

HONORING HENRY LOZANO

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, on July 19, surrounded by loved ones, the city of Los Angeles lost a giant. His name was Henry Lozano.

Madam Speaker, I simply don't have enough time to recount all of Henry's achievements or the profound impact he had on our district and on the Golden State. His list of accomplishments is pretty impressive.

He was a Korean war veteran, serving as a Marine corporal in the 1950s; a fierce workers' advocate as a labor leader for UAW Local 509; chief of staff to Congressman Ed Roybal; an adviser to Xavier Becerra, the current attorney general of California and the former Congressman for the district I now represent.

Congressman Ed Roybal was the first Latino elected to Congress from California since the 1800s, a founder of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Oftentimes, I say I stand on the shoulders of giants, and people think I am referring just to the elected officials who came before me; but, more often than not, it is the people who surround those elected leaders, like Henry Lozano, the ones who are their advisers, their confidantes, the people who try to keep them true to their word and to their core and to their principles.

Henry was that type of individual. He cared deeply about the Latino community and empowering them in a time where we oftentimes felt marginalized. He came up during the seventies and the eighties and the nineties.

I did not work with Henry directly, but I got to know him. Back in 2004, at the Democratic National Convention, I was introduced to Henry by a mutual friend, and he said that Henry was a legend within the Latino community on the east side of Los Angeles. He said he was the one who helped, really, mentor countless elected officials and wannabe elected officials like myself.

I befriended Henry, and Henry gave me quite a bit of advice. Most importantly, he wanted to make sure that I would remain truthful and remain committed to the community that I would one day represent.

I got to visit him just before he passed in the hospital. He looked pretty good to me. We talked, and the first thing he asked me about is what did I think. I thought he was referring to the Presidential election, but, in the end, it was really about a local city council race.

He said that politics is always local, and you should always think about the people first.

Henry will be missed. He had a profound impact on a lot of folks, and I am one of them. So I hope that we will keep his memory alive.

HONORING BARBARA TORRES

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I have sad news to report regarding someone

else we lost on the east side of Los Angeles.

She was a labor union leader, an activist, and a daughter of East Los Angeles. Her name was Barbara Torres.

Barbara passed away at the young age of 39, but she left a life of meaning. She was always around, even though she didn't have a car. She gave so much to people who had so little, even though she didn't have much herself.

She fought against the biggest opponents, even though she was small in stature. She would often be the first one into a fight because she always had one saying: "If we fight, we win." That really sums up Barbara Torres.

She was the champion of the little guy and the underdog, because she was the little guy and the underdog. She understood that the system can sometimes be against the people who need the most help, but she was always there and never gave up faith.

She valued her community, but we also valued her in return.

Yesterday, we put Barbara Torres to rest. At her funeral service was the mayor of Los Angeles, Eric Garcetti, myself, Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson, State Senator Maria Elena Durazo, as well as Assembly Member Reggie Jones-Sawyer and the head of the California Democratic Party, Rusty Hicks.

For somebody who did not have a title in the end, who was not of wealth or means but was just somebody who showed up every single day for every fight, she left an impact. She will definitely be missed because we know that she made California, Los Angeles, and this country a better place to live.

PRESERVE FREE SPEECH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I stand before you as the granddaughter of a Palestinian grandmother, my sity, who yearns to experience equality, human dignity, and freedom. I stand before you, the daughter of Palestinian immigrants, parents who experienced being stripped of their human rights, the right to freedom of travel and equal treatment. So I can't stand by and watch this attack on our freedom of speech and the right to boycott the racist policies of the Government and the State of Israel.

I love our country's freedom of speech, Madam Speaker. Dissent is how we nurture democracy and grow to be better, more humane, and just. This is why I oppose H. Res. 246.

All Americans have a constitutional right, guaranteed by the First Amendment, to freedom of speech, to petition their government, and to participate in boycotts.

