

mark 10 years since the tragic Smolensk plane crash, which killed 96 people including President Lech Kaczynski and Polish First Lady Maria Kaczynska. On April 10, 2010, a Polish state delegation was heading to Smolensk, Russia, to commemorate the murder of nearly 22,000 innocent Polish citizens by the Soviet secret service NKVD in the spring of 1940 during World War II. The gruesome crash in the thick fog near Smolensk in western Russia was Poland's worst air disaster since World War II and completely stunned the country as scores of military political leaders were killed in one fell swoop.

The American people stand with the people of Poland in solemn commemoration of this horrible national tragedy that still reverberates throughout Polish society to this very day. The Soviet Union was complicit with Nazi Germany in the oppression of the courageous people of Poland. Despite the ongoing Wuhan Virus, senior Polish officials laid wreaths at the monument to the victims of the Smolensk air disaster at the Pilsudski Square in Warsaw earlier this month.

Unfortunately, questions relating to the cause of this tragedy still linger. Although an official Polish government investigation concluded that the crash was caused by pilot error, suspicions of foul play persist. At the memorial earlier this month, Polish President Andrzej Duda said, "After 10 years, it's difficult to say anything or predict whether the case can ever be resolved." This is mainly because Russia has consistently refused to turn over basic evidence to the Polish state. The Russian government is still in possession of the plane wreckage including the black boxes that could provide more clarity.

In a press statement from earlier this month, Poland's Foreign Ministry renewed demands that Moscow return the wreckage of the Tupolev aircraft that crashed so that the Polish people can finally find some closure. Russia's refusal to turn over evidence raises many suspicions, despite claims by Russia's Investigative Committee that crew errors led to the accident.

The American people support the Polish Foreign Ministry's calls to return the wreckage to Poland, as well as the Ministry's assertion that "no norm of international law gives grounds for Russia to impound Polish property." We stand with the people of Poland in remembering the victims of this awful tragedy and supporting efforts for a transparent investigation into its cause to provide a measure of justice to the victims and their families.

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington is well represented by Ambassador Piotr Antoni Wilczek, promoting the message to never forget this catastrophe. President Andrzej Duda is appreciated in America. Democratic Post-Communist Poland is the only country in Europe to have 25 years of uninterrupted economic growth, which I saw firsthand in January. I particularly know the significance of America's beloved Polish-American Community of 10.5 million citizens. My daughter-in-law Jennifer Miskewicz Wilson is grateful for Krakow heritage and her association with Poet Adam Mickiewicz.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN F. (JACK)
BARRY

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of one of my longtime constituents from Millis, Massachusetts, John F. (Jack) Barry, and to congratulate him on his retirement this coming April after 40 years of service with the American Hospital Association.

Jack has held several leadership positions at the AHA since 1980, including a temporary assignment from 1993 to 1995 in Washington, where he directed the association's regional operations during the Congressional deliberations over national health reform legislation. Since 1996, Jack has served as the AHA's regional executive in New England. He has worked with the region's six state hospital associations and hundreds of member hospitals to direct grassroots advocacy on issues of importance to hospitals.

Jack has long had ties to both Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. Born in Newton, he earned a B.A. in journalism from George Washington University in 1976 and an M.B.A. with a concentration in health care management from Boston University in 1991.

Jack looks forward to enjoying his retirement with his best friend and spouse of 38 years, Ellen Kelly, a retired nurse; his daughter Elizabeth; his son Patrick; and the host of friends and colleagues he has amassed over the years. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jack Barry and wishing him and his family much happiness as he begins the next chapter of his life.

MINDY FREEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. Perlmutter. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mindy Freel for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Mindy Freel is a 10th grader at Northglenn Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mindy Freel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mindy Freel for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE SELFLESS
AMERICANS WORKING ON THE
FRONTLINES TO BATTLE THE
CORONAVIRUS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all the brave men and women of this country who are risking their own lives every day to help our nation get through this terrible coronavirus pandemic. They are our emergency first responders, doctors, nurses, grocery store employees, members of the postal service and those who work in the shipping and delivery industries. Their continued service throughout this crisis means life or death for some patients fighting off this disease, and it also means that our families can continue to have the food and products we all need to survive.

Our local newspaper, Florida Today, recently highlighted the efforts of fifteen Brevard County nurses as they rushed to aid Americans suffering from COVID-19 in the town of Taunton, Massachusetts, a hard-hit community just south of Boston. These brave nurses, currently on staff with Rockledge Regional Medical Center, answered the call for help and volunteered to go for two weeks to treat seriously ill COVID-19 patients. Since being there, they have vowed to stay as long as they are needed.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the selfless acts of nurses Jennifer Nelson, Lorraine Blake, Tandy Beck, Allison Salidino, Betty "Joanne" Crespo, Deidra Gansel, Jill Barrett, Amanda Tebault, Lisa Colon, Arlene "Solly" Salzwedel, Kris Smith, Nora George, Linda Fleming Dutton, Kara Ehrhardt and Gena Gillespie. These are real life heroes.

"When I first walked into ICU, I thought, 'Oh, my goodness. What is this?' It looked like, to coin a phrase, a war zone," Nurse Arlene "Solly" Salzwedel was quoted describing the situation saying in Taunton. "The housekeepers do not come in to clean the rooms at all. That's the job of the nursing staff. So not only are you the patients' nurse, you're their cleaner. You're their spiritual support system, even though they're intubated and heavily sedated."

Andy Romine, President of Rockledge Regional Medical Center, said originally thirty nurses had volunteered to go to Massachusetts, but our own needs in Brevard County required some to stay and care for patients in our own community. "Our organization is very proud of them for their willingness to put their safety at risk to care for others—their courage and selflessness is a source of pride for us," said Romine. Since then, forty-five other nurses have traveled to Boston to treat the surging cases of COVID-19 putting their lives at risk.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting these brave nurses, and all of the selfless Americans who are risking their lives every day to help the American people overcome this serious coronavirus pandemic.