

of effort, they ultimately produced 18 reforms for the VA and Congress, including the VA Mission Act, which gives veterans access to local providers outside the VA system and guarantees timely access to care.

Dave was a vital contributor to these reforms, and I know he counts his time on the Commission among the most rewarding experiences of his life.

It is impossible to quantify the impact that he has had on the lives of millions of veterans and their families across this country, but it is certain to resonate with veterans far into the future.

I am incredibly grateful for Dave's service and his leadership, and I wish him all the best in his next chapter of life. I am confident that he will remain involved in central Ohio and its communities for a long time to come. I am also fortunate to call him a friend. He is a great leader in healthcare, and he has been a great leader for our country.

I thank Dave Blom for his service to our veterans, and I congratulate him on an incredible career in healthcare.

STOP ANTI-SEMITISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, our Nation was again stunned by yet another horrific attack on Americans gathered at worship. Saturday's shooting at the Chabad of Poway synagogue in California came as Jews around the world celebrated the last day of Passover.

One woman, Lori Gilbert Kaye, was murdered in the attack and three others were wounded. I continue to pray for the recovery of those injured in the shooting and offer my deepest condolences to the family and friends of the victims.

The latest attack happened exactly 6 months to the day after the assault on worshipers at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, which claimed the lives of 11 people, the deadliest attack on the American Jewish community in our history.

These shootings were committed against a backdrop of rising anti-Semitism both here at home and around the world.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, in 2017, anti-Semitic incidents surged in the United States by 57 percent. This represented the largest single-year increase on record and the second highest number of incidents since the ADL started tracking such data in 1979. In 2018, we saw nearly the same number of reported incidents as in 2017.

In recent weeks, there have been other chilling displays of anti-Semitism beyond our borders as well. In February, a Belgian carnival float featured grotesque caricatures of Orthodox Jews standing on large piles of money. On Easter Sunday in a small Polish village, adults and children beat and burned an effigy of Judas, but the

effigy did not look like a character from Biblical times. Rather, it was a stereotypical Orthodox Jew dressed in nineteenth century Hasidic garb.

Feeding into these dangerous incidents, just last week, the international edition of The New York Times published a disgusting anti-Semitic cartoon. The paper subsequently apologized, but the damage was already done. It was an astonishing editorial failure by one of the Nation's most important papers of record. I was pleased today to see the editorial board of the Times directly address this issue.

Especially at these times of growing anti-Semitism, we must all be extra vigilant, lest we add fuel to the flames of hate and intolerance.

Whenever and wherever we see anti-Semitism, we must speak out to stanch it, for what begins as stereotypes and cartoons far too often leads to violence that has claimed so many lives throughout our history.

Our Nation was founded on the idea that every American of every religion has the fundamental right to practice their faith without fear of persecution or violence. This was established in the very first amendment to our Constitution and enshrined in our Bill of Rights. But this right has been shattered far too many times at the synagogues in Poway and Pittsburgh; at an African American church in Charleston, South Carolina; and at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

I will not repeat the Poway shooter's name or give him the notoriety he sought, but it is clear that he was motivated by white supremacism and anti-Semitism, citing the shootings at the mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh in his manifesto.

The sad truth is, far-right white supremacists have been responsible for more terror attacks and deaths in the United States in the past two decades than any other domestic extremist movement. We need to update our laws to reflect the growing threat of domestic terrorism.

That is why I introduced, with Senator RICHARD DURBIN, the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act, legislation that would strengthen coordination among the Federal agencies in monitoring radicalized groups and individuals and, hopefully, preventing hateful acts of violence.

This is a necessary first step to help our law enforcement agencies contain the threat, and I urge my colleagues to join me on this legislation.

We also have a duty to responsibly update our gun laws. I am proud that this House voted earlier this year to pass universal background checks and close the Charleston loophole, a loophole that allowed the Emanuel AME shooter to acquire a firearm before the results of his FBI background check were complete.

