

honor student in high school and president of the Tuscola FFA chapter. He graduated cum laude from North Carolina State University and participated in the Philip Morris Leadership Program at the University of Kentucky. Starting his farm in 1974 with one acre each of burley tobacco and trellised tomatoes, Mr. Smart and his brother have since expanded the farm to encompass 1,500 acres of corn, soybeans, vegetables, tobacco, hay, and cattle.

While building his own successful business, Mr. Smart served as President of the Haywood County Farm Bureau Federation, as a State Executive Board Member of the N.C. Farm Bureau Federation, as Chairman of the N.C. Farm Bureau Burley Tobacco Committee, as Chairman of the Haywood County Farmland Preservation Organization, as a Board Member of the N.C. Tobacco Growers Association, and as an advocate for farmers at our state and national capitals. In the mid-2000s, Mr. Smart's leadership stopped the sale of the Mountain Research Station and secured additional acreage for this hub of agricultural research. He helped Haywood County establish a fairground and served on its board and volunteer advisory council. He has been recognized as a Philip Morris Outstanding Burley Tobacco Grower, a N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Farmer of the Year, a Haywood County Outstanding Farmer, a N.C. Tomato Growers Association Outstanding Producer, and has received an FFA Appreciation Award for working to keep agriculture in high school curricula.

Donald R. Smart has been an invaluable proponent of the agriculture industry in Haywood County and across our state. Mr. Smart deserves the highest recognition and I am honored to express the sincere congratulations and best wishes of the people of North Carolina on his induction into the Western North Carolina Agriculture Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING OUR NATION'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONALS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nation's community corrections professionals and the vital role they play in enhancing public safety throughout the United States. In honor of the invaluable contributions of these dedicated public servants, the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) and its associated members have designated the week of July 17–23 Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2016. I thank the thousands of men and women who perform these important public safety duties, and urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in support of the APPA's week-long recognition efforts this year.

Here in my congressional district, the nation's capital, thousands of women and men serve as pretrial, probation and parole officers

or administrators. As public servants, these constituents, along with many other Americans, commit themselves on a daily basis to helping improve the lives of those involved in the criminal justice system. Mr. Speaker, the work of these professionals ultimately results in stronger and safer communities for all.

Community corrections professionals are responsible for the supervision of adult and juvenile offenders in communities throughout our nation. These trained professionals go above and beyond the call of duty by connecting their clients to supportive services, community based resources, employment opportunities, housing programs and other evidence based practices that help individuals successfully complete supervision and reenter society. Community corrections professionals strive to provide these services and support, while simultaneously providing client surveillance, crime prevention and restorative justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in acknowledging the impact community corrections professionals have on the quality of life of so many Americans, and recognizing July 17–23 as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2016.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Monday, July 11, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 401 and 402 and "nay" on roll call vote 403.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, on the day of April 11th, I am wrongly recorded on H.R. 5606, the Anti-terrorism Information Sharing Is Strength Act. I intended to oppose this legislation.

FINDING MEANING IN THE DALLAS TRAGEDY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, one week ago today in the Dallas Central Business District, a lone gunman, motivated by anger and rage, terrorized a peaceful assembly of my fellow Texans protesting injustice by unleashing a hail of bullets from an automatic rifle that

took the lives of five officers of the Dallas Police Department and Dallas Area Rapid Transit and wounded twelve others. Today I joined my fellow Texans and others at the memorial in Dallas.

Earlier today, a memorial in honor of the fallen was held at Dallas' Meyerson Symphony Center, attended by several hundreds, including the President of the United States and the First Lady; Vice-President Biden and Dr. Jill Biden; former President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush; members of the Texas congressional delegation, representatives of law enforcement agencies from across the nation.

President Obama reminded us that in the aftermath of one of the most tumultuous weeks in memory that the nation is not as divided as it seems and urged the nation to find meaning in the midst of sorrow by working together so that we can "preserve those institutions of family and community, rights and responsibilities, law and self-government that is the hallmark of this nation."

I especially appreciate the remarks of former President George W. Bush who reminded us that "to renew our unity, we only need to remember our values" and that we "are bound by things of the spirit, by shared commitments to common ideals, and that we are at our best when we practice empathy, which is the strongest "bridge across our nation's deepest divisions."

Mr. Speaker, there is much wisdom in President Bush's admonition that we avoid judging other groups by their worst examples, while judging ourselves by our best intentions.

We are one country with a common future and a single destiny, and, deep down, we know that President Obama was right when he said that we all must aspire and strive for an open heart, where we "worry less about which side has been wronged, and worry more about joining sides to do right."

Due to an injury sustained the week before, Texas Governor Greg Abbott was not able to attend the moving tribute to the fallen Dallas officers so I want to extend to him my best wishes for a complete and speedy recovery and to commend and associate myself with the following statements from his Open Letter to the People of Texas:

"Though anguish and sorrow may darken the days ahead, we will not be overcome by evil—we will overcome evil with good. Texas is an exceptional state with exceptional people. We've faced tough challenges in the past, but we have come together to overcome those challenges. In the coming days, there will be those who foment distrust and fan the flames of dissension.

"To come together—that would be the greatest rebuke to those who seek to tear us apart."

Mr. Speaker, what is called for in sorrowful times like this is unity and healing and the faith that a righteous cause can only be advanced by righteous words and actions.

Let us remember and honor the fallen and wounded in Dallas by rededicating ourselves to the spirit of empathy and love and respect for human dignity that has made and will keep our country the wonder of the world.