

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 355 on H.R. 2740, I mistakenly recorded my vote as No when I should have voted Aye.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF CONSUELLO "CONNIE" HARPER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the life of Mrs. Consuello "Connie" Harper.

Mrs. Harper, former president and CEO of Central Alabama Opportunities Industrialization Center, passed away on June 17, 2019.

The program has helped train and equip low-to-moderate income families in Central Alabama since 1968. Mrs. Harper's nationally recognized self-help programs included providing women with non-traditional training in highway construction and young adults with Job Readiness Training.

Mrs. Harper's daughter, Sylvia Harper, and grandson, Retired Army Special Forces "Green Beret" Lieutenant Colonel Kali McMurray, will continue OIC's work.

Mrs. Harper also worked as an educator in Macon County and served on the Macon County School Board. Her husband, Socrates Harper, is a retired educator and previously served as District County Commissioner for Macon County.

She was a lifelong resident of the Tysonville community in Macon County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commemorating the life of Mrs. Harper.

CONGRATULATING ST. ELIZABETH'S BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 CLASS I STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my hometown high school, the St. Elizabeth Hornets Baseball team for winning the 2019 Missouri Class I State Baseball Championship.

This team and Coach, Caleb Heckemeyer, should be commended for their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community. This is the first year since 1997 the Hornets have won the title, with many more good seasons to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the St. Elizabeth Hornets Baseball team for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND MILITARY SERVICE OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN, JAMES E. HUDSON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and military service of World War II Veteran James E. Hudson. Mr. Hudson has always placed God and family first in his life, offering friendship and brotherly love to all those who crossed his path.

Mr. Hudson was born on June 21, 1919, in Tishomingo County, Mississippi. He spent his childhood in Iuka, MS with his parents, Milton and Florence Hudson, and his seven siblings. Mr. Hudson graduated from Iuka High School where he played on the basketball team.

Mr. Hudson was drafted to the United States Army right out of high school in 1941. He spent his basic training at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina before being sent to Fort Bliss, Texas, to serve in the First Cavalry division, also known as the Horse Cavalry, of the United States Army. Mr. Hudson was later deployed to the Pacific theater where he went to New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, the Southern Philippines, and Luzon for 2 years. He completed his service in 1945.

After the War, Mr. Hudson returned to Iuka, Mississippi where he still resides to this day. He married his sweetheart, Mae Romine from Florence, Alabama and they had four children. Mr. Hudson worked as a carpenter for TVA building dams on the Tennessee River. He has been blessed with thirteen grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Throughout his life and to this day, Mr. Hudson set an example for his children to follow. Mr. Hudson, a lifelong Christian, is a Methodist and attributes his 100 years of happiness to Psalm 118:24: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad therein."

On June 21st of 2019, Mr. Hudson will celebrate his 100th birthday. Mr. Hudson is an American patriot who served our great nation and continues to set an example for others to follow. We wish him many more years of good health.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Gun Violence Awareness Month. Since 2017, National Gun Violence Awareness month has been celebrated annually in June.

For too long and too often we, as a nation, have mourned with yet another community that was tragically impacted by gun violence. This is one community too many. Deaths from mass shootings in the U.S. are increasing at an alarming rate. After Sandy Hook, over 2,086 mass shootings have taken lives of Americans. From the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh to the gurdwara in Oak Creek;

from Sandy Hook Elementary to Stoneman Douglas High School; from the Pulse Night Club in Florida to the music festival shooting in Las Vegas—these places and events have sadly become memorialized. And there are countless more victims of gun violence who never made it to our news cycle.

Gun violence is indeed an epidemic. In addition to the lives lost, every bullet—every gunshot—rips apart the fabric of a community. For all those who were faced with gun violence—there is no going back. One such tragedy is one too many.

Victims of domestic abuse are especially susceptible to gun violence. That is why we must do all that we can to protect survivors of dating violence and stalking. Currently, nearly one million women alive today have been shot or shot at by an intimate partner. Studies have also shown that women experiencing situations where domestic abusers have access to a gun are five times as likely to be fatally shot. Women of color suffer from an even higher risk of death in similar situations.

We cannot become desensitized to the number of deaths in the news. We must act now. That is why I was proud to help pass on the floor of the House of Representatives H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, and H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act to ensure universal background checks and close the Charleston loophole that enabled the hate crime at Mother Emanuel Church. In the 100 days of Senate's inaction and refusal to allow these bills a vote on the Senate floor, 233 New Yorkers were killed by gun violence. This—and every incident of gun violence—is a travesty.

No one should live their lives in constant fear. No parent should have to fear for their children as their kids go to school. No one should fear if their presence in a place of worship or a theatre makes them vulnerable.

Madam Speaker, as we mark National Gun Violence Awareness Month, we must be even more emboldened to demand change now. We need to remind the nation—including our policymakers—of the lives that have been taken by gun violence and the urgent need for commonsense gun violence prevention. I call on my colleagues in the Senate to pass H.R. 8 today. While National Gun Violence Awareness Month occurs in June, we must fight every single day of the year to prevent the countless deaths caused by the lack of gun restrictions. Thoughts and prayers are meaningless without critical action. Enough is enough.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, on the evening of Tuesday, June 18th, I was leading a night tour for a group of students visiting from Arkansas and was not aware that the vote times had been moved up by one hour and therefore missed the first five votes in the series. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 334, Yea on Roll Call No. 335, Yea on Roll Call No. 336, Yea on Roll Call No. 337, and Yea on Roll Call No. 338.

