

is in many respects of their own making. In short, cut off the money, dry up support, and starve the extremist movement.

The plight of innocent people in areas occupied or contested by these extremists is a humanitarian tragedy on an almost incomprehensible scale. While all innocent people driven from their homes or persecuted by these extremists deserve our help and support, the plight of Christians in this regard is unconscionable. The world needs to help all of the displaced persons created from this conflict, but the ultimate answer to their suffering is to stop the wanton violence and destruction so that they can return home.

A good place to start is the “No Fly Zone” and safe corridor in Syria which Governor Jeb Bush and others have endorsed. Such a safe haven could offer a means to bring humanitarian aid to the displaced, stem the current refugee tide, and serve as a base of operations for more moderate forces opposed to the extremists.

This sad chapter in human affairs will pass, but decisions and actions are urgently needed to hasten the day when the Islamic State and its fellow travelers take their rightful place on the ash heap of history, alongside other extremist movements like fascism, imperialism, and communism. As in past wars, free peoples will ultimately prevail so long as free nations stand united against tyranny, recognizing it under whatever black flag it travels. Appeasement and parsed language, such as we have repeatedly seen from the Obama administration, will not deter hardened jihadists.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUPONT, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 27, 2017*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Borough of Dupont, Pennsylvania, which will celebrate its Centennial on March 28, 2017. When Judge Garman signed a decree on March 28, 1917 to officially incorporate the Borough of Dupont, he could not have imagined the robust, close-knit, and thriving community that Dupont is today.

The citizens of Dupont have always shown resilience and determination. In 1896, when the residents of the Dupont section of Pittston Township were unhappy with their living conditions and the allocation of their tax dollars, they banded together to present a petition for incorporation to Luzerne County. When their petition was denied, the citizens of Dupont did not back down or give up. They spend the next 21 years revising and submitting new petitions until their ultimate success in 1917.

In 1917, Dupont was home to 27 saloons, 6 butcher shops, a watch maker, 5 candy stores, and 3 pool rooms, among other fine establishments. Today, Dupont is home to many area favorites, including the Dupont Polish Club and VFW Post 4909, as well as a number of successful businesses and restaurants. These small businesses and gathering spaces truly reflect the community-minded and entrepreneurial spirit of Dupont.

Communities like Dupont are what make Northeastern Pennsylvania a unique and vibrant place to live and work. Over the past one hundred years, the Borough has demonstrated a commitment to fellowship and

progress, a trend which will no doubt continue and contribute to the prosperity of this treasured community.

LIMITING INHUMANE FEDERAL TRAPPING (LIFT) ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 27, 2017*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing the Limiting Inhumane Federal Trapping (LIFT) Act, which would severely restrict the use of inhumane body-gripping traps on public lands and by public officials. Every year, countless dogs, cats, and wild animals are injured and killed in body-gripping traps such as leg and foothold, Conibear, and snare traps. The animals caught in these traps are subject to intense pain that can last for hours, or even days. If they don't die immediately from the injuries, animals can suffer from dehydration, predation, or when a trapper eventually finds them. Furthermore, pets and other companion animals can be the victims of these traps. Body-gripping traps are non-selective in their victims, and can be particularly dangerous if set in popular areas. There are many effective non-lethal methods that can be deployed in place of these cruel traps.

Despite these serious risks, body-gripping traps are used by federal agencies, local governments, private entities, and individual trappers to catch creatures for their fur, keep animals away from livestock and crops, and even for recreational purposes. Wildlife Services, a federal agency notorious for its secrecy and use of inhumane animal management techniques, often uses body-gripping traps as a first resort. This results in the death or capture of thousands of animals per year in these cruel body-gripping traps. Federal agencies too often avoid more humane, effective, and non-lethal control options to control animal species. The LIFT Act would ensure that federal agencies, including Wildlife Services, do a better job of regulating trapping by non-federal entities on public lands, thereby limiting cruelty and protecting public safety.

