

COMMEMORATING THE LIVES OF
ISIL'S VICTIMS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the horrific ongoing brutality of ISIL and mourn the senseless loss of life in the Middle East.

Just yesterday, the United States confirmed the death of Kayla Mueller, the fourth American to die while a hostage of ISIL. Ms. Mueller had dedicated her young life to serving the struggling people of Syria as they endure a civil war and violence from many sides.

In recent weeks, we have also learned of the murder of two Japanese citizens, Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa, and Jordanian Air Force Pilot Lt. Muath Al-Kaseasbeh. These most recent casualties join American, British, and Russian captives as victims of ISIL's de-ranked ideology. All these victims, and their families, will be in our thoughts and prayers.

As co-chair of the Congressional Study Group on Japan, I was especially appalled that ISIL executed the Japanese captives in response to Japan pledging non-military aid to support the victims of ISIL's terror. Millions of Iraqi and Syrian refugees are in desperate need of assistance, and I applaud Japan for standing with the United States and a coalition of nations committed to confronting ISIL's barbarity.

The continued murder of foreign captives and the ongoing atrocities committed against tens of thousands of Iraqis and Syrians are a stark reminder that we cannot allow ISIL to continue unchecked. Instead, as international community we must remain united in our resolve to stop this evil and help work toward a stable, peaceful Middle East.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL
GRAVES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. Graves of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Michael Graves. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christopher has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Michael Graves for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BUFFALO STATE WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. Higgins. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three outstanding members of the senior class at Buffalo State College, Hillary Kollar, Olivia Luciani, and Ashley Wallace. As members of the Buffalo State women's basketball team, these students are known as leaders among their peers and teammates. I commend these young women for their dedication to academics and athletics and congratulate them on the completion of their college careers.

Hillary Kollar played for Buffalo State as a Guard and majored in Fashion Merchandising. Hillary comes from Johnstown, New York where she attended Johnstown High School.

A graduate of East Syracuse Minoa High School in Syracuse, New York, Olivia Luciani studied Public Communication while at Buffalo State and also played as a Guard for the basketball team.

Ashley Wallace comes from Lockport, New York and attended Starpoint High School. Ashley was a Forward who majored in Childhood Education at Buffalo State. Balancing the responsibilities demanded of student athletes is a true challenge, and each of these students handled the test with dignity and grace. As an alumnus of Buffalo State, I will be proud to call them fellow alumni.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing my colleagues to join me in recognizing these extraordinary Buffalo State Bengals and in congratulating them as they obtain their undergraduate degrees. Their dedication and drive will propel them to success, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. Rangel. Mr. Speaker, in February, our nation commemorates the significant milestones in Black History as we pay homage to the individuals who shaped America's history. I am proud that many of the great Black leaders and movements in our history came from Harlem. As the epicenter of the Black cultural movement of the 1920s known as the Harlem Renaissance, the historic neighborhood was home to luminaries such as James Baldwin, Madame C.J. Walker, and Duke Ellington. Recently, many great political leaders have called Harlem home, including David Dinkins, Basil Paterson, and Percy Sutton. Our congressional district continues to be a bastion of Black social, political, and artistic development.

I am fortunate to have many excellent organizations in the District that promote Black culture, history, and advancement. Our rich heritage is preserved through the efforts of The Link's Incorporated, 100 Black Men of New York, Coalition of 100 Black Women, Harlem Mothers SAVE, New York Urban League, NAACP New York State Conference, NAACP

Mid-Manhattan Branch, Jazzmobile, Inc., Masjid Malcolm Shabazz Mosque, Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, United Clergy Caucus, Mobilizing Preachers and Community (MPAC), Clergy With a Purpose and Community, United Baptist Missionary Association, Baptist Ministers' Conference of New York & Vicinity, Faison Firehouse Theatre, New Heritage Theater Group, Impact Reparatory Theatre, Manna House, The Falu Foundation, The Caribbean Cultural Center, The Pan-Hellenic Council of New York, The Mama Foundation, and Gospel for Teens.

Throughout Black History Month, we celebrate the contributions of Blacks in every facet of our society: Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers and Bill Russell of the Boston Celtics redefined sports and helped propel the civil rights movement; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and Rep. Shirley Chisholm left an indelible mark in government, Louis Armstrong and Langston Hughes influenced generations of musicians and poets. And civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and my dear friend Rep. JOHN LEWIS forever changed the course of our nation.

As we mark the 50th Anniversary of the historic march from Selma to Montgomery, we pay tribute to our leaders who fought tirelessly for our rights and the artists who communicated the feelings of generations of Black Americans. Today, the rallying call of Black Lives Matter has regenerated a new movement of young social activists such as The Justice League NYC as the struggle continues to raise awareness for justice and equality throughout urban America. Let us honor the memory of the great men and women who paved the path of Black culture and achievement and commit to preserving our history by striving to build on their legacy.

CONGRATULATING KARL KILDOW

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. Valadao. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karl Kildow on his retirement after 38 years of working in the education industry as both an educator and an advocate.

Mr. Kildow was born in San Diego, California and spent his youth in San Diego and Tustin, California. After completing his high school education, Mr. Kildow attended California State University Fullerton, where he received a degree in Social Science.

After college, Mr. Kildow dedicated his life to the noble profession of teaching. His first teaching job was at Needles High School in Needles, California. While there, he taught English, mathematics, history, and physical education and coached the school's basketball team. In addition launching his career as an educator in Needles, he also met his wife Sandy there.

Mr. Kildow settled in Visalia where he taught at Divisadero Middle School, Mt. Whitney High School, and Redwood High School teaching English, for 1 year, 18 years, and 8 years, respectively. During this time period he received an English credential and got involved in the Visalia Unified Teachers Association (VUTA) and the National Educators Association (NEA).