award, according to the NCPA, recognizes an independent pharmacist for exemplary leadership and commitment to independent pharmacy and to their community. Dr. Moose received this award at the NCPA 2015 Annual Convention on October 11, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Joe Moose for receiving this prestigious distinction, and wishing him and his family well as they continue to serve the people of North Carolina with high-quality care and exceptional customer service.

URGENCY OF ADDRESSING
FELONY DISENFRANCHISEMENT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the first Restoration Tuesday of February to talk about the issue of felony disenfranchisement, an issue that is critical to voting rights in our country.

Felony disenfranchisement dates back to before the Jim Crow era. It is inconsistent with the values we cherish most in our country today and it contradicts the narrative that we've moved beyond the sins of our past. The United States should not be a country where past mistakes have endless consequences with no opportunity for second chances.

5.85 million Americans are denied the right to vote because of these laws. 4.4 million are out of prison, living in our communities, paying taxes, working, and raising families, yet they remain unable to vote, shut out from our democracy.

Denying this right of citizenship further punishes individuals who re-enter our communities and counters the expectation that citizens have rehabilitated themselves following a conviction. The United States should not be a country where past mistakes have countless consequences with no opportunity for redress.

My home state of Alabama is one of 12 states that do not automatically restore voting rights to people who have served their sentences. Alabama has one of the nation's highest disenfranchisement rates. Nearly a third of African American men in my home state have permanently lost their right to vote. Regardless of the amount of time they've been out of prison, they have been completely excluded from the electoral process.

These state laws that bar 5.8 million Americans with felony convictions from voting date back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During the decades following passage of the Fifteenth Amendment, lawmakers across the country worked tirelessly to invalidate the black vote. As the Jim Crow era began to gain ground, these bans were strengthened.

While poll taxes and literacy tests were effective tools in their arsenal, statutes allowing

the subjective and permanent exclusion of large numbers of minorities from the democratic process were a particularly potent weapon in their efforts to undermine African-American political power.

Those who championed these bans were clear on their intent. In 1901, disenfranchisement in Alabama was extended to all crimes involving "moral turpitude"—applying to misdemeanors and even non-criminal acts. The president of the constitutional convention argued the state needed to avert what he called the "menace of Negro domination."

In 2016 we are still operating under some of the same laws that were cornerstones of Jim Crow. Our nation's existing patchwork of federal law disfranchising people with criminal records perpetuates entrenched racial and socioeconomic discrimination. We've clearly fallen woefully short of achieving our ideals. We can and must do better.

Rep. JOHN CONYERS has introduced a great piece of legislation to restore voting rights in federal elections to the millions of Americans who have been released from incarceration, but continue to be denied the right to vote. I encourage all of my colleagues, from both sides of the aisle, to support the Democracy Restoration Act of 2015, a bill to restore voting rights in federal elections to people who are out of prison and living in the community.

RECOGNIZING ROSE STRONG ON
HER 70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize Ms. Rose Strong on her 70th birthday.

Born in Minden, Louisiana, the 12th of 13 children, Ms. Strong grew up to defy the odds of her time and distinguish herself as an effective leader.

Known as a pioneer among women in the 1970s and 1980s, Ms. Strong was elected as a City Councilwoman of Columbus, Georgia in 1984, making her the first African American woman elected in Muscogee County. She went on to be appointed by President George H.W. Bush as Deputy Director, Intergovernmental Affairs of the U.S. Department of Transportation in 1989.

At the age of 70, Ms. Strong continues her impressive career, currently holding the position of Vice-President and Spokesperson of T.E.C.H. for the World, Inc.

Aside from the contributions Ms. Strong has made in her professional life, she has recently been honored at her local place of worship, The City Church in Seattle, as one of its "Pillars."

She is also the proud mother of two children who have followed in their mother's footsteps of serving their community. Rozalyn Strong is a Doctoral Candidate and an educator in the Lake Washington School District. Mack Strong, Jr. is a retired Seattle Seahawk full-back and currently works as the Western States Director of the NFL's Legends Community.

I admire and thank Ms. Strong for her lifetime of leadership and dedication to country and community. I am extremely proud to call