

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE BRAINERD SENIOR CENTER

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor Chicago's Brainerd Senior Center, which celebrated its fifth Black History Month celebration on Friday.

This year, the Center highlighted African American inventors and their inventions. This event, Mr. Speaker, helped educate many and remind others of the contributions of important people such as Madam C.J. Walker, Robert F. Fleming, Jr., and Sarah Boone.

I applaud the Brainerd Center for keeping the legacies of these and other great Americans alive and ensuring that their contribution not only to our Nation, but the world, is not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Brainerd Senior Center.

### ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION: IL-LICIT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS, WHISTLEBLOWING, AND REFORM

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing I held earlier this week put a spotlight on an organization that is a critical component of a global system of intellectual property and patent protection, the World Intellectual Property Organization, or WIPO. It is an organization that, unfortunately, appears to have lost its way under its current Director General, Francis Gurry, and is in need of major reform.

We heard from whistleblowers who related how they uncovered illicit transfers of technology to rogue nations such as North Korea and Iran, and how WIPO under Director General Gurry, unbeknownst to member States, cut deals with China and Russia to open offices in those countries, potentially putting our intellectual property at risk.

The hearing was about national security as much as the importance of sound governance and oversight. China, for example, has a notoriously bad record on protecting intellectual property rights—WIPO ought to be part of the solution.

You may know that I serve as Chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China; Senator MARCO RUBIO is co-chair.

Ominously, the Commission's latest annual report released last October concluded that human rights violations had significantly worsened and were broader in scope than at any other time since the Commission was established in 2002.

Last week I travelled to China on a mission to promote human rights, the rule of law and democracy, which of course includes intellectual property rights.

In China I not only met and argued with government leaders, but I had the privilege of writing and delivering a keynote address to students and faculty at New York University-Shanghai.

Hopes in the 90's that China would eventually and inevitably matriculate from a dictatorship to democracy haven't even come close to materializing.

According to the Commission's report, U.S. companies faced significant difficulties related to intellectual property rights in China. And China is not the only place where these problems persist.

Two of our witnesses, Jim Pooley and Miranda Brown, recounted what they saw at WIPO, and what happened when they sought to bring to light what they saw. It is not a pretty story.

It is the personal aspect of governance and oversight that I want to emphasize, because at its heart the story we heard is a human drama, about brave individuals who at great personal cost to themselves and their comfort saw wrongdoing and decided to do something about it.

The hearing was timely as well as topical, as there has been an internal investigation of WIPO by the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services into the allegations of wrongdoing. The results of this investigation are currently before the chairman of WIPO's General Assembly—this is a General Assembly of member states, including the United States, based in Geneva.

It is incumbent upon the General Assembly chairman—Gabriel Duque of Colombia—that he act upon this report, share it with the member states, and make it publically available. We also call upon our State Department to follow up on this, and to be persistent in pushing for reform, transparency and accountability of WIPO.

This week's hearing will have reverberations beyond WIPO, for there appears to be a culture of corruption at many international organizations, not only WIPO.

We hear revelations, for example, about FIFA and world soccer, and how the serpent of corruption wheedles its way even into the world of sport, undermining the nobility of athletic competition.

We hear of the sexual exploitation of minors occurring in UN peacekeeping missions—I chaired three hearings on that and traveled to DR Congo to investigate—transforming ostensible emissaries of mercy into envoys of exploitation, and supposed places of refuge maw pits of misery.

The hearing I held this week is the first in what we hope to be a series of hearings this Congress holds to focus on the need for reform at the United Nations and its institutions, with our next in the series being on UN Peacekeepers and the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse.

We believe by shining a light, we can help victims and help end corruption, bringing healing and true reform.

Organizations such as WIPO are too important to be abandoned. It is essential that we conduct vigorous oversight and demand accountability to help refocus this organization on fulfilling its vital mission.

Finally, I would like to thank my co-chairs from the co-sponsoring subcommittees, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and MATT SALMON, and our various ranking members, for joining me at the hearing earlier this week. Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN in particular has been dogged in pursuing this issue over many years now, and deserves praise for first addressing the issue of corruption at WIPO.

### INDIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN HOUSTON, MR. PARVATHANENI HARISH

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate and congratulate my friend Mr. Parvathaneni Harish, Indian Consul General in Houston. I celebrate his efforts on behalf of the Indian community in Houston and congratulate him on his new assignment as Ambassador to Vietnam.

