

HONORING MCCLURE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate McClure Junior High School in Western Springs for receiving the prestigious 2017 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award. McClure Junior High was recognized under the Exemplary High Performing Schools category.

In 1982, the Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize a select group of public and private schools with high or significantly improved achievement. I am proud that McClure has been honored as one of those exceptional schools.

McClure's mission statement is "Be respectful, be responsible, and be safe." Principal F. Daniel Chick, his hard-working staff, and the school's exceptional teachers do a fantastic job perpetuating this motto by encouraging students to help one another and build a foundation of respect throughout the school community. After winning a National Blue Ribbon School award in 2010, the staff at McClure and in District 101 continued to strive for success by developing a Professional Learning Roadmap and undertaking a thorough strategic planning process.

McClure has promoted student ownership of their education as well as various other programs to enrich students' lives and provide for a better school experience. A great partnership with parents has also played an essential role in the school's success. Parent-run organizations such as the Parent Council and the Spirit Club raise funds that directly impact the lives of McClure students. I commend the school for going above and beyond with their offerings for students and I hope that other schools will use them as an outstanding example to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing McClure Junior High School for this significant achievement and congratulating the teachers, administrators, parents, students and community on a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during Roll Call vote numbers 564, 565, 566, 567 and 568 on October 12, 2017, because of a death in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted: on Roll Call vote no. 564, I would have voted YES; on Roll Call vote no. 565, I would have voted YES; on Roll Call vote no. 566, I would have voted YES; on Roll Call vote no. 567, I would have voted YES; and on Roll Call vote no. 568, I would have voted YES.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE DURING ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare's (NCPSSM) 35th anniversary on the day of its Anniversary Open House. NCPSSM has played a critical role in protecting Social Security and Medicare for all Americans.

With the passage of Medicare in 1965 under Title XVII of the Social Security Act, our country made a promise that seniors can age with dignity and security after a lifetime of hard work. As with the implementation of any historic program, it's important that there are organizational watchdogs that ensure our government makes good on its promise to the American people. There has been no group more committed to protecting the tenets of Social Security and Medicare than NCPSSM over the past 35 years.

Founded in 1982 by Congressman James Roosevelt, NCPSSM served as response to proposed changes to Social Security and Medicare during a time when 24/7 news programs did not exist and seniors needed to be informed and mobilized. NCPSSM works side by side with federal, state and local lawmakers to protect and build on the safety net programs that Americans of all ages depend on. Then, as it does now, the Committee provided seniors with a way to organize and make their voices heard by lawmakers as well as writing highly regarded, in depth analysis on Congressional legislation and Presidential Executive Orders regarding Social Security, Medicare, and the federal budget. These documents are invaluable in helping everyday Americans understand the real impact that legislation will have on their day to day life.

NCPSSM's efforts have been instrumental in passing bills that better the lives of seniors and that protect Social Security and Medicare. In 2016, the Committee and its members fought hard to pass the "Older Americans Reauthorization Act of 2016" which funds critical services that keep older adults healthy and independent, including job training, senior centers, benefits enrollment and caregiver support. Additionally, the Committee continues to encourage Americans from all corners of the country to participate in petitions, surveys and phone banking, with a total of over 90 million petitions and letters sent to Congress and the President to date.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and its 35 years of success. Their advocacy has influenced legislation that protects the programs seniors and hardworking Americans depend on.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to a medical appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 607, and Yea on Roll Call No. 608.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JEREMIAH JOHNSON

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sergeant First Class Jeremiah Johnson, who was killed in action on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 while defending our nation as part of the 3rd Special Forces Group in Africa. SFC Johnson was a true American hero and our thoughts and prayers go out to his friends and family as they mourn the loss of this great man.

Enlisting in the United States Army in October of 2007, SFC Johnson's list of accomplishments runs long. He received numerous medals, including the Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medal.

Men and women like SFC Johnson represent the best our nation has to offer. As a Chemical, Biological Radiological and Nuclear Specialist, he had undergone some of the most specialized training in our military and emerged as a leader and role model. His selflessness allows us to enjoy the blessings of liberty that have persevered for well over 200 years. When his country needed him most, he stood ready to answer the call to serve our great nation.

Leaving behind a wife and two girls, our country can never repay the debt we owe to SFC Johnson. He was a model citizen and soldier whose legacy will live on forever. He will always be remembered and I will do everything in my power to honor his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Sergeant First Class Jeremiah Johnson for his service to God and country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 607; YEA on Roll Call No. 608; and NAY on Roll Call No. 609.