

Jenkins, six time MTV Video Music Awards winning director and choreographer Frank Gatson Jr., the hero of the Nashville Waffle House shooting, James Shaw Jr., and ESPN sportscasters Stuart Scott, Stan Verrett and Jay Harris.

Alpha Phi Alpha asserts that through its community outreach initiatives, the fraternity supplies voice and vision to the struggle of African Americans, the African diaspora, and the countless unique problems that affect Black men. The fraternity provides for charitable endeavors through its Education and Building Foundations, providing academic scholarships and shelter to underprivileged families. The fraternity combines its efforts in conjunction with other philanthropic organizations such as Head Start, Boy Scouts of America, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Project Alpha with the March of Dimes, NAACP, Habitat for Humanity, and many Fortune 500 companies.

In Las Vegas, since 1964 and 1993 respectively, the Theta Pi Lambda and Sigma Psi Chapters hold high the light of Alpha. We boast in our ranks Brothers Chief State Supreme Court Justice Michael Douglas; Chief District Judge Addelior D Guy, III; Dr. James McMillan, the 1st Black Dentist in Nevada; Rev. Dr. Marion Bennet; Dr. Bob Bailey, the 1st Black TV Personality in Nevada; Ricki Y. Barlow, Las Vegas City Councilman; NV Assemblyman Steven Brooks; and Cedric Crear, Las Vegas City Councilman. Over the past 5 years they have reinvested over \$140,000 in scholarships and boast a 100 percent college acceptance rate, through the Alpha Men and Divas of Tomorrow Mentoring program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I attempted to vote in favor of H.R. 3239. Unfortunately, due to a mechanical error during yesterday's vote on this bill, my vote was not recorded.

As a legislator, a medical professional, and an advocate of humane treatment for all people, I am proud to support this bill because it will raise the minimum standards for medical treatment of migrants and asylum seekers seeking refuge at our southwestern border.

I went to the border to view the circumstances on the ground and what I saw were inhumane conditions. Men, women, and children should never be placed in cages.

In 2018 alone, there were nine migrant deaths that occurred after an encounter with Customs and Border Protection—including seven-year-old Jakelin, who died of dehydration and shock; and eight-year-old Felipe, who died from influenza while in the custody of Customs and Border Protection.

In the first half of 2019, there have been ten deaths, including a two-year-old who died from

pneumonia and a 16-year-old who died from influenza.

All these deaths could have been prevented. The tragic deaths of these children do not go unrecognized and are an unfortunate and disgraceful symptom of the inhumane treatment occurring at our southwest border.

H.R. 3239, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act, introduced by Congressman RAUL RUIZ, raises the bar on humanitarian standards at our southern border.

Migrant children require protection from harm, but we already know this from our own personal experiences. Our children and grandchildren need pediatric health assessments and appropriate medical attention. So do migrant children.

Your child's pediatrician needs the equipment and medications for assessment, triage and treatment. So do the health care providers for migrant children. Migrant children escaping dire situations deserve the same care for their hygiene and health.

You wouldn't allow your children or grandchildren's safety, nutrition, health and hygiene needs to go unmet because you know that they can lead to illness and death—like the deaths of the children who died after being detained at the border.

We must do better. We must dig the bar out of the ground for the humane and dignified treatment of migrants and raise it up to, at minimum, international levels, so that no more deaths occur on our watch. I commend and support my colleague, Congressman RUIZ, for introduction and passage of this bill in the House of Representatives.

THE SAFEGUARDING STUDENT VETERANS ACT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss the Safeguarding Student Veterans Act.

In recent years, we have seen a wave of abrupt closures of colleges in Maryland and around the country, particularly those operating for profit. When a college closes, students are the ones that bear the burden and are left asking "what's next?"

Students who have spent thousands of dollars can just be left with credits they are often not able to transfer. This leaves entire families placed in financial limbo due to circumstances of which the student was unaware.

In the last five years, close to a half million students were impacted by closures of around 1,200 campuses. They were robbed of their education and a chance to better themselves.

When these schools close, student veterans using the GI Bill benefits they have earned through their courageous service are dis-

proportionately impacted. Furthermore, many for-profit schools have been found to target veterans for enrollment with deceptive and predatory practices.

Between 2014 and 2018, the closure of for-profit colleges impacted almost 22,000 students using the GI Bill.

In 2016, when ITT Technical Institute closed its doors, about 7,000 of its 40,000 students were on the GI Bill.

Last year, Education Corporation of America suddenly ceased operations. Nearly 4,000 of its 18,000 students were using the GI Bill.

In addition to harming veterans, these closings also leave taxpayers on the hook because the Department of Veterans Affairs has to double the amount of funding it provides for GI Bill beneficiaries when a school closes and their credits do not transfer.

After serving our nation, veterans using their GI Bill benefits should have faith that they will be able to complete their degrees without their schools suddenly closing.

We must do better for our veterans.

Our veterans have served our country, and we must honor the sacrifices they made as they transition back into civilian life and seek to better themselves through education.

That is why I am introducing bipartisan legislation to protect these student veterans. This week I am introducing the Safeguarding Student Veterans Act with Congressman Ted Yoho of Florida. Our bill will increase coordination between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Education, require the Department of Veterans Affairs to better understand and track the risks that certain schools pose to veterans, and empower veterans when deciding on which schools to attend.

Under the bill, when the Department of Education determines that any school, including for-profits, are facing significant financial and compliance issues, the Department of Education would need to notify and coordinate with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Department of Veterans Affairs would then need to undertake a risk analysis for these schools. The analysis would include information the Department of Veterans Affairs receives from the Department of Education as well as additional factors such as the volume of student complaints, rates of Federal student loan defaults by veterans, and veteran completion rates.

The Department of Veterans Affairs would then notify veterans of the results of the risk analysis and include the findings in the Department of Veterans Affairs' online GI Bill Comparison Tool.

I am proud that our bill has wide-ranging support, including from the American Legion, Veterans Education Success, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Safeguarding Student Veterans Act. We must do better to protect our student veterans.