

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES C. COOK,
SR.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Charles C. Cook, Sr., formerly Superintendent of Congressional Publishing Division at the U.S. Government Publishing Office, on the occasion of his death on Friday, September 28.

Charlie, as he was known to his colleagues, graduated in 1960 from Catonsville High School in Catonsville, Maryland, and went to work at Key Press in Arbutus for a salary of \$1.50 per hour. It was at Key Press that Charlie earned his Printing Apprentice Degree. He then moved to Modern Linotype, and from there to the U.S. Government Printing Office, as the GPO was formerly known, in 1969, where he spent the rest of his career.

At the GPO, Charlie rose to the position of Superintendent of the GPO's Congressional Publishing Division, which is responsible for ensuring the production and delivery of all of the printing and digital work ordered by Congress, including the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, bills, reports, hearings, and all of the other documents required by Congress in carrying out its legislative duties.

During his tenure, Charlie helped lead the introduction of digital publishing of the congressional documents by the GPO, which has reduced the cost and greatly expanded public access to this critically important information. He was also involved with devising improved security measures for the delivery of congressional materials following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Charlie drew strong praise from Congress for his work, which included managing the production of materials for the 1997 and 2001 Presidential inaugurations as well as materials associated with the impeachment of President Clinton. Indeed, Charlie's professionalism stood out across the legislative branch, and as Superintendent of Congressional Publishing he was a key participant in the day to day operations that supported Congress.

Charlie was well-known to his colleagues at the GPO, and especially to the many for whom he acted as mentor and advisor, as a manager with a deep understanding of the GPO's work and a model of dedication to GPO's historic mission. He was generous with his time and knowledge, unfailingly kind, and perennially good humored. In the final stage of his career, Charlie was tapped to become Director of New Business Development at the GPO, a senior executive position from which he retired.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the work and career of Charlie Cook to my colleagues, and extend the sympathy of this House to his wife, Norene, and his children and grandchildren.

CONSTITUENT COMMENTS ON
SOBER LIVING HOME PROBLEMS

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise again regarding the hearing held by the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice on September 28, 2018 on the issue of sober living homes. At that hearing, I had the privilege of testifying at that hearing in support of my bill, H.R. 5724, to restore local oversight over sober living homes. As part of my testimony, I submitted to the Subcommittee letters from many of my constituents about problems with sober living homes caused by current federal law preventing appropriate local oversight. For the benefit of my colleagues and the American people, I include in the RECORD the second group of these constituent letters:

In mid-February the home next door was sold to a LLC. The home was converted to a sober living home. I do not know how many men live at the facility but notice that new men are coming and going all day. There are different cars parked weekly. I hope none of these men have criminal backgrounds. Have cut down going outside the home. Stopped the evening walk. Have an ADT security system and installed motion lights all around the home.

Initially they smoked cigarettes in the backyard and we lost all use of our backyard. On constant complaining to [REDACTED] they moved the smoking to the other side of the home. It did not help much as now they had begun to smoke e-cigarettes and vaping also. The smell in our home is terrible. We use Hepa filter air purifiers in the home. Keep half the home windows closed. Our home has become more of a prison. My husband and I have chronic multiple health issues. The smoke and e cigarette pollutants cause me to have a constant cough, irritated nose, burning eyes and sometimes headaches. I wear a N99 pollution mask all day in the home. I daily leave the home for a few hours to take the mask off. I also try to spend a night or two outside the home. When the symptoms get further aggravated I get checked by my Physician. I last visited him on August 31, 2018. It affects me more than my husband.

These homes are built for single family use and not for group smoking and vaping. Our family room and sober living home family room is 10 feet apart. My husband and I are covered under the ADA, we are covered but not the facility and medical personnel we use. The addict should be covered under the ADA but why are the owners and medical personnel covered also.

A few years back every residential neighborhood in Huntington Beach had a park and school. Today every residential neighborhood has a few sober living home/detox facilities. Schools are closing, and many parks are unsafe for children.

JOTI GHUMAN,

Huntington Beach, California.

Since having a sober living home open nearly behind my home, the quality of life in

this neighborhood has deteriorated greatly. What has been a quiet neighborhood where people feel safe to live their lives, raise their children, and go about their daily lives in a secure environment has changed. Now I need to be certain every night that every door and window in my home is locked and secure. We had an incident in which drug users from the sober living home ran from the police through not only my but several neighbor's yards, with police searching through those yards at 2 am, with the suspects attempting to enter at least one home in the attempt to evade police. Many neighbors speak of seeing people committing suspicious activities in on the grounds of the local school, which is approximately three homes away from the sober living home. Many neighbors are so anxious about the deterioration of the neighborhood that they are selling their homes, with many others discussing doing so as well. We need more oversight as to who manages these homes, as I understand, the one in my neighborhood is managed by an individual with multiple felonies. This is insane, and regulations need to be implemented. Thank you for reading my issues.

