

If they [the mullahs] continue to pursue their current path and course of action, namely belligerence, missile launches, terrorism, intimidation and closing ranks, they will inevitably crash head first.

If they make the slightest retreat, namely, if they change their behavior and abandon their suppression, terrorism and belligerence, then they would undermine the very existence of rule of the velayat-e faqih (absolute clerical rule).

For this reason, Khamenei calls for the creation of “a young and Hezbollahi government” and sees a monolithic Parliament and a murderous Judiciary as the only way out of the vortex of crises and the only way to preserve the regime.

The international community’s decision to activate the snapback mechanism would be the coup de grace shot to the regime’s windfall achievements under the JCPOA and the policy of appeasement.

To date, the accelerating outbreak of the coronavirus has taken the lives of at least 72,000 people in Iran.

In March, Khamenei admitted that he sought to create an opportunity and a blessing out of the coronavirus crisis.

The abnormal surging trend of the number of corona virus victims in Iran is a product of the criminal policies of Khamenei and Rouhani. The strategy of launching mass casualties as a barrier against the threat of an uprising and eventual overthrow is exactly designed to pacify and demoralize the Iranian society, rendering it hopeless and paralyzed.

During the breathtaking coronavirus crisis, the mullahs continued to launch expensive satellites into space. Concurrently, they pursued their belligerent and terrorist activities in Iraq and Syria and escalated their ominous nuclear activities to a new level.

The ruling mullahs must answer why the value of the country’s official currency has plunged so much? Why is there no ability to create jobs? Why is Iran one of the four countries in the world with the highest inflation rates?

And you must say where did Khamenei amass 100 billion dollars in his executive headquarters?

The 15 institutions and foundations under Khamenei’s control have a total of one trillion dollars’ worth of assets.

We pledged to overthrow the regime, take back Iran and restore all the violated and plundered rights of the people of Iran.

Our people must enjoy the right to be healthy, have shelter, to employment, to organize and have syndicates, autonomy for ethnic minorities, equal participation in running society’s affairs, gender equality and popular sovereignty.

They must be free of religious slavery and sexual exploitation. They must enjoy freedom of expression, opinion, and choice. They must be pulled out of poverty and be free from fear; this means ending torture, executions, and social and economic insecurity.

We have pledged to restore all these freedoms and rights. We make this pledge before the Iranian people and history. This is our pledge to 120,000 martyrs who fell for freedom.

Today, in Iran, one of the greatest battles and one of the greatest tests of our time rages on between freedom and religious fascism, between democracy and religious fundamentalism.

We urge all governments and international bodies to stand with the people of Iran in this historic showdown against the greatest threat to world peace and security.

The Iranian regime’s leaders planned to launch a major terrorist attack against the Free Iran Grand Gathering in Paris, in 2018. The terrorists in possession of the bomb were

arrested by the Belgian Police. The regime’s diplomat, who delivered the bomb, has been in jail for more than two years.

For the first time, a serving diplomat faces trial in Europe for direct involvement in terrorism. This is a great disgrace for the regime, and it shows that the regime spares no effort to commit any crime and pay any price to destroy its alternative.

The trial of the four detained terrorists as the perpetrators of this terrorist act is a necessary step. But the real decision makers were Khamenei, Rouhani, Zarif, and Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi.

As I have reiterated time and again, we have not come to gain something for ourselves; we have come to sacrifice and pay the requisite price.

We are determined to restore freedom and people’s sovereignty in Iran, and this will happen.

Long live freedom. God bless the people of Iran.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL GLENN STARNES

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Colonel Glenn Starnes, who passed away on 30 March 2020.

Glenn was born 27 January 1959 as the second son of Charles and La Verne Starnes. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1981 and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

Colonel Starnes led a life of service to both his country as a decorated marine and to the Texas A&M community as a member of the Office of the Commandant’s staff.

Glenn served in the Marines for 30 years and commanded at every level, from field artillery battery to field artillery regiment. While serving his country, he was stationed in seven States and two countries. He fought in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom through two tours of duty in 2003 and 2005. Glenn also served on joint duty with the U.S. Central Command and later served as an exchange officer with the United Kingdom’s Joint Headquarters.

Colonel Starnes was awarded the Legion of Merit with two Gold Stars, the Bronze Star with Combat “V” Device, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, and the title of Officer of the Order of the British Empire from the Queen of England.

After 30 years of service Glenn retired from the Marine Corps in 2011.

In 2012, Colonel Starnes joined the Texas A&M University community as Assistant Commandant for Operations and Training for A&M’s internationally recognized Corps of Cadets.

In his 8 years on this job, Glenn was a tireless worker who loved the Corps and the opportunity to serve as mentor for many of its members.