I have met with Mr. Harish on many occasions and he is a thoughtful and caring representative of India. We agree that the United States and India have a unique and special bond, both founded on the importance of democracy and that our two nations have the utmost mutual respect for one another. We are both strongly engaged with trade and intellectual property projects.

I recently attended the Republic Day in India, celebrating the adoption of the Indian Constitution. Both the US and India are proud to celebrate unity in diversity. We recognized our two countries' work for many years for peace and prosperity, true patriotism, and independence.

Mr. Harish's efforts have strengthened relationships on the city, state, and federal levels. He has promoted visits to India and ways to benefit the US and Indian economy. I wish him the very best on his new assignment. He will be greatly missed in Houston and all of Southeast Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

### IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE W. JETER

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great husband, father, philanthropist, entrepreneur, and friend of long

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

standing to my wife, Vivian, and me—Mr. George W. Jeter. Sadly, George passed away on February 26, 2016. His funeral service will be held today, February 29, 2016 at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

George William Jeter was born March 29, 1935, in Montgomery, Alabama. He graduated from Coffee County High School in Enterprise, Alabama in 1953 and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the University of Alabama in 1957. After graduation, he went on to serve his country with distinction as an army officer from 1957–59, serving as a Weapons Instructor.

George was also an Internal Revenue Agent and Field Audit Supervisor from 1959–1969. He served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at AFLAC, Inc. and affiliates from 1969–86. He played a tremendous role in helping to grow the company in its early days and helped to launch the business in Japan, where AFLAC now does almost 75 percent of its business. Following his retirement from AFLAC, George continued to serve as a consultant to the company until his passing.

George loved collecting guns, samurai swords, and Japanese Art. Moreover, he also loved people and Columbus. He served on numerous community boards and in leadership positions to include: the Chattahoochee Council of Boy Scouts of America; the Columbus State University Foundation; the Columbus Regional Health Foundation; The Ronald McDonald House Charities of West Georgia; St. Paul United Methodist Church; Troy University; American Hospital Association; Georgia Hospital Association; The Rotary Club of Columbus; and the Columbus Technical College Foundation. He also served as a consultant to Denim North America where he was a constant advocate for the American Textile Industry. He loved young people and had a great love for Scouting. He has received numerous awards for his dedication to Scouting and its mission. And the current Boy Scout Service Center in Columbus is named in honor of him and his wife, Jo. He also established the George W. Jeter Foundation so that he could find other ways to support the causes that he championed throughout his life. It has been said that “The true person of success is not the person that climbs the ladder of this life with two hands, but climbs the ladder of this life with one hand and reaches back with the other.” George William Jeter was always reaching back to help others to reach their full potential. Our country and humankind are better because he travelled this way.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District in extending condolences to his wife, Jo, their four children and two grandchildren and our gratitude for his life of service to humanity.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Friday, February 26th, 2016. Had I

been present, I would have voted in the following ways:

Yes on Roll Call Number 92 the Beyer of Virginia Amendment No. 2.

Yes on Roll Call Number 93 Jackson Lee of Texas Amendment No. 3.

Yes on Roll Call Number 94 Beyer of Virginia Amendment No. 8.

No on Roll Call Number 95 Smith of Missouri Amendment No. 9.

No on Roll Call Number 96 Griffith of Virginia Amendment No. 12.

No on Roll Call Number 97 Ribble of Wisconsin Amendment No. 14.

No on Roll Call Number 98 Young of Alaska Amendment No. 15.

Yes on Roll Call Number 99 Huffman of California Amendment No. 16.

Yes on Roll Call Number 100 Sportsmens Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015.

No on Roll Call Number 101 Sportsmens Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015.

#### HONORING SISTER DOROTHY COOK

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of an outstanding member of the East Bay community, Sister Dorothy Cook. We honor her life of service and spiritual devotion, and recognize the teachings she has given to our community.

Born in 1934 in Prescott, Arkansas, Sister Dorothy Cook has been a lifelong servant and messenger of the Lord's word. She attended Sunday school every weekend at Sweet Home Baptist Church, building her relationship with God and His word. Sister Cook relocated to San Francisco in 1947, where she then attended San Francisco City College and San Francisco State University.

Sister Cook's exemplary ministry promotes faith, family values, and the presence of God in every aspect of life. She seeks to bring religion back into the fabric of our society.

