

of students through scholarships and educational programs.

As Idaho Power begins its next 100 years, it will continue balancing the needs of shareholders, customers and its workforce while protecting the natural resources of Idaho and Oregon.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and praise the countless contributions of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). NOBLE was founded in 1976 during to address ways to reduce crime in low-income areas. NOBLE's mission of ensuring equity in the administration of justice in the provision of public service to all communities is aligned with the work that we undertake here in the Congress of the United States.

NOBLE prides itself on being the conscience of law enforcement as they are committed to Justice by Action. The organization has nearly 60 chapters and represents over 3,000 members worldwide that represent chief executive officers and command-level law enforcement officials from federal, state, county, municipal law enforcement agencies and criminal justice practitioners.

I applaud the work NOBLE undertakes. Of particular note is the specific focus on serving more than 60,000 youth through its major program components including Mentoring, Education, Leadership Development, and Safety.

Law enforcement officers have a unique place and role in our society. Charged with keeping order and maintaining the peace, at times, the balance between personal rights and the duty of law enforcement officers is called into question. But, I cannot imagine a society without the presence of our esteemed law enforcement officers who protect and serve every day.

Every day, our law enforcement officers place their lives at risk to protect others. As they celebrate 40 years of service, we honor them for their public service, a selfless commitment to our communities, their tireless efforts to ensure our safety, and their unique role in the maintenance of the rule of law in our nation.

WELLES DECLARATION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the Welles Declaration, a diplomatic statement that helped shape U.S. policy in Europe for more than 50 years.

In the summer of 1940, the Soviet Union in an effort to expand its oppressive regime invaded the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. This was part of the Molotov-Rib-

bentrop Pact the Soviets signed with Nazi Germany. After the Red Army overran the Baltics the Soviets imprisoned the nations' political leaders and oversaw rigged elections. The new puppet governments immediately petitioned to join the Soviet Union. Any voices of opposition were suppressed and more than 100,000 citizens were deported from the Baltic States to Soviet camps.

In light of these horrific events Secretary of State Sumner Welles issued a statement condemning the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, as well as refusing to recognize the annexation of the Soviet Republics on July 23, 1940. The Baltic States maintained independent diplomatic missions, including here in Washington, DC. Every American President from 1940 through the independence of the Baltics in 1990 and 1991 supported the principles set forth in the Welles Declaration.

The principles of the Welles Declaration still hold true today. We must stand against Russia's aggression toward its neighbors, including our NATO allies in the Baltics, and their occupation of areas of Ukraine. I commend America's stand against Soviet aggression during the Cold War and hope we will stand strongly for freedom today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded for the following Roll Call vote on July 12, 2016 and would like to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Roll call Number 409: NO.

GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, the Majority shouldn't be rushing to leave town. We should be acting to combat the gun violence epidemic that's tearing apart our country. Guns have devastated communities all across the country, whether it's a place of worship, a hospital, or even an elementary school. What were once sanctuaries have all too often become shooting galleries.

We all watched just days ago as a peaceful protest in the wonderful city of Dallas turned deadly as a gunman ambushed and murdered police officers in the deadliest attack on law enforcement in the U.S. since 9/11. No community should have to go through such horror.

This is another tragic reminder of the dangers posed by easy access to weapons designed to kill. It should forever refute one of the most pervasive talking points from the gun lobby, that the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. Law enforcement across the country make sacrifices every single day to keep us safe. But even an entire police force cannot prevent the tragedy caused by a madman determined to use a weapon of war in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the sad reality is that 91 people are killed by a gun every single day in America. Since Sandy Hook, there have been close to a thousand mass shootings. This has left our nation in a state of perpetual mourning with the constant fear that when our loved ones leave the house, we may never see them again.

But despite this, the Majority has bowed to the pressure of the gun lobby again and again and failed to take up any meaningful reforms to combat gun violence. During the sit-in, we made a commitment to the American people that despite the Majority's inaction, we would keep fighting. The public remains united in demanding action. We're asking for votes on two bills that make good sense, one of which may have helped prevent the tragedy in Dallas. People must be astounded to hear that someone on the terrorist watch list cannot fly but still buy a gun. But instead of taking up these bills, the Majority is running for the exits to begin a nearly two month recess. It's shameful.

HONORING MR. DAVID GRABILL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of David Grabill, who passed away on June 9, 2016, after 74 remarkable years.

Mr. Grabill led a long and successful career in law and social justice advocacy, and worked hard to ensure that disadvantaged members of our community had access to top notch legal representation. He completed his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Yale University, before earning his Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

Over the course of a diverse and illustrious career, Mr. Grabill earned admission to the bar for the District of Columbia, Indiana, California, West Virginia, and the Ogallala Sioux Tribe. In these different jurisdictions, Mr. Grabill worked to ensure that our country's promise of equal justice under the law was not just an ideal, but a reality. He regularly represented victims of housing discrimination in both federal and state courts, and also represented Native American tribes and interests in Escondido, California.

Many of Mr. Grabill's cases led to major policy changes to better support the interests of disadvantaged groups. While working in West Virginia, Mr. Grabill successfully led the lawsuit that overturned West Virginia's unconstitutional ban on abortion, allowing the state's first women's health center to open and provide safe and legal abortion services. The case Sonoma County Housing Now v. City of Healdsburg, settled in 1989, resulted in zoning for 500 new apartments and updated policies to encourage affordable housing development. Thanks to Mr. Grabill's work on another case, the City of Santa Rosa agreed to plan for 3000 additional affordable housing units and to build the 80-bed Samuel Jones homeless shelter.

Mr. Grabill co-founded the Sonoma County Housing Advocacy Group, which fights for more local affordable housing development