Inhumane trapping is a problem in Oregon and across the country. There have been too many unfortunate examples of wild animals and pets falling victim to these traps. This bill complements efforts by other colleagues in the House and Senate to crack down on the use of body-gripping traps in light of the growing public acknowledgement that we cannot and should not continue to endorse the widespread use of these inhumane devices.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 24, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, never before, in more than two centuries of American history, has Congress taken back benefits and replaced them with a package that, in turn, reduces benefits in use by the American people.

The effect on the District of Columbia would be particularly disappointing because the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has brought the city to virtual universal coverage (only 3.4 percent not covered). Moreover, most Americans, including D.C. residents, get their coverage through their employers. The untold story about Trumpcare is its effect not only on the ACA, but the harmful effects it could have on the one-sixth of the U.S. economy that is accounted for by healthcare costs.

The reason Americans oppose Trumpcare is its take-backs: 24 million people would lose coverage; premiums and deductibles would increase; essential coverage for maternity care, prescription drugs, and emergency room visits would end; healthy pre-Medicare elderly would be charged five times what others pay; and instead of lengthening the Medicare Trust Fund, Trumpcare would shorten it by three years. The most devastating effect of repeal would be felt by the lowest-income Americans who benefit from the Medicaid expansion in the ACA with the end of the Medicaid expansion in 2020. Seventy-four percent of Americans, including 54 percent of Republicans, oppose cutting Medicaid funding.

I urge my colleagues to join the American people in voting no: recent polls show only 17 percent of the American people support the Republican Trumpcare bill.

HONORING DR. ELLEN N. JUNN

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 27, 2017*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Dr. Ellen N. Junn, who will be officially inaugurated as the 11th President of California State University, Stanislaus, on March 30, 2017.

President Junn has demonstrated a dedication to excellence in the pursuit of knowledge with a career spanning more than 30 years in teaching and leadership positions at five different California State University campuses.

In addition to her years of service, President Junn has an extensive catalogue of published work with a focus on supporting the success of underserved students, the significance of university-community engagement, and strategies for supporting non-tenure track faculty, especially women and minorities.

President Junn has helped countless students attain baccalaureate and graduate degrees through a core commitment to forging and advocating pathways for the underserved. She has been recognized as an exemplary leader and fierce promoter for the California State University's diverse community of students, faculty, and staff. She has also advocated for an engaged and high-impact undergraduate experience, led by a team of dedicated teachers.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and congratulating Dr. Ellen Junn on becoming the next President of California State University, Stanislaus, as we look forward to a long and productive partnership benefitting the citizens of our collective region.

CELEBRATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARAB PEACE INITIATIVE

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 27, 2017*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution Celebrating the Importance of the 15th Anniversary of the Arab Peace Initiative as a Meaningful Effort by Arab Countries to the Commitment of Peace in the Middle East.

I recently travelled to Israel for the 18th time as a Member of Congress. While in Israel and Jordan, I attended a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings focused on security and the outlook for the region in the coming year. I always welcome these opportunities to meet with senior leaders on such a wide range of issues, and our conversations touched on political developments, regional security in the Middle East, the peace process, and strengthening the bilateral relationships between the United States and these nations.

Although the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to be a major challenge, I believe we must stay actively involved in peace negotiations. I am happy to say that recently, Israel and some Muslim-majority Arab nations in the Middle East have made progress in regional cooperation. I believe that, using the Arab Peace Initiative as a baseline, these recent developments present a renewed opportunity for progress—one that we cannot afford to miss.

Mr. Speaker, my resolution highlights the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative and urges the nations to continue the hard work of fostering stronger relationship. Under the right circumstances, the Arab Peace Initiative allows for gradual progress towards the normalization of bilateral relations between Israel and its neighbors. We all know that the relationship between America and Israel is paramount, and I have faith that, in time, the relationships between Israel and other nations will also strengthen. I commend the regional countries that have taken steps to facilitate the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, while simultaneously strengthening regional security through discussions with the State of Israel. I urge all parties to continue these important dialogues.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ascension to the Presidency of the Arab League. The United States established relations with Jordan in 1949 and our countries have a long history of cooperation. Jordan has taken on an important role in pursuing progress for the region. I congratulate my friend King Abdullah II and wish Jordan the very best as it assumes this new leadership role for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution today, and recommend its expeditious consideration and passage.