Ministry is the foundation and sole mission of Sister Cook's work. Whether building a gospel house or preparing videos, Sister Cook involved many believers in her endeavors. Ministry can be found anywhere, as Sister Cook has shown us, with many of these projects helping to train others to follow the path of their Lord.

Her patience is a testament to the endurance of service and devotion to God. She is selfless and unwavering in her motivation to do God's work.

Furthermore, Sister Cook has produced numerous literary works which have impacted our local youth and church community.

Sister Dorothy Cook has also had a profound impact on the most vulnerable in our community, helping lead many voices toward the word of God by offering opportunity and appreciation to those who have never had such chances in their life. Her dedication to community is unrivaled and fueled by the word of God.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes the life of an exemplary individual and devoted community member, Sister Doro-

thy Cook. I join all of Sister Dorothy Cook's loved ones in wishing her continued happiness and success in life.

#### GETTING THE WORDS RIGHT: OUR NATION'S COURT REPORTERS AND HOUSE CLERKS

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the backbone of the court system, courtroom reporters make sure that the system works efficiently. Tasked with keeping complete, accurate and secure records, courtroom reporters handle verbatim documentation of criminal, civil or other court proceedings.

These individuals are highly skilled and trained in court reporting, which usually involves stenography. Reporting for the courts involves taking records of court proceedings, depositions, and administrative hearings, among other things.

They record everything that is being said in the courtroom by judges, witnesses, attorneys or other parties, as well as gestures and emotional reactions that accompany any statements.

While taking shorthand notes, they must accurately capture the spoken word. This does not mean paraphrasing or capturing every other word. Reporters must capture each word verbatim, with correct spelling and punctuation, despite the speed in which individuals are talking. After the hearing is over, they then must transcribe their notes into a readable, workable format for the public record.

Sometimes, a court reporter's work benefits those with special needs, such as the deaf or hard of hearing. Court reporters can even provide closed captioning or a real-time translation of spoken words.

During my 22 years as a judge in Texas, I had many court reporters who capably kept records of every word said in the courtroom. Being a court reporter is no easy feat, stressors come from every direction including security issues and daily deadlines.

In the House of Representatives, we have clerks who help us and our staff every day. These individuals serve as the congressional stenographers, working diligently, day in and day out. These individuals take notes on congressional hearings and floor debate, speeches and statements. They then work extremely fast to enter all the statements into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Every single entry must be completely correct. Each statement made goes on the record in congressional history. These individuals' work ensures that history is written correctly. Without their diligence we would not be able to do our jobs as efficiently.

These highly trained and talented men and women work tenaciously to record correctly the proceedings of the court system as well as Congress.

Court reporters and floor clerks are truly a vital asset to judges and Members of Congress. We thank them for getting the words right.

And that's just the way it is.

SENATE REPUBLICAN SUPPORT OF  
OBAMA'S SUPREME COURT NOMI-  
NATION

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to urge the Senate Republicans to consider President Obama's Supreme Court nominee. It is disappointing that our democratic process is being so unduly hindered by Senate Republicans who refuse to carry out their basic duties clearly laid out for them in the Constitution. The Constitution clearly informs us that the President has the power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to nominate a successor for open seats in the Supreme Court. The message for Senate Republicans is simple—let the President do his job. It is time to put aside partisan issues and get back to the basics of governing.

In previous years, Supreme Court nominations have been at least considered during an election year; six times in our U.S. history to be exact. So I ask, why change now? If Senate Republicans fail to consider the President's Supreme Court nominee during the current election year, this will be the first time in U.S. history that our Supreme Court will have a vacancy for well over a year. There is simply no legitimate rationale for not giving consideration to the President's nominee once announced. There is an ample amount of time available for the Senate to consider the President's nominee.

The Supreme Court vacancy is a priority that deserves an unbiased hearing and timely vote. Justice and democracy are at stake and there is no time for this kind of divisiveness. Republican Senators have a constitutional obligation to put away partisan issues and fill this vacancy. Senate Republicans, I strongly urge you to fulfill your constitutional duty and consider President Obama's nominee for Supreme Court Justice.

RECOGNIZING BENNETT RICHARD  
"BEN" HOUSTON

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to recognize the passing of Mr. Bennett Richard "Ben" Houston on February 26th, 2016. Mr. Houston was a beloved and nationally distinguished leader within the livestock industry.

