

INTRODUCTION OF THE COREY ADAMS SEARCHLIGHT ACT

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, this week, I introduced the Corey Adams Searchlight Act and I rise to urge my colleagues to support this legislation which would establish a national Green Alert system at the Department of Justice to provide assistance and support to regional, state, and local officials as they work to help locate missing veterans.

This legislation is a practical step toward bringing missing veterans home safely.

This issue was brought to my attention by my constituent Corey Adams. When Corey went missing, his family knew that something was wrong—Corey left his eyeglasses, phone, money, and medications at his parent's home, where he was last seen. Despite his family filing a missing person report within hours of his disappearance, it took eight days before the police determined he met the critical missing persons' criteria. On April 7, 18 days after his initial disappearance, Corey Adams' body was recovered from a pond in a local park just one mile from his mother's home.

After this tragedy, my state of Wisconsin became the first state to create a green alert system modeled after the "Amber" alert system which has proven effective at galvanizing public attention around abducted children. And the system has already been used to help locate missing veterans. Delaware quickly followed and more and more states may follow yet.

I would like to thank the bipartisan cosponsors that have joined in this effort so far, Representative FILEMON VELA, RAÚL GRIJALVA, DEREK KILMER, FREDERICA S. WILSON, HANK JOHNSON, JOHN R. MOOLENAAR, DONALD M. PAYNE, JR., DAN KILDEE, MARK POCAN, RON KIND, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, STEVE COHEN, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, and DEBBIE DINGELL. The bill has also garnered the endorsement of Rolling Thunder National, Inc.

Madam Speaker, members of the military do not leave their fallen behind in battle and we should not do so when they come home. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation and to work with me to see that it is enacted in the 116th Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Monday, February 25, 2019 and Tuesday, February 26, 2019, I was unable to be present for recorded votes due to a doctor's appointment. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted: "yes" on roll call vote No. 88 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 539); "yes" on roll call vote No. 89 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 276); "yes" on roll call vote No. 90 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 145); "yes" on roll call vote No. 91 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 145); "yes" on

roll call vote No. 92 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 144); and "yes" on roll call vote No. 93 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 144).

CONGRATULATING THE BLAIR OAKS FOR WINNING THE 2018 MISSOURI CLASS 2 STATE FOOT- BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Blair Oaks Falcons Football team for winning the 2018 Missouri Class 2 State Football Championship.

With a perfect record of 15–0, the Blair Oaks Falcons Football team and coaching staff should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Please join me in congratulating the coaching staff: Ted Lepage, assistant coaches: Kevin Alewine, Lerone Biggs, John Butler, Mike Cook, Josh Linnenbrink, Mason Swisher, Andrew Terpstra, manager: Ben Stockman, and the players Kamron Morriss, Jayden Purdy, Nolan Hair, Gavin Wekenborg, Seth DeWesplore, Cade Stockman, Zach Herigon, Cobi Marble, Carson Prenger, Sam Luebbering, Jake Closser, Ian Nolph, Braydan Pritchett, Riley Lentz, Cadon Garber, Levi Haney, Josh Bischoff, Hayden Ellis, Adam Hughes, Zach Goeller, Trinity Scott, Griffin Herst, Kyler Griep, Adam Jurgensmeyer, Collin Brannum, Jordan Keesler, Nico Canale, Conner Wilson, Nolan Atnip, John Benward, Zack Wilbers, Carson Bax, Cale Wilson, Caleb Buechter, James Thomson, Austin Lange, Corban Bonnett, Shane Gillmore, Andrew Luebbering, Rylee Niekamp, Benner Thomas, Ayden Chouinard, Isaiah Prenger, Grant Laune, and Marcus Edler on their dedication to the game and focus throughout the season.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Blair Oaks Falcons Football team for a job well done.

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL CHILD- DREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, February is National Children's Dental Health month—an opportunity that brings together thousands of dedicated professionals, healthcare providers, and educators to promote the benefits of good oral health to children, their caregivers, teachers and many others.