CELEBRATING JUANITA SEARFOSS ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 27, 2017*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Juanita Searfoss, a great Hoosier who is celebrating her 90th birthday today.

Juanita M. Searfoss was born on March 27, 1927, in South Bend, Indiana, to Dorothea M. and Herschel A. Sharp, who were loving Christian parents. She also had three brothers, David C. Sharp (deceased), Jerry D. Sharp of Bonita Springs, Florida, and Ronald (Mary) Sharp of South Bend.

On October 7, 1950, she married Clifford L. Searfoss. They were married for 55 years until his death in 2005. Their loving marriage produced six children, 16 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Juanita graduated from Central High School in South Bend and Indiana University in Bloomington with a degree in medical technology. She worked for the South Bend Medical Foundation, retiring after 21 years of service.

Juanita has always been active in her church—she has been a member of the Sonlight Fellowship Wesleyan Church since the age of ten—and various volunteer and service organizations. For many years she has planned and made a meal every two months for Hope Ministries. She was a member of Faith in Action, did respite care for several families, and helped support several missionaries, as well as the Northern Indiana Food Bank and Chiara House. She is a member of the St. Joseph County Home Extension Normain club, a Bible study group, Gleaners, a Red Hat Society group, and a hospice organization, just to name a few. In 2008 she was awarded the Golden Hoosier Award for her volunteer work. She still loves to read, travel, play the piano, crochet, and spend time with her family and friends.

Many have benefitted from her strong faith, her kind and caring nature, her quiet wisdom, and her unconditional love.

Happy 90th Birthday, Juanita.

IN HONOR OF DONNETTA WALSER

**HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 27, 2017*

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Donnetta Walser.

Donnetta spent her life dedicated to improving her local community. Her 28 years as an educator, including many in the Monroe School District, is a testament to her steadfast commitment to her students.

After her career in public education, Donnetta spent 32 years in public service, serving on the Monroe City Council, Monroe Civil Service Commission, U.S. 2 Safety Coalition, Snohomish County Senior Services Board of Directors, Snohomish County League of Women Voters, and two terms as the Mayor of Monroe.

Donnetta had such a positive impact on so many people throughout our community. Her

kind and compassionate spirit and willingness to take on tough tasks will surely be missed. Although she has passed on, her memory and impact will continue to live on.

My heart goes out to her husband: Fred; her sons and daughters-in-law: Scott and Stacey and Matt and Kimberly; her grandchildren; and all of her family and friends.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEENS HELPING KIDS

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 27, 2017*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Teens Helping Kids as they celebrate their 10th year of service.

Located in the South Texas city of Brownsville, Teens Helping Kids was founded in 2008 by five high school juniors. Since its formation, the club has raised and donated funds to organizations that provide services to children, and its teen members have volunteered time and energy to helping those who need it most.

Each year, Teens Helping Kids partners with Cameron County Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc. to host the Annual Sports Celebrity Dinner, which has raised more than \$800,000 since its inception. This year, its members plan to meet their \$1,000,000 goal. The success of this event will be felt region-wide as Teens Helping Kids will be donating proceeds to local children's nonprofits such as Ozanam Center, Tip of Texas Family Outreach, Monica's House, and Maggie's House.

Teens Helping Kids has made a lasting, positive impact in our community, and they will continue to play a role in the improvement of South Texas. I rise today to congratulate them for their decade of success.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT GEORGE EVANS, JR.

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 27, 2017*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a decent and generous American, Mr. Robert George Evans, Jr., who passed away on March 16, 2017 surrounded by his loving family.

Robbie was a lifelong New Orleanian. He graduated from Archbishop Shaw High School and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management from the University of New Orleans. After college he rose to the position of Vice President for the family steel drum business, Evans Cooperage. He later founded Con-Tech International which began selling industrial steel drum parts and related items. Under his leadership, the company has grown into an international corporation supplying steel and hundreds of custom manufactured parts to various industries across the globe.

I met Robbie through a mutual friend, Jerry Bonnet. It was a few years after Hurricane Katrina and I was still Indiana Secretary of State. My office had "adopted" an inner city school in Indianapolis, and I heard that Robbie and New Orleans were doing some amazing