Mr. Houston received many distinct honors throughout his lifetime. He founded the Aristocrat Angus Ranch in 1966, with his wife Nita, where they raised their family. In 1992, Aristocrat Angus Ranch flew Angus seed stock and beef cattle genetics to the Ukraine, establishing them as a leader in the cattle industry.

In addition, Mr. Houston participated in many notable committees and associations. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the Western Stock Show in 1976. He went on to be President in 1985, and ultimately Chairman of the Board in 1999. He was inducted

into the Angus Heritage Foundation, served as a member of the American Angus Association for over 50 years, served as President of the Colorado Cattle Feeders, and was presented with the CSU Leadership in Agriculture Award. Mr. Houston was involved with a number of other organizations, where his limitless knowledge and service will always be remembered. It is the hard work Mr. Houston embodied throughout his life that makes America exceptional. He has shown true leadership in his industry and community. I extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Houston's family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Bennett Richard "Ben" Houston for his commitment to family, community, and the livestock industry.

HONORING MATT FRANKS

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Matt Franks for his outstanding achievement of being named the 2015 United Bowhunters of Missouri Conservation Agent of the Year for the Missouri Department of Conservation Ozark Region. Matt has earned this award after only six years of serving as a Howell County Conservation agent, displaying his exemplary determination and enthusiasm for Wildlife Code enforcement since joining the Conservation Agent Training Academy in 2009.

Matt has exhibited exceptional Wildlife Code enforcement presence throughout his six years as a Howell County Conservation Agent, making 19 arrests related to archery violations in the first two months of the 2015 archery season. In addition to Matt's admirable work ensuring conservation laws are adhered to, he has also served as an influential community leader and role model for local youth.

Matt has led numerous educational-involvement programs for youth over the last year, including bird hunting clinics and youth gigging classes. He has also hosted events for the National Wild Turkey Federation Hunting Heritage Program for young hunters known as Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship. Finally, he has served as a judge for Future Farmers of America public speaking contests, and assisted with their trap shooting team.

His involvement and contributions to the Howell County community make Matt an excellent selection for the United Bowhunters of Missouri Conservation Agent of the Year from the Ozark Region. For this award and his outstanding career achievements, it is my pleasure to recognize Matt Franks before the United States House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF INDI-  
ANA AVENUE MISSIONARY BAP-  
TIST CHURCH

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the month of February 2016 comes to a close

to recognize a milestone anniversary in the life of Toledo's Indiana Avenue Baptist Church. This month the congregation has been celebrating its 70th anniversary with a series of special gatherings. I was privileged to join the congregation yesterday.

Founded by Reverend M. J. Stephenson in February 1946, the congregation has been shepherded by Reverend John Roberts for more than half a century. Pastor Roberts, in fact, was part of the organizational meeting of the church. Thus, this long standing beacon in our city has been blessed with a continuity of leadership since its beginnings.

Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church's first services in its building were held in its lower level in 1948. An upper level was added twenty years later and since 1980 services have been held in its newer sanctuary. In 1989 a fellowship hall was added which has served the congregation very well, with special focus on activities for youth. The hall bears the name of founding Pastor Stephenson and longtime Pastor Roberts.

Starting with less than 100 members, the congregation of Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church has served over 7,000 people through its seven decades and currently serves about 2,000 people. An anchor in our community, the church serves its faithful while ministering to the needs of its neighbors. One of the wonderful traditions at the church is the Interfaith Mass Choir. The choir's beautiful blend of voices soar in faith-filled praise, lifting up in joy those it reaches through song.

Psalms Chapter 18 Verse 2 tells us, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." Through the days of its "threescore and ten" years, the shepherds and flock of Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church have lived this truth as their lives have given testament to Jesus' message of love which "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:7)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 85, Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 618—The Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3624—Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act of 2015, had I been present, I would have voted YES.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on February 26, 2016, I was not present for roll call vote 93. Had I been present, I would have voted: YES on roll call vote 93.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF  
JOHN STEWART BRYAN III

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Congressman DAVE BRAT and I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of John Stewart Bryan who passed away January 23, 2016 at the age of 77.

During Mr. Bryan's more than 50-year career, he worked as a newspaper journalist, served as publisher of four newspapers, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Richmond News Leader, The Tampa Tribune, and The Tampa Times, and later became the Chairman, President, and Chief Executive of Media General. Mr. Bryan proudly and accurately referred to himself as a "newspaperman."

