

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).

He served as the President of the VUTA for 12 years and currently is an NEA Director.

After 38 years of teaching and advocating on behalf of students and teachers alike, Mr. Kildow will be retiring later this year.

Educators and students throughout the Central Valley of California have been extremely fortunate to have had someone as talented and dedicated as Mr. Kildow working on their behalf. Mr. Kildow touched the lives of countless individuals throughout his career. The Central Valley has benefitted greatly from his insight and perspective.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Karl Kildow for his 38 years of dedicated public service as an educator in the Central Valley and congratulating him on his recent retirement.

RUNNING FOR A CAUSE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Fellowship for hosting their 5th annual Run4theChildren race in Katy, Texas. This race raises funds to help families overcome the barriers to adopting children. This wonderful charity event allows families in our community grow and share their love.

Over 160 million orphan children in the world are looking for homes. Sadly, many families that would love to make an orphaned child a member of their family face costly huge financial barriers that can run upwards of \$30,000. Run4theChildren addresses this problem head on. In the past four years, the annual event has raised \$80,000 for grants to help families who want to adopt children.

I commend The Fellowship for extending the warmth of their ministry to all the families they have connected with new sons and daughters and all individuals who seek to participate in the race. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to The Fellowship for hosting its 5th annual Run4theChildren race.

RECOGNIZING THE THORNTON FAMILY'S SERVICE TO McDONALD COUNTY, MO

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the Clifford and Susie Thornton family on their well-deserved recognition as the 2015 honoree at the McDonald County Schools Foundation's second annual Heart of Education Banquet.

The Thornton family has blessed McDonald County with their dedication to community service and development. Clifford and Susie opened their family-owned pharmacy in Noel in 1979 and ran this small business for 29 years. They are the proud parents of three McDonald County Schools graduates, all of which have greatly contributed to the community's betterment.

Clifford and Susie's son Matt served as executive director of the McDonald County Community Development Council. While there, Matt played an influential role in the creation of the McDonald County Schools Foundation.

Their son Mike continued in the family profession and is now a pharmacist and small business owner in Anderson within the McDonald County community. Mike is also the current McDonald County Schools Foundation president.

Clifford and Susie's daughter Suzanne Schmidt also remains embedded in the local education as a nurse for the McDonald County School District. She is an avid supporter of the school's sports and extracurricular activities.

I urge my colleagues to join in congratulating the family of Clifford and Susie Thornton as the 2015 McDonald County Schools Foundation honoree.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 69–70 due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on #69 and yes on #70.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BAKERSFIELD

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Junior League of Bakersfield. This milestone provides us the opportunity to reflect on the importance of civic responsibility and volunteerism, demonstrated so admirably by the Junior League of Bakersfield's five decades of outstanding service to the community.

In 1952, a few women formed one of the first exclusively service-oriented societies in Bakersfield: the Community League of Kern County. This organization of mothers and daughters from around our community sought to organize for the good of their city as an all-volunteer association. And there was plenty of work to do. 1952 was also the year of the White Wolf Fault Earthquake, a 7.2 magnitude disaster which demolished downtown Bakersfield. In the aftermath, the League began immediately helping our neighbors.

From its first days, the League concerned itself with the vulnerable in Bakersfield. Incorporating as a chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues of America in 1965, the Junior League focused its energies on assisting children and the elderly. While singlehandedly executing long-term projects, such as the construction of the 1966 Bakersfield Community House for Seniors, the Junior League prefers to partner with local institutions for joint projects. In the past fifty years, it has raised more than a million dollars and volunteered hundreds of thousands of hours to help those in need, including hospitalized children, teen mothers, the mentally and physically disabled,

the addicted, the homeless, and the abused. Generous in its charity, judicious in its management, our Junior League has long been noted for the efficacy with which it directs resources to those whom would benefit most.

In the years ahead, the League will concentrate on sustaining the Girls Achievement Program, an initiative aimed at protecting emancipated youth, for which they have already granted tens of thousands of dollars to local organizations. The Junior League represents the best part of Bakersfield's social conscience. On behalf of the Bakersfield community, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Junior League of Bakersfield on 50 years of accomplishments as we look forward to many more.

HONORING JEFFREY RYAN REYNA

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 Jeffrey Ryan Reyna. Jeffrey 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.

Jeffrey has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jeffrey 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, Jeffrey has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

HONORING SUPER BOWL HERO MALCOLM BUTLER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkably talented individual, Malcolm Butler, who is a native of Mississippi. Butler was born into a family of five children in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Mr. Butler is a prime example of learning from one's mistakes and taking advantage of being given a second chance.

Despite only playing football at the cornerback position his freshman and senior years at Vicksburg High School, Butler was able to receive a scholarship from Hinds Community College after graduating in 2009. After some setbacks in his first season, Butler was dismissed from the team midseason. However, he did not let prior mistakes define him, and as he made major adjustments in his life, he was invited to rejoin the team.

Butler went on to play at Division II University of West Alabama in 2012, where he played exceptionally both seasons. His junior