

HONORING DR. MEHR RAHMATULLAH AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, born in East Pakistan, Dr. Mehr Rahmatullah grew up on a farmhouse surrounded by coconut trees, cattle, goats and poultry. Growing up, she watched her mother volunteer much of her time to those in need and became inspired to seek a profession in which she could do the same.

While studying medicine at Dow Medical University in Karachi, she donated blood frequently to the patients who could not afford care. She also worked to transport patients from her village to the University Hospital in order to be treated by her professors during her clinical rotations. As a Medical Officer, she volunteered treatment to impoverished patients with T.B. using her own meager salary and enforced a practice of supervising patients receiving their medication to ensure that they took it. Although she didn't know at the time, this method was actually the now-famous Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) practice, which was made the standard practice for T.B. treatment by the World Health Organization. She moved to America right after getting married in 1988, and soon thereafter prepared for the United States Medical Licensing Exam.

After passing, she completed her first-year residency training at St. John's Mercy in St. Louis, an affiliate of St. Louis University. In her second and third year of residency, she moved to serve in Internal Medicine at Orlando Health in Orlando, Florida. After almost 25 years into practice and having received certification as a Diplomate from the American Board of Internal Medicine, Dr. Rahmatullah continues to practice as well as volunteer her time at Shepard's Hope Clinic for economically disadvantaged patients and serves as an Honorary Member of a local School Board at MAGO (Muslim Academy of Greater Orlando). She has also served as Chairman of the Credentials Committee at Osceola Regional Hospital in Kissimmee, Florida.

CONGRATULATING REAR ADMIRAL DAVID HAHN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to RADM David Hahn, U.S. Navy, as he completes a 35-year naval career and retires from serving as the Chief of Naval Research.

RADM Hahn was responsible for the operations of the Naval Research Enterprise, which comprises more than 4,000 people in 23 locations and more than 1,000 partners. Over the course of his career, RADM Hahn excelled in all facets of being a Naval Officer. He served as the commanding officer of the USS *Pittsburgh* and served at sea aboard the

USS *Casimir Pulaski*, USS *William H. Bates*, and USS *Springfield*. Ashore, he served as flag lieutenant to Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy; squadron engineer, Submarine Development Squadron 12; action officer, Joint Staff in the Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C4) Directorate; and as a legislative fellow on the staff of U.S. Senator John Warner.

His vision to create a truly unified Naval Research Enterprise helped align, allocate, and accelerate the advancement of knowledge and improve the delivery of new capabilities to Sailors and Marines. His vision of a dominant fighting force now and in the future served as an inspiration to the thousands of members of the Naval Research Enterprise who directly support the warfighter. Reminding all stakeholders that the Naval Research Enterprise mission is "Future Naval Power," RADM Hahn reinvigorated the structure of the Office of Naval Research and brought a cohesive vision with three key messages:

Invest in the right scientists to ensure the Navy and Marine Corps are always linked to scientific discovery.

Provide a steady infusion of relevant technology into existing programs of record, and Disrupt an adversary's calculus through innovative capabilities.

Among his many achievements, Rear Adm. Hahn revamped the Future Naval Capabilities and Innovative Prototypes processes to more effectively and more quickly field new capabilities. Through these efforts, Rear Adm. Hahn successfully deployed 20 Future Naval Capabilities and one Innovative Naval Prototype to the Navy and Marine Corps, including the Navy's first directed energy weapon system onboard the USS *Portland* (LPD-27).

His selfless commitment to serving our nation has left us safer and better prepared to respond to threats around the world. We wish him the very best in retirement after an impressive and impactful career. Fair winds and following seas, Admiral Hahn.

FUELING FEARS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, an extraordinary insight has been provided by one of South Carolina's most respected business leaders, Peter Brown in The State of Columbia on May 21st. His message is valuable to all Americans as we work together to defeat Wuhan Virus.

FUELING FEAR ABOUT COVID-19 WILL HINDER SC DURING REOPENING

Back in March our concerns about COVID-19 were driven by fears of worst-case scenarios: massive infection statistics, high mortality rates, overwhelmed hospital systems and extreme mortality rates.

Prevention was the goal—and the efforts launched sought to flatten the curve of infections and deaths while reducing the overall strain on the health care system.

