

was a competitive World Cup downhill ski racer. Both Vermonters, they met in 1975 while training. Their mutual dream of running a farm took root. Kim studied agriculture at Vermont Technical College. In 1978 they got married and decided to channel their athletic energy and skill into farming the land in Vermont's Connecticut River Valley.

They started growing produce in Hartland's Four Corners where they rented a 40-acre plot and sold produce at the farmers' market in Norwich. By the fall of 1981, they had saved up enough money to make a down payment on an old farmhouse in South Newbury. The following year, they moved the farm there, started a family, and have been farming ever since.

Today, the 4 Corners Farm is a family affair. Bob and Kim's sons, Peter and Charlie, together with Peter's partner Marie, all help manage the farm. Peter returned home to Vermont after receiving a degree from Montana State University and Charlie came home after serving in Iraq with the U.S. Marine Corps. Their daughter, Molly, a Vermont-educated lawyer, recently returned home to help with the farm's administration. Their step-children, Betsy and Travis, have also helped over the years.

As life can sometimes do, Kim was thrown a curve ball about 20 years ago when she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Despite the infinite daily obstacles, she continues to manage and operate the farm with sheer tenacity and an indomitable spirit.

Mr. Speaker, there are no words to adequately describe the beauty of this farm and the great pride the Gray family takes in producing high quality food for Vermonters. They grow fruits and vegetables on roughly 50 acres including a pick your own strawberry operation. For over 20 years, Kim has also managed the farm's jersey cow operation. Their market overflows with the freshest garden vegetables, fruits, milk, cheese, and meat all grown and raised in their fields. They still maintain a stand at the Norwich Farmers' Market and deliver to coops and restaurants in the area. Their motto, "All we sell is our own," says it all.

What perhaps is most remarkable is the Gray family's 40 years of stewardship of the land and community. They continue to nurture and reinvest in the land and the farm to ensure it can produce food for future generations. Over the years, they have employed and mentored hundreds of employees, sharing their knowledge and promoting a farming way of life.

For Vermont's farmers, marketing their products can be tough. If not for the state's commitment to and support for its farms and farming families, 4 Corners Farm, and many others, would not be around today. The 4 Corners Farm is a product of community-supported agriculture and of a loyal and local following equally invested in good stewardship of the land and the production of local food.

THE NEED TO FULLY FUND AND PROTECT THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE SPECIAL COUNSEL'S INVESTIGATION OF RUSSIA'S INTERFERENCE IN 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND ATTACK ON AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House on the critical importance of fully funding the investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller into Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and the extent to which officials of the Trump Campaign may have aided and encouraged this attack on our democracy.

If we are to protect the rule of law and prevent future interference in our elections, it is essential that Special Counsel Mueller's thorough and nonpartisan investigation continued unimpeded until all the facts are known and laid bare before the American people.

There are at least five (5) reasons why the Congress must act to protect the Special Counsel's Russia investigation from White House interference and obstruction.

First, we need to restore public confidence in our elections and protect against interference in the future.

Our intelligence agencies are unanimous in their conclusions that Russia engaged in an unprecedented campaign to undermine our elections through cyber-attacks, dissemination of false information, and other intelligence operations.

It is imperative that we understand fully the nature of the interference and how to harden our electoral processes to prevent future attacks.

Second, there is evidence that Trump campaign operatives conspired with the Russians.

As disturbing as the Russian attack on the election is, the growing likelihood that some Americans aided this most hostile foreign adversary in undermining the very foundation of our democracy.

There is much circumstantial evidence to support this conclusion.

Members of the Trump Campaign high-command had meetings with Russian officials that were not disclosed in testimony and in security clearance applications.

Senior Trump Campaign officials attempted to establish secret communications with the Russian government that would preclude oversight by U.S. intelligence agencies.

Senior Trump Campaign officials had unusual financial ties to Russia.

Senior Trump Campaign officials had advance knowledge of when Russian operatives would release documents stolen by the Russians from the Clinton campaign.

Senior Trump Campaign officials (including Trump's son and son-in-law, and Campaign Chairman) met in Trump Tower on June 9, 2016 with a Kremlin-linked Russian lawyer and a former Soviet counterintelligence officer under the assumption they would provide politically damaging information about Hillary Clinton as part of the Russian government's efforts to support the Trump campaign.

The firing of FBI Director James Comey has increased suspicion of collusion with the Russian government.

