

LAW ENFORCEMENT MENTAL
HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACT OF
2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2228, the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017, which would create reports on mental health practices and services that could be adopted by law enforcement agencies. This is an important piece of legislation, and I am pleased to support it.

I understand all too well people who experience mental health problems, as I have spent time meeting with individuals during my time as a Congressman. Studies by the National Institutes of Health have shown that individuals in my home state of Georgia experience post-traumatic stress disorder and general anxiety disorder at a rate double the national average. Furthermore, law enforcement officers are placed at the forefront as they have to deal with stressful and dangerous situations every day. Currently, federal grants are awarded to states to fund studies into the social impacts of crime. However, there are no conditions in place to have these grants investigate the mental health and well-being of law enforcement, who are neglected as a part of the mental-health problem in the country. For example, data showed that officers reported more suicidal thoughts than the general population by over 10 percent. To remedy this, H.R. 2228 will expand the scope of these grants to investigate mental health practices and services that could be adopted by law enforcement agencies. The Department of Justice (DOJ) would also separately report on programs that have positive impacts on the psychological health and well-being of law enforcement officers. With these reports, the DOJ would ensure that law enforcement agencies have the appropriate resources to deal with mental health issues common to law enforcement officers.

Studies have shown that between 7 to 19 percent of police officers have symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and they are more likely to die from suicide rather than homicide. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and support law enforcement to obtain the mental-health resources they deserve.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ADDIE RUTH
FOX PARKER ON HER 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the birthday of Mrs. Addie Ruth Fox Parker, who will be turning 100 years old on December 14, 2017.

Mrs. Parker was born on December 14, 1917 in Jacksonville (Calhoun County), Alabama and reared in their home located on the fringe of the town square. Her father was

Cassie Fox, a businessman and landowner and her mother was Jennie Taylor Fox, a school teacher. She is a graduate of Cobb High School in Anniston, Alabama and Alabama A&M College (now Alabama A&M University) in Huntsville, Alabama, where she played tennis and sang in the choir. Divorced with a daughter, she then married Rev. (Pastor) Joseph C. Parker, Sr. on July 28, 1951, in Anniston, Alabama and remained married until his death in 1987. Her husband was a pastor, civil rights leader, teacher, principal, faculty member at the Birmingham (Alabama) Baptist College, and Church Relations Director at Bishop College in Dallas Texas. He also served as pastor of churches in Jacksonville, Anniston, Montgomery, and Birmingham, Alabama, as well as Fort Worth and Dallas, Texas, where she served with him as the pastor's wife and occasional pianist, starting in 1951.

Resident of DeSoto, Mrs. Parker has been a Texas resident since 1972 and is a member of the Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. She retired from a decades-long elementary school teaching career, having taught in Alabama and Texas.

While living in Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama in the late 1950s and 1960s, she served in the Alabama Civil Rights Movement as a dedicated and hard-working confidante, partner, participant, and supporter of her husband—Rev. Joseph C. Parker, Sr.—who was a founding pastor, servant, racial justice advocate, and leader of the Alabama Civil Rights Movement, starting in 1955 with his involvement in the Montgomery Bus Boycott; Montgomery Improvement Association; Montgomery Inter-denominational Ministerial Alliance (Secretary); NAACP; Selma to Montgomery Marches; the Birmingham civil rights protests; and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and alongside her husband's Morehouse college friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King, and Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, Sr. and his wife, Juanita Jones Abernathy.

Mrs. Parker's children, grandchildren, other family members, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances use these words to describe her qualities and attributes that they believe have contributed to her wonderfully successful life and career—character: strong Christian faith, integrity, commitment, and action; personality: warm, compassionate, giving, loving, determined spirit, lively, and humorous; and intelligence: has had and still possesses a keen mind.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Congressman JOHN LEWIS and Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL and all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Addie Ruth Fox Parker on this remarkable milestone. I wish her a special day shared in the company of her family and friends and all the best in the years ahead.

TRACY KRAFT-THARP

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Representative Tracy Kraft-Tharp for being honored by the West Chamber of Commerce.

Representative Tracy Kraft-Tharp has deep roots working in Jefferson County, and has an extensive background working in the areas of mental health, child welfare, and juvenile justice.

Rep. Kraft-Tharp ran the Gemini House and Women in Crisis programs with Family Tree in Jefferson County, and has run a small consulting business helping Jefferson County's small businesses and nonprofits build their capacity. In 2012, she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives where she currently serves as the Chair of the Business Affairs and Labor Committee, the Legislative Audit committee and the Streamlining Sales tax committee. She also serves on the Appropriations committee. Her focus in the legislature has been on economic development, workforce pathways and increasing access to mental health services.

Rep. Kraft-Tharp's work in the community has included her involvement with the Jefferson County League of Women Voters, Jeffco PTA, the Northwest Business and Professional Women. She has also served as a member of the Jeffco Public Schools Strategic Advisory Committee, the City of Arvada Human Services Council and the Arvada Citizens Capital Improvement Committee. She has also been recognized for her legislative work by the Women's Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Nonprofit Association and as a Denver Business Journal Powerbook Finalist.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Representative Tracy Kraft-Tharp for this well-deserved honor from the West Chamber of Commerce.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 638 and No. 639.

Had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 638, I would have voted 'YEA'.

Had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 639, I would have voted 'YEA'.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE
PREGERSON

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Judge Harry Pregerson—a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather—who passed away on November 25, 2017 at the age of 94. He was a United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Harry Pregerson was born on October 13, 1923 in Los Angeles, CA and attended the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law. In 1992, the UCLA Alumni Association awarded Harry the "Community Service Award" for his efforts helping homeless families to house in Salvation Army shelters. Harry was also a United States Marine

Corps First Lieutenant in World War II and suffered severe wounds in the Battle of Okinawa. In 2001, the Department of Veterans Affairs honored Harry and presented him with a token of appreciation with the VA seal.

