

member of the Congressional Vietnam Caucus, it is critical that we continue to represent and celebrate our Vietnamese families, friends, and neighbors, and recognize their significant contributions to American society.

HONORING THE LIFE OF OSCAR
DUNCAN

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mrs. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, Oscar Duncan, who passed away on April 10th, at the age of 75.

A long-time resident of Geneva, Florida, Oscar Duncan lived an extraordinary life, and leaves behind an enduring legacy. He was a soldier, a law enforcement officer, and a successful small business owner.

Above all, Oscar was the Duncan family patriarch. He and his beloved wife Bernice were married for 44 years, and he was fiercely protective of her. Heaven help the person who said a cross word to Bernice in Oscar's presence.

Together, they had 10 children, which led to 22 grandchildren, which led to 23 great-grandchildren. That's more than a family. That's an army.

My office spoke to one of Oscar's four sons, Hannibal Duncan, about Oscar's life. Hannibal made clear that those who knew his father best had the greatest respect and affection for him.

Oscar was born and raised in Tampa, at a time in our nation's history when African-Americans were treated unequally under both law and custom.

Adversity made Oscar strong, as fire forges steel. Everything Oscar Duncan achieved in life, he had to fight for. Nothing was given to him; he earned it all.

Out of high school, Oscar volunteered for the U.S. Army, serving for five-and-a-half years, including tours in Korea and Germany, and rising to the rank of sergeant.

The same qualities that made Oscar a good soldier made him a great man. Discipline, intelligence, toughness, fairness, self-confidence, the capacity to suppress fear and doubt, a sense of purpose. He was a natural leader that others wanted to follow.

After leaving the service, Oscar earned two degrees at an Orlando-area college and became a police officer in Eatonville, famed as the first city in the country to be organized and governed by African-Americans.

In 1971, Oscar was a member of the first class of black deputies selected to join the Orange County Sheriffs Office, which had officially desegregated in the early 1960s but had accepted only a handful of African-Americans in the ensuing years. For nearly a decade, Oscar woke up every day and worked to keep central Florida safe, always the consummate professional.

Then, in his mid-30s, Oscar decided to walk a different path. He left law enforcement and opened Duncan's Food Mart in Eatonville, located next to the dry cleaning shop that Bernice ran. It became an iconic institution in the city. Oscar did everything at the store—cooking and cleaning, manning the cash register, and handling the finances. The kids were ex-

pected to help as well, and it was here they absorbed their father's lesson that success demands sacrifice.

According to Hannibal, Oscar explained his decision to change careers by saying that, "at some point in your life, you have to choose between being a mouse and being a man." For Oscar, being a man meant striking out on his own, answerable to no one but himself. It also meant giving back to the African-American community he cherished—creating jobs, economic activity, and a place for folks to gather and enjoy each other's company.

Oscar ran the store for nearly 20 years, until he suffered a series of strokes and his health began to unravel. Hannibal said his father died like he lived—no complaints, no self-pity. Just dignity and toughness.

Oscar Duncan was a man until his final breath. He will be deeply missed.

I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in offering our condolences to those he loved and to those who loved him.

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR
PALESTINIAN CHILDREN LIVING
UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY OCCU-
PATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, it is my hope that Members of Congress and the American people can stand united in the belief that justice, human dignity, and human rights are values we share and promote. Certainly, when it comes to protecting the rights of children we should be able to find universal agreement that ensuring their safety and well-being is a priority.

Today, I am introducing legislation to protect children from abuse, violence, psychological trauma, and torture. This bill condemns the targeting of children with the intent to intimidate, mistreat, and abuse in a manner designed to leave lifelong scars. This abuse is completely preventable. Unimaginably, it is abuse that is perpetrated not only with intent, but systematically applied to intimidate, control, and create fear amongst families, communities, and an entire population. And, unbelievably, it is in part funded by U.S. taxpayers.

The children this legislation seeks to protect are Palestinian who have lived their entire lives under Israeli military occupation. The perpetrator of this system of child abuse is the Government of Israel and its military, police, and intelligence apparatus occupying the Palestinian West Bank. And, it is U.S. tax dollars provided by Congress, the unregulated \$3.8 billion military aid package to Israel, that helps to cover the cost of Israeli soldiers arresting, interrogating, and abusing children, some as young as 9-years old, in the name of Israeli security.

The legislation I am introducing—Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act—is expressly intended to end U.S. support and funding for Israel's systematic military detention, interrogation, abuse, torture, and prosecution of Palestinian children. This bill not only highlights actions by the Government of Israel that violate international humanitarian

law by their treatment of Palestinian children in detention, it affirmatively declares that equality, human rights, and dignity for Palestinians and Israelis are the values the American people expect the U.S. government to advance.

On March 16, 2019, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz ran an in-depth expose detailing the detention and mistreatment of Palestinian boys by Israel's military. It identifies Omar, a ten-year old boy who "looks small for his age." Omar was arrested by Israeli soldiers last December as he played in front of his house because "he threw pebbles at birds that were chirping in the trees." Soldiers saw Omar, caught him, knocked him down, and kicked him. Omar wet his pants. The Haaretz story states, "The 10-year old is one of hundreds of Palestinian children whom Israel arrests every year: the estimates range between 800 and 1,000."

Why would one of the world's most advanced and powerful military forces, a nation that possesses nuclear weapons, send soldiers to attack, terrorize, and detain a 10-year old boy? There can be no justifiable explanation.

On April 1, 2019, only weeks ago, CNN reported on armed Israeli soldiers entering a primary school in Hebron to arrest a 9-year old boy and his 7-year old brother. Such a story is simply too extreme a violation of human rights and decency to be rational. Yet, it happened and there is video footage (provided by the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem) of the soldiers in the school and the principal and teachers trying to protect the children. Eventually, CNN reports 9-year old Zein was "frog-marched away and taken to an army vehicle." Neighbors said the boy "was taken off to a nearby military post."

In a terrifying description, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz tells what happens to the Palestinian children victimized by Israel's system of occupation and military detention: "They're seized in the dead of night, blindfolded and cuffed, abused and manipulated to confess to crimes they didn't commit."

Since 2000, it is conservatively estimated that more than 10,000 Palestinian children have been detained by Israeli security forces. The brutality and trauma inflicted on Palestinian children by Israel's occupation and system of military detention in the West Bank has been extensively documented by credible international human rights monitors, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Israel's B'Tselem, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Defense of Children/Palestine, and the U.S. Department of State.

Israel's system of military detention of Palestinian children must be condemned and it must stop. At a minimum, U.S. funding for this state-sponsored child abuse must be explicitly prohibited by law and fully monitored and enforced by the State Department. The detention and ill-treatment of Palestinian children is a cruel and intentional tactic of Israel's military occupation. It is intended to terrorize, inflict fear, and send an unmistakable message that Palestinian lives lack value.

Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act amends a provision of the Foreign Assistance Act known as the "Leahy Law" (22 U.S.C. 2378d) to prohibit funding for the military detention of children in any country, including Israel. The bill explicitly declares that