Speech in pursuit of civil and human rights at home and abroad is protected by our First Amendment. That is one reason why our First Amendment is so powerful. With a few exceptions, the

government is simply not allowed to discriminate against speech based on its viewpoint or its speaker.

The right to boycott is deeply rooted in the fabric of our country. What was the Boston Tea Party but a boycott? Where would we be now without the boycott led by civil rights activists in the 1950s and 1960s, like the Montgomery bus boycott and United Farm Workers grape boycott.

Some of this country's most important advances in racial equality and equity and workers' rights have been achieved through collective action protected by our Constitution.

Americans of conscience have a long and proud history of participating in boycotts specifically to advocate for human rights abroad. Americans boycotted Nazi Germany in response to dehumanization, imprisonment, and genocide of Jewish people. In the 1980s, many of us in this very body boycotted South African goods in the fight against apartheid.

Our right to free speech is being threatened with this resolution. It sets a dangerous precedent because it attempts to delegitimize certain people's political speech and to send a message that our government can and will take action against speech it doesn't like.

Madam Speaker, the Supreme Court has, time and time again, recognized that expressive conduct is protected by the Constitution, from burning a flag to baking a cake. Efforts to restrict and target that protected speech run the risk of eroding the civil rights that form the foundation of our democracy.

All Americans have the right to participate in boycotts, and I oppose all legislative efforts that target speech.

Madam Speaker, I urge Congress, State governments, and civil rights leaders from all communities to preserve our Constitution, preserve our Bill of Rights, and preserve the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech by opposing H. Res. 246 and antiboycott efforts wherever they arise.

□ 1215

HONORING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL WILLIAM "BILL" MCMILLAN, III

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Corporal William "Bill" McMillan, III. Corporal McMillan was a combat medic serving in Iraq when he lost his life in an IED attack on July 8, 2008.

The death of Corporal McMillan prompted his father, Lloyd, and Brad, his older brother, to write a poem about his sudden death entitled "The Medic's Last Patrol." It goes like this: As your Stryker rolls, you remember many missions through this long, tough fight.

You know the last task will come, last work be done, then home. All right!

You will mount up to take that last patrol with fellows all well tried;

That honor roll of troopers you have come to know with love and pride.

You have all talked, laughed, wept, and fought hard, side by side.

Many times before, you've watched them play, work, fight, and bleed.

You've patched them up, cheered them on, and sent them back to lead.

You've been there for them in the dust of day and in the cold of night.

Then on to the next patrol, with that honored roll. Back one more time to fight.

You remember. The report was out. They were all about, and they had planted one to three.

On late guard, near break of day, an IED you see they start to lay.

You call Sarge, "Hey! Look close over there. Can you see?"

Sarge runs right out, and starts to shout, "That's it!" And you do the follow me!

Later, you patch the enemy then work smart, fight tough, to get yourself free.

You ask, "Is this the last patrol? Is this it for the Sarge and me?"

Experience kicks in. You both fight hard and win. Clearly, the last patrol it's not.

You and your team will see lots more patrols, as that's the soldier's lot.

As you're grouped the next day, the General praises your brave acts.

You and Sarge got four, and the team got nine more, in those all-out attacks.

Your team did its job. They fought hard and did so very well.

You've sent the enemy on their last patrol, their justly deserved death knell.

Now, you are rolling on this new daytime mission. The light is oh so bright.

Your patrol is off to guard the convoy, checking all that is in sight.

You laugh at stories told as along you roll and grab a snack. All right!

Then that flash of light, that blast of might, your eyes they see now closed so tight.

For four, the last patrol has come. The rest for a moment numb, a truly terrible plight.

Later, the caisson rolls. The cannons boom. Overhead, the Blackhawks fly.

We honor you as we stand in place. But we ask, O God! Tell us why.

We find some comfort as we hear "Amazing Grace," our eyes very far from dry.

It was a one-way ticket, but we know you're in a better place.

Now, you are with our dear Lord and holy master.

