

the city prosecutor for Baldwin, Mississippi and the city attorney for Marietta, Mississippi, from 1991 to 2006. During this time, he also began representing Farmington, Mississippi, as the city attorney. More recently, Judge Hatcher has served as the Chancery Court Judge of the First Chancery Court District of Mississippi for eleven years.

Judge Hatcher's experiences have helped him serve in several leadership roles throughout his community. He was the president of the First Judicial District Bar Association. Along with the founding incorporator, director and secretary of Booneville-Prentiss County Parks, Inc. he currently serves as the founding incorporator, director and secretary of Brice's Crossroads National Battlefield Commission Inc. He is also the founding incorporator, director, and president of Lower Anderson Owners' Association Inc., and is also a very active member of Booneville First United Methodist Church currently on the pastor-parish relations committee.

Judge Hatcher has had the love and support of his wife of 49 years, Kathy Hatcher. He has selflessly served the people of Mississippi for more than forty years. His devotion to God, America and his fellow man will always be remembered, and I wish him and his family many years of happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL STATISTICS ON DEADLY FORCE TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, the fact that after the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, the Eric Garner killing in Staten Island, and so many other, similar tragic events around the country, we still don't have reliable statistics about when, where and against whom law enforcement uses deadly force is shameful.

Even former FBI Director James Comey has said it is "ridiculous that [he] can't tell you how many people were shot by the police last week, last month, last year."

If we are serious about addressing excessive force, we need to know the full scope of the problem. For example, how often is deadly force used? Are minorities disproportionately the victims? Could other, non-lethal measures have been taken?

That is why today I am introducing the National Statistics on Deadly Force Transparency Act. It would require collection of this type of information. Although a provision of the 1994 Crime Bill requires the Attorney General to collect statistics on the use of excessive force, there is no enforcement mechanism and the federal government has been unable to gather data from many local police departments. Since excessive force can be difficult to define, this bill would be limited to just instances where deadly force is used.

Specifically, this legislation would require any law enforcement agency receiving federal funds to provide data to the Department of Justice on when each instance of deadly force occurred, including the race and gender of both the victim and the officer involved. It would also require an explanation as to why law enforcement felt deadly force was justified

and any non-lethal efforts that were taken before deadly force was used.

The Department of Justice would make this data publicly available but would not disclose any personally identifying information.

This is information the public should already have. The fact we don't is absurd. I urge my colleagues to fix this problem and pass the National Statistics on Deadly Force Transparency Act without delay.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR VALARIE GANDY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, our men and women in uniform sacrifice to keep our nation strong and free. They are well-trained, extraordinarily capable and are some of our country's best and brightest. Among their ranks is Major Valarie Gandy, who I want to help recognize today for her service to the U.S. Army Reserve and Congress.

Major Valarie Gandy, from Sylacauga, Alabama, was selected for the Army's Congressional Fellowship Program in 2015. She served as a Defense Fellow in my office from January to December 2016. I, along with my staff, greatly benefitted from her expertise, assistance, and advisement during the year-long assignment. During that time, Major Gandy became a valuable member of my team and earned my confidence to serve as my Military Legislative Assistant.

She served as an advisor on all matters relating to defense, intelligence and veteran affairs. She researched and drafted multiple pieces of legislation introduced to Congress, including a provision on equal survivor benefits for Reserve and National Guard members in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act.

After her time in my office, Major Gandy became a legislative liaison for the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve (OCAR) Legislative Affairs Division, where she oversaw the military personnel, civilian employee and medical portfolios.

Major Gandy facilitated my visit to the Army Reserve Center in Grand Prairie, Texas in 2018. Due to her outreach efforts and effective communication, she became a heavily relied upon resource for congressional offices. For her congressional contributions and efforts, she has been recognized by veterans and military support organizations.

Our military personnel do not shoulder the stress and sacrifice of military service alone, and Major Gandy is no exception. Her husband of 17-years, Raphael, sons, Ty and Alex, and daughter, Blayze, have stood proudly by her side, sacrificing time with their wife and mother while she fulfilled her military commitments. To them also, we offer a truly heartfelt thank you.

I proudly recognize Major Valarie Gandy's years of service to our nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FRESH START ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Fresh Start Act, a bill I introduced today.

If enacted, it would allow certain individuals who have been convicted of nonviolent offenses, paid their debt to society, and are now law-abiding members of the community to petition courts to have their nonviolent conviction expunged from their records.

A criminal record, even for a minor, non-violent offense, can pose as a barrier to employment, education and housing opportunities—the very things necessary to start one's life over.

This is not only bad for rehabilitated offenders, it is bad for their families and for the communities in which they live.

The Fresh Start Act would give nonviolent offenders a chance to start over again, a chance to become productive members of society.

The bill allows offenders to apply for expungement to the court where they were sentenced and allows the United States Attorney for that district to submit recommendations to the court. Applicants who are denied could reapply once every two years. Once seven years have elapsed since an offender has completed their sentence, expungement would be automatically granted. However, sex offenders and those who commit crimes causing a loss of over \$25,000 would not be eligible for automatic expungement.

Finally, the bill would also encourage states to pass their own expungement laws for state offenses. States that pass a substantially similar law would receive a 5 percent increase in their Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funding while those that do not would lose 5 percent of their Byrne funds.

It is one thing to convict someone of a non-violent crime. It is quite another to condemn him to a de facto life sentence for it.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEMOCRACY RESTORATION ACT OF 2019

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Democracy Restoration Act of 2019. This legislation will serve to clarify and, in some cases, expand the voting rights of people with felony convictions, the next logical step in restoring their full participation in civic life.

The United States remains one of the world's strictest nations when it comes to denying the right to vote to citizens convicted of crimes. An estimated 6.1 million citizens are ineligible to vote in federal elections due to their status as ex-offenders. More than four and a half million of these disqualified voters are not in prison, but are on probation, parole, or have completed their sentence. Due to differences in state laws and rates of criminal