The FBI determined that there was sufficient evidence to warrant an investigation into possible collusion with the Russian government.

According to Former FBI Director James Comey, President Trump made unusual requests of him; including asking for his loyalty and hoping he would derail the Russian investigation.

Director Comey refused to make such commitments.

On May 9, 2017, President Trump fired Director Comey and admitted publically the next day that he fired Director Comey "because of the Russia investigation."

The Special Counsel must have the resources needed to perform a fair and credible investigation.

The Department of Justice's appointment of former FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III to oversee the investigation was met with wide approval in Congress and the general public.

Special Counsel Mueller has a well-earned reputation for fairness, probity, integrity, objectivity, and nonpartisan.

The more evidence of collusion uncovered by Special Counsel Mueller, the more the President threatens to fire the Special Counsel or issue pardons to those implicated in the investigation.

There is strong evidence of collusion.

Republicans may point to the House Intelligence Committee report (written by Republicans) that concluded there was no collusion between the Trump campaign and Russian operatives.

House Intelligence Committee Democrats disagree with that report charging that Republicans did not take its investigation seriously.

House Republicans refused to call key witnesses or request pertinent documents, and refused to compel and enforce witness cooperation and answers to key questions.

Democrats on the House Intelligence Committee concluded the opposite, citing significant evidence pointing to collusion in the 70+ secret meetings and communications between senior Trump campaign officials (including Paul Manafort, Rick Gates, George Papadopoulos, Donald Trump Jr., Michael Flynn, Carter Page, and others with agents or entities allied with Vladimir Putin or the Russian government.

Mr. Speaker, this evening, just like last night and the night before, Paul Manafort, the Chairman of the 2016 Trump Campaign, sleeps in a jail, indicted and accused of money-laundering, criminal fraud, and being an unregistered agent of a foreign government.

Michael Flynn, the President's first National Security Advisor, has been indicted and pleaded guilty to lying to federal investigators regarding his contacts and communications with agents of Vladimir Putin's Russia.

Also pleading guilty or indicted in Special Counsel Mueller's investigation are George Papadopoulos; and Trump Deputy Campaign Manager Rick Gates.

All told, Special Counsel Mueller has won indictments against 19 persons—including 13 Russian nationals—and three Russian companies.

Special Counsel Mueller's investigation is not a 'witch-hunt' but a reasonable and necessary response to an attack on our country and its most fundamental democratic institution: free, fair, and untainted elections.

Without the rule of law and democratic governance, all is lost; and all the efforts by our

Republican friends to cut taxes for millionaires and multinational corporations, explode the deficit, and punish working families will avail us of nothing but 'the tinkling of cymbals and the sounding of brass.'

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF  
STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Sterling Heights, Michigan, as it celebrates the 50th Anniversary of its founding. It is a privilege to represent the city, and I am honored to be attending the anniversary celebration on June 28th.

During the mid-1950s, the booming auto industry in Michigan led the Big 3 automakers to build new auto plants outside of the City of Detroit. The Ford Motor Company and the Chrysler Corporation settled into what was then Sterling Township. Following this tremendous growth, auto workers relocated with their families to the township.

After an initial effort to create a city charter fell short in 1966, a new charter commission favoring a City Management government was formed in 1968. On May 25, 1968, voters overwhelmingly passed the new city management charter, and the City of Sterling Heights was officially incorporated as a municipality on July 1, 1968.

Today, Sterling Heights is the fourth largest city in Michigan, and has much to offer for both its residents and the surrounding communities. Sterling Heights is home to vibrant parks, including the newly renovated Dodge Park, where the anniversary celebration will be held, strong public schools, and a quality of life which has helped lead to its impressive population growth over the last several decades.

Sterling Heights has long been a leader in celebrating diversity and inclusion. The City was one of the first "Welcoming Cities" in Macomb County, and has welcomed immigrants and refugees since its founding. The city hosts the American Polish Festival, to celebrate Sterling Heights rich Polish-American history. Sterling Heights is also home to rapidly-growing population of Iraqi Christians, known as Chaldeans, leading to the recent opening of a major Chaldean Community Center in the city. Over the years I have had the privilege of attending the Sterling Heights Cultural Exchange dinner and numerous other events celebrating the diversity of the City.