We need the Senate to stop stonewalling and bring these bills up for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but reflect that, this week, the United States is observing Holocaust Remembrance Week and honoring the 6 million Jews and millions of others murdered by the Nazi regime.

In the memory of all of those lost to anti-Semitism and other forms of hate, we have a moral responsibility to stamp out intolerance and prejudice in our time. Otherwise, as the late Elie Wiesel famously said: "To forget the victims means to kill them a second time."

HONORING HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 6 million Jewish men, women, and children who were violently murdered for their religious beliefs by the Nazi regime.

This week remembers the victims who lost their lives to this evil regime and honors the survivors who beat the unthinkable odds.

Sonia Warshawski, a Kansan from Overland Park, was a young teenager when Nazi Germany invaded her home in Poland. She was imprisoned, locked inside a Nazi concentration camp, and then later sent to the Auschwitz death camp. There, she saw human hatred in a way many of us today cannot comprehend.

Sonia tells a story of waking up each day suffering from starvation and seeing thousands of bodies stacked where she was imprisoned. She watched as her mother was forced into a gas chamber. And still, through this torture and through it all, she never gave up hope or abandoned her faith.

Sonia will not forget the hatred and horrific injustice that the murderous Nazi regime put her and millions of others through in the name of anti-Semitism and neither will this country.

As the most well-documented genocide in human history, a genocide documented and confirmed by General Eisenhower, the evil and unimaginable torture throughout the Holocaust will forever haunt us. We must never tolerate or overlook anti-Semitism in any form.

In 2017, I had an emotional experience at the Holocaust museum in Israel with my wife. There, we met and heard from many survivors and walked through the Hall of Names honoring the 6 million victims of the Holocaust.

Sadly, we have recently seen the ugly face of anti-Semitism rearing its ugly head. We must continue to fight it with full force. It should be made abundantly clear to those with this deep hatred of Jewish people in their heart that this country has zero tolerance for this type of evil.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with the survivors like Sonia and those who lost their lives during the darkest days in the history of our world, and I stand against anti-Semitism.

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JUDICIAL OVERREACH

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my disappointment at the judicial overreach by my home State's supreme court this past Friday.

In a 6-1 vote, the radical Kansas courts ruled the State's constitution guarantees unlimited rights to an abortion. This verdict came in response to a 2015 State law that prohibits performing a dismemberment abortion procedure in the second trimester, except when necessary to save the life of the mother. Two doctors who performed this barbaric and painful procedure in the second trimester of pregnancy have challenged the law.

As someone who has dedicated my career to bringing life into this world and has delivered 5,000 babies in my home State of Kansas, please forgive me and allow me to be graphic for just a moment.

This horrid procedure literally tears the live baby apart limb by limb in the womb and then evacuates the dismembered baby body parts one at a time from the uterus. Then the person who performs the procedure pieces these parts back together to make sure they have removed the entire baby. This very pain-capable baby literally bleeds to death to end its life.

Sadly, the method is used today in 95 percent of second trimester abortions, even though the child's heart is beating and the baby is breathing and, as I said earlier, is quite capable of feeling pain. It is despicable, and this procedure should be banned nationwide.

It sickens me to the core that the Kansas Supreme Court violated the sanctity of life and voted to deny the rights of the unborn in our State.

Today, I call upon our State legislators to quickly pass a constitutional amendment that overrules and protects these precious babies.

Many of us have fought our whole life to defend the unborn. Now, we must all fight harder than ever. I ask for you to fight alongside me.

HONORING REV. DR. CHARLES E. BOOTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I know that Representative JOYCE BEATTY would join me today in what I am about to say.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American and a distinguished man of God, the Reverend Dr. Charles E. Booth. Dr. Booth transitioned from this earthly plain on Saturday, March 23, 2019, after a valiant battle with cancer.

Dr. Booth's life and mine moved along many of the same paths. Through those shared experiences, we developed a deep personal bond.

