

the church has thrived, increasing attendance and adding a new education building.

Pastor Martin has been married to his high school sweetheart Nancy for 64 years.

VETERANS' ACCESS TO CHILD CARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 840) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs:

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, which permanently authorizes the Veterans Affairs' (VA) Child Care Program.

Absent Congressional action, the VA's Child Care Pilot Program will expire on October 1, 2019.

This bill would ensure that all veterans who are primary caretakers have a safe, reliable, and cost-free option for child care when they access VA healthcare.

I have previously supported this bill, when the House of Representatives passed H.R. 95 in the 115th Congress.

I support H.R. 840, and I would vote for this legislation tomorrow. However, I will be speaking at the funeral of a dear friend.

HONORING RITZIE TOLENTINO AS PUBLIC SAFETY HERO OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Ritzie Tolentino, whom I have named a Public Safety Hero of the Year in Solano County, California.

Mr. Tolentino has dedicated himself to public service and our community since he graduated from the Napa Valley Police Academy in 2002. After graduation, Mr. Tolentino worked for the St. Helena Police Department until 2006. In 2006, Mr. Tolentino made a lateral move to the Vallejo Police Department and in 2010 joined the Richmond Police Department. Mr. Tolentino returned to the Vallejo Police Department in 2011 and has continued to serve our community since then. In November of 2018, Mr. Tolentino was promoted to the rank of Corporal. He has served as Patrol, Kaiser and SWAT, and is a Force Operations Instructor as well.

On August 29, 2018, Mr. Tolentino showed his deep commitment to public safety when he helped a suicidal man and convinced him not to jump from an overpass and to instead receive mental health treatment. Mr. Tolentino talked with the distressed man and built the rapport necessary to make progress in this situation. When members of the Vallejo Police

Department's Hostage Negotiation Team arrived, they saw Mr. Tolentino's connection with the man and progress in diffusing the situation. Mr. Tolentino talked and negotiated with the man for several hours until he agreed to climb back onto the overpass and get treatment from Solano County Mental Health Services. Mr. Tolentino's calm demeanor, patience and professionalism helped to save a life that day.

Madam Speaker, we thank Corporal Ritzie Tolentino for his dedication. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, on February 6th, I was unable to be present to vote on H.R. 831, The Reviving America's Scenic Byways Act. This legislation passed the House with strong bipartisan support. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 66.

RECOGNIZING DELISA RUSSELL

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2019

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Delisa Russell of Waco, Texas, former Executive Director of the Heart of Texas Veterans One Stop.

The Heart of Texas Veterans One Stop opened in 2013 as a central location where veterans and their families could access available resources under one roof. The first of its kind in the nation, Veterans One Stop is a comprehensive veteran service resource that offers mental health counseling, legal services, assistance with veterans' benefits and claims, and provides access to food, showers, laundry, and fitness facilities.

Prior to coming to the One Stop in 2016, Delisa served others, including veterans, through social work and counseling. Delisa graduated from Baylor with a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in social work, and continued her education at Baylor with two master's degrees in Sociology and Psychology. She focused her career toward counseling those in need and leading organizations dedicated to the care of the most vulnerable.

Delisa recently stepped down from her position at the One Stop to pursue other opportunities to help the community. The impact of her time as Executive Director cannot be overstated.

In her three years as Director, Delisa supervised the transition of Heart of Texas Veterans One Stop to a larger location. This new location was able to increase the amount of services the One Stop provided, with new showers, laundry, and kitchen facilities, all donated by the members of our Central Texas community. In 2017, the Guardians for Heroes Foundation, which carries out the mission of the

late Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, installed a gym at the One Stop for veterans to maintain their physical and mental health.

Last year, the Veterans One Stop opened the Robert Carter Veteran Transition home. This home is aimed at helping veterans with families to create a stable environment during their adjustment from military to civilian life. Veterans One Stop covers the cost of utilities at the home, which was built and furnished with support from the community. One Stop helps the families develop a plan for life after living in the home.

Under Delisa's leadership, the Veterans One Stop has gone from serving less than 2,000 veterans to over 24,000. Each week, the One Stop serves meals to more than 200 veterans and last year's annual Thanksgiving dinner was its largest, serving more than 800 people.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Delisa Russell for all of her service to the veterans in the Central Texas community. I wish her the best in her future endeavors and look forward to seeing the Veterans One Stop's continued progress.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize the accomplishments of Delisa Russell and the Heart of Texas Veterans One Stop.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

HONORING ELONA PORTER AS PUBLIC SAFETY HERO OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Elona Porter, whom I have named a Public Safety Hero of the Year in Lake County, California.

Ms. Porter was born in Landstuhl, Germany and currently resides in Lake County, California. She holds an Associate of Science Degree in Administration of Justice. Ms. Porter began her career with the Lake County Sheriff's Office as a Records Technician, became Evidence Technician, and was then promoted as the supervisor of that unit. She is also the department's lead crime scene investigator.

Over her nearly two-decade tenure with the Lake County Sheriff's Office, Ms. Porter has worked on many high-level investigations, including sexual assaults, homicides, and burglaries. While these investigations are typically carried out by sworn deputies or police officers, Ms. Porter presides over these responsibilities at the Lake County Sheriff's Office because of her skill. Her work has led to the successful conclusion of many investigations and the administration of justice, that has in turn led to a degree of closure for the victims' family members. Ms. Porter is one of California's top authorities on crime scene investigation and has been recognized by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

Ms. Porter is continually striving to improve her skills as well as help the next generation