

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to being unavoidably detained, I missed the following Roll Call Vote: No. 273 on June 7, 2016.

If present, I would have voted:

Roll Call Vote No. 273—On Ordering the Previous Question, “AYE.”

RECOGNIZING CHARLES W. EARLE STEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHESS TEAM

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding efforts of the Charles W. Earle STEM Elementary School's Chess Team.

Earle STEM Elementary School is among the top elementary school chess teams in Chicago. Considering this small school is located in a crime-prone area in the Englewood neighborhood of my Congressional District, I am very pleased of the involvement and leadership of chess Coach Joseph M. Ocol and the many leaders at the school. I would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Earle STEM School Principal, Cederall Petties, and Assistant Principal Elwanda Butler, along with the help Network 11 Chief Megan Hougard, the families and parents in the Local School Council Community headed by Darlene O'Banner.

On Sunday, April 24th, 2016, the all-girls chess team of Earle STEM Elementary School won 1st Place in the 2016 All-Girls National Chess Tournament. Out of 65 schools and 450 female students from all over the USA, only four CPS schools qualified to form an all-girl, grade sixth to eighth, chess team to compete in this biggest all-girl national chess tournament in the USA. The Earle STEM all-girls chess team was one of only two all-African American girls' chess team in that 2016 All-Girls National Chess Tournament.

Another notable victory for the Earle STEM Chess Team, composed this time of boys and girls from grades fourth to eighth, took place at the 2016 National Junior High School Championship where they won the 5th Place Trophy. This tournament was held at Marriott Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 15 to 17. With more than a hundred schools and about 2,000 students from all over the country competing, this is considered the biggest junior high school chess tournament in the USA.

Six months into the 2015–2016 academic year, and during its initial year as a chess team, the Earle STEM Elementary School Chess Team garnered five 1st Place team trophies, including a 4th Place trophy in the State of Illinois chess championship, and a 3rd Place Chicago Public Schools academic chess trophy.

At its inception, the Earle STEM Elementary School Chess Team members started mentoring one another on the rudiments of chess

then advanced the mentoring program from Grade 8 to the kindergarten program. Allowing the 40 students of the chess and math club the capacity to participate after school and on Saturdays; the Earle STEM mentoring program has been effective in getting kids to mentor one another whilst competing against each other. This provides the most economical way of mastering skills and yet offering opportunities for students to be productive after school instead of being in the streets.

In closing, the Charles W. Earle STEM Elementary School's Chess Team is a prime example of students excelling beyond their environment and striving for excellence. Congratulations to the children of Earle Stern: Joshua Johnson, Erik Tolbert, Brandon Burgess, Taahir Levi, Tamaya Fultz, Breanna Shaw, Gavin Harry, Semaj Lowe, Xavier Rosado, Angelique Wilson, Monique Williams, Gelita Woodlow, Devion Dukes, Tyrone Dellar and Shawn Palmer. I am proud to acknowledge the school and these students for their achievements and I look forward to hearing about their great works for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL AND JACK SWANGER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Carol and Jack Swanger of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1966. Carol is retired from Risen Son Christian Village and is active in the Red Hats and other women's group at Southside Christian Church. Jack is retired from Campbell's Soup Company, enjoys being a score keeper for local athletic teams, and volunteers at the food pantry at the Southside Christian Church.

Carol and Jack's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Carol and Jack Swanger on this momentous occasion.

HONORING MISHAWAKA FIRE CHIEF DALE FREEMAN FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fire Chief Dale Freeman and honor him for a selfless career serving Hoosiers throughout Mishawaka.

Chief Freeman began his storied journey with the Mishawaka Fire Department 36 years

ago. Since then, he has gone on to lead the brave men and women who protect members of the northern Indiana community on a daily basis, responding to their calls for both emergency medical assistance and fire rescue. As chief, Freeman's rise has been marked by incredible dedication and perseverance.

His commitment to excellence just recently resulted in over 5,100 people, mostly children, receiving critical fire safety education through “Survive Alive House,” Little Red, and other local programs and school assemblies. Furthermore, under Chief Freeman's leadership, more than half of Mishawaka's firefighting force is now cross-trained as Emergency Medical Technicians. These efforts have significantly strengthened the northern Indiana community's level of preparedness, allowing Hoosiers throughout Mishawaka to feel safe knowing that their local fire department is ready to respond at a moment's notice.

Chief Freeman's passion for serving the greater good is truly remarkable and deserves the praise of many. His continued dedication to aiding those in desperate need of assistance has undoubtedly reduced significant cases of fire-related injuries, deaths, and property damage. Since first joining the Mishawaka Fire Department, Chief Freeman has truly epitomized the ideal of servant leadership. On behalf of Hoosiers in the Second Congressional District, it is my honor to thank him for his service and sacrifice for our community.

INTRODUCING THE STOP, OBSERVE, ASK AND RESPOND (SOAR) TO HEALTH WELLNESS ACT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 8, 2016*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness Act along with my colleagues Representatives ADAM KINZINGER, TONY CÁRDENAS and ANN WAGNER. It is a companion to S. 1446, which was introduced by Senators HEIDI HEITKAMP and SUSAN COLLINS. This bipartisan bill supports efforts underway at the Department of Health and Human Services to combat human trafficking by directing the Secretary to establish a pilot program to be known as ‘Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond to Health and Wellness Training’ to provide training on human trafficking to health care providers at all levels.

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery that uses force, fraud or coercion to lure millions of men, women and children in countries around the world annually, including here in the United States. Human trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking, and generates billions of dollars in profits each year, making it the second most profitable form of transnational crime behind drug trafficking.

Recognizing the key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims, providing life-saving help and bringing traffickers to justice. Human trafficking, however, is a hidden crime and victims rarely seek help because of cultural barriers or out of fear of their traffickers or law enforcement.

While victims are often difficult to identify, a reported 68 percent of trafficking victims end