

unexpectedly on February 25, 2018. Dr. Li was a father and a husband, a lawyer and scholar, and he was a committed Christian who used his legal skills to defend the poor and oppressed in China. He was a true friend of freedom and a kindred spirit in the fight to protect religious freedom and other human rights in China. Though his work made him a frequent target of harassment and violence, until his death he remained passionately committed to the fight for the rights of Chinese citizens under the law. Dr. Li was truly one of China's best and brightest. He will be missed.

Li Baiguang was born in Hunan province in 1968 and received his doctoral degree in law from Peking University in 1997. Motivated by his Christian faith, Dr. Li defended farmers, migrant workers, and those persecuted by the Chinese government because of their religious belief. In 2006, Dr. Li met with President George W. Bush in the Oval Office. In 2008, he received the Democracy Award from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

Dr. Li was in Washington DC, just a few weeks before his death. He expressed concern about the Chinese government's brutal crackdown on human rights lawyers and the possibility that new religious regulations would give the government an excuse to close all Protestant "house churches." I share these concerns and find China's deteriorating human rights situation deeply problematic. President Xi has presided over an extraordinary assault on the rule of law and civil society using repressive policies and new laws that threaten rights defenders in China and challenge both U.S. interests and U.S.-China cooperation and goodwill.

Dr. Li also spoke that day about a savage beating he received in October at the hands of Zhejiang province police. He was taken to a forest and tortured and warned to end his defense of a group of farmers dispossessed of their land by the Chinese government. To his credit, he did not back down from this threat.

He faced such dangers willingly and with a strong Christian faith. He fought daily for what was good and what was right and dreamed of a day when China would be more democratic and free. For his courage, he should be admired as a true champion of liberty and the rule of law.

Dr. Li is survived by his wife, Xu Hanmei, and their eight-year-old son Li Quingxin.

I believe that someday China will be free. Someday, the people of China will be able to enjoy all of their God-given rights. And a nation of free Chinese men and women will honor Li Baiguang as a hero. He will be honored along with all others like him who have sacrificed so much, and so long, for freedom.

HONORING SARAH KIMBROUGH HALL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 26, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Evangelist Sarah Kimbrough Hall.

The weekend of September 15, 2017 marked the 30th year ministry celebration for Evangelist Sarah Kimbrough Hall.

In 1987, local Pastor Edward Shields became gravely ill. At the time, he had a weekly

radio broadcast. As he could not perform this duty any longer, he asked Evangelist Hall to take over his radio ministry.

She thought that she would just do the program as he recovered from his illness. However, Pastor Shields did not recover, and Evangelist Hall continued to do the broadcast.

Evangelist Hall said that she had no idea that a door was being opened for her to minister on a national level.

As she assumed her new role of radio broadcaster, Evangelist Hall began to expand her ministry to include: nursing homes, donating to the homeless, visiting and ministering to the sick and elderly, jailhouse ministry, issuing school supplies to children, rendering support and comfort to the bereaved, providing financial support to various charities and non-profits and bringing local gospel musical artists to the area, just to name a few.

Evangelist Hall was born in Indianola, Mississippi, to Pastor Sam and Eula Kimbrough.

At the age of nine, she began singing with a gospel quartet and in her church's choir. It was at her father's church that she began arranging and scheduling church programs.

She moved to Chicago in 1966. After completing high school, she earned certifications in Business and Office Administration and Cosmetology. Although Hall lived in Chicago, she booked and arranged gospel artists to come to Indianola to perform. These programs grew, received much acclaim and have continued until this day.

Over the years, Evangelist Hall has been instrumental in various community efforts, which include raising money for a number of non-profit organizations. One of her crowning achievements for the past 20 years has been her work and fundraising for the Mississippi Region One Burn Center.

Under Evangelist Hall's leadership, an excess of \$30,000 has been raised and donated to help with the treatment and care of burn victims, many of whom have no health insurance.

Over the years, Evangelist Hall has received numerous accolades, to include: the Woman of Influence by the American Gospel Quartet Convention; selected as Nation's Best and Most Blessed by Quartet Jamboree; was the recipient of the Ruby Summerville Dixon Award; was recognized by the Jackson Musical Association Award and the Annual Stellar Gospel Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Evangelist Sarah Kimbrough Hall for her dedication to serving others and giving back to her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 26, 2018

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week, I voted against H.R. 1625, the fiscal year (FY) 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Most troubling, the bill shortchanges our nation's young people by failing to adequately address the gun violence epidemic. The bill also dismisses the urgent need to provide greater clarity for Dreamers and takes a cruel and heartless approach to immigration that does not reflect our country's values. It does all of

this while also failing to make tough decisions about our defense priorities. It maintains a \$78 billion increase in defense spending above last year's levels without dealing with wasteful and unnecessary nuclear expenditures that will make our country less secure.

That said, I credit our negotiators for funding key Democratic priorities and eliminating many Republican "poison pill" policy provisions. The omnibus included several key provisions that I support. The legislation includes additional funding to address our nation's crumbling infrastructure, including transit grant programs that I have long championed, and maintains critical funding for our public broadcasters. The bill also fully funds the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund, includes a \$4.6 billion increase for our nation's affordable housing programs, and maintains full support for program to ensure the U.S. continues increasing access to water, sanitation, and hygiene for the world's poorest people.

This is a tough job, and I commend the negotiators for their hard work.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 4296

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2018

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4296, a bill that restricts how federal financial regulators determine the amount of operational risk capital large banks are required to hold. Operational risk standards were put in place after the financial crisis of 2008 and currently apply to the largest financial firms in the country. These capital requirements are designed to ensure that large financial institutions have enough money on-hand to protect consumers and taxpayers, avoiding another taxpayer funded bank bailout. At the time H.R. 4296 was brought to the floor, I voted in favor of passage. However, this was a mistake and I would like to reflect that I do not support this legislation.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act was passed to ensure that the American taxpayers will not have to pay for another Wall Street bailout. I am a proud co-author and supporter of the Dodd-Frank Act and continue to believe that it is critical to protect our nation's financial stability. Dodd-Frank put in place financial regulations that protect the broader economy by mitigating risk of large financial firms. Further, it enacted much needed consumer protections to make financial products offered to consumers safer and easier to understand. Significant changes to Dodd-Frank could undermine the stability of the economy and our financial services sector and increase the likelihood that predatory lenders will return to prey on vulnerable consumers.

HONORING PFC MILTON LEE OLIVE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 26, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary hero, PFC Milton Lee Olive, III.