EDWARD SKELTON,

Huntington Beach, California.

I live a few houses away from a sober living home where drug use has gone on there. Even worse someone from there entered another person's home on our block in the middle of the night. It saddens me that there is not much regulation regarding these homes and they can just open anywhere. We have families with little kids in the area and a school down the street from us. These homes need to be regulated and their clients properly cared for. There should be proof that patients are benefiting from these homes before we spend all this money to make owners of them rich, while everyone suffers including the community.

GHINA MACDONALD,

Huntington Beach, California.

We live in a town house in Aliso Viejo, California. Our walls are connected to other homes on both sides. In 2015/2016 one of our neighbors moved out and turned her home into a sober living home. For almost 2 years we lived in constant fear of the revolving door of people going in and out of that house.

During that time, we (and our neighbors) had to call the Orange County Sheriff's Department because of numerous violent fights, at all hours of the night. My girlfriend witnessed an individual who seemed to have overdosed in front of our garage. There were numerous fights, strange chemical smells coming out of the house, sheriffs and other emergency vehicles constantly next door. Residents would wander the neighborhood and at hours of the day and just stand outside our home, looking right into our windows. We had to lock our doors, close the blinds and request that they smoke down the street. We are still worried that methamphetamine was possibly being cooked and was the source of the chemical smells coming from inside the home. Again, we share a wall and we worry about possible long-term risks of exposure.

At one time, the boyfriend of one of the residents was wanted by the United States Marine Corps. The home owner stopped by our home and provided me the investigators

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

phone number. We had strict instructions to call her if we ever saw him at the house. Why are we responsible for this?

Two separate nights, someone from this house tried to walk into our house. Luckily our front door was locked, and they just slammed into the door.

In late 2016, one of the residents passed away inside the home.

The home is still some kind of a “facility” for people with problems but we have not had the problems that occurred in 2015–2016. The current residents are nice but due to the constant change of occupants, we still live in fear that something could happen at any time. It's been almost 4 years of hell and I think it is unacceptable that the state allows someone to open a place like this, with little to no restrictions and the neighborhood has no rights or protection against this from happening.

No family should live in fear due to someone else's greed. We talked to the city, HOA and Sheriff's department multiple times and all said that there was nothing they could do to help. They wanted to help but said the state says this is ok. Although we understand that people need help, but our safety and peace of mind should not be sacrificed. That is our story and can back it up with emails to our HOA every time an incident happened.

ALBERT FRANCIS,
Aliso Viejo, California.

My name is Virginia Mccoy, mother of four children, wife of a police officer, and a positive role model in my community in Huntington Beach, CA.

I live across the street from our public middle school, and directly diagonal to a new sober living house. Unfortunately, the house is not sober, and is impeding on the safety and happiness in our neighborhood. Drugs, alcohol, speeding, and the lack of respect to neighbors has truly put a stain on our once wonderful family neighborhood.

I am no longer comfortable letting my 14-year-old daughter ride her bike in the neighborhood, walk our family dog, or walk to her friend's home down the street. Just today, September 5, 2018, was the first day of school, witnessed many parents drop their child off right in front of this “Sober Living House.” The fact that parents have no idea that just a couple weeks ago the occupants along with others were smoking heroine, were chased by police, broke into a neighbor's home, and were never caught, is truly terrifying.

I urge and plead for firm regulation and stricter laws to combat fraudulent sober living homes, protect our neighborhoods, and protect children in school neighborhoods.

VIRGINIA MCCOY,
Huntington Beach, California.

There are two SLHs in our neighborhood in Huntington Beach near [ADDRESS]. One of these is our neighboring house that was occupied earlier this year. Our neighbor of forty years died, and her children sold the home.

Since the SLH has been occupied we have been impacted by constant cigarette smoke and vape vapor. Our incessant complaints to the owner's manager have mitigated the smoked vapors to the point where it is less frequently noted. This has not however reduced our health impacts. My wife has constant complaint of itching eyes and irritated throat. She has now been coughing for over two months with some bouts that are persistent over many minutes. During a doctor visit last week she was advised to reduce in-house irritants.

My allergies have been exasperated since the SLH facility has moved in. Incidents of

running nose and coughing have increased and I now have daily bouts of sneezing.

After having lived in our house for over forty years we are now confronting a situation where our neighbors are impacting our health making it impossible to peacefully enjoy our home. The occupants of the SLH are transient who have shown no interest in any involvement in the neighborhood. We do not know who the occupants are, or many people live there.

We hope you are able to use our experience in providing input to any congressional hearing on the subject.

