

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA STATE
TROOPER STEVEN MULLER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Virginia State Police Trooper Steven Muller, for his recognition by the Rotary Club of West Springfield as an Outstanding Virginia State Trooper of the Year for 2016.

Trooper Muller is a credit to his unit and uniform and the long tradition of our Commonwealth's State Police Force. Trooper Muller has been nominated for this Rotary award by his superiors, who note that in August of 2015 he was dispatched to a vehicle crash on the Capital Beltway. Upon arriving at the scene he found two citizens who were trying to aid an individual lying near the wreckage on a very busy and dangerous stretch of I-495. Trooper Muller checked the victim for signs of breathing and a pulse and found the victim unresponsive. Immediately after, he began special rescue breathing and CPR. Trooper Kress Adamson arrived a few minutes later to aid Trooper Muller. A Fairfax County Rescue team then arrived and asked the two troopers to continue their life-saving efforts until the Rescue team could apply an automated external defibrillator. After several minutes of these combined advanced lifesaving techniques, they were able to regain a pulse in the victim. The victim was then transported to INOVA Alexandria Hospital where he remained in critical condition until his recovery. Due to the initial valiant efforts of both civilians and these two troopers, the victim has a better chance of recovery from this life-threatening accident.

Trooper Muller has served with the Virginia State Police for five years. After graduating from the State Police Academy, he was assigned to Springfield (Area 48), where he currently serves. Originally from Brocton, New York, he holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Fredonia State University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Trooper Muller and in thanking him for his years of service to Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia. He has demonstrated exceptional dedication to public safety and the mission of law enforcement, and for that, we owe him a special debt of gratitude.

STATEMENT COMMEMORATING
NEW YORK STATE YELLOW RIBBON DAY

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate New York State Yellow Ribbon Day.

On April 9th, the State of New York will observe Yellow Ribbon Day to honor current and former members of the United States Armed Forces. Yellow Ribbon Day has occurred on April 9th each year since 2006 following unanimous support for resolutions by the New York State Legislature, and Proclamations by New York's governors.

New York State Yellow Ribbon Day, which was originally held at the Saratoga-Wilton Elks, and now takes place at the Halfmoon Town Hall, truly represents the spirit of the New York's 20th Congressional District and its commitment to supporting and recognizing our service men and women.

Yellow Ribbon Day is championed each year by Carol Hotaling, a resident of New York's 20th Congressional District, who began making yellow ribbons to donate to the family members of troops deployed during Operation Desert Storm. Ms. Hotaling stands as a beacon of goodwill and an outstanding member of our community by virtue of her dedication to creating a meaningful occasion to honor our troops.

Ms. Hotaling chose the date of April 9 in honor of Matt Maupin, a U.S. Army Staff Sergeant who was captured while serving in Iraq on that date in 2004. Staff Sergeant Maupin was the first U.S. military service member who went Missing-In-Action during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It is an honor and privilege to recognize our troops on this solemn occasion, and always, for their example of honor, sacrifice, strength, sense of duty, and leadership. On behalf of New York's 20th Congressional District, I offer my heartfelt gratitude for their service in defense of our freedom, security, and way of life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POLICE
TRAINING AND INDEPENDENT
REVIEW ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of The Police Training and Independent Review Act, a bill I introduced earlier today with colleague LACY CLAY of Missouri, and with Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH of Illinois.

If enacted, the Police Training and Independent Review Act would help ensure the independent investigation and prosecution of law enforcement officers in cases involving their use of deadly force. It would also help ensure that law enforcement officers receive appropriate training.

America received a wakeup call in Ferguson, Missouri. We received another in Staten Island, New York.

We received yet another in Ohio, South Carolina, Illinois, Minnesota, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Our nation faces sobering questions about the basic fairness of our criminal justice system. And we face sobering questions about race. These questions simply cannot be ignored.

For too many, for too long, justice has seemed too lacking.

Nearly 2 years ago, President Obama's Commission on 21st Century Policing suggested several common sense reforms, including the use of independent prosecutors for police-involved civilian deaths, as well as additional training for law enforcement officers.

Unfortunately, Congress has not yet acted on these recommendations.

We need to stop asking local prosecutors to investigate the same law enforcement officers

with whom they work so closely, and whose relationships they rely upon to perform their daily responsibilities. Prosecutors also often seek the support of their local police when they run for reelection.

This is an inherent conflict of interest, and if we are serious about restoring a sense of fairness and justice, we must remove this conflict immediately.

To be sure, the vast majority of prosecutors and law enforcement officers are well meaning, dedicated public servants, and we depend upon them to keep us safe from criminals. And they have dangerous jobs, as we have seen all too frequently.

But the fact remains that some officers go beyond the law in a callous disregard for due process. When it comes to investigating, and potentially prosecuting, these actions, there is often a perception of unfairness, and that perception poisons the public trust.

That is bad for law enforcement as well as citizens, making their work more dangerous.

The Police Training and Independent Review Act would give states an incentive to use independent prosecutors when police use of deadly force results in a civilian death. It would also give states an incentive to provide training to police to help them better understand the racial and ethnic diversity of the communities they serve, as well as how best to work with individuals who are disabled or mentally ill.

If states refuse to use independent prosecutors or provide appropriate training, they would begin to lose a portion of their federal funding.

I urge my colleagues to help pass this legislation quickly, and help restore some much needed faith in our criminal justice system.

I want to thank my colleague LACY CLAY for his partnership on this bill. He is a tireless advocate on these issues, and I am honored to work with him. I also want to thank Senator DUCKWORTH for her leadership on this bill in the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF DR.

JOAN L. VORIS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Joan L. Voris, who passed away on February 11, 2017. Joan was an incredibly hard worker who dedicated her life to bettering the lives of others. Through her leadership as Associate Dean of the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program she touched the lives of many that had the pleasure of knowing her. The passing of Dr. Voris has left a void in the Central Valley.

Dr. Voris was born on August 5, 1941, in Brooklyn, New York, and lived much of her young life in Belmont, California. She then went on to earn her undergraduate and medical degree at Stanford University. She moved to Fresno in 1971, with her late husband Zirno Bezmalinovic, and dedicated the rest of her life to improving the central San Joaquin Valley.

In 1980, Dr. Voris started her career at the Children's Clinic at Valley Medical Center. This center cared for children who were predominately low income. Coinciding, Dr. Voris