You have passed from last patrol to honored guard of God's most holy pasture.

FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PAKISTAN

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, came to Washington this week-end. As chair of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, it is appropriate that I comment upon what has occurred so far in the bilateral discussions, and I look forward to meeting the Prime Minister later today.

What is unfortunate is the approach taken by the Trump administration.

First, as to Afghanistan, the hearts and minds of the Afghan people are

critical to our success in what has been our longest war. Tens of thousands of Americans have worked to get the hearts and minds of the Afghan people on our side, building schools and hospitals, under very dangerous conditions.

Now, the President takes this high-profile opportunity as an opportunity to say that he might kill 10 million Afghans, or was thinking about it, or raises the possibility that we would use nuclear weapons to destroy Afghanistan.

This does untold harm to our efforts in Afghanistan to win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people.

What the President should have done is talk about the Durand Line and how Afghanistan should accept this border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, a border that Afghanistan disputes but that the whole world accepts.

As to Kashmir, it is not surprising that the Prime Minister of Pakistan wants America to arbitrate or mediate. That has been the position of Pakistan for decades. But then, the President said in Osaka, last month, Prime Minister Modi asked the United States to arbitrate or mediate the Kashmir dispute.

That is utterly preposterous, and it is embarrassing that we have a President who wouldn't realize how preposterous that statement is. Of course, the record has been set straight by Prime Minister Modi.

Third is what the President didn't say. He didn't make a major issue over Dr. Afridi, the doctor who was critical in helping us find and kill Osama bin Laden. Bin Laden was hiding a mile away from the military academy of the Pakistani Army, their West Point.

We have not demanded that the Pakistanis who helped Osama bin Laden be put in jail, but we do insist that the one Pakistani who helped us find bin Laden be released from Pakistani jail.

The President barely raised the issue. In fact, he didn't voluntarily raise it at all.

This is not just a humanitarian concern. It is also a strategic national security concern because who will help us fight terrorism if we leave Dr. Afridi behind?

In a news interview, Prime Minister Khan suggested there might be a trade, where Afridi was released and a terrorist named Dr. Siddiqui released by the United States.

No friendly country would demand that we release a terrorist in order for them to release a hero, but we have to be practical, and we have to get Dr. Afridi released.

Finally, the President failed to mention with the Prime Minister of Pakistan the situation as to human rights. Hundreds of individuals in Sindh have been forcibly disappeared by Pakistani authorities.

A prime example of that I should highlight today is a 17-year-old boy from Sindh, Aqib Chandio. He was abducted 14 months ago, in broad daylight. He is still missing.

It is time for the Prime Minister of Pakistan to provide information about Aqib Chandio. Where is he? Produce him in court or release him. What is his fate?

Of course, we need information about hundreds of others who have disappeared, including Murtaza Junejo, Shahid Junejo, Ayoub Kandhro, and Insaaf Dayo.

I want to mention Dr. Anwar Laghari, a friend of mine who was shot dead in Sindh in 2015 while working with the Sindh United Party, a party of which he was one of the leaders. Pakistan has not adequately investigated that brutal murder, and it is time for Pakistan to do so.

Finally, we focus on the issue of forced conversions in Sindh, young Hindu and Christian girls forced to convert to Islam and forced to marry men many decades their senior. The Pakistani Government needs to stop this pernicious practice. They need to do more. That is why nine of my colleagues joined with me in sending a letter to the President, urging a focus on human rights in Sindh in these bilateral discussions.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day. We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given.

Encourage the Members of this House, O God, to use their abilities and talents in ways that bring righteousness to this Nation and to all people.

Ever remind them of the needs of the poor, the homeless or forgotten, and those who live without freedom or liberty. May they be instruments of justice for all Americans.

We are grateful for the success of the recent negotiations between the President and congressional leaders on the debt limit and budget caps deal and ask Your blessing on them and on those now charged with moving the business of government and the national economy forward.

May all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.