

RECOGNIZING LTC BRAD CARVER
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM MILI-
TARY SERVICE

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, on November 22, 2018, my friend William Bradley Carver retired from 28 years of service in U.S. Army Reserve. Today, I rise to pay tribute to Brad, a leader in the 11th Congressional District of Georgia, and a man who embodies the spirit of public service.

Brad was born in Valdosta, Georgia, the only child to Billy and JoAnn Carver, whom he has made proud by his multitude of life accomplishments thus far. Brad graduated from high school as Salutatorian and was voted "Most Likely to Succeed" due to his many achievements, including serving as a high school surrogate speaker for President George H.W. Bush's 1988 campaign. He continued his education at Duke University as an ROTC cadet, and graduated with Honors earning his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He later earned his M.B.A. and J.D. from the University of Georgia.

While attending law school, Brad took a hiatus to serve as a 1st Lieutenant in the 341st A.G. Company in support of Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Joint Guard, Tuzla, Bosnia. He was promoted to Captain in 2000 and served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel of the 335th Theater Signal Command at Camp Doha, Kuwait and Camp Bucca, Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Brad was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Exceptionally Meritorious Service. Brad continued his service in the U.S. Army Reserve for an additional 15 years, elevating to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Brad has also been serving the public by impacting conservative public policy and in supporting his beloved Republican Party. Brad has been engaged in local, statewide, and national Republican campaigns for the past 24 years. He has served as an elected officer in the Buckhead Young Republicans, Atlanta Young Republicans, Fulton County Republican Party, 11th Congressional District Republican Committee, and on the board for the Georgia Republican Party Foundation. Brad has also held gubernatorial appointments on the Georgia Board of Corrections and as Special Executive Counsel for the commission on water issues.

In 2006, Brad became a partner at the law offices of Hall Booth Smith, P.C., serving as senior managing director of government affairs. He was chosen as a James Magazine Top 4 Rising Star (2010) and one of Georgia Trend Magazine Top 40 Under 40 (2011).

Brad married Michelle in 2007 and their two sons, William Bradley Carver, Jr. (7) and Wesley Thomas Carver (4), regularly attend political events with their parents.

On behalf of Georgia's 11th Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I commend Brad for his service to his community, state and nation, and congratulate him upon his retirement from the U.S. Army Reserve. We are fortunate to have a man such as Brad Carver in Georgia's 11th Congressional District.

IN HONOR OF MILBRA DOLORES
WALTERS MATHIAS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the life of an amazing member of our community, Milbra Dolores Walters Mathias, who passed away on January 3, 2019 in Conroe, Texas.

Born on January 16, 1923 in Ace, Texas, Dolores lived a determined life. Prior to retiring in Montgomery, Texas, Dolores spent time in the banking industry and later ran a dry cleaning business with her husband in Houston, Texas. Beyond her professional endeavors, she also led a service-oriented life with the goal of improving the community around her. One of her greatest joys was the community she found at the Montgomery United Methodist Church, where Dolores was a longtime and active member.

To those who knew Dolores, it comes as no surprise that she spent much of her retirement serving those in need. Dolores took genuine pleasure in being around people, and she found great satisfaction in helping others. She served in the Volunteer Auxiliary of Conroe Regional Hospital for several years and later as a Veterans Administration Volunteer at the Conroe VA Clinic. Here, Dolores dedicated over 9,500 volunteer hours to our veterans—a remarkable accomplishment, and one Dolores was extremely proud of. In recognition of her kindness, selflessness, and thoughtfulness, she was rightfully awarded the President's Lifetime Achievement Award. This prestigious award highlights those like Dolores who go above and beyond to give back to their community.

She is survived by her nieces, Patsy Jackson, Betty Vanya and Charlotte Henner; nephew, Harold Stegall; and great nephews, Larence Jackson and Lynn Stegall; daughter-in-law, Joan Mathias; granddaughters, Nicole Panneton and Renee Mathias; and great grandchildren, Cooper and Ava.

While we mourn with her family, we also celebrate Dolores' life and her remarkable legacy of service. She was truly a joy to all who had the privilege of meeting her, and I know I join her family, friends, and the entire Eighth District of Texas in honoring her extraordinary life and her unwavering devotion to our veterans, her community, her friends, and her family. Dolores will be greatly missed.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE CON-
CURRENT RESOLUTION EX-
PRESSING CONGRESS' SUPPORT
FOR PROVIDING TEMPORARY
PROTECTED STATUS TO HAITIAN
NATIONALS RESIDING IN THE
UNITED STATES AT THE TIME
HURRICANE MATTHEW HIT HAITI

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my House concurrent resolution, which expresses Congress' support for

extending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian Nationals who resided in the United States when Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti on October 4, 2016.

