

HONORING MARY E. PERRY

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2019

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary E. Perry, a long-time community leader and advocate in Wake County, North Carolina, who is celebrating her 90th birthday on October 15, 2019.

Mrs. Perry has served as President of the Wendell-Wake County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for 41 years, amplifying the voices of underrepresented community members. She also was elected the first African American to chair the Wake County Democratic Party and served for 20 years on the East Wake Advisory Council.

Mrs. Perry's service is marked by a resolve to fight injustice—from the early days of the civil rights movement to the present fight for voting rights and equity in education, health care, and housing. In Jim Crow North Carolina, she endured threats as she challenged the practice of segregation at restaurants in Zebulon. This difficult and formative experience strengthened her determination to speak out and stand up for underrepresented communities. More recently, she served as a plaintiff in a NAACP lawsuit against North Carolina's discriminatory voter ID laws. Mrs. Perry also helped empower the next generation of youth leaders to follow in her footsteps by reactivating the Wendell-Wake County NAACP youth council.

Her dedication earned her numerous accolades. The NAACP recognized her as the President of the Year in addition to granting her the Charles McLean Award and the Political Action Trailblazer Award. She received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from then-North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt and the Zeta Sigma Chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Social Act Award. Additionally, she is widely recognized for her devotion to community service, receiving the North Carolina Human Relations Council Community Involvement Award and the East Wake Community Service Award.

In her hometown, Mrs. Perry has attended and offered leadership at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church for over 70 years. She served as President of the Usher Board, Finance Committee Chair, and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Perry was educated in the Wake County Public School system and received a bachelor's degree from Shaw University in Raleigh, NC. She is the proud mother of four children and has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Mary E. Perry for her long and fruitful life of service and in sending her best-wishes for her 90th birthday.

REAFFIRMING IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROMOTE THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

SPEECH OF

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the House is considering H. Res. 444, a bipartisan resolution that I introduced with Representatives DIAZ-BALART, NEGUSE, and LOFGREN to reaffirm U.S. leadership in responding to displacement crises around the world.

We are facing the worst refugee crisis in history. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in 2018, there were more than 70.8 million displaced persons worldwide. This included nearly 26 million refugees, over 41 million internally displaced persons, and 3.5 million people seeking asylum. Put another way, in 2018, 37,000 people were being displaced from their homes each day. About half of all refugees were children. 67 percent came from Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Somalia and 84 percent were hosted by developing nations.

Beyond the statistics, there are far too many stories of people fleeing despair. Seemingly every day we are presented with new accounts of migrants in Central America escaping gang or domestic violence and seeking refuge in the United States. Across the globe, Syrians, Somalis, Yemenis, and others continue to be displaced by various conflicts.

This refugee crisis requires global leadership and compassion—yet we have seen the Trump Administration drastically reduce refugee admissions into the U.S. In 2018, the United States resettled only 22,000 refugees compared to the 85,000 resettled in 2016. Now, we're hearing reports that the Administration is considering lowering the refugee admissions ceiling for next year to as low as zero to 10,000 people. And while the new fiscal year begins in one week, the Administration still hasn't consulted with Congress—as it's required to do by law—about its plans.

This is a betrayal of our shared American values. And it's a betrayal of our fellow human beings. Refugees are fleeing their homes because they are being persecuted for their race, religion, nationality, for belonging to a particular social group or being of a certain political opinion. They need our assistance.

The United States resettlement program is critical to global humanitarian efforts. These efforts serve to strengthen global security, advance United States foreign policy goals, and support regional host countries while also serving individuals and families in need. Moreover, the resettlement program benefits the interests of the United States.

When I was in the Air Force I saw the need for and the significance of our refugee resettlement program first-hand. In the 1990s, I participated in Operation Pacific Haven, where the United States helped thousands of Kurds flee from northern Iraq to prevent Saddam Hussein from slaughtering them. We first brought them to Guam, where I saw the extensive screening process that the U.S. conducted before bringing many of the refugees

to the mainland. Not only were lives saved in this operation, but decades later our nation continues to benefit from helping those refugees. Knowing the severity of the refugee crisis today, we as a nation must do better to help those in need.

My resolution reaffirms the United States commitment to promote the safety, health, and well-being of the millions of displaced persons. It recognizes the people and organizations who have risked their lives to provide assistance to displaced communities. Moreover, the resolution calls on the Secretary of State and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations to continue supporting robust funding for refugee protection and humanitarian response overseas and resettlement to the United States; to set robust refugee admissions goals; and to work in partnership with the international community to find solutions to existing conflicts and to promote peace and reconciliation.

I am grateful that it is supported by more than 60 organizations including Church World Service, International Rescue Committee, Oxfam America, and Refugees International, and has been cosponsored by 74 of our colleagues in the House. I also thank my colleagues, Representatives MARIO DIAZ-BALART, ZOE LOFGREN, and JOE NEGUSE, for their partnership on this bipartisan legislation.

The United States was built on the idea that we could create a free country that would serve as a haven for those fleeing persecution. Refugees don't make our country less safe. But, xenophobia, fear and hate do. Today, by passing this bipartisan resolution, Congress will send a clear message that America is stronger when we welcome refugees and help those in need.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

DOUBLE TEN DAY

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2019

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, October 10 is the national day of Taiwan. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the people of Taiwan a very Happy Double Ten Day.

Despite its small size, Taiwan is the 11th largest trading partner for the United States overall. The United States is Taiwan's 2nd largest trading partner and a leading destination for Taiwan's overseas investors. These figures represent a strong foundation that has been built between the two industries.

Our close ties are not just for trade and economy. Over the years, Taiwan has proven itself to be a model democracy in the Indo-Pacific. Its embrace of democracy shows a better path for it's people and their future. Washington and Taipei share the same values of democracy, freedom, and rule of laws. The Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) was enshrined in 1979, and later supplemented by the Six Assurances given by President Ronald Reagan in 1982. The TRA and the Six Assurances both formed the cornerstone of our relations with Taiwan. Together we have faced many challenges while displaying a steadfast commitment to one another's security and prosperity.