OPJIT GHUMAN,
Huntington Beach, California.

I have lived in my home since 1966. With two different 4-year breaks. My husband, Marc, and I have lived here continuously since March of 1988. I was raised in this home and we have raised our two daughters here, also. We have a lovely neighborhood and fantastic neighbors. Most of whom have also lived here for more than a decade. I have been very involved with [REDACTED] school as a volunteer in various capacities including PTSA President.

In recent months it has come to our attention that [ADDRESS] is no longer a family home. It is now a DETOX CENTER. How do I know? Diligent research by myself and other neighbors.

Drug Incident: The research began in depth after very disturbing events in the early morning hours of Friday, August 24, 2018 approximately 1:40 am at [ADDRESS]. The same early morning, the Huntington Beach Police were summoned to the sidewalk next to [ADDRESS] after another neighbor witnessed drugs being cooked and shot-up. The suspects scattered, and two males ran into the side yard of [ADDRESS] and hopped backyards between the homes on [ADDRESS]. Camera surveillance is available from the backyard of [ADDRESS] and front door of [ADDRESS]. There was a backpack abandoned on the side walk next to [ADDRESS] that contained a significant amount of drugs. Camera footage available from [ADDRESS]. HBPD Case No. [REDACTED].

Pit Bull Incident: Monday August 27, 2018 my neighbor [NAME] was prevented from exiting her car in her driveway at [ADDRESS] because of a barking pit bull on her property. She pulled into my driveway and into my home to ask me to whom the pit bull belonged. I told her it belonged to [ADDRESS]. We proceeded to call Animal Control after witnessing the dog roam across the street and down to the corner, barking the entire time at anyone it saw. I have video of the Pit bull charging into the street towards me while I am near my front door. When Officer [NAME] from Animal Control arrived, the dog continued to bark and began growling repeatedly. Officer [NAME] told me that this dog was in violation of Cade 41-51 Protection From Animals and was a misdemeanor offense. I have copies available of the neighbor statements regarding violation [REDACTED].

Research: Research has revealed that the house at [ADDRESS] is now owned by [NAME] is listed as principle. [NAME] purchased this house on [ADDRESS].

Resident of the home (believed to be a House Manager) is [NAME]. [NAME] has an extensive criminal past including multiple drug charges, multiple DUIs and was most recently imprisoned for securities fraud. [NAME] is currently on parole. How do we know that? His parole officer knocked on the incorrect door and demanded to speak with [NAME]. [NAME] said that she did not know [NAME]. The PO eventually realized her mistake and knocked at [ADDRESS]. No one answered. [NAME] is the owner of the pit bull

reported to animal control. [NAME]'s co-defendant in the securities fraud case [REDACTED], has been at [ADDRESS] at least three times.

THIS DETOX HOUSE HAS AFFECTED MY FAMILY IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

I CAN NO LONGER SLEEP WITH MY WINDOWS OPEN.

I CAN NO LONGER ALLOW MY GRANDNIECE AND GRANDNEPHEW TO WALK TO AND FROM THEIR HOME TO MINE (3 HOUSES) WITHOUT DIRECT SUPERVISION.

I AM CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR ANYTHING THAT IS UNFAMILIAR IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD.

I WORRY ABOUT MY NEIGHBORS.

I WORRY ABOUT THE SCHOOL CHILDREN THAT WALK TO [REDACTED] SCHOOL ON MY STREET EVERY MORNING AND AFTERNOON.

I CANNOT SLEEP SOUNDLY.

I HAVE INSTALLED SECURITY CAMERAS.

I DO NOT FEEL SAFE.

Please allow our local government to have jurisdiction in MY neighborhood. HBPD has yet to gather video evidence from any neighbors regarding the drug charge. There is no detective assigned to the case at present time.

JANET CARDENAS,
Huntington Beach, California.

I wanted to share my opinion on the sober living homes. I have lived in Costa Mesa for many years. The city has gone through a major transformation due largely to the sober living homes. There are young adults that now live on our streets because they were “bought” from out of state, went to a sober living home, and then kicked to the street when the money ran out. They have no method to get home and mostly return to drugs while they live on the streets. I saw a young female crying sitting with her suitcase. Apparently, her time was done at the sober living home, they would not help her return home (out of state) and the people she was with robbed her of her money and other possessions. We gave her the info for Costa Mesa Homeless Network solutions. I live across the street from a sober living home. The company was able to buy a \$925k home and the people that run it drive Audis, Jaguars, and of course, there is the \$80k Mercedes that shows up. There are cars everywhere around this sober living home in our neighborhood, there are often young males sitting in cars in our neighborhood (sometimes for hours), and there are kids smoking everywhere. I am appalled that this has continued to exist. We are essentially allowing human trafficking to pay these broker fees to feed enough people into their “sober living home factory”. They are supposed to help the tenants return home, where they may have a support system. However, that would cost them money; their only business is to make money. I would ask a change in the law to state you must be a resident of California for 12 months to enter a sober living home here and there may be no exchange of “broker” fees to buy bodies for their homes. We need to clean up our neighborhoods. Crime has skyrocketed in our neighborhood. Our mail is stolen, packages are stolen, cars are broken into, and our homes are being broken into. We need to enact these new requirements and the state must regulate them. They must send in inspectors to make sure these homes are free of drugs, the tenants are from California for the last 12 months, and that there was no money exchanged to find these people. We have been essentially wasting tax money to make our city less safe.

