

Bashiya and the two children continued to wait for approval of the Special Immigrant Visa program, and finally, in 2016, 7 years after they applied, they got the news they were waiting for. They were approved. Now, it has been 7 years since Bashiya has seen her husband and since he has seen his children. The system has torn the family apart. Bashiya's story is not uncommon. There are others.

Jackie, a dedicated and compassionate social worker from Uganda, is the mother of two sons. Jackie has not seen her oldest son, Arinda, since 2014, when she fled Nairobi, Kenya and came to the United States. Arinda will turn 8 years old on November 13. And on November 21, his case to join his mother will have been pending for 2 years. For 2 years this family has been in bureaucratic limbo, and it has taken its toll. Jackie is seriously considering having her son adopted by a family in Canada so she at least will be separated by less time and geography.

Our system is broken. We are forcing refugees to other countries like Australia and Canada, and we are not living up to the standards of the shining beacon for people facing persecution and violence. We are a Nation of immigrants. We are a Nation of opportunity, and we need to act like it. We will continue to encourage the administration to increase the refugee caps to make the vetting process under the State Department more efficient and to ensure resources are available to give refugees the certainty that they need.

I hope that my colleagues will join me and make a difference for people like Bashiya and Jackie and make a difference for our communities, because we are all stronger when we embrace our history as the world's melting pot.

RECOGNIZING KERENSA WING AS THE NATIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate you making some time in the day today. It is not very often that one of us gets named the very best in our field. Such a recognition is very powerful. And today, Mr. Speaker, you can't see it from where you are standing, but I have a list of the three finalists in the National Association of Secondary School Principals Principal of the Year program.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate each and every one of them. They are: Joey Jones from Robert Frost Middle School right around the corner in Rockville, Maryland; Lindsa McIntyre from Jeremiah E. Burke High School in Dorchester, Massachusetts; and Kerensa Wing from Collins Hill High School in Suwanee, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot succeed in our communities without dedicated public servants like these, and it will

come as no surprise to you, since I am down here on the floor today congratulating these three finalists, that the national association named as the Principal of the Year from my very own district, from the Gwinnett County school system, Kerensa Wing at Collins Hill High School.

Mr. Speaker, to meet Kerensa Wing, the first thing you will notice is that charisma that she has that connects her with her students and with her parents. That partnership that she develops with her administrators and with her teachers, that is the partnership that we strive for here and the one that is recognizing Kerensa Wing out of 90,000 principals across the country.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Wing has spent her entire career in service to my community back home. I only represent two counties. She lives in one, makes that her family's home. She works in the other, having spent 30 years in the Gwinnett County school system. These pictures reflect her work in her last 5 years as principal at Collins Hill High School. She has also served at Shiloh High School as a teacher. She helped to open our brand-new Lanier High School, and then returned to Collins Hill.

Mr. Speaker, the passion that is at the center of her decisionmaking is that love of students, a teacher at heart. This work, as you know, is not a work done for a salary. It is not a work done for even national recognition. It is a work done out of a sense of opportunity to be transformative in the lives of the young people around us.

Whether you sit on the far left or the far right, Mr. Speaker, whatever your politics of the day are, if there is one thing that is worth celebrating, it is those men and women back home who make differences for the young people in our lives.

Principal Kerensa Wing is such a person, and it is with no small amount of pride that I congratulate her today.

She was actually here in town, Mr. Speaker, with her family, and if only the House had been in session, I would have been here to congratulate her. We were back home working that week, so I missed that opportunity to be with her here in this Chamber. But I am not going to miss the opportunity today in this Chamber to tell her how much we appreciate her, how much her students appreciate her, and how much better both Forsyth County and Gwinnett County are that she, with her talents, could work anywhere and live anywhere in the great United States of America, Mr. Speaker, and she has chosen our community to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Principal Wing and congratulate her.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SÁNCHEZ) at noon.

PRAYER

Bishop Robert Barron, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, California, offered the following prayer:

O God, source of all justice, You have summoned everyone who works in this Chamber to walk the path of righteousness, to foster life and liberty, to care especially for the poorest and most vulnerable in our society. Free these servants of Yours, O Lord, of all those attachments to wealth or power or privilege or fame that would prevent them from following the course You have set out for them. Make them mindful of the time when they first heard Your voice and followed it with idealism and enthusiasm.

Illumine their minds, direct their wills, stir up in them a holy passion for doing what is right, despite the cost. Give them the knowledge that whenever they strive for justice, they are pleasing to You. And shower, O Lord, Your choicest blessings upon our country.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I rise to welcome Bishop Robert Barron, who gave the opening prayer today, here to the Chamber.