RECOGNIZING LEOR TORCHMAN AUERBACH FOR RECEIVING THE SCOOP JACKSON AWARD

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, in partnership with my colleague, Congressman ADAM KINZINGER, I rise to recognize Leor Torchman Auerbach for being honored with the 2019 CityPAC Scoop Jackson Award. Her career and service for over 20 years as an advocate and leader in Chicago's Pro-Israel advocacy community make her an ideal recipient for this honor. She has devoted her personal time and professional career to strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Since the 2000's, Leor has served as a longtime CityPAC Board member and her organizational and fund-raising approach set the standard that CityPAC continues to emulate. She has also served as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Chicago Co-Chair of the Young Leadership Council in addition to her continuing role as an AIPAC Illinois Council Member.

She leads Americans United in Support of Democracy, a political action committee which has organized more than one thousand community events for Members of Congress, cultivating bipartisan support for the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Leor's deep passion for Israel is reflected in her work. As a granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, she is a friend and supporter to the entire community, and her activism is an inspiration and model for us all.

Madam Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing Leor Torchman Auerbach for her receipt of the 2019 CityPAC Scoop Jackson Award. She is an inspiring figure in our community and we thank her for her years of service.

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH, WORLD REFUGEE DAY, AND H.R. 2489, THE WAIVER ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration, of Immigrant Heritage Month and World Refugee Day, which comes at a time when this Administration is undertaking unprecedented and cruel actions against immigrants.

Each June, we recognize the enormous contributions that immigrants have made to our country. Our country is a nation of immigrants and during this month we acknowledge their work in our military, as entrepreneurs, as educators, and activists.

Today is also World Refugee Day.

This year, the United States will only accept up to 30,000 refugees—a historically low number. In 2016, our country took in almost 85,000 refugees. We must do better.

As Americans of conscience, we must commit ourselves to standing against any treat-

ment of immigrants and refugees that contradicts our values of inclusion and support for human rights.

This Administration has undertaken a shameful immigration blueprint that has attacked and demonized immigrants at every turn. From the discriminatory Muslim Ban to the cruel Family Separation Policy, these actions will forever be a stain on our nation's history.

The immigration policies of this President will also leave lasting scars for countless individuals and families. These include:

Children ripped away from their parents and loved ones;

Veterans deported after bravely serving our country;

Children in government custody who had legal services, classes and recreation canceled;

DREAMers who have had their DACA protections stripped away; and

Immigrants at detention facilities with abhorrent conditions, including private prisons being run by for-profit contractors.

We are better than this.

I am working to improve conditions at immigration detention facilities. Immigrants in U.S. custody should be treated with dignity and respect. That is why I recently introduced the Waiver Accountability and Transparency Act, H.R. 2489.

My legislation will stop U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's abuse of a waiver system that allows detention facilities to circumvent critical federal standards. Waiving these standards endangers the health and safety of tens of thousands of immigrants.

In January, the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General released a report showing that ICE had no formal policies to manage the waiver process and it detailed egregious waivers granted by ICE.

For example, ICE signed off on a waiver to allow the for-profit contractor CoreCivic to use CS gas, a chemical agent 10 times more toxic than pepper spray, at the Otay Mesa Detention Center in California.

Furthermore, the Otero County Processing Center in New Mexico was given a waiver by ICE allowing them to commingle low-custody and high-custody detainees. Detention standards prohibit commingling detainees with serious criminal histories with those who are non-violent or have only committed immigration-related infractions.

My bill reforms ICE's out-of-control waiver process through increased transparency, accountability, and oversight. ICE would need to notify Congress and post online whenever a waiver is granted. ICE's leadership would need to sign off on waivers. Waivers would no longer be granted for indefinite amounts of time and would need to be renewed every 90 days. In the most serious cases, a corrective action plan must be in place before a waiver could be granted.

We must do better. Those seeking a better life are not criminals and must be treated with dignity and respect.

As we recognize Immigrant Heritage Month and World Refugee Day, it is vital to not only reflect on and celebrate the contributions of immigrants to our country, but to also act against this Administration's anti-immigrant policies.

IN HONOR OF A&W RESTAURANTS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the oldest franchise restaurant in America—A&W. Today is its 100th birthday. As the automobile opened new horizons for Americans, A&W Restaurants pioneered the drive-in restaurant and made the Root Beer Float a household treat.

These small businesses are a source of fond memories for generations of Americans. A&W's beloved mascot Rooty the Great Root Bear is known from coast to coast.

A&W opened doors of opportunity so people could start their own businesses as franchise owners. These iconic restaurants became hubs in towns across America, and A&W developed a culture of giving back, reflecting the very best of heartland values.

Today begins their annual fundraising drive for Disabled American Veterans. A&W has raised over \$800,000 for veteran-related charities since 2011.

A&W is owned by its franchise partners, who independently operate nearly 600 U.S. restaurants. The National A&W Franchise Association headquarters is located in Richmond, Kentucky.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in welcoming the A&W family to Washington to celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING ALICE RODRIGUEZ

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alice Rodriguez of Waco, Texas, who recently retired from the Waco City Council.

Alice was first elected to the Waco City Council in 1991. At the time of her election, she was the first Hispanic woman on the city council. She served for 10 years before taking a break from 2001 to 2005. In 2005, she ran again and served for another 14 years. Her combined years of service make her the longest serving councilmember in Waco's history.

Alice was first encouraged to run for office to make a change in her community. Inspired by her father, and recalling the difficulties faced by the Hispanic community, she wanted to advocate for equality for minorities and Wacoans facing hardship.

During her career on the city council, Alice was a passionate voice for her constituents. While she supported forward looking policies to conserve neighborhoods and bring more opportunities for low-income families, Alice also wanted to preserve the past.

Alice was instrumental in the foundation of the Waco Hispanic Museum that opened in 2016. Alice wanted current and future generations to remember the strides made by the Hispanic community in Waco and appreciate their struggle for equality.

In addition to serving on the Waco City Council, Alice has served on the boards of several organization including National League