

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