ERIN BLANCETT,
Costa Mesa, California.

RECOGNIZING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October 11 as the International Day of the Girl, which falls this upcoming Thursday. The International Day of the Girl is a day to draw attention to, and seek solutions for, the challenges that confront girls throughout the world.

This year's theme for the International Day of the Girl centers on educating girls for today's and tomorrow's economy. That is why I wish to highlight the Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act, legislation that I introduced last year with Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY, which seeks to better ensure that the educational needs of displaced girls are considered in the design, implementation, and evaluation of our foreign assistance. This legislation is vitally important since, according to the UN High Commission on Refugees, there are approximately 65 million forcibly displaced people worldwide and half are under the age of 18. Prolonged periods away from home result in low school enrollment rates for displaced children, which leaves girls vulnerable to early marriage, human trafficking, and child labor. With these urgent needs in mind, I urge the Senate to swiftly pass the Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act.

The International Day of the Girl is a day to work towards ensuring that girls around the globe have access to safe, quality education. As this year's theme reminds us, girls have better opportunities when they have access to quality education and a safe environment in which to learn.

PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER SHOULD RETURN HOME EMPTY-HANDED

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Pakistan's Foreign Minister was here this week to urge the White House to renew assistance to his country and plead for our help in talks with India. While I do not oppose open engagement with Pakistan, our position must be clear: Pakistan will not receive a dime of U.S. support if terrorists continue to live safely on their soil. For too long the opposite has been the case. Fortunately, President Trump has disrupted the status quo and suspended most of the funding we give to Pakistan, specifically calling them out for their support to terrorism. But more should be done.

The continued violence in Afghanistan is directly the result of Pakistan's protection of the Taliban, al-Qaeda, and other murderous terrorists in the region. After 9/11, U.S. and allied forces had defeated the extremists in Afghanistan. But Pakistan opened its doors to Osama bin Laden, Mullah Omar, and the entire leadership of al-Qaeda and the Taliban. We know this because these terrorist thugs were found and killed in Pakistan. With Pakistani help,

their terrorist networks were able to rebuild and launch an insurgency in Afghanistan that has killed thousands of Americans.

It is insulting that Pakistan's Foreign Minister comes to Washington and dares to lecture us for holding them to account. Just yesterday, another American was killed fighting extremists in Afghanistan. Our nation continues to sacrifice to bring peace to Afghanistan, while leaders of the Taliban enjoy the shelter of Pakistan. If the Foreign Minister was truly interested in restoring the relationship between our two countries, he would accept responsibility and acknowledge that countless terrorists still live inside Pakistan. His country has been the epicenter for extremism for decades, where extremists are still able to hold massive public rallies to incite young men to violence. This isn't conjecture, the evidence is well documented.

For example, Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, the founder of the U.S. and U.N.-designated terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, operates freely in Pakistan. Despite his role in the 2008 Mumbai attack, he leads public rallies and can raise money for extremists causes. Yet, Pakistan, including its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, consistently defends Saeed and condemns U.S. counterterrorism efforts. Pakistan's Foreign Minister even claimed terrorist groups that target Pakistan have safe haven in Afghanistan under the U.S.'s watch. Yet it is Pakistani officials who somehow claim there is a "good" Taliban, while the U.S. makes no distinction. If the Foreign Minister wanted to earn our trust, his government could demonstrate good faith by taking action. This includes handing over Mr. Saeed, the leaders of the Taliban and Haqqani Network, and banning all extremist groups on its soil. But this is a fantasy. The hope that Pakistan would do the responsible thing ended a long time ago.

Now is the day of reckoning. All assistance to Pakistan must end, its Major Non-NATO Ally status must be terminated, and the State Department should immediately designate it as a state sponsor of terrorism. The glad-handing with Pakistani politicians cannot cover for the obvious misdeeds of their country. The Foreign Minister came to Washington empty-handed and should return to Pakistan empty-handed. Seventeen years of appeasing Pakistan has gotten us nowhere and a new course must be taken.

