

organizations including the United Way of Greater New Haven.

I have had the great honor of knowing and working with John for close to thirty years and I have been proud to stand with him in the fight to preserve his members' jobs as well as the health and retirement benefits they have earned. I would be remiss if I did not extend a personal note of thanks to him for his many years of friendship and support. He has been an extraordinary friend and his fierce commitment and dedication is an inspiration to all of us who have been fortunate enough to work with him.

The retirement of John H. Dirzius from the American Postal Workers Union marks the end of an era. I am honored to have this opportunity to stand and extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation to John for his outstanding service and unwavering commitment to our working families. I wish him; his wife, Diane; their children, Melisa, Jeffrey, and Gregory; and the apples of their eyes, their grandchildren, Makayla, Jacob, Tatiana, and Benjamin, all the best for many more years of health and happiness. Congratulations my friend—Auguroni.

HONORING MARY LYNN ROPER

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Mary Lynn Roper. Mary Lynn has been a force for good in our community. She has blazed a trail for so many aspiring journalists in New Mexico.

Generations of young people will look to the example she set not only in her professional field, but also in the way she gave back to the community. Mary Lynn was instrumental in the launch of "KOATS for Kids," a clothing drive that helps children in New Mexico stay warm in the winters, and she spearheaded the "School Supply" program for schools and students in our region.

Her decades of service in the newsroom at KOAT have also made a tremendous impact. She ensured that the stories of the people of New Mexico were told and her legacy in the field of journalism will be lasting.

I want to personally congratulate Mary Lynn Roper on her retirement and thank her for her service in New Mexico.

I have no doubt that she will continue to make a difference in whatever the next adventure brings.

HONORING ANOOSH JORJORIAN WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anoosh Jorjorian as a woman of the year. She is the coordinator of Yolo Rainbow Families, a support group for families with gender nonconforming children. In her role as

coordinator, she advocates for policies that create identity safe-spaces at schools for children who identify as LGBTQ+. Committed to serving her community, she devotes a substantial amount of her time to help nurture inclusivity and awareness in Yolo County. Despite being a relative newcomer to Davis, Ms. Jorjorian quickly became involved in social justice issues from LGBTQ+ to immigrant rights, also founding Davis' local LGBTQ+ youth group. Consistently a visible presence at school board meetings, she has also been integral in organizing gender identity sensitivity trainings for the City of Davis' Parks and Recreation Department all while being a passionate advocate for better pay for teachers. She was instrumental in forming Safe in Yolo, a community group that helped author a county resolution declaring Yolo County a safe and welcoming place. Additionally, Ms. Jorjorian has been a regular speaker as a devoted member of the Davis Phoenix Coalition, a community group that is dedicated to preventing hate-motivated violence. Ms. Jorjorian is a dedicated community activist who never backs away from doing what is necessary to make our community a safer place. You can find her at community events, speaking at public meetings, or organizing for the next effort to move Davis forward; she has a heart of service that is clearly and consistently demonstrated by her activism in our community.

STATE DEPARTMENT IS COVERING FOR IRAN'S PROXIES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Iran's network of terrorist proxies continues to expand across the Middle East. Wherever there is conflict and division, a militant group backed by Iran can be found. They have become powerful political and military actors in weak states because Tehran provides the money and weapons for them to murder and intimidate their way into power.

But what are we, the United States of America, doing about it? For one thing, we have finally re-applied sanctions on Iran after the terrible nuclear deal allowed these proxies to go well-funded and unchallenged. This allows us to target finances of the primary patron for chaos in the Middle East: Iran. But on the local level, in the multiple arenas where Tehran and its proxies are battling for control we are doing very little. Our own State Department has blocked any aggressive effort that would target some of Iran's most capable proxies. Why?

One of the most important arenas for competing against Iran's growing influence is in Iraq. That nation has seen nearly two decades of war, most recently with the fight against ISIS. Iran has exploited Iraq's chaos to raise several proxies that have killed Americans and Iraqis. While one of Tehran's earliest Iraqi proxies, Kataib Hezbollah, was designated as a foreign terrorist organization in 2009, others have operated with impunity. This includes two of the Iran's most powerful proxies: Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) and Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba (HHN). In recent years these two militias have been the vanguard of Iran's activities

in the region, including sowing sectarian division in Iraq and fighting on behalf of the butcher Bashar al-Assad in Syria.

Yet when I introduced legislation that would designate AAH and HHN for terrorism—which nearly every expert agrees they are complicit in—the State Department has worked to shield these groups. U.S. Embassy staff in Baghdad was very dismissive of this legislation and ridiculed it. It seems to me that the embassy is ignorant of the threat of these groups that have American blood on their hands. Even one of these terrorist groups attacked the embassy after the embassy opposed the terrorist designation. Meanwhile, these groups have seized 15 seats in Iraq's parliament. So what has the state department accomplished other than obstruct Congressional lawmaking? Iraq is closer to being an Iranian client-state than ever before. The State Department should not join in with Iran and oppose this legislation.

President Trump has made clear that confronting Iranian expansionism is a key priority of his administration. But the State Department has instead adopted a strategy to protect Iran's proxies and undermine the American legislative process. We need our diplomats to be sending a strong signal that terrorist militias acting on behalf of Iran must not be taking power in Iraq. Now is a critical time in that country, with the Iraqi people in the streets demanding Iran out of their country. America should be standing with them, not with the Mullahs and their thugs.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MANUEL PADILLA

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Manuel Padilla, Jr., on the occasion of his recent promotion. Mr. Padilla has been chosen to serve as the Director of the Joint Task Force West, Department of Homeland Security.

For more than 30 years, Mr. Padilla has served in the U.S. Border Patrol, working to create safer and more secure border communities. Most recently, he served as the Chief Patrol Agent of the Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol Sector and the Commander of the Joint Task Force-West, South Texas Corridor. Chief Padilla's dedication and determination will be greatly missed but I know he will continue to protect our communities, and our country as a whole, in his new position.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent someone as hard-working as Mr. Manuel Padilla, Jr. The South Texas community is thankful for his dedication not only to our country but also to border communities like ours. I wish him the best as he begins a new chapter of his life and thank him for his time.

HONORING KATHIE O'CALLAGHAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities draw their strength from individuals who are willing