Each year, millions of Americans suffer from untreated dental disease. Tooth decay remains the most common, chronic childhood disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 20 percent of children ages 5 to 11 suffer from tooth decay, despite the fact that it is a completely prevent-

able disease. Children from low-income families are twice as likely to have cavities compared to children from higher-income households.

Give Kids A Smile (GKAS), sponsored by the Foundation of the American Dental Association, is an annual centerpiece during National Children's Dental Health Month. Give Kids A Smile Day is one of the most important events for children and dentists in this country. Thousands of dentists and volunteers give their time to provide free oral health education, screenings, and treatment to underserved children. Since 2003, more than 5.5 million children have been cared for by more than half a million volunteers. Programs like this will continue throughout the year.

I'm happy to have led the passage of legislation that supports programs such as Give Kids A Smile and other initiatives aimed at providing greater access to care. The Action for Dental Health Act supports a nationwide, community-based movement focused on delivering care now to people suffering from dental disease, strengthening and growing the public and private safety net to provide more care to more Americans, and expanding dental health education and disease prevention within underserved communities.

Ensuring that children and adults receive accessible, quality oral health care should remain a priority for all of us. Thank you for supporting dentistry and the oral health of our nation's most vulnerable population.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE PAUL K. LEARY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of the Honorable Paul K. Leary, who led a life committed to justice as well as improving the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Born in Boston in 1939, Judge Leary spent his entire life in Massachusetts. After graduating from Suffolk Law School, Judge Leary worked in the Boston Municipal Court system. He then moved on to become First Assistant District Attorney for the Suffolk County District Attorney's office. Judge Leary ended his career as First Justice of the Boston Municipal court, where he started his career at the age of sixteen.

Alongside his jobs in the Suffolk County District Attorney's office and the Boston municipal court, Judge Leary taught at Suffolk University Law School and lectured at New England School of Law. He served for a period as the President of the National Board of Trial Advocacy and was awarded their Lifetime Achievement Award in July of last year.

Judge Leary was a dedicated family man and a staple in his community. He coached his son's youth hockey team in Milton all the way to the state championship in 1980. Judge Leary spent his summers in Pocasset, where he could be found with family and friends, playing golf or racquetball, or having dinner at one of his favorite local restaurants.

Judge Leary has led a life dedicated to justice and upholding the laws of Massachusetts.

He not only held positions in the judicial system for most of his life, Judge Leary utilized his expertise to educate the next generation of lawyers.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of the Honorable Paul K. Leary. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his commitment to justice and the people of Massachusetts.

HONORING VICTIMS OF SUMGAIT POGROM

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 31st anniversary of the pogrom against the Armenian residents of the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. On February 27, 1988, and for three days following, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed Armenians. The violence left hundreds of Armenian civilians dead and injured, women and girls were raped, and some victims were burned alive. Thousands were forced to flee their homes, leaving behind their belongings.

The pogroms came as a direct result of years of vicious, racist anti-Armenian propaganda by Azerbaijani authorities, dehumanizing the Armenian residents of Azerbaijan and laying the groundwork for mass violence. Azerbaijani authorities made little effort to punish those responsible, instead attempting to cover up the atrocities in Sumgait to this day and denying the government role in instigating the killings. Indeed, even today, racist propaganda against Armenia and Armenians is prevalent in Azerbaijan.

The hateful and dangerous Azerbaijani attacks on Armenians is also seen in a horrific crime which occurred 15 years ago last week. At a NATO sponsored training in Budapest, an Azerbaijani Army officer named Ramil Safarov snuck into the room of an Armenian lieutenant, Gurgen Margaryan, and hacked him to death with an axe as he slept.

For this brutal and despicable crime, Safarov was sentenced to life imprisonment in Hungary. Yet after a determined campaign by Azerbaijan's government, he was extradited to Baku in 2012 where he was greeted not as a criminal but as a hero, provided back pay, and promoted in rank. There is no more dramatic illustration of Azerbaijan's continued posture of hatred and aggression towards their Armenian neighbor than their celebration of a cold-blooded murderer.

The assault on ethnic Armenian civilians in Sumgait helped touch off what would become a direct conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan which took thousands of lives and displaced millions more. The anniversary of Sumgait is a reminder of the consequences when aggression and hatred grow unchecked.