He was born in my hometown of Baltimore, Maryland, on February 4, 1947,

to Hazel Willis Booth and William W. Booth. He attended the same high school as I did, Baltimore City College High School in Baltimore. We also attended the same college, Howard University.

Dr. Booth went on to earn a master's of divinity degree from Eastern Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He then earned a doctorate of ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

As a testament to his commitment to Christian education, Dr. Booth served as a member of the board of trustees of that institution from 2011 until his recent passing.

At the age of 23, Dr. Booth pastored his first church, St. Paul's Baptist Church in West Chester, Pennsylvania. In 1978, he became pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio, where he remained the faithful leader for 41 years.

Dr. Booth proudly made Columbus his home, but he never forgot his roots. He visited Baltimore often to preach at various churches and spend time with family and friends. In fact, he preached revival services each year in my own church, the New Psalmist Baptist Church, where Dr. Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Sr., is the pastor. When I was not in Washington, I was at church to listen to his prolific sermons.

As the son of two preachers, I understand the power of the preached word, and Dr. Booth could deliver like none other. They often called him a preaching machine. He had a commanding presence in the pulpit with his towering stature and baritone voice. He studied the Bible voraciously and had the uncanny ability to make Biblical text relevant to the issues we face today in our daily lives. At a time when people are turning away from traditional religion, Dr. Booth made Christianity accessible and inspired people to deepen their faith.

Dr. Booth was a pastor's pastor. He traveled the world to preach the gospel, and he was tremendously respected by his peers. He found joy in mentoring young preachers and made time to listen to their concerns and offer his counsel.

In 2011, Dr. Booth founded the Charles E. Booth Preaching Conference, which focuses on the tenets of keeping passion in one's preaching, Christ-centered preaching in contemporary life, building relationships with preachers, strengthening the preacher's devotional life, and remaining true to the sermon ingredients of information and inspiration.

Education was central to Dr. Booth's life. Not only was he continually learning, but he also encouraged others to use education as a key to open doors of opportunity. In 1994, he founded the Gloria S. Friend Academy, a fully accredited elementary school at his church that emphasized academic excellence and cultural enrichment centered on African American history. Dr. Booth also authored several books focused on Christian education.

A pillar in his community, Dr. Booth used his position as a faith leader to be a strong voice for the voiceless. He worked tirelessly to help create solutions to issues such as poverty, homelessness, unemployment, and access to quality healthcare.

As I mourn the loss of my friend, I am comforted by the inspiring legacy he leaves for all of us. In the New Testament book of Titus, the Apostle Paul writes: "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech."

Dr. Booth lived this creed. Through his example, he encouraged everyone he encountered to do the same.

He leaves to mourn his wonderful wife, Crystal. He was a tremendous blessing to his family, his church, his Nation, and, indeed, the world.

He will be sorely missed, but we give great thanks that God allowed our lives to eclipse with his.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to recognize an extraordinary educator in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who is making a difference in the lives of our community's young people.

George Daka, a U.S. history teacher at Bensalem High School, was recently selected as an honoree for the 13th annual Teacher as Hero Awards. Later this month, George will receive his award at the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia alongside 11 other outstanding educators from Pennsylvania and Delaware.

George sees his job as more than just teaching his students about history, and he seeks to inspire them about our Nation's rich traditions. We applaud George on this well-deserved award, and we wish him and his family all the best.

We would also like to thank Kathryn Hinshaw, an English teacher at Bensalem High School, for nominating George for this well-deserved honor.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MARJORIE BURTIS

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of a Bucks County resident who is sharing her talent and creativity with others.

Last month, Langhorne resident Marjorie Burtis celebrated her incredible milestone with more than 100 family members and friends.

This was no ordinary birthday celebration, however. It also served as the unveiling of Marjorie's new art exhibit at the Bucks County Visitor Center.

Despite her many life experiences, Marjorie discovered her passion for watercolor painting merely 12 years ago after taking an art class. Since that