

Alabama. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on the Democratic Motion to Re-commit H.R. 50, and NO on final Passage of H.R. 50.

COMMEMORATING COMMISSIONER
ROY CHARLES BROOKS

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2018

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my fellow Texans in congratulating Tarrant County Commissioner, Roy Charles Brooks, for his tremendous leadership as the President of the National Association of Counties.

This month, Commissioner Brooks is completing a very successful year representing the 3,069 counties in America as the President of the National Association of Counties.

He has worked tirelessly this year to bring his Presidential Initiative: "Serving the Underserved: Counties Addressing Poverty," to light. His proposal pushed counties to look at the role they played in alleviating generational poverty with a focus on early childhood development. Under his leadership, counties now have some best practice solutions at their fingertips that can be used to address important societal needs.

COMBATTING TUBERCULOSIS IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently held a hearing addressing the persistent and too-often underestimated threat to global public health posed by tuberculosis. This brutal, contagious disease killed 1.7 million people in 2016, the most recent data available—making it the deadliest infectious disease in the world—killing more than both HIV/AIDS and malaria combined.

TB is devastating for many people globally, but it impacts the people of Africa—especially southern Africa—disproportionately.

In 2016, 44 percent of all TB deaths occurred in the Africa region—in spite of accounting for only 25 percent of all new TB cases. Africans die at a rate of 72 per 100,000 infected, compared with 35 per 100,000 in Southeast Asia and 13 per 100,000 in the Eastern Mediterranean region. Those infected with HIV/AIDS are particularly vulnerable to TB, and nearly three-quarters of those co-infected with HIV and TB in 2016 lived in sub-Saharan Africa.

Thankfully, most cases of TB are curable if patients are diagnosed and adhere to a proper treatment regimen. However, millions of newly infected people go undiagnosed and without treatment each year, and the global spread of Multiple Drug-Resistant (MDR) and Extensively Drug-Resistant (XDR) TB, which emerges when patients receive inappropriate or incomplete treatment, poses an even greater and more costly threat. In 2016, roughly 490,000 people developed MDR-TB and an additional 110,000 new cases were resistant to the most effective treatment.

Not only is treating MDR and XDR TB a grueling process for the patient, it also costs far more to treat than the "garden variety" of the disease. One study by the Stop TB Partnership estimated that drug resistant TB could kill up to 2.5 million people annually and cost the global economy \$16.7 trillion if left unchecked.

The dangerous potential of a drug resistant TB outbreak is evident in the South African mining sector, where exposure to silica dust, crowded, poor living conditions and high HIV prevalence create an incubator for disease and heighten the risk of contracting TB. Further complicating the problem, approximately 40 percent of mine workers are migrants who frequently move across borders and don't receive consistent medical treatment from public health systems in the region that do not coordinate sufficiently. This further increases the risk of MDR and XDR TB infections.

I am encouraged to see that the U.S. funding for combating TB increased to \$261 million in 2018, which is \$20 million more than what was allocated in 2017 and more than \$82 million higher than the Administration's request. This shows that my colleagues are taking this threat seriously, and I commend them.

But we must not stop there, or become complacent.

The WHO anticipates a \$7.4 billion budget shortfall for the Global Plan to End TB if the international community does not significantly increase funding. We must encourage our international partners to step up to this challenge, and take the opportunity of the U.N. General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending TB this September to do so; but even more, we must explore more innovative and holistic approaches to eliminating this disease. We must work from a regional perspective and increase coordination among health systems; we must pay special attention to the mines in South Africa; we must redouble our efforts to diagnose and treat every person infected with TB; and we must pull out all the stops when it comes to preventing MDR and XDR TB infections.

We also must encourage to World Health Organization to stop being overly bureaucratic when it comes to battling TB. There are bottlenecks in the WHO approval process for new treatments and new diagnostic tests which need to be fixed.

I was eager to hear from our distinguished witnesses, who helped us understand where we are in this fight against TB and what more we must do to eliminate it once and for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call votes No. 327 and No. 328. I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 327 related to a motion to recommit H.R. 50 and NO on Roll Call 328 related to final passage of H.R. 50.

TRIBUTE TO VENERABLE ELDER
SI CHEN

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with much sadness that I rise today to honor the passing of the Venerable Elder Si Chen, a passionate spiritual leader and teacher. I offer my sincerest condolences to his family and friends who will remember him as a tireless advocate for kindness, freedom and justice.

Elder Si Chen was born in 1932 in Panxian, China and came to the United States in 1971 to spread Buddha-Dharma. He became the abbot of the Mahayana Buddhist Temple of New York in 1974. Three years later, Elder Si Chen founded the Burmese-Chinese Buddhist Association at Wonderful Enlightenment Temple in Chinatown, New York, New York, which continues to welcome everyone.

In 2000, he purchased 199 acres of land in Thompson Ridge, New York and established the Guardian of Nation Temple to create a space for Buddhist-American multicultural exchanges and spread Mahayana Buddhism. He brought together the Buddhist community of New York through classes, summer camps, monastic retreats and spiritual trips to China, Thailand, Myanmar and India.

Today, members of New York's Buddhist and Asian American community are inspired and grateful for his service, wisdom and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Venerable Elder Si Chen for a life of extraordinary leadership and advocacy in New York City and globally.

HONORING NAT DiBUDUO AND
CELEBRATING 18 YEARS AS
PRESIDENT AND CEO FOR AL-
LIED GRAPE GROWERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2018

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague Nat DiBuduo as he retires from his position as president and CEO of Allied Grape Growers after 18 years of service to California wine grape growers. Under his exemplary leadership, Allied and its members have demonstrated perseverance in the face of economic hardship, achieved prosperity through innovative thinking, and shown integrity by holding their partners to the highest possible standards. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor Nat today as he closes the chapter on a remarkable tenure with Allied Grape Growers.

After graduating from San Joaquin Memorial high school in 1968, Nat attended California State University, Fresno and obtained a degree in Plant Science and Business in 1973. Over the years, Nat has amassed experience within the industry by working in his family's winery, independent consultancy, and agricultural property management. Nat's passion for agriculture led him to the wine grape industry. In 2000, he was named president and CEO of Allied Grape Growers, a 500-member marketing association made up of wine grape growers across the country.