

IN HONOR OF SOUTHWESTERN  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EL SOL  
MAGAZINE

**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 6, 2014*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Southwestern Community College student journalism publications. Southwestern College, in Chula Vista, California, is one of our region's premier journalism programs whereby students publish a newspaper and a magazine for the students and surrounding community members. With the journalism students' dedication, Southwestern College has asserted itself as one of the top college newspapers in the nation with their newspaper, *The Sun*. Additionally, these dedicated journalism students devoted off-time hours to design, create and publish a magazine, *El Sol*. They were also instrumental in finding the funding in order to publish their student magazine. Southwestern College has reason to be proud of their Journalism Department's accomplishments and the hard work and dedication of student advisor Max Branscomb, Ed.D., should also be recognized. As the recipient of the Society of Professional Journalists National Journalism Teacher of the Year award, Dr. Branscomb's dedication to the field of journalism is creating an environment whereby the results of his instruction are motivating students toward careers in journalism. In honor of Dr. Branscomb and the Southwestern College students in the Journalism Department, I do hereby recognize February 6, 2014, as the "Southwestern College Journalism Students Day" in the City of Chula Vista.

HONORING ALEXIS "LEXIE"  
KAMERMAN

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 6, 2014*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexis "Lexie" Kamerman, a courageous and talented young woman who tragically lost her life in an Afghan terrorist attack on January 17th. Lexie was killed in a Kabul restaurant that was specifically targeted by the Taliban because of its popularity with westerners.

A 27-year-old Chicago native, Lexie was committed to rebuilding Afghanistan through education, particularly for young women and girls who might not otherwise have the opportunity to go to school. In her role as a Student Development Specialist at the American University of Afghanistan, Lexie worked to help the next generation of Afghan women take their place as leaders in society. Friends and family of Lexie point to her strength, fearlessness, and passion as key to her decision to serve.

Lexie grew up in Chicago, and graduated from the Latin School in 2004. She attended Knox College, where she was a fierce competitor on the water polo team. Lexie received her M.A. in Higher Education from the University of Arizona.

Sadly, the American University of Afghanistan community lost another member during

the January 17th attack: political science professor Alexandros Petersen from Washington, DC. He was only 29. While both Lexie and Alexandros were far too young to be taken from us, their talent and passion for serving others, regardless of the potential dangers, are examples to which we should all aspire.

My deepest condolences go to the friends and family of Lexie Kamerman, particularly her parents, Jack and Alison.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHRIS STEWART**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 6, 2014*

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 5th on rollcall 38 for H.R. 3590 I inadvertently voted "yea" for the amendment instead of "nay." My intention was to vote against the measure.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL  
CATHY LUTZ

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 6, 2014*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Major General Cathy Lutz, the first female Major General of the Mississippi Air National Guard, who went to be with the Lord on January 18, 2014.

With over 30 years of military service, Major General Lutz broke "glass ceiling" barriers, while maintaining civility and humility. She lived her life in service to friends, family, and country and professed "military and nursing" the means in which she served God and man.

Called "one of our nation's premier advocates for better health care for . . . soldiers and servicemen," Major General Lutz coordinated retrieval efforts of wounded servicemen following the terrorist attack against the USS *Cole* and led a medical squadron based out of Saudi Arabia.

In all, Major General Lutz commanded three squadrons in the National Guard and received eight military awards, including the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements."

While serving the Mississippi Air National Guard, Major General Lutz involved herself in the Mississippi art community. She showed her work with the Mississippi Art Colony and established an art farm in Flora, MS, along with her husband, retired Major General William Lutz.

Mississippi lost a dear daughter with the death of Major General Cathy Lutz. On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of Mississippi, we recognize her life and service.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ROBERT  
GEORGE'S ADVOCACY FOR RELI-  
GIOUS FREEDOM

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 6, 2014*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit an excerpt from remarks made by my friend Dr. Robert George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University and chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, upon receiving the John Leland Award from the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in December. In his statement, Dr. George succinctly spells out the different ways in which countries around the world undermine religious freedom, whether through hostility toward religions, sponsorship of radicalism, enforcement of unjust laws or failure to protect citizens against religious violence.

Today, religious freedom is in peril around the world. In his remarks, Dr. George admirably shows Americans what they can do to secure greater liberty for people of faith, and of no faith, who are in harm's way because of what they believe. We are privileged to live in a country where freedom of religion is constitutionally guaranteed—may we strive to secure this right for citizens of all countries.

ROBERT P. GEORGE, JOHN LELAND AWARD, SOUTHERN BAPTIST ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION, RAYBURN GOLD ROOM, WASHINGTON, DC, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2013 [EXCERPTS]

. . . So why *does* religious freedom matter? Why should promoting and defending it abroad, no less than honoring it at home, be a high priority for our country?

The way some people see it, the reason for respecting religious freedom is purely instrumental and self-interested. If you and I disagree in matters of religion, I should tolerate your beliefs and religious practices so that you will tolerate mine. Religious freedom, on this view, is not so much a moral or human right as it is a kind of mutual non-aggression pact.

It's not difficult to see the attraction of this view or to explain why some people hold it. A world in which each community lives in fear that another will seize power and oppress its practitioners is hardly an ideal state of affairs for any of them—except, of course, the group that happens to come out on top. But that is exactly what happens where there is little or no religious freedom protection. Everyone fears what will happen to their own group. And so the answer to the problem is clear. Each group tolerates the other groups so that it, too, will be tolerated.

But there's a problem with this view. The problem is not that it's in any way inaccurate or untrue. Instead, the problem is that it doesn't go far enough. It ignores the fact that at its core, religious freedom means something far deeper and more profound than people grudgingly tolerating each other in a kind of *modus vivendi*.

It means the right to be who we truly are as human beings. The fact is that as human beings, we are drawn to ponder life's deepest questions and seek meaningful, truthful answers. Where do we come from? What is our destiny? Is there a transcendent source of meaning and value? Is there a "higher law" that pulls us above personal interest in order to "do unto others as we would have them do unto us?"