CLEAR RESULTS

And here are the results we've seen: Expected infection rates, but lower than expected levels of hospitalization.

Lower than expected mortality rates with most fatalities occurring among the popu-

lations predicted to be hardest hit: the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions.

Success in employing personal safety precautions like social distancing and wearing face masks.

But some things haven't worked.

Hospitals and associated medical practices suffered dramatic reductions in patients and business. Why? Because they had to cancel all elective surgeries rather than simply staggering them. Meanwhile, "stay at home" orders by state and local governments ended up sidelining tens of thousands of people, forcing them to file for unemployment benefits while also crippling the economy.

INACCURATE PREDICTIONS

And through all of this, what we have learned is that the virus may be less deadly than originally thought.

The reality is that predictions of potentially millions of deaths from COVID-19 have simply been inaccurate—and that high-population hotspots like New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts make up nearly half of all the nationwide cases and deaths.

In South Carolina the number of new infections remains manageable, and the percentage of new cases versus total cases continues to decline even as our testing efforts increase.

But that's not what is being reported by media outlets, which are desperate for clicks and viewers. Every new case of COVID-19 is treated as breaking news, and anchors broadcasting from home is a gimmick that does more harm than good.

SELLING FEAR

This can't be the model going forward.

We have to coexist with COVID-19, and that means putting into place realistic, sustainable measures that recognize that until the virus is cured, life for those who are most at risk will dramatically change. The fears of a second wave of COVID-19 are driven by fear rather than data, and they do not help us create a sustainable way to coexist with the coronavirus. We need to have a realistic way to address how to protect those most at risk, as well as giving them the tools for coping with a "new normal"—a reality that the rest of society has already started to acknowledge by acting responsibly to keep infection rates low. Simply put the media are selling fear. But the rest of us must go on with our lives. The rest of us must coexist with this virus.

LET'S REOPEN

So it is time to let individuals—who care about the people in their families more than any government ever will—lead the way through cautious responsibility.

And it is time to let businesses reopen with the same degrees of responsible caution so that people can earn livelihoods and provide futures for their families.

We should continue to proceed with caution.

We should continue to practice social distancing.

We should continue to wear face masks.

We should be willing to stay at home if we are not comfortable with the pace of reopening our state.

But we should reopen united as one.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FLOYD WHITE, SR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Floyd White, Sr., who

passed away on April 1, 2020 at the age of 90. He was a well-known advocate in the Fresno, California community and a role model for many in the Central Valley. A true trailblazer, Floyd and his brother James were the first African American fire fighters in the City of Fresno.

Floyd White, Sr. was born in Oklahoma; he and his family moved to Fresno, California when he was young. He excelled in sports and academics at Edison High School and Fresno City College, playing football and running track and field. Floyd was a veteran of the United States Army, serving in the Korean War and earning the rank of Sergeant.

On September 1, 1954, Floyd White, Sr. and brother, James White made history as the first African American firefighters in the City of Fresno. Floyd would make history as Fresno's very first African American Fire Chief. Throughout his career, he fought for equal rights, higher education, and fair employment for all. Floyd won a historic lawsuit against the City of Fresno for racial discrimination alongside Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, then Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. During his time in the force, he was mentor to young African American fire fighters and made sure they had an ally to turn to. He truly had a passion for standing up for what is right and helping others during times of need.

Floyd dedicated much of his time to the community he loved dearly. He was an honorary Deacon of Saint Rest Baptist Church and was past Commander of the American Legion Post 511. Floyd was a lifetime member of The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and an Eternal member with Highest Honors of the 33rd Degree Free Masons Raisin City Lodge Number Five. Following his retirement from the Fresno Fire Department, Floyd was sure to stay busy. He became a business owner, worked as a corrections officer, substitute teacher and bus driver.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Whelma Jean White; sons Floyd L. White, Jr. and Cedric W. White, Sr.; and daughters Carolyn J. White, Jennifer L. White, Rae L. White and Donzetta White Hale. He also leaves behind his brother James Porter White, sister-in-law Joyful White, and many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and loving friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Mr. Floyd White, Sr. I join his family, friends, and the community in celebrating his great life.