In 1967, Harry was first appointed by President Lyndon Johnson as a judge of the United States District Court for the Central District of California. In 1979, he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth District. Harry took senior status in 2015 at the age of 92 after 36 years on the 9th Circuit.

Harry's judicial philosophy was frequently characterized as being committed to social justice and ensuring due process for all Americans. He was a strong supporter of federalism, which was evident in his majority decision for *Gonzales v. Raich*, holding that the Interstate Commerce Clause forbade the federal government from interfering with state laws that permitted the use of medical marijuana. Judge Pregerson focused a spotlight on due process issues for death row inmates as he felt many had not been given fair trials.

In 2002, the California Legislature named the interchange between Interstate 110 and Interstate 105 the "Judge Harry Pregerson Interchange" in honor of Harry, the longest-serving judge in the history of the Ninth Circuit. When he was a district judge, he supervised the settlement of a federal lawsuit against the Century Freeway, enabling the construction of the interchange that would later be named after him. In this settlement, he made sure construction jobs were set aside for women and minorities and a training program was in place to give them the needed skills. He also ensured that affordable housing was built for residents displaced by the project.

Harry is survived by his wife of 70 years, Bernardine, children, Dean Pregerson, who is a federal district judge for the Central District of California, and Katie Rodan, son-in-law Amnon Rodan, daughter-in-law Sharon Pregerson, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Harry viewed the bench as a way to improve the lives of others. I hope his family takes comfort in the way Harry lived his life as a one-of-a-kind patriotic, selfless and caring public servant who let his conscience inform his rulings. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

KAMI WELCH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kami Welch for being honored by the West Chamber of Commerce.

Kami graduated with a degree in Public Relations and Communications from the University of Oregon. She pursued a career in that field as well as in the nonprofit sector. Throughout her career, Kami has volunteered with nonprofit organizations that focus on children, education, homelessness and domestic violence.

Currently, Kami is the President of the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. Having worked in the Chamber sector for eight years, she has developed a passion for community, business growth and creative marketing strategies.

Outside of work, Kami participates on many boards and in several leadership roles such as Family Tree Next Gen, Arvada Vitality Alliance, Jefferson County Business Education Alliance, Red Rocks Community College Student Mentorship Program, Western Association of Chamber Executives Emerging Leaders Program and more. Additionally, Kami is a wife, mother of two little boys, a community volunteer and a leader of a local business.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kami Welch for this well-deserved honor from the West Chamber of Commerce.

21ST CENTURY RESPECT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 995, the 21st Century Respect Act.

This legislation amends the naming conventions for certain racial and ethnic identities in official reports from the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Interior. Specifically this legislation replaces the terms "Negro," "Oriental," and "Spanish Surname" with "African American," "Asian American," and "Hispanic."

These terminology changes would most notably affect the USDA and Department of Interior programs for financing and insuring loans for properties in rural areas. By more accurately describing racial backgrounds and places of origin in official program documents, federal agencies can demonstrate a commitment to using respectful and appropriate language. In the current political climate, it is more important than ever to denounce the use of pejorative and historically discriminatory language. H.R. 995 provides a clear step we can take to promote equality in our country. The terms being replaced are outdated and it is distressing that the government has not updated these regulations sooner.

We must confront persistent forms of discrimination whenever possible, and H.R. 995 gives us an opportunity to do so. Eliminating derogatory identity labels from our lexicon is important both in federal program documents and in our everyday speech. I support this bill and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING THE CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH BALLET

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to congratulate the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet on their invitation to perform during Honors Week as a part of the 40th Annual John F. Kennedy Center Honors in Washington, D.C.

The Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, which is headquartered in Carlisle, an area I am proud to represent, is a celebrated leader in the world of dance education. For the past 60 years, the school has provided the young women and men of Pennsylvania access to

world-class ballet training. The school's renowned teaching methodology combines innovative educational initiatives, an esteemed faculty, and impressive performance opportunities to ensure a learning environment that promotes the acquisition of life skills crucial to a child's development. The Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet's alumni continually occupy top positions in the leading ballet companies from San Francisco and Miami to New York, London and beyond, spreading the school's mission to inspire, educate, and enrich across the globe.

Tonight, the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet will perform a selection of George Balanchine works, including Western Symphony (2nd Movement) and dances from George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*®, on the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center. This prestigious event provides the school's hard-working students an opportunity to perform in a nationally renowned venue and affirm the school's leadership in the world of dance education. I am honored to represent the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and take great pride in its remarkable success and continued preservation of such a beautiful art form.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and congratulating its students on their performance for the 40th Annual Kennedy Center Honors.

CHRISTINE WHITE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christine White for being honored by the West Chamber of Commerce.

Christine began her career as an environmental chemist when she was recruited by Coors Brewing Company to create and staff a corporate-wide environmental laboratory to meet the requirements of providing certified chemical analyses to the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Over the years, Christine has moved up in the organization serving as the production manager in the Can Manufacturing Plant and then leading the Technical & Quality functions for a small division, Coors Brewing Worldwide. In that position, Christine and her team were responsible for overseeing the brewing, packaging and distribution of all contract operations throughout Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Japan, Taiwan, China and the Virgin Islands. During this time, she was also responsible for leading the development of the company's global quality management system.

Christine was then recruited by Molson Coors Brewing Company headquarters into the newly created position of Deputy Chief Compliance Officer where she was responsible for the strategic direction and execution of the global legal compliance program, encompassing business units in Canada, UK, U.S., Asia and the New Market Development and M&A functions.

Currently, Christine is the Global Director for the Business Continuity & Crisis Management department for Molson Coors Brewing Company. Christine has a passion for leadership