Hurricane Matthew was the worst hurricane to hit the country in 50 years. It took the lives of over 1,000 people and directly affected 2.1 million Haitians with the internal displacement of 175,000 people and leaving 1.4 million in need of urgent humanitarian aid.

It is estimated that Hurricane Matthew resulted in damage that will cost Haiti \$1,000,000,000, or about 11.4 percent of its gross domestic product. This includes extensive damage to Haiti's roadways, bridges, buildings, and other critical infrastructure. Additionally, Hurricane Matthew resulted in tremendous destruction in Haiti's agricultural sector with crop losses estimated to be \$360 million.

Madam Speaker, as we all know, Haiti continues its efforts to rebuild from the 2010, 7.0 magnitude earthquake, and recover from the Cholera outbreak of the same year. With these tragedies in mind, and the knowledge that Haitians continue to work diligently to address these and other important issues, including creating strong democratic institutions, I encourage all Members to join me in letting the Haitian Diaspora know that we stand with them.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY 2019

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following Presidential Proclamation on Religious Freedom Day 2019.

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

[For Immediate Release—January 15, 2019]

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY, 2019

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

On Religious Freedom Day, we celebrate our Nation's long-standing commitment to freedom of conscience and the freedom to profess one's own faith. The right to religious freedom is innate to the dignity of every human person and is foundational to the pursuit of truth.

The Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth shared an experience common to many of America's first settlers: they had fled their home countries to escape religious persecution. Aware of this history, our Nation's Founding Fathers readily understood that a just government must respect the deep yearning for truth and openness to the transcendent that are part of the human spirit. For this reason, from the beginning, our constitutional republic has endeavored to protect a robust understanding of religious freedom. On January 16, 1786, Virginia enacted the Statute for Religious Freedom to protect the right of individual conscience and religious exercise and to prohibit the compulsory support of any church. Authored by Thomas Jefferson, the statute set forth the principle that religious liberty is an inherent right and not a gift of the state. Jefferson's statute served as the inspiration and model for the legal architecture of the conscience

protections in the First Amendment, drafted by James Madison just a few years later.

Unfortunately, the fundamental human right to religious freedom is under attack. Efforts to circumscribe religious freedom—or to separate it from adjoining civil liberties, like property rights or free speech—are on the rise. Over time, legislative and political attacks on religious freedom have given way to actual violence. Last October, we witnessed a horrific attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in our Nation's history. Tragically, attacks on people of faith and their houses of worship have increased in frequency in recent years.

My Administration is taking action to protect religious liberty and to seek justice against those who seek to abridge it. The Department of Justice is aggressively prosecuting those who use violence or threats to interfere with the religious freedom of their fellow Americans. In January of 2018, the Justice Department announced a religious liberty update to the Justice Manual, raising the profile of religious liberty cases. Also in January of 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services undertook major policy changes to protect religious freedom, including forming a new Conscience and Religious Freedom Division within the Department's Office for Civil Rights and proposing a comprehensive new conscience protection regulation to reinvigorate enforcement of religious freedom laws within existing health care programs.

Around the globe today, people are being persecuted for their faith by authoritarian dictatorships, terrorist groups, and other intolerant individuals. To address this tragic reality, last July, at my request, the Secretary of State convened the first-ever Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom. We are listening to the voices of those risking their lives for their religious beliefs, and we are listening to the families of people who have died fighting for their fundamental right of conscience.

Our Nation was founded on the premise that a just government abides by the "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God." As the Founders recognized, the Constitution protects religious freedom to secure the rights endowed to man by his very nature. On this day, we recognize this history and affirm our commitment to the preservation of religious freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2019, as Religious Freedom Day. I call on all Americans to commemorate this day with events and activities that remind us of our shared heritage of religious liberty and that teach us how to secure this blessing both at home and around the world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-third.

DONALD J. TRUMP

TRIBUTE TO LYNDA DELAFORGUE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an outstanding pro-

gressive warrior: Lynda DeLaForgue. Co-director of Citizen Action/Illinois, the largest progressive public interest organization in the state, Lynda has left an indelible mark on laws and policies that directly impact our families and institutions. A skillful, smart and strategic leader, she has had an outsized impact—one that has made untold thousands of people's lives better. While her death last weekend is a tremendous loss for all of us who worked with her, admired her and loved her, her legacy will remain strong for decades to come.