HONORING GRANDMASTER CHAN PUI AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Grandmaster Chan Pui is one of the leading pioneers in introducing martial arts to the United States. After immigrating to the United States in 1968, he began teaching the Wah Lum Kung Fu System in Boston, MA. In 1980, he moved the

headquarters of the Wah Lum System to Orlando, FL where he built the first kung fu temple in the United States, the Wah Lum Temple.

He was the first person to begin the tradition of Chinese New Year celebrations in Central Florida and used these events as an opportunity to educate his community on the Chinese culture. Grandmaster Chan has been featured in magazines and documentaries for his revered style and prowess in the martial arts industry. Most notably, his life is captured in a documentary directed by his daughter titled Pui Chan: Kung Fu Pioneer. Along with this documentation of his work, his skill and prowess are also exemplified through his inductions in several martial arts Halls of Fame. In addition to his many accolades, Grandmaster Chan has also trained a professional demonstration team that performs at all the major theme parks in Central Florida. Through his philanthropic efforts, he has raised over \$30,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Recognized and esteemed by many, Grandmaster Chan has been an integral part of contributing to and preserving martial arts knowledge in the world. Of all his endeavors and accomplishments, most important to him is his love for his family, his pride in his students, and his whole-hearted practice of his system's motto of integrating respect, kindness, fellowship, and strength in martial arts. In his life, actions, and practice of martial arts, his philosophy is evident, it's not just a job, but a way of life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAMITA JACOBS

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Samita Baumritter Jacobs. Sookie, as she was known, passed away at her home on April 27, 2020 at the age of 89. Throughout her extraordinary life, I am told she spread her unique warmth, spirit, goodness, and generosity to all who were lucky enough to know her.

The daughter of Ted and Florence Baumritter, Sookie grew up in New York City. After being set up on a blind date with Howard Jacobs, it soon became clear that they were soulmates. Sookie and Howard married on June 5, 1952, and for the next 63 years they were partners in everything.

After starting a family in New York, Sookie and Howard moved their young children to southern California so they could start their own furniture business. Sookie was the aesthetic force in the endeavor while Howard handled the business side. With their complementary talents and temperaments, their one Ethan Allen store soon turned to five—and they were known for their excellence, value, and integrity. Customers and staff not only respected Sookie, they loved her.

Nothing was more important to Sookie than being with her family, and she cherished trips and visits with her children and their families. In their later years, Sookie and Howard moved to Rancho Santa Fe in the 49th Congressional District to be closer to their daughter Ami and

her family. Sookie's devotion to Howard knew no bounds, caring for Howard's every need through his declining health and difficult bout with Alzheimer's.

Sookie taught her family by example that a glass could be half full. She faced numerous health challenges in her life. When she had her first bout with cancer in the late 1970s, the doctors gave her a less than 10 percent chance of living for more than three years. She made up her mind quickly that she was going to be one of the 10 percent. Her courage and determination were simply inspirational. Throughout her life she met every challenge with her fierce determination and loving care for those around her.

CONGRATULATING BULGARIAN SUCCESS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Bulgaria Caucus, I commend the government of Prime Minister Boyko Borissov for its handling of the unprecedented Wuhan Virus pandemic. After a state of emergency declaration lasting ten weeks, the Bulgarian government announced on Tuesday that the country's famed archeological treasures, monasteries, mountain havens along with world-class Black Sea resorts, marinas, sports centers, restaurants, bars, and cafes will reopen on June 1st.

As of this week, Bulgaria has reported 2,460 confirmed coronavirus cases, including 133 deaths, a relatively low number for Europe. Prime Minister Borissov and Health Minister Kiril Ananiev started relaxing the lockdown back in April, while still enforcing strict social distancing and other important measures which succeeded in containing the spread of the Invisible Enemy.

The Bulgarian government deserves high praise for its handling of this unique public health crisis and for exhibiting an impressive level of leadership in the face of this challenge. The American people will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Bulgaria, and we look forward to seeing our friends in Sofia in better days with warm Bulgarian hospitality.

Bulgaria is ably represented in Washington with Ambassador Tihomir Stoychev who is serving in the tradition of Ambassador Elena Poptodorova.

RECOGNIZING THE 102ND REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, as one of the House Co-chairs of the Azerbaijan Caucus, I am honored to recognize the Republic Day of Azerbaijan, commemorating Azerbaijan's 102nd year of independence and democracy. On May 28, 1918, Azerbaijan became the first secular democratic state in the