Turn out the lights—the party is over for Pakistan.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

This celebration of service began in 1945, when the military men and women returned from World War II with life-altering injuries and disabilities they received during their service in the war. When they returned, they were held back from reentering the workforce because of these limiting disabilities. This sparked public

interest and soon after the end of the war, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the first week of October as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.

As awareness grew across the country of the diversity of disabilities individuals have, the week was renamed in 1962 to National Employ the Handicapped Week.

In 1988, Congress passed the Handicapped Programs Technical Amendments Act of 1988, establishing October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Throughout this month, we celebrate and continue to increase awareness of the many contributions of workers with disabilities and emphasize the value of a workforce inclusive of their talents, skills, and unique perspectives.

Employees with disabilities of all types bring the valuable qualities of reliability, dedication, loyalty, a positive attitude, and strong work ethic to their places of employment. This motivates their fellow colleagues and has a profound impact on their workplace. That is why in Congress, we continue to work towards creating inclusive workplace cultures around the country and establishing training opportunities for job seekers and employees with disabilities.

This month, I join all workers with disabilities, their families, and the constituents of Washington's Eighth District in recognizing this special occasion and celebrating the contributions they have made to our communities, state, and nation.

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ABDUL SHAKOOR

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for the immediate release of Abdul Shakoor, a prisoner of conscience currently incarcerated in Pakistan, and a man who has been persecuted for his belief in the Ahmadiyya Muslim faith. Mr. Shakoor is an 82-year old who manages an optician's store and bookshop in the main bazaar of Rabwah in Punjab province. Rabwah is the de facto headquarters of Pakistan's Ahmadiyya Muslim community, known as Ahmadis.

Mr. Shakoor is a beloved figure in Rabwah where he is known as a pillar of the community, a leader, a conciliator, and peacemaker. He is referred to by all as "Brother" Shakoor.

In 1997, Pakistan passed the Anti-Terrorism Act, which provided for a broad definition of terrorism and created special Anti-Terrorism Courts to try individuals accused of violating the law. In the 20 years since it became law, the Anti-Terrorism Act has been increasingly used as a cudgel to persecute religious minorities within Pakistan, with a specific malicious focus trained on Ahmadi Muslims. This is because Pakistan's Constitution declares members of the Ahmadiyya faith as non-Muslims, and Pakistan's Penal Code criminalizes their existence for "posing as Muslim," subjecting them to three years imprisonment and potential capital punishment. Thus, Ahmadis are legally rendered heretical and thus illegal in Pakistan because Ahmadi Muslims believe that the founder of their faith, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, was divinely appointed as the promised Mahdi and Messiah.

On December 2nd and 9th of 2015, Brother Shakoor's bookshop was raided by the Counter Terrorism Department of the Punjab police and the counterterrorism focused Elite Force. He and his assistant, Mazhar Abbas, a Shia Muslim, were arrested for the crime of distributing Ahmadiyya commentaries on the Qur'an. Brother Shakoor was charged with violating both the Anti-Terrorism Act, for "disseminating any material to incite hatred," and the Pakistani Penal code for committing acts or speech that insult a religion or defile the Qur'an or the Prophet Muhammad.

Brother Shakoor was brought to trial within a month before the Anti-Terrorism Court in Faisalabad, Punjab. The only witnesses at the trial were the officers who raided his bookstore who entered into evidence a letter supposedly recovered during the December 9 raid. The letter, purportedly from the Ahmadiyya Director of Public Affairs, notified Brother Shakoor that some Ahmadiyya literature had been banned and he should neither display nor sell it. However, the literature cited in the letter, and for which Brother Shakoor was prosecuted, was not banned until January 20, 2016, after the trial had concluded. Obviously, religious literature cannot be banned under international human rights law in any case.

Brother Shakoor contended at trial, and maintains the position, that while he was in possession of the literature, he did not distribute it. Yet, the anti-terrorism court Judge Raja Parvaiz Akhtar announced Brother Shakoor's conviction under the Anti-Terrorism Act and Sentenced him to eight years imprisonment for his alleged crimes, dealing a terrible blow to the local Ahmadiyya community. The shop assistant, Mr. Abbas, was convicted under the Anti-Terrorism Act as well and was sentenced to five years in prison.

Since his conviction, Brother Shakoor has appealed the verdict and petitioned for bail on appeal to the Lahore High Court, but he has remained in jail. The case has been listed on the Lahore High Court's daily docket on several occasions, but it has been repeatedly postponed. The last postponed hearing date is believed to have been June 22, 2017, and the matter has not been noticed since to the best of our knowledge. Brother Shakoor remains in prison and is suffering from medical conditions which we cannot say are being attended to, including hernia and severe weakness owing to old age. For example, the distance within the jail facility between the daily meeting point and his cell is very long, and so he needs to be transported with help from a warden because he cannot even make that basic walk by foot.