Lynda liked to quote Eleanor Roosevelt, and one of her favorite quotes was this one: "A woman is like a tea bag; you never know how strong it is until it's in hot water." Lynda took those words to heart. In fighting against payday loans or for affordable health care, Lynda was "Eleanor Roosevelt". She was the epitome of "persistence"—fighting for financial protections, green energy solutions, or democracy reforms. Whether you served in local, state or federal government, when Lynda reached out you knew she would have facts, solutions and people behind her. And you knew that she would not give up until she had succeeded.

I first met Lynda when she worked for the Illinois Public Action Council as a door-to-door canvasser, office manager and voter registration organizer. She expanded her role to work on consumer issues—health policy, financial protections, marriage equality, and energy—always being sure to link policy to the real people and to organizing. In 1997, she became associate director—and three years later co-director—of Citizen Action/Illinois. While there, she and co-director William McNary made Citizen Action/Illinois an innovative and effective organization, recognized throughout Illinois and the country.

Throughout her career, Lynda focused on an underlying idea: that we can empower people to demand and organize on their own behalf to win a more just, fair and opportunity-filled society. It is an idea easier to state than to achieve, but Lynda knew the keys to success: to have convictions, persistence, and to work hard. She also knew the power of organizing and building coalitions. Lynda led by example, and she always took time to mentor and train her staff and provide solid counsel to her allies and aspiring young organizers and leaders. There is no one who combined all these attributes more than Lynda.

Even as she struggled with colon cancer, Lynda kept her eyes on the task at hand. She was actively engaged in leading the progressive political coalition that she built. She used her own experiences with the health care system to promote reform and access. She was on the phone with my office talking about the possibilities before us in the 116th Congress even as she was getting her chemo-therapy treatments.

Lynda brought the same joy and passion to her private life as to her justice work. Everyone enjoyed being with Lynda. She was interested in others and interesting to be around. She was excited to travel, whether exploring her French roots or discovering new avant-garde artists. Above all, she was devoted to her family: her sister Laura, her children Katy and Jordan, and her life partner Brian Reizfeld. To them, I extend my sincere sympathy and my hope that they will take some comfort in knowing how many people loved and are inspired by Lynda.

As Eleanor Roosevelt told us, "One's philosophy is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices one makes . . . and the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility." Lynda DeLaForgue chose to live a life of conviction and action. I will miss her very much.

RECOGNIZING THE MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Martin Luther King Commemorative Committee of the Coachella Valley for their dedication to celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. King.

Since 1986, the MLK Commemorative Committee has kept Dr. King's commitment to civil rights, nonviolence, and grassroots activism alive. Every year, they have demonstrated to our Desert community that the values Dr. King preached—justice, love, respect—are as important today as they were during his lifetime.

This committee was born from the vision and service of Mr. Joseph Beaver, a lifetime civil rights advocate and community leader. Answering the call to service during World War II, Mr. Beaver was one of the first African Americans to join the Marine Corps.

We are blessed by Mr. Beaver's advocacy for social justice, which has inspired and enriched our valley. To this day, he remains on the frontlines fighting for civil rights here in our community. In 2014, it was my honor to present Mr. Beaver with the Congressional Gold Medal for his accomplishments as a service member and civil rights leader.

While the manifestations of racism and prejudice may have changed, the injustice Dr. King battled endures today. Racism endures. Inequality endures. Dr. King prophesized that the arc of history bends toward justice, but the road there has never been smooth.

As we remember Dr. King, we cannot relegate him to the history books. To keep his legacy alive, we must stand up to hatred, white supremacy, and the systematic racism that continues to plague our nation. In doing so, we embrace the values Dr. King lived: justice, equality, and the courage to do what is right.

That is the mission of the Commemorative Committee: not to simply remember Dr. King once a year, but to inspire us to carry on his spirit in our hearts and enact his vision of love and equality. It's a message of freedom that, through their efforts, rings across the Coachella Valley and every valley, hill, and stream across our nation.

On behalf of the residents of California's thirty-sixth congressional district, I congratulate the Martin Luther King Commemorative Committee of the Coachella Valley for their commitment to celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King. I thank them for their service to our community.