

My wife Lisa and I took shelter in our basement as the storms passed. The totality of the destruction emerged with Tuesday's sunrise.

The caved roofs, toppled power lines, and staircases without surrounding structures gave powerful testimony to the violence of the storms.

Despite the terrible destruction in our district, we also saw signs of hope. Our communities always come together to help one another in times of need. It is why southwest Ohio is such a special place to call home.

Our first responders do an amazing job. There were no Democrats, no Republicans; there were just neighbors helping neighbors. It's too bad that it often takes a tragedy to highlight this special quality in us, but it is there—and it is a great thing to see.

I want to thank our first responders, Ohio Senators PORTMAN and BROWN for their leadership during this time of crisis, the Ohio delegation, Governor DeWine, and leaders across the country who are standing with the people of Ohio.

Madam Speaker, as relief and recovery efforts continue in Southwest Ohio, I use my time on the floor today to honor the heroes and survivors. We will rebuild and be stronger than before.

RECOGNIZING THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF NON-STOP TRANS-ATLANTIC FLIGHTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2019*

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Croatian Caucus, I rise today to bring attention to a very special milestone scheduled to take flight this coming Friday. On June 7, 2019, for the first time in twenty-eight years, non-stop transatlantic air travel will occur between the United States and the Republic of Croatia. American Airlines will have the honor of transporting passengers directly from Philadelphia International Airport to Dubrovnik International Airport in Croatia.

This event is especially momentous to me because my congressional district is home to the largest concentration of Croatians living in the United States. In fact, several of my constituents from San Pedro, California, will be on hand in Philadelphia to witness the inaugural flight and celebrate this exciting partnership with fellow Croatians, Croatian government officials, diplomats, and prominent civic leaders from Philadelphia.

The return to direct non-stop air service is yet another example of the United States' strong economic and political relationship with Croatia, a very important NATO ally. For me and my constituents, this new chapter will not only enhance these relationships but create opportunities to connect our communities and cultures. With this in mind, I am including in the RECORD a letter from Steven Rukavina, President of the National Federation of Croatian Americans, to Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney underscoring the significance of this first flight from Philadelphia and the strengthened relationship that will result between our two countries.

I wish this new endeavor between the United States and Croatia every success and look forward to one day soon being a passenger on this flight.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CROATIAN AMERICANS CULTURAL FOUNDATION, Washington, DC, May 10, 2019.

Hon. JIM KENNEY, Mayor, Philadelphia, PA.

DEAR MAYOR KENNEY: On behalf of the National Federation of Croatian Americans Cultural Foundation (NFCA), and as a proud resident of Philadelphia, please allow me to share with you a quickly approaching milestone for our City.

The Croatian American community is so pleased that we will see the Croatian flag raised at City Hall on Friday, June 7th. Of course, we are thrilled that you and so many of Philadelphia's civic and business leaders will attend the Croatian gala celebration at the National Constitutional Center on June 6th, too.

These events will salute the first commercial non-stop flight in twenty-eight years from the United States to Croatia, which will depart Philadelphia International Airport on the evening of June 7. This historic American Airlines flight will touch down on Croatia's Adriatic coast in the City of Dubrovnik the next morning. I must say that I am very honored to be able to fly on this inaugural flight that night.

The non-stop flights that will follow will directly connect our World Heritage City of Philadelphia to the City of Dubrovnik—which is known as the “Pearl of the Adriatic” and which has also been included as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1979. This important Croatian city holds historic relevance as a significant Mediterranean port and sea power since the 13th century. Dubrovnik flourished really well throughout the 15th and 17th centuries and was lauded internationally for its skilled diplomacy and wealth! It is also historic and coincidental that the Republic of Ragusa—an aristocratic maritime republic that once included Dubrovnik—was one of the first political entities to recognize the independence of the United States of America in the 1770s.

In the coming years tourism between our two countries will only grow, and Americans will be able to further engage in the rich culture and history of Croatia. These newly inaugurated American Airlines non-stop flights will specifically allow Philadelphians the ease and comfort of non-stop travel to the Adriatic Coast. This will prompt many in our City to take a unique trip that they may not have before considered. This kind of unprecedented access will also draw many tourists to visit Philadelphia, too, as the departure city for their travels to and from Croatia.

The Croatian American community has also held a significant place in the history of the State of Pennsylvania. Croatian American immigration helped to significantly propel the steel industry in the western part of our Pennsylvania during the Second Industrial Revolution. Significantly, the Croatian Fraternal Union of America (CFU), which is now headquartered in Monroeville PA, will celebrate its 125th anniversary from September 21–25 in Pittsburgh.

The special bond between the U.S. and Croatia has been further strengthened during the past ten years with Croatia's 2009 ascension into full membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This multilateral Euro-Atlantic security alliance membership and treaty, now has only further cemented the strong bilateral relationship between our two nations over the last ten years.

Looking to the future—with Croatia assuming the Presidency of the European

Union in January, 2020—we hope to build on the success of these important air flight activities beginning in June via additional global-oriented events within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during 2020, especially in our City of Philadelphia.

We applaud all your efforts to promote Philadelphia as a global destination for tourism, for international business growth, and now as a bridge to the City of Dubrovnik, another World Heritage site with a special bond to our historic American city!

Sincerely,  
STEVE RUKAVINA,  
President, National Federation of  
Croatian Americans Cultural Foundation.

HONORING THE WORK OF KOJO NNAMDI

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Kojo Nnamdi and The Kojo Nnamdi Show for two decades on air with WAMU 88.5, Washington's National Public Radio news station.

No other local radio program brings the depth, sensitivity and familiarity with the important issues of the Washington, D.C. region better than The Kojo Nnamdi Show. Hosted by the universally beloved Kojo Nnamdi, the show has been at the center of critical conversations about society, community, race, housing, education, politics, the arts and more for 20 years.

While divisiveness has become the talk show norm, Nnamdi takes the time to create thoughtful dialogue—engendering trust among guests and listeners alike. Whether talking to citizens or politicians, he generates honest, productive discussions with guests, incorporating engagement with listeners.

Nnamdi makes it a priority to meet people where their lives happen—in the community. Nnamdi's conversations in communities around the region amplify the voices of those who would not be.

A native of Guyana, Nnamdi moved to D.C. in 1969 to engage with the civil rights movement. Now a longtime D.C. resident, Nnamdi brings both a global perspective and vast knowledge of the region to front page headlines and explores emerging stories before they are news.

From 1973 to 1985, Nnamdi worked at WHUR-FM, where he served as news editor and then news director, producing the award-winning local news program The Daily Drum. From 1985 to 2011, he hosted Evening Exchange, a public affairs television program broadcast by WHUT-TV at Howard University. Nnamdi became host of a WAMU program called Public Interest in August 1998, and the name was changed to The Kojo Nnamdi Show in September 2002.

In 2001, Nnamdi was honored as a civil rights hero by the National Council for Community Justice. In 2003, the Library of Congress selected Nnamdi as the keynote speaker for African American History Month. In addition to his hosting duties, Nnamdi has chaired the board of the Public Access Corporation of Washington, D.C. for the past 25 years. In 2014, Nnamdi was inducted into the Hall of