When anti-terrorism statutes are used to persecute practitioners of minority religious communities who have done nothing but observe their faith, they are obviously illegitimate instruments of tyranny and threaten public support for legitimate anti-terrorism policies. Brother Shakoor's imprisonment is a scandalous abuse of an anti-terror law and demands international condemnation. He should be freed immediately.

As the world's first constitutional democracy, America must defend the freedoms of speech, expression, and religion against state persecution everywhere. So today, I ask my colleagues to join me in standing with Brother Shakoor and calling for his release, as well as that of Mr. Abbas.

RECOGNITION OF REV. ALPHONSO WASHINGTON

HON. DAVE BRAT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 105th year of life of the Reverend Alphonso Washington. Rev. Washington was raised by his grandparents in Hume, Virginia. He attended the Mount Morris Primitive Baptist Church (later called Mount Morris Baptist Church), where his grandfather served as the pastor. He went to school while also working odd jobs to help his mother and stepfather. Beyond working on the family farm, he also took on plumbing and construction jobs. In November 1942, he received a letter from "your uncle" . . . Uncle Sam, stating Alphonso Washington had been drafted into the U.S. Army. He was sent to Fort Meade, MD, for about a week, and then traveled by train to the new Air Navigation School in San Marcos, Texas. The U.S. Army was still segregated at that time, and while the white barracks had been built on the new base, there were no black barracks yet. He and his fellow soldiers slept on the train and then in tents until the black barracks were completed.

Since there were no black chaplains, and he had preaching experience, Alphonso was assigned to the base Chaplain Corp. It was during this timeframe Rev. Washington made a truly risky stand for God. While praying for troops that were heading out to war, a new Chaplain Officer, Major Dunn, stated: "I will not swear to you there is a God, because I have not seen Him. . . ." Thinking those troops definitely needed their faith strengthened, not reduced, Private First Class Washington stood up and challenged the Major regarding God's existence. For this, he was charged with insubordination, and "black-balled" from promotion in lieu of Court Marshal. After the war, Rev. Washington remained in the San Marcos area for nearly 60 years with his first wife, Rosa Mae.

When Rev. Washington moved back to Virginia in the early 2000s, he returned to Mount Morris Baptist Church and served as an associate minister, traveling to preach in local churches, perform marriages, funerals, and counseling. He was later appointed to the position of Senior Statesman, where he continues to serve through preaching, committee appointments, the Sunday School Conference, the Women's Auxiliary and Ministers and Deacons Conference. In 2002, he married his current wife and former secretary of the church, Carol Whitmore.

In 2009, he wrote an autobiography called, "All in God's Time" and has held book signings and been the keynote speaker throughout Fauquier and Culpeper Counties. The book contains his memoirs from his early days in Hume through his marriage to Carol at the time he wrote the book. He has served as an American Legion Chaplain since 1946 and has been preaching the Word of God for over 83 years. Rev. Washington and his wife Carol currently reside in Culpeper, VA. I'm happy to honor Rev. Alphonso Washington on 105 years of life and know he will continue to do great things.

IRAN IS MAKING A MOCKERY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, Secretary of State Pompeo announced the U.S. was ending the 1955 Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations, and Consular Rights with Iran. This justified decision comes after three decades of Iran blatantly violating its terms. No other state has defied international norms to such severity as Iran. The terrorist regime in Tehran has no respect for international law or multilateral agreements, and thus should not be shown the respect responsible nations are afforded.

Just earlier this week, a German court ruled that an Iranian diplomat violated his diplomatic immunity for participating in an attempted terrorist operation in France. Meanwhile, Iranian proxies fired rockets at U.S. diplomatic outposts in Iraq. But this was nothing new. Since the founding of the Islamic Republic, Iran has flouted all diplomatic protocol to pursue its murderous agenda. Its diplomats use their special status to facilitate terrorism, assassinate dissidents, and pursue sanctions busting schemes. For example, in the early 1990s Iranian diplomats in Argentina were deeply involved in the terrorist bombings of the Israeli embassy and AMIA Jewish center. This classic Iranian behavior continues around the globe today.

Despite these outrageous acts, Iran has the audacity to pursue legal action against the U.S. based on the 1955 treaty, claiming U.S. sanctions violate its terms. Yet, the Islamic Republic ignores the fact that it terminated the treaty the day it raided the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and held U.S. diplomats hostage. That day in 1979 the mullahs in Iran replaced amity with hostility. Nevertheless, Iran's Foreign Minister blames the U.S., calling us an "outlaw regime." Why any nation takes Iran's government seriously is beyond logical explanation.