Bishop Barron is the second-most followed Catholic on social media after the Pope. He is a remarkable man who

has inspired me and my wife and my family for many years, and I am honored to have brought him here to the Nation's Capital where, yesterday, he addressed several dozen Members of Congress, as well as their staff members.

Bishop Barron was ordained as a priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago 33 years ago. In July 2015, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Barron to be the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, an innovative new hub for spiritual and intellectual formation, where he produces daily meditations, weekly homilies, movies on pivotal players in Catholic history, reviews of movies, and debates with sometimes-controversial thought leaders of today's culture.

Bishop Barron, as I said, is the second-most followed Catholic on social media, second only to the Pope. His regular YouTube videos have been viewed over 40 million times, and he has over 1.7 million followers on Facebook.

He is a number one Amazon best-selling author and has published 16 books. He has created the groundbreaking documentary "Catholicism," which aired on PBS. He has eight other films and study programs.

He is a religious correspondent for NBC and has appeared on FOX News and CNN, as well as other stations. He has been invited to speak about religion at the headquarters of Facebook, Google, and Amazon, and, now, the United States Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THANKING RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in gratitude to thank the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association for their endorsement of H.R. 2407, the Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Military Occupation Act.

This endorsement by more than 300 respected rabbis sends a strong signal by people of all faiths that every child deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, and that includes Palestinian children. No longer can we ignore the countless cases of mistreatment and abuse of Palestinian children by the Israeli military.

As a nation, we should no longer condone the detention of these children with the support of our tax dollars.

So, again, I thank leaders of all faiths, but especially these rabbis for

their commitment to human rights and the rights of children and for standing up and saying no more abuse of Palestinian children.

RECOGNIZING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month to acknowledge the strength of survivors and to call for an end to the abuse experienced by more than 2 million Americans each year.

Throughout my career, I have fought to end the cycle of domestic violence.

My contributions in the House of Delegates in Virginia have helped make the State have some of the toughest criminal penalties for domestic abusers. During that time, I patroned legislation requiring domestic abusers to undergo counseling and a court-mandated treatment program. I also worked across the aisle to make strangulation a felony in Virginia's criminal code and make sure that abusers charged with such a crime would have the presumption against bail.

Congress must strive to protect victims and survivors, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass commonsense reforms that ensure safety and security of those who suffer abuse.

ADDRESS RISING COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, since January, House Democrats have gotten to work, passing legislation that brings down healthcare costs and protects the benefits of the Affordable Care Act.

We have gone to court to fight against the Trump administration's efforts to gut protections for folks with preexisting conditions. We have already sent a package of legislation to the Senate that will drive down the price of prescription drugs. We are still waiting on MITCH MCCONNELL to take up these bills, but we are not stopping there.

In the coming weeks, we will also bring to the floor the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, H.R. 3, the single most significant piece of legislation to reduce drug costs, that empowers patients and consumers against the powerful pharmaceutical cartels in this country.

This legislation levels the playing field of working people in this country, a country that pays more for prescription drugs than anyplace else in the world.

Our constituents want a government that works for the people of this coun-

try. It is time for my Republican colleagues and Leader MCCONNELL to get the message: Stop standing in the way. Work with us so we can get the job done and pass this important legislation that will address this very serious issue, the rising cost of prescription drugs.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS SUCCESS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the successful raid by the United States Special Forces resulting in the death of the murderous ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is a significant victory for freedom.

Americans commend the military and intelligence communities for their diligent work in tracking a murderous terrorist who committed atrocities, leading to his cowardly suicide killing children in Syria.

I am thankful for the decisive leadership by President Donald Trump. Our commitment to deny ISIS a safe haven where they can launch attacks against American families sends a message that the U.S. and our allies stand ready and determined to succeed in the fight against terrorism.

National radio commentator Buck Sexton, on Monday, correctly praised our special operations success as "a big deal."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism, just as, next week, we will cherish the 30th anniversary of Ronald Reagan's liberation of Europe from communist socialism.

SUPPORTING IMAM TAHIR KUKIQUI

(Mr. ROSE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Imam Tahir Kukiqi, a public servant and community leader who continues to be denied fair consideration in his immigration process.

This summer, Imam Tahir received notice that USCIS intends to deport him from the country he has called home and raised his family for years. The loss of Imam Tahir would be a blow, not only to Staten Island, but to all of New York City and the United States. He has dedicated his life to uniting diverse communities in solidarity and common understanding.

He hosts interfaith dialogues with mosques, synagogues, churches, and temples all across New York State. He serves as the first Muslim chaplain to the New York City Police Department and has worked to build relationships between the Muslim community and law enforcement.

He has lived a life of public service and represents the best of what it