J. Stewart Bryan III was born on May 4, 1938 in Richmond. A Virginian through and through, he attended St. Christopher's School in Richmond, the Episcopal High School in Alexandria, and the University of Virginia. Afterwards, he served our country as an infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. Bryan's accolades were numerous and well deserved. He was awarded honorary doctor of humane letters degrees from Hampden-Sydney College, Emory & Henry College, College of William & Mary, and Randolph-Macon College, and he was inducted as a laureate of the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame and the Richmond Business Hall of Fame. He also received the outstanding service award of the Florida Press Association, the lifetime achievement award of the Virginia Press Association, the Frank Mayborn Leadership Award of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, the George Mason Award for significant contributions to the advancement of journalism in Virginia from the Society of Professional Journalists, Virginia Pro Chapter (SPJVA), and the medal of honor of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Moreover, he was well known for supporting, and when necessary staunchly defending, his staff, and he fought steadfastly for the freedom of press.

But perhaps, his career and his passion are best summed up by the Richmond Times-Dispatch in an editorial after his passing: "Stewart Bryan's heart pumped ink. He devoted his life to newspapers. A life devoted to print is a life devoted to time and place. Bryan loved Richmond. He considered The Times-Dispatch and News Leader vehicles of public service. When the press does its job, it improves its surroundings. Bryan may have belonged to a newspaper family but he answered a vocation's call."

He is survived by his wife, Lisa-Margaret "Lissy" Stevenson Bryan: his daughters, Elizabeth Talbott Bryan Maxey "Talbott", and Anna Saulsbury Bryan (Stephen) Sullivan. Five grandchildren: Tennant and Alice Maxey, and Pryor, Stewart, and Harriett Sullivan. Two sisters: Mary Tennant Bryan Perkins and Florence Talbott Bryan Fowlkes.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the entire Bryan family. Stewart Bryan's dedication to his craft is unmatched and admirable; he will be sorely missed.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,070,657,293,114.53. We've added \$8,443,780,244,201.45 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, February 26, I was unable to be present for recorded votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following on amendments to H.R. 2406, the SHARE Act: "no" on roll call no. 92, the Beyer amendment no. 2; "no" on roll call no. 93, the Jackson Lee amendment; "no" on roll call no. 94, the Beyer amendment no. 8; "yes" on roll call no. 95, the Smith amendment; "yes" on roll call no. 96, the Griffith amendment; "yes" on roll call no. 97, the Ribble amendment; "yes" on roll call no. 98, the Young amendment; "no" on roll call no. 99, Huffman amendment; and "no" on roll call no. 100, the Democratic Motion to Recommit.

I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 101, final passage of H.R. 2406, the SHARE Act, offered by Mr. WITTMAN. This bill will help ensure access to federal lands for sportsmen, and includes provisions to protect our Second Amendment rights.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 86, Adoption of H. Res. 618—The Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3624—Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act of 2015, had I been present, I would have voted yes.

SEVEN YEARS OF CHANGE THAT  
YOU CAN SEE AND FEEL

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today is the last day of Black History Month, a time when the nation pauses to remember the contributions of African American men and women that have enriched the fabric of our nation.

That is why it is fitting and proper that we take a moment to recount and appreciate the extraordinary accomplishments of one of the singular figures in American history: President Barack Obama.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who were there remember well that the morning of January 20, 2009 was one of the coldest days on record in Washington, DC.

But it was nothing compared to the chill wind blowing through the American economy and body politic.

The nation was facing economic challenges unseen since the Great Depression: Americans were losing their jobs at a frightening rate of 800,000 per month; the national unemployment rate had risen to 7.8 percent and would continue to climb until reaching its peak of 10.0 percent in October 2009.

For African Americans, the numbers were much grimmer, a jobless rate of 13.5 percent in January 2009 which would grow to 16.5 percent by the end of the year.

And on top of this, tens of thousands of American families each month were losing their health insurance and their homes to foreclosure.

The United States was still bogged down in the quagmire that was the Iraq War and young people by the thousands were being forced to defer or drop out of college because of lack of financial aid.

And the average price of gas exceeded \$4 per gallon.

It was against this backdrop that I watched from the inaugural platform as Barack Obama, surrounded by his radiant and beautiful wife, Michelle, and their two adorable daughters, rose to take the oath of office.