By enabling Iran's duplicitous and evil behavior, organizations like the International Court of Justice undermine their own legitimacy. What justice are the Iranian people shown when they are beat and murdered by regime thugs in their own streets? What justice is shown to the victims of Iranian supported terrorism around the globe? The ICJ's decision is a joke where only the murderers in Tehran are laughing. It is time for our partners in the international community to grow a spine and stand up to the illegal behavior of the Iranian regime. No nation is safe so long as we allow the mullahs in Iran to mock justice rather than be held to it.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, "How is Your Day?" For all of us, this is an ordinary question we ask others—and are asked by others—every day. But for so many people

around the world living with rare diseases and who rely on the availability of plasma protein therapies, no day is ordinary.

On October 8 to 12, 2018, across the United States and throughout the world, patients, plasma donors and plasma collection centers will join together to observe International Plasma Awareness Week (IPAW). There will be events to raise global awareness of the crucial need for plasma to create life-saving therapies, recognize that plasma donors contribute greatly in saving and improving lives, and increase understanding of the many rare diseases and plasma protein therapies that help to treat them.

Plasma-derived therapies and recombinant blood clotting factors, collectively known as plasma protein therapies, are unique, biologic medicines that are either infused or injected to treat a variety of rare, life-threatening, chronic, and genetic diseases including bleeding disorders, hereditary angioedema, immune deficiencies, pulmonary disorders, neurological disorders, shock and trauma, liver cirrhosis, and infectious diseases such as tetanus, hepatitis, and rabies.

Plasma-derived therapies save and improve lives of individuals throughout the world, including in emergency and surgical medicine. Plasma protein therapies have significantly improved the quality of life, markedly improved patient outcomes, and extended the life expectancy of individuals with rare, chronic diseases and conditions.

Healthy, committed donors provide the plasma essential to manufacture these lifesaving therapies; and there are now approximately 700 plasma collection centers in the U.S. that have demonstrated their commitment to plasma donor and patient safety and quality by earning International Quality Plasma Program (IQPP) certification.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in commemoration of International Plasma Awareness Week, honoring those committed donors and collection centers who make and collect needed and lifesaving contributions.

TRIBUTE CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church of Cottageville, South Carolina, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary celebration on the weekend of September 14th–16th, 2018. The journey that has brought St. John A.M.E. Church to this moment began in 1868 when the Church, originally named St. Matthew A.M.E., was established in the Burr Hill community under a bush arbor.

Responding to the need for a more secure structure, the Reverend James Nesbitt and the officials of the Charleston District, with the assistance of the Church's founding fathers, organized the building of a church constructed of lightwood boards, heated by a potbelly stove, and illuminated by kerosene lamps. The Church served members from several different

communities and was the site for a public school.

In 1912, the Church was relocated to a parcel of land more central to the communities it served both in Burr Hill and Mack Village. The area is now known as Griffith Acres Drive in Cottageville, South Carolina. St. John A.M.E.'s present facility was erected in 1975 where the Church continued to flourish and where, with the help of a supportive membership, a Fellowship Hall was constructed to serve as a dining facility and hub for entertainment and educational activities.

Since its inception, St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church and its congregation have acted as a beacon of light within the community. The programs and ministries initiated by the Church have served as models for A.M.E. churches in the area and for other denominations as well. St. John A.M.E. continues to positively impact the residents of Cottageville, a small town west of Charleston in Colleton County, through community-oriented programs, including: summer math and reading camps, church school, vacation bible school, revivals, bible study, and creative and performing arts.

Always striving to serve God and the community in new and innovative ways, St. John has piloted a new program called "The Iron Sharpeners" to encourage young African-American men to pursue internship opportunities and has planted a new community garden which has produced a fresh harvest available to members, free of charge.

Despite the uncertain and adverse climate in which St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church was planted, the strength of spirit and faith has allowed the Church to blossom and thrive through the years. St. John exemplifies what it means to be "rooted in faith" and is a place that people of various geographic locations and stations in life still refer to as "home."

It is my great honor to pay tribute to this fine congregation. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church on their 150th anniversary and wishing them continued strength and prosperity in the days ahead.

SALUTING BILL AND SUE WELSER FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Bill and Sue Welsler for their leadership in the Space Coast Honor Flight program, which serves Florida's Brevard and Indian River County veterans.

Space Coast Honor Flight is a non-profit organization that honors our World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans by taking them to visit their war memorials in Washington, D.C.

A retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant General, Bill first became involved with the Honor Flight Network when he volunteered to serve as a guardian for a WWII veteran on the local chapter's second flight. This moving experience led Bill to work with a small cadre of vol-

unteers to develop and run what would eventually become Space Coast Honor Flight. Bill has served as the president of the organization for more than eight years.