Madam Speaker, in two months we will mark the 104th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, an event the Turkish government, Azerbaijan's closest ally, goes to great lengths to deny. We must not let such crimes against humanity go unrecognized, whether they occurred yesterday or 30 years ago or 100 years ago. Today, let us pause to remember the victims of the atrocities of the Sumgait pogroms. Madam Speaker, it is our moral obligation to

condemn crimes of hatred and to remember the victims, in hope that history will not be repeated.

RECOGNIZING NACDS RxIMPACT DAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill that is coming up next week. This is a special day where we will have the chance to recognize the pharmacy industry's many contributions to the American healthcare system.

Organized by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), this event will take place on March 5-6, 2019. More than 400 individuals from all 50 states representing the pharmacy community—including practicing pharmacists, pharmacy school faculty and students, state pharmacy association representatives, and pharmacy company leaders—will be on Capitol Hill. They will visit every House and Senate office to share their views with us about the importance of supporting their access agenda—legislative priorities that will ensure that our constituents will continue to have access to more than 40,000 community and neighborhood pharmacies across the country and be better able to utilize pharmacists to improve healthcare quality while reducing the cost of care.

Local pharmacists are important community leaders, who are trusted by their patients to efficiently provide high quality, convenient healthcare services. And as demand for healthcare services continues to grow, pharmacists are stepping in to fill gaps in healthcare delivery by partnering with physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers to address the unmet need. Moreover, pharmacists continually innovate to provide unique services that improve overall patient health and wellness.

Further, in many communities the local pharmacist is a patient's most direct healthcare access point. This is particularly true in rural areas. In fact, 91 percent of Americans live within five miles of a community pharmacy. These pharmacies bring value to their communities by providing care to those who need it most—older Americans and those who manage chronic conditions, particularly in rural and underserved areas. In addition, pharmacists frequently work with patients to navigate specific pharmacy benefits and the use of generic substitutions to identify strategies to save money. Pharmacists also ensure medications are administered appropriately, and offer other preventative services that help improve patients overall wellbeing and quality of life.

The pharmacy advocates attending NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill will be educating members on their access agenda. As we debate the future of healthcare, the pharmacy community wishes to work with us to help develop solutions that put pharmacy's value to work for patients and payers. Specifically, NACDS's advocates will be seeking our support for policies that will help address prescription drug affordability and transparency through much-needed reform to DIR fees, a

complicated fee structure imposed on pharmacies to participate in the Medicare Part D program. They will also highlight proposals designed to address the opioid epidemic.

I believe Congress should work with the 2019 NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill advocates to advance policies that support pharmacists in their effort to improve care, increase access, and lower costs.

RECOGNIZING DANNY RUSSELL

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Danny Russell, the morning show host on WMKR in Taylorville, Illinois, who is leaving the broadcasting industry after 40 years.

Local media is so important to our communities and Danny's service is a prime example of this.

Danny graduated from the radio-tv program at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey and spent 17 years as the weekend weathercaster for WICS-TV Channel 20 in Springfield.

His career has included stints at several Springfield radio stations and in 2011, he joined the Miller Media Group to become the Morning Show host on WMKR Genuine Country 94.3.

Additionally, Danny has been the Miller Media Group production director, host of the Saturday Retro Request Show and the "Brown Bag Rewind" show. He has also broadcast live from countless events thru-out central Illinois over his nearly 8 years with Miller Media Group.

I congratulate Danny on 40 years of success in the broadcasting industry, and I wish him well on his next chapter.

SUPPORTING GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGISLATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act and H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act. Both pieces of legislation would close deadly loopholes in federal law to increase public safety. I am proud to co-lead these important initiatives to reduce gun violence.

H.R. 8, which would require background checks on all firearm purchases, is a common sense measure that will help keep our children and communities safe. This is particularly important with the rise of internet and gun show sales, where prohibited purchasers can easily skirt the law to obtain deadly firearms. This bill would also reduce firearms trafficking through secondary sales and enhance law enforcement's ability to trace firearms used in a crime.

Similarly, H.R. 1112 would increase public safety by giving background check operators sufficient time to complete background checks.