Economic opportunity in Sterling Heights has been driven by a wide variety of industries, including auto, manufacturing, and defense. Fiat-Chrysler Sterling Heights Assembly Plant, the Fiat-Chrysler Stamping Plant, the Ford Van Dyke Transmission Plant, and the Ford Axle Plant employ thousands of skilled workers and help to anchor a strong manufacturing sector in the City. The Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce & Industry has become a leading business organization in Macomb County with more than 1,600 members. I am also proud to have been able to assist in appropriating more than 700,000 dollars in federal funding for the Macomb-Oakland University Incubator. The Macomb-Oakland

University Incubator in Sterling Heights supports economic development in the city, and more broadly in Southeast Michigan, by accelerating high-tech businesses and by encouraging innovation and research and development.

On June 28, 2018, residents and leaders will gather to celebrate the past, present, and future of this great community, which was founded 50 years ago. As the City of Sterling Heights commemorates this milestone, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leaders, residents, churches, businesses, and organizations that make this city so great. And I especially want to thank the residents of Sterling Heights who have provided me with the honor of representing them in Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD  
HARRISON AND HIS SERVICE TO  
THE UNITED STATES

**HON. TED BUDD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Richard Harrison, the patriarch of the History Channel reality show "Pawn Stars."

Richard grew up in Lexington, North Carolina and joined the U.S. Navy shortly after graduating high school. He married, had four children, and eventually opened a small pawn shop in Las Vegas after 20 years in the Navy.

At Gold and Silver Pawn Shop, Richard proudly operated the only family-owned pawn shop in Las Vegas. The store was not just a way to run a business, but also a way for Richard to influence those he worked with. He taught many folks the value of hard work, the importance of family, and the gift of humor.

I admire the contributions Richard made to this great nation of ours and honor this Davidson County native. His knack for hard work has clearly resonated with his son, Rick, and grandson, Corey.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life of Richard Harrison.

MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDED TO  
FIRST LIEUTENANT GARLIN M.  
CONNER OF CLINTON COUNTY,  
KENTUCKY

**HON. JAMES COMER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, today is a momentous occasion for the family of a beloved Clinton County, Kentucky native and American hero, First Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner.

First Lieutenant Conner enlisted in the Army on March 1, 1941 and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. He served on the front lines of ten campaigns, was injured seven times, and received a battlefield commission. While recovering from a serious hip wound at a field hospital in France, First Lieutenant Conner voluntarily left the hospital to rejoin his unit as Germany launched the brutal Operation Northwind to challenge the advancing Allied forces in the final months of World War II.

On January 24, 1945, First Lieutenant Conner ran ahead of the defending force—in the face of intense enemy fire—to attain a better position to call in artillery strikes on six hundred advancing enemy soldiers during a three-hour onslaught. At times, he even called in artillery on his own position. His bravery that day not only distinguished him as an intrepid, selfless patriot, but also saved the lives of his unit.

In acknowledgment of First Lieutenant Conner's exceptional valor, President Donald J. Trump presented a posthumous Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military distinction, to his wife, Pauline Conner, in a ceremony at the White House today.

The Medal of Honor commemorates the extraordinary sacrifice and bravery of American heroes like First Lieutenant Conner. Today, I join this Clinton County native's family and friends in celebrating his legacy and honoring his noble service to our nation.

HONORING LOUIS AND JUDITH  
COSTA

**HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Louis and Judith Costa on fifty years of marriage. The Costas were married on July 27, 1968 and built a life together in Providence, Rhode Island.

Lou served his country proudly as an original member of U.S. Navy SEAL Team 2. He is a decorated combat veteran who served honorably in Vietnam, as well as serving as a Navy submariner. After his military service, Lou had a career as an electrician.

Judy graduated from the University of Rhode Island, and later earned her Master's degree at Brown. She went on to become a high school chemistry teacher. Over the years, Judy has remained very active in her church. Her time as a lector, volunteer, and her service to the unborn is a testament to her faith.

Family has been the central, unwavering pillar to Louis and Judith's marriage. Together, they raised seven children: Louis, Jason, Jennifer, Aaron, Michael, Timothy, and Jessica. They are the proud grandparents of eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, strong families build strong communities. I am proud to rise today and recognize Louis and Judith Costa for their commitment to their faith, country, and family. They have set a wonderful example for our communities across the country, and I extend my most sincere congratulations on their fifty years of marriage.

THE CREDIT ACCESS AND  
INCLUSION ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 25, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 435, the Credit Access and Inclusion Act of 2017.