

HONORING JEFF SPENCE OF PENNSYLVANIA ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN 29 YEARS OF SERVICE IN LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I extend my sincere congratulations to my constituent, Detective First Class Jeff Spence of the York City Police Department, upon his retirement after almost 30 years in law enforcement.

I've long appreciated the commitment of people who devote themselves selflessly to serving our Nation and communities. After graduating from William Penn Senior High School in York, Pennsylvania, Mr. Spence served our Nation in the United States Air Force. He began his law enforcement career in the patrol division of the York City Police Department, where he was later promoted to Detective and later Detective First Class.

Mr. Spence has earned countless awards and commendations for his service, including Police Officer of the Year by both the City of York and York County, as well as induction to the York City School District Hall of Fame. His peers describe a true professional whose tireless dedication, professionalism and sacrifice touched the lives of countless people and challenged all with whom he served to be the best. His legacy of service to our Nation and community sets the standard for all to follow.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's. Fourth Congressional District, I thank and congratulate Jeff Spence on his service and wish him and his family great happiness and success in their future adventures.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAIR—MINNESOTA CHAPTER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Minnesota Muslims in recognizing the 10th anniversary on the founding of the Council on American-Islamic Relations—Minnesota Chapter (CAIR—MN). CAIR—MN is among the 35 Regional Offices and chapters across the United States that are working to enhance reinforce core American values by encouraging dialogue, promoting social justice, protecting civil liberties and fostering freedom of religion. CAIR—MN is to be commended for their advocacy work to advance civil rights and ensure that America remains a beacon of hope, freedom, opportunity and respect for people of all backgrounds.

At a time when Muslim Americans and Muslim immigrants face unprecedented levels of intolerance and abject bigotry, the work of CAIR—MN is vital. Minnesotans treasure our diversity and the desire for open and meaningful dialogue as we work together to strengthen our communities. Our growing and vibrant Muslim community in Minnesota is an important part of the fabric of this country, and I am pleased that CAIR—MN is actively engaged with our local communities across our state.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Minnesota families of many cultures, ethnicities and faiths. CAIR—MN plays an important role in protecting our state's culture and tradition of respect for all. Please join me in recognizing CAIR—MN for 10 years of advocacy and dialogue on behalf of Minnesota Muslims.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUSTY SELIX

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership of Rusty Selix, whose outstanding advocacy and efforts on behalf of mental health have changed, improved and saved lives. Rusty has been a leading expert in mental health policy and finance for the past 30 years, and state and local government policy and finance for 40 years. His work has been focused on mental health since 1986, when he became the Executive Director and legislative representative of the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies, a statewide association of non-profit, publicly funded mental health providers. He also served as the Executive Director of the Mental Health Association (Mental Health America) in California from 1993 until 2014 and has worked with every major mental health organization nationally and in California. He has served as Chair of the Policy Committee for the National Council for Behavioral Health and Mental Health America, helping to guide national mental health policy for many years. Rusty was the original co-author and leader, with Senator and now Mayor Darrell Steinberg, of the Proposition 63 Campaign—the November 2004 California ballot measure which is transforming the state's public mental health system.

Beyond his innumerable and far-reaching accomplishments, I honor Rusty for the spirit and manner in which he has achieved them. Rusty has been able to intuitively and adeptly reach out and bring together with a diversity of stakeholders in collaborative efforts to attain a united goal. Guided by an unwavering focus on mental health, Rusty combines a clear understanding of the "big picture" with a solid, grounded sense of what can be shifted or altered to achieve change. Be it legislative, financial or organizational Rusty can see the necessary steps ahead and present his position in a way that encompasses and appeals to the needs and interests of those who can impact their own systems to accommodate the proposed change. With an authentic, non-defensive posture, Rusty is truly open to listening and learning about the others' concerns and able to skillfully propose feasible solutions to potential problems.

Rusty's tireless work has always been about creating the change that can bring reality to his vision of improving lives and systems and not about self-aggrandizement. He acts with great integrity and, as such, is trusted for his honesty and his ability to follow through. Throughout our work together on mental health policy, he has always acted as an immediate, knowledgeable, and trusted resource.

Mr. Speaker, I know many in the state government and the mental health and substance use disorders community will miss the work

and presence of Rusty Selix as he takes a step back from his active role with CCCBHA and will serve as the Senior Policy Consultant for this organization for which he has done so much. He has been an incomparable force with a strong, solid voice. His legacy will live on for years to come and I'm pleased that he will continue to be a voice for behavioral health care providers and those that they serve in the great state of California.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SPECIALIST (SPC) JEREMIAH JOSEPH DIGIOVANNI

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Army Specialist (SPC) Jeremiah Joseph DiGiovanni who paid the ultimate sacrifice on November 15, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SPC DiGiovanni was killed when two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters collided in Mosul, Iraq. SPC DiGiovanni was among 17 soldiers killed in the collision. SPC DiGiovanni was assigned to 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

According to the Associated Press, SPC DiGiovanni, a Covington, Louisiana native, graduated from North Pike High School in Summit, Mississippi. He joined the Army in November 2000. He later received training for his job as a Black Hawk crew chief. Joe DiGiovanni, SPC DiGiovanni's father, said his son's job was very important to him. "It was 250 miles an hour, pants on fire with both doors open," Mr. DiGiovanni said. "He was a Black Hawk Crew Chief and he lived to get in that helicopter and fly."

Tonja Ludlam, a friend of SPC DiGiovanni, wrote a post about him on a memorial website. "To all who knew DJ, we were touched deeply by a boy who grew to be a man before our eyes," Tonja wrote. "He was so proud to wear the uniform, be the best soldier he could be, and so proud to serve our country. He studied hard to be a Crew Chief and do what he loved the most. I miss his smiles and the fun we had in the short time I knew him."

During his three years of service, SPC DiGiovanni was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Basic Aviation Badge, and the Sharpshooter Qualification Badge.

The funeral was held at Calvary Baptist Church in Pricedale Community, Mississippi, where SPC DiGiovanni was raised by his father and stepmother, Helen DiGiovanni.

SPC DiGiovanni is survived by his father and stepmother, Joseph A. DiGiovanni and Helen DiGiovanni; his mother and stepfather, Laurie A. Brock and Kendall Brock; his six stepsisters, Brandy Blackwell, Misty Blackwell, Kaitlin Brock, Sarah Brock, Hannah Brock, and Elisabeth Brock; his three brothers, Brett Kennedy, Kendall Brock, and Noah Brock.

SPC DiGiovanni's service and sacrifice to protect America will always be remembered.