

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.