of Staff of the Air Force, the Director of Legis-
lative Liaison, and numerous other senior mili-
tary and civilian leaders on issues of the
greatest concern to the Air Force and Con-
gress. He has been more than a liaison be-
tween the Pentagon and the Hill, he de-
veloped and improved key relationships to enable
the Congress to make better decisions about the
future of the Air Force and our national de-
fense. He is extremely intelligent and articu-
late, and has helped shape my thinking and
influenced many Members of Congress. Sim-
ply put, we trust him and will miss him!

Col. McKenzie is a command pilot with over
3,200 flying hours and 630 combat hours in
the F–16. He is the recipient of numerous
major medals and decorations for his service
and accomplishments. The most significant
of these include the Defense Superior Service
medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying
Cross, Bronze Star, and Meritorious Service
medal.

Throughout his distinguished career he has
represented our country and the Air Force with
dignity and honor, and this is why I’m so privi-
leged to pay tribute to this fine Airman. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congress and the
United States of America, I thank Colonel Pat-
rick T. “Smack” McKenzie, his wife Jennifer,
and their daughter Ashley, for their service and sacrifices of the past 26 years. I wish
them Godspeed, and continued happiness as
they start this new chapter in their lives.

TOM NEUMANN

HON. TED POE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today
to honor my close friend Tom Neumann, a
thoughtful, dedicated and respected leader
who served as an example for all those who
wish to make a meaningful, positive change in
our world. Sadly, Tom passed away this week,
on September 9, at the age of 69. I extend my
deepest condolences to his wife, Agnes, and
his entire family.

For more than 30 years, Tom served to help
end anti-Semitism, to safeguard democratic
principles and to build understanding and sup-
port for Israel. He previously served as the
Anti-Defamation League’s (ADL) Southwest
Regional Director, ADL’s National Director of
Community Services and its National Director
of the Intergroup Relations Division. At ADL,
Tom worked to build friendships and working
relationships between Christian and Jewish
clergy under the Christian-Jewish Committee
for Israel. It was during this time that I traveled
to Israel with Tom and when I observed first-
hand about the challenges that Israel faces
each day and why America must always stand
with this ally.

Tom later joined B’nai B’rith International as
Executive Vice President where he created a
presence for the organization in the USSR
and Eastern Europe, an important feat and the
first to happen since World War II. In 1991, he
served as the Executive Director of the Jewish
Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA),
where he worked until his retirement in 2012
As Executive Director, Tom helped establish
JINSA as a prominent voice for U.S. national
security ties as well as U.S.-Israel security

ties. Through his leadership, he helped JINSA
grow its membership to over 20,000 individ-
uals. His writings on the U.S.-Israel bilateral
relationship were published in outlets across
the world. For his work, he was recognized as
the “6th Most Influential Jewish Leader” by
The Forward in 1999. Locally, Tom founded
the Houston Center for International Affairs, a
business form that focused on international and
economic issues, created the Christian/
Jewish Committee for Israel, a coalition of
inter-denominational clergy who support
Israel), and Texas 1990, a dinner discussion
of religious, business and community
leaders.

Tom was someone who believed that “peo-
ple, even more than causes and things, have
to be restored, renewed and reclaimed.” To
those he worked with, he was a friend and
mentor. Always kind, always sincere, always
focused. To our entire community in Houston,
he will be greatly missed. My deepest symp-
thies to the entire Neumann family.

And that’s just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I
would like to submit an explanation for my ab-
sence during legislative business on the
evening of Monday, September 8 and Tues-
day, September 9. On these two days, I was
in my district hosting the United States Sec-
retary of Education Arne Duncan and Housing
and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ju-
lian Castro during their visit to the 7th Con-
gressional District of Alabama. I hosted Sec-
retary Duncan for a stop in Birmingham on his
5th Annual Back-to-School Bus Tour. We met
with community leaders, educators, parents,
and other education advocates in Alabama to
showcase reforms and investments the De-
partment has made in Birmingham and across
the State of Alabama. Secretary Castro joined
me on his first visit to the 7th District since
being sworn in as the HUD Secretary. During
their visit, the cabinet secretaries and I partici-
pated in a “My Brother’s Keeper” panel dis-
cussion at Phillips Academy which was at-
tended by community leaders, educators, and
many bright young students from throughout
Birmingham.

Considered and passed by the House dur-
ing my absence was H. Res. 644, a resolution
condemning President Obama for the ex-
change of five Guantanamo Bay prisoners for
the release of Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl. I
would like to state for the record that I sup-
ported President Obama’s decision to act
swiftly and exercise his constitutional responsi-
bility as Commander-in-Chief to protect the
lives of U.S. service members. Furthermore, I
agree with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who unani-
mously supported the exchange, along with
Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. The
United States has a sacred obligation when
sending our service men and women onto the
field of battle with the assurance that we will
honor their sacrifice by leaving none behind.

Army General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of
the Joint Chiefs, said the swap was “likely our
last, best opportunity” to free Sergeant
Bergdahl.

The timing of this condemnation was also
particularly poor. The debate and vote coin-
cided with a meeting in which the President
discussed his strategy to confront ISIS with
House and Senate leaders at the White House
and a day before his address to the nation.
At a time when the President needs Congres-
sional support in raising international support
to combat the rising threat of Islamic State
militants in Iraq and Syria, I believe the timing
of this vote was counter to our national inter-
est. I am disappointed that House Repub-
licans chose such inappropriate timing to con-
duct their political gamesmanship.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
OFFICER ROBERT BUENDIA

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
honor Officer Robert Buendia of the Bothell
Police Department. Officer Buendia was re-
cently awarded the prestigious 2014 Crisis
Intervention Team Officer of the Year Award,
which recognizes outstanding work by police
officers in the safe and effective use of crisis
intervention techniques in response to mental
health crises.

Officer Buendia received this award in part
because of his quick and skilled response to
a situation involving a suicidal woman. This
woman was a recent victim of sexual assault
who became upset after learning that the court
ruling against her attacker did not have suffi-
cient evidence for prosecution. When this
woman threatened to end her own life, Officer
Buendia used his training, intelligence and
quick thinking to defuse this potentially tragic
case. He was able to open a dialogue with
the woman, and was eventually able to con-
vince her to come out of her apartment.

The outstanding actions of Officer Buendia
are emblematic of the heroism that the mem-
bers of the Bothell Police Department, and all
our first responders in the 1st Congressional
District, exhibit every day while serving our
communities. I am incredibly thankful for the
dedication of these public servants.

I want to thank Officer Robert Buendia for
his commitment to serving the people of
Bothell, and offer my congratulations on this
recognition of his work.

DR. ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have just re-
turned from an extraordinary experience in
July, 2014 in Israel, the land I first came to in
1949 at the tender age of three and a half, al-
ready a refugee, from post-World War II Eu-
rope. Yet nothing could have prepared me for
the surrealistic reality of approaching rockets
and wailing sirens, a frightful scenario that
Israelis living on the northern front in the south
have had to contend with for fourteen long years,
with only fifteen seconds to find protective
shelter. I will long remember being awakened