

THE PASSING OF VALERIE
"LARRY" SAVINKIN

HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today in recognition of the untimely passing of Valerie "Larry" Savinkin, a dedicated and well-respected community leader and my congressional field representative who served the residents of the 8th Congressional District of New York with distinction.

Larry Savinkin was born on October 25, 1955, to Igor and Ada Savinkin. He was brother to Viola, husband to Valentina, father to Galina and Vladimir, father-in-law to Vadim and grandfather to Victor.

Before migrating to Brooklyn with his family from Odessa, Ukraine in 1996, Larry was a hardworking business owner where he operated a door-making company and a chain of merchant stores. Larry's commitment, core values and work ethic allowed him to excel in various positions. He was previously employed as a computer programmer, worked for the United States Census Bureau and served as a Community Liaison for former Congressman Bob Turner. More recently, he was a project manager at the Jewish Association for Serving the Aging (JASA), a local community-based organization that serves older adults of all races, religions and economic backgrounds across New York City.

Larry's success and impact in the neighborhoods of Southern Brooklyn and Queens was not limited to his work with my congressional office. For over 20 years, he was involved in several prominent organizations including the September 11 Family Group, the Brighton Beach Business Improvement District, The Holocaust Memorial Committee, Odessa Community of New York, and Brooklyn's Community Planning Board 13. Larry had a magnetic personality and cared about his community immensely, approached his work with urgency, compassion and had a great sense of humor.

I had the privilege of knowing Larry and working with him throughout the years. I recognize that his integrity was above reproach and his competence was extraordinary. I thank his family and friends for sharing him with us all. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in extending gratitude for Larry Savinkin's public service and his commitment to the people of Brooklyn, he is worthy of the highest praise.

DAY WITHOUT A WOMAN

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, across the nation, from every major city to every small town, women are standing in solidarity, and reminding the world of our contributions. On this Day Without A Woman, women are sending a powerful message about the role we play in local communities, in our nation and throughout the globe.

Yet, sadly, on this very same day that women are standing up to end gender dis-

crimination and economic injustice, defend our bodies from governmental intrusion and to choose our own destiny, Republicans are proceeding with legislation to roll back the clock. Congressional Committees are starting to consider legislation eviscerating the Affordable Care Act. Not only would the Republican plan slash Medicaid, harming working women and children, but it defends Planned Parenthood, ultimately depriving millions of women of life-saving health services.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad irony on this Day Without A Woman, when millions of ordinary Americans are standing for women's rights and a more just economy, Congressional Republicans are rushing to deprive millions of women and their families of health services they need to survive. This bill was composed behind closed doors, in secret, and now Republicans are rushing it through the Committee process to avoid scrutiny.

On this Day Without A Woman, we are sending a powerful message. I can only hope my Republican colleagues in Congress are listening. Because, today, women everywhere are saying with one collective voice, we will not be silenced.

HONORING CHIEF ALAN BRAGG: 45
YEARS IN EDUCATIONAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Chief Alan Bragg, who is retiring after serving a distinguished 45 years in educational law enforcement. He is a lifetime member of what I referred to as the Poe-leece. It is an informal organization made up of long-time friends in Texas' law enforcement community. It is an honor to pay tribute to Chief Bragg as he retires on June 30, 2017 as Chief of Police at Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Police Department.

Alan Bragg was born and raised in Wichita Falls, Texas, and was destined to become a Texas Lawman. He attended Midwestern State University and worked for the university's police department at the beginning of his career. In 1981, Chief Bragg moved to Houston to take a position with the Houston Independent School District Police Department.

He gained nine years' experience with Houston ISD, all the while his pursuit to build safer schools grew. This passion led him to accept a job, in 1990, as Spring Independent School District's first ever Chief of Police. He was tasked to create a new police department from scratch. He started his force with 8 officers and it has grown to over 50 sworn officers. He was responsible for nearly 37,000 students, 5,000 employees and 38 campuses. His 21 year leadership and legacy at Spring ISD will not be forgotten.

Chief Bragg obtained additional police training along the way. He is a graduate of the FBI's National Academy 201 class and holds a Master Peace Officer Certificate. Throughout the years, he has assisted and been recognized by numerous boards and organizations. He is a member and past president of the Houston Area Police Chiefs Association, North Harris County Criminal Justice Association,

and he also served on the board of the Texas Association of School District Police.

For over 20 years, he has coordinated the annual "Salute to Law Enforcement" event, an event that was always held close to National Police Week. It allowed folks to meet local law enforcement officers from different agencies, see the resources used to protect them, and provide an overall positive experience between our law enforcement officers and citizens.

Chief Bragg is a dedicated family man, having been married to his wife Judy for 26 years. He met Judy after the 1979 Terrible Tuesday Tornado that hit Wichita Falls. They were both temporarily homeless, and met at church. They are the proud parents of two children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. His retirement will provide time for them to serve in their church, travel on mission trips, and spend time with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

During those years with Spring, Chief Bragg distinguished himself as an educational law enforcement leader. He possesses a wealth of knowledge, and the entire law enforcement community views him with esteem and respect. His department served as a model for other school district police departments to follow.

Not surprisingly, Chief Bragg's impressive leadership and integrity led him to his last career move. In 2012, he accepted the new start up position as Chief of Police for Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District. Again, he created another exemplary police force from scratch. For 45 years, he has put on the badge and a gun to protect and serve the folks and communities he loves.

Chief Bragg has been one of the most prominent and important lawman in the 2nd Congressional District, a true Texas hero. He is a remarkable Texan who has achieved extraordinary things in his law enforcement career and for his community. I extend to him my congratulations on his retirement, and commend him for a job well done. I wish him the best of luck in the future as he enters into this new phase of life.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, I missed votes due to unavoidable flight delays. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on roll call votes no. 127 and 128.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, on March 7, 2017, I missed the vote for H.R. 1362.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 127.