After being sworn in as the nation's 44th President of the United States, President Obama reassured an anxious but hopeful nation, saying:

Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this America: They will be met.

Watching Barack Obama address the nation that day, spectators in attendance and viewers across the country and around the world understood they were witnessing a historic president, the first African American ever to hold the nation's highest office.

But more than being a historic president, Barack Obama's actions and leadership over the ensuing seven years would demonstrate his would be a consequential presidency that changed America for the better.

His first and most pressing task was to rescue an economy on the brink of collapse.

Working with the Democratic-controlled Congress, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was passed, which created 3.7 million jobs and saved the jobs of millions of teachers, firefighters, police officers, and social service providers.

The Recovery Act also cut taxes for working families, extended unemployment insurance, and expanded the Earned Income and Child tax credits, which disproportionately benefit African American families.

Seven years later the verdict is in on the economic plan put in place by President Obama and the Democratic Congress.

The Recovery Act ended the Great Recession, transformed the economy from one hemorrhaging jobs to one that has created over 16

million new jobs over a record 71 consecutive months.

The national unemployment rate has dipped under 5% for the first time since President Clinton left office, the deficit has been cut by 71%, and the Dow Jones stock market index topped 18,000 in 2015, an increase of 177% over where it stood the day President Obama took office.

And, as an added benefit, the average price of gasoline has been reduced from more than \$4.11 per gallon to \$1.80, the lowest price since before the tragedy of September 11.

These last seven years also effected policy changes in the areas of criminal justice reform, health and education, national security, and foreign affairs.

A partial listing of these achievements is substantial, impressive, and varied.

President Obama signed the Fair Sentencing Act in August 2010, which reduces the disparity in the amounts of powder cocaine and crack cocaine required for the imposition of mandatory minimum sentences and eliminates the mandatory minimum sentence for simple possession of crack cocaine.

In July 2015, President Obama became the first president ever to tour a federal prison when he visited the El Reno Federal Correctional Institution outside of Oklahoma City.

President Obama launched the Smart on Crime initiative through which the Department of Justice modified its charging policies for certain federal low-level drug-related offenses, improved diversion and re-entry policies, and strengthened protections for the most vulnerable.

President Obama established Smart on Juvenile Justice grant program to expand the use of effective community-based alternatives to youth detention and launched the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program for Incarcerated Individuals to test new models to allow incarcerated Americans to receive Pell Grants and pursue the postsecondary education with the goal of helping them get jobs, support their families, and turn their lives around.

President Obama directed the Office of Personnel Management to take action where it can to “ban the box” by modifying its rules to delay inquiries into criminal history until later in the hiring process and called on Congress to enact legislation “banning the box” on job applications in the private sector.

President Obama increased the use of body-worn cameras through \$20 million in grants to state and local law enforcement.

President Obama issued an Executive Order to increase the capacity of VA mental-health programs by hiring 1,600 more mental-health professionals and expanding the capacity of the Veterans Crisis Line.

President Obama provided nearly \$60 billion in benefit payments under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill to over 1.5 million individuals and relaxed the evidence requirements for veterans seeking disability pay for post-traumatic stress disorder with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

President Obama acted to reduce gun violence by issuing executive orders requiring background checks for people trying to buy some of the most dangerous weapons and other items through a trust or corporation and an overhaul of the background check system to make it more efficient and effective.

President Obama signed into law the Affordable Care Act passed by the Democratic Congress which has provided access to quality,

affordable health insurance to nearly 20 million previously uninsured Americans.

President Obama launched the “My Brother’s Keeper” Initiative in 2014 to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.

In October 2009, Congress passed and President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, historic legislation extending coverage of federal hate-crime law to include attacks based on the victim’s race, religion, nationality, or actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

President Obama established the new Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy for young undocumented people who came to the U.S. as children in an effort to better focus enforcement resources.

President Obama expanded opportunity for America’s children by strengthening Head Start.

President Obama made college more affordable by increasing Pell grants, keeping interest rates on student loans low, and helping students manageably repay their loans.

President Obama signed the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act, which made historic investments in improved child nutrition and health for the 31 million children who rely on school meals and updated science-based school meal standards to increase fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein and low-fat dairy, while reducing fats and sodium.

In December 2010, the Congress passed and President Obama signed the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Act of 2010 into law, allowing gay men and women to serve openly and with integrity in the U.S. military.