Seeing the profound impact that Space Coast Honor Flight has had on our veterans, Bill's wife, Sue, joined the board and quickly became an integral part of all its activities. Sue serves as one of the veteran coordinators for the organization and is responsible for helping to create honor flight experiences for hundreds of veterans.

Bill and Sue have also tirelessly given their time to organizing Space Coast orientations, flight departure ceremonies, veterans' reunions, and luncheons across the Space and Treasure Coasts. They have spent countless hours visiting our veterans in nursing homes and hospitals. They have attended a number of funeral services for our veteran heroes—Space Coast Honor Flight is often the first to be called when our veteran families lose a loved one.

For the past eight years, Bill and Sue have been responsible for organizing, scheduling, and leading 52 flights, allowing 1,375 veterans to spend time at their war memorials in Washington, D.C. Bill has participated in every single flight.

One of the greatest privileges Katie and I have is greeting our veterans as they depart on their honor flight to our nation's capital or greeting them in Washington, D.C. as they arrive on the National Mall to visit their memorials. Our veterans' courage and service to the country has helped change the course of history and has protected America and the freedoms we hold dear. Hosting these honor flights is the least we can do to acknowledge their service, and I am thankful for the work that Bill and Sue have done to make these flights possible.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting the passion, dedication, and commitment of Bill and Sue Welsler. Their efforts and service honors our veterans each and every day and has been vital to the success of the Space Coast Honor Flight mission.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DICK ROBINSON

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Dick Robinson who is to receive the Distinction Award from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation's Rocky Mountain Chapter on October 10th, 2018.

I have had the privilege of knowing Dick for many years. His story is truly a remarkable one. A fourth generation Colorado resident, he is a graduate of Colorado State University and has dedicated most of his life to bettering our state and community through countless charitable and community projects; while during much of that time maintaining his family's dairy business alongside his brother. Mr. Robinson embodies a spirit of service, recognized throughout the state of Colorado.

Dick Robinson began his career of service in the U.S. Army, earning a Silver Star,

Bronze Star, and Purple Heart, while leading troops as an artillery officer during the Korean War. Upon his return home to Colorado, he, along with his brother, turned Robinson Dairy into a nationally regarded business. After selling it in 1999, Dick Robinson became the Co-Founder of the Dean Foods Denver operation. Throughout his successful business career, he has also taken on many additional responsibilities. These have included, serving as the chair of charities such as the Milk Processor's Education Program, the Denver Area Council Boy Scouts of America, the Greater Denver Chamber of Commerce, the Rose Community Foundation as well as many other organizations to better our community. Some of his other commitments include the boards of the Denver Art Museum, HCA-HealthONE, and Regis University.

Dick Robinson's spirit of service is invaluable in the Denver Metro area where he has been so active, and it is in the spirit of this service that he is celebrated by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation Distinction Award. Congratulations to Dick Robinson.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, 2018 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 11

Time to be announced

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider S. 2679, to provide access to and manage the dis-

tribution of excess or surplus property to veteran-owned small businesses, S. 3552, to amend the Small Business Act to adjust the real estate appraisal thresholds under the 7(a) program of the Small Business Administration to bring those thresholds into line with the thresholds used by the Federal banking regulators, S. 3553, to amend the Small Business Act to adjust the real estate appraisal thresholds under the section 504 program of the Small Business Administration to bring those thresholds into line with the thresholds used by the Federal banking regulators, S. 3554, to extend the effective date for the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans, an original bill entitled, "National Guard and Reserve Entrepreneurship Act", and an original bill entitled, "Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018".

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on the military threat posed by near peer adversaries China and Russia.

SVC-217

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

To hold hearings to examine the future of the fleets, focusing on Coast Guard and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship recapitalization.

SR-253

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the cryptocurrency and blockchain ecosystem.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine blackstart and other system restoration plans in the electric utility industry.

SD-366

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 2785, to designate foreign persons who improperly interfere in United States elections as inadmissible aliens, S. 3178, to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and the nominations of Jonathan A. Kobes, of South Dakota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Kenneth D. Bell, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, Stephanie A. Gallagher, to be United States District Judge for the District

of Maryland, Mary S. McElroy, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, Carl J. Nichols, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, John M. O'Connor, to be United States District Judge for the Northern, Eastern and Western Districts of Oklahoma, and Martha Maria Pacold, Mary M. Rowland, and Steven C. Seeger, each to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of John Mark Pommersheim, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tajikistan, Department of State.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

OCTOBER 16

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rita Baranwal, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy), Bernard L. McNamee, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Raymond David Vela, of Texas, to be Director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

SD-366

OCTOBER 17

3 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

To hold hearings to examine implications of China's presence and investment in Africa.

SR-222

OCTOBER 18

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine pilot programs at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

SD-538