President Obama also made history by appointing two women to the U.S. Supreme Court, including the first Hispanic American to serve on the Court.

President Obama appointed the first African American man and woman to serve as Attorney General and the first woman to Chair the Federal Reserve Board.

In the area of foreign affairs and national security, President Obama ended the Iraq War, assembled and led an international coalition to impose sanctions so crippling on Iran that it was forced to the negotiating table that yielded the Iran Nuclear Agreement that prevents Iran from ever attaining a nuclear weapon.

And of course, as the world knows, because of President Obama’s leadership, General Motors is alive and Osama Bin Laden is dead.

For seven years, President Barack Obama has represented our country with grace, integrity, honor, and distinction.

He has provided consolation, hope, and healing in the face of unspeakable tragedies such as the massacre of innocent children at Sandy Hook, worshippers at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, spectators at the Boston Marathon, and mass shootings in Aurora, Colorado and Tucson, Arizona.

He expressed and symbolized our joy and pride in the progress made over the last half century—and the distance we still have to travel—when he marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge and addressed the multitude from the spot on the steps where the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. shared his dream for America’s future.

So as President Obama serves the final year of his presidency, it is clear beyond doubt

that he kept the promise he made to the nation seven years ago on that cold day in January when he said:

Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. . . . But know this America: They will be met.

They were more than just met; under his leadership they were overcome with amazing grace.

And because of President Barack Obama, today the United States is stronger, more prosperous, and better positioned than ever to win the future.

As a presidential candidate in 2008, then Senator Obama promised the America people “change you can believe in.”

In office, President Obama made good on that promise, delivering positive change that the American people can see and feel.

And that is what makes his one of the most consequential presidencies in American history.

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## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 29, 2016*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Friday, February 26, 2016 due to important events being held in our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas.

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## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 2

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine S. 2446, to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to encourage recovery and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals and establish requirements for the proper management and disposal of coal combustion residuals that are protective of human health and the environment, S. 1479, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response,

- Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to modify provisions relating to grants, and an original bill entitled, "Good Samaritan Cleanup of Orphan Mines Act of 2016". SD-406
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of the Interior. SD-124  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Communications Commission. SR-253  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine the economic and geopolitical implications of low oil and gas prices. SD-419  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patrick Pizzella, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, and Julie Helene Becker, Steven Nathan Berk, and Elizabeth Carroll Wingo, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. SD-342  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. SD-G50
- 10:30 a.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Department of Defense  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Navy and Marine Corps. SD-192
- 2 p.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Food and Drug Administration. SD-124
- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation. SD-138  
Joint Economic Committee  
To hold hearings to examine the Economic Report of the President. SH-216
- MARCH 3
- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program. SD-G50
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Health and Human Services. SD-138  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment  
To hold hearings to examine regulatory reforms to improve equity market structure. SD-538  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Business meeting to consider S. 2555, to provide opportunities for broadband investment, the nomination of Thomas F. Scott Darling, III, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, and routine lists in the Coast Guard. SR-253  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Energy. SD-366  
Committee on Finance  
To hold hearings to examine free trade agreement implementation, focusing on lessons from the past. SD-215  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine the path forward in Libya. SD-419  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the dogs of the Department of Homeland Security, focusing on how canine programs contribute to homeland security. SD-342  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Business meeting to consider S. 247, to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality, S. 2390, to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the nominations of Elizabeth J. Drake, of Maryland, Jennifer Choe Groves, of Virginia, and Gary Stephen Katzmann, of Massachusetts, each to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, and Clare E. Connors, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii. SD-226  
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
To hold hearings to examine the impacts of Federal fisheries management on small businesses. SR-428A  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple Veterans Service Organizations. CHOB-345
- 10:30 a.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Commerce. SD-192
- 11 a.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018 for the Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefits Administration. SD-124
- 2 p.m.  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- MARCH 8
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Forest Service. SD-366  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Homeland Security. SD-342
- MARCH 9
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of General Joseph L. Votel, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United States Central Command, and Lieutenant General Raymond A. Thomas III, USA, to be general and Commander, United States Special Operations Command. SD-G50
- 2 p.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of the antitrust laws. SD-226
- 2:15 p.m.  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for Indian Country. SD-628
- MARCH 16
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple Veterans Service Organizations. SD-G50
- POSTPONEMENTS
- MARCH 2
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine EB-5 targeted employment areas. SD-226