He was highly respected by his colleagues, and many Aggies feel fortunate enough to call him friend. Colonel Starnes’ 30 years of dedicated service embody the core values of Texas Aggies: respect, excellence, leadership, loyalty, integrity, and selfless service. His loss will be deeply felt by the Texas A&M community and the Corps of Cadets.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Starnes served his country proudly for many years, and his legacy will be forever woven into our American history. He was not only a dedicated public servant, he was a loving son, a husband, a father, an effective mentor, and a loyal friend to hundreds.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Starnes family.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation’s Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Colonel Glenn Starnes.

As I close today I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who keep us safe, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. LAHOOD. on Monday, July 27, 2020, I missed votes due to flight delays. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 167.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to attend votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Rollcall No. 144; NAY on Rollcall No. 145; NAY on Rollcall No. 146; NAY on Rollcall No. 147; NAY on Rollcall No. 148; NAY on Rollcall No. 149; NAY on Rollcall No. 150; NAY on Rollcall No. 153; NAY on Rollcall No. 154; YEA on Rollcall No. 155; YEA on Rollcall No. 156; YEA on Rollcall No. 162; NAY on Rollcall No. 163; YEA on Rollcall No. 164; NAY on Rollcall No. 168; NAY on Rollcall No. 169; YEA on Rollcall No. 170; NAY on Rollcall No. 171; and NAY on Rollcall No. 172.

FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial celebration of Franklin First United Methodist Church in Franklin, Kentucky. Shortly after the town was surveyed in 1820, the Union Church was established where Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists would all hold services. Franklin First would go on to have an incredible two-hundred-year history, producing numerous servant leaders and engaging in missionary work that would spread beyond the 1st District. Members of this church have proven to be steadfast leaders across the globe. In 1874, Mrs. Dorinda Duncan organized the first Children’s

Missionary Society in Kentucky, In 1887, Miss Nannie B. Gaines served as a missionary in Hiroshima, Japan, going on to become the first principal of the initial girls' school in Hiroshima. She laid the foundation for the modern 21st century educational institution of Hiroshima Jogakuin, which now encompasses kindergarten, junior high, high school and university students. John T. Tigert was named Bishop after obtaining his undergraduate degree at Vanderbilt University, where he was part of the university's inaugural graduating class. His brilliant leadership moved the church forward in numerous ways. His son, John J. Tigert, Jr., would continue his father's legacy of leadership by becoming a Rhodes Scholar, College Football Hall of Fame inductee and President of the University of Florida. To ensure the future growth of the church, Doug Wilson planted the idea of building a Christian Life Center that was completed in 1996. This building offered after-school programs for children and helped to instill the values of the church in the next generation. Franklin First has seen numerous congregates go on to be ordained as Methodist ministers or serve as local pastors. This track record of success demonstrates their desire to spread the lessons they learned at Franklin First beyond just their membership. The lessons they learned from Miss Nannie B. Gaines are still seen in the church through their international missionary work. The church routinely leads trips to Haiti and Honduras, and in 2020 they sponsored 41 educational scholarships for children from the region. Franklin First also participates in numerous local missionary projects through Room in the Inn and Good Samaritan, while also organizing an annual Trunk or Treat event that provides a safe place for local community children. Throughout the past 200 years, this church has faithfully served Simpson County in numerous ways. I am proud to recognize Franklin First United Methodist Church for the incredible work they have done not only in their community and state, but throughout the entire world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER DENNIS LEE HASSMAN

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Commander Dennis Lee Hassman, Jr., of College Station, Texas, who passed away on 12 April 2020.

Lieutenant Commander Hassman graduated from Texas A&M University in 1988 and subsequently enlisted in the United States Navy.

During his 20 years in the Navy, he served as a Remote Control Mission Commander and E-2C Airborne Mission Commander. Lee also served as a Naval Flight Officer and Antiterrorism/Force Protection Officer. In 2005, Lieutenant Commander Hassman received an MBA from the Naval Postgraduate School.

In 2008, Lee retired from the Navy and returned to Texas A&M University to serve as a member of the Office of the Commandant's staff and as a cadet training officer for A&M's internationally recognized Corps of Cadets.

During this time, he worked closely with cadets, providing guidance and direction to cadets at the unit, major unit, and Corps levels.

Madam Speaker, Dennis served his country proudly for many years, and his legacy will be forever woven into our American history. The passing of Lieutenant Commander Hassman will be deeply felt by all of those in the Texas A&M community and by his family and his friends.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Hassman family.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Lieutenant Commander Dennis Hassman.

As I close today, I ask all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, quarantining in accordance with the Attending Physician's guidance after extensive interactions with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 168; NAY on Roll Call No. 169; YEA on Roll Call No. 170; NAY on Roll Call No. 171; and NAY on Roll Call No. 172.

HONORING MARY M. BLACK

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mary M. Black, who passed away on March 21, 2020. A woman of courage and conviction, Mary relentlessly fought for a better life for our state's children and families. For 35 years, she served as chief executive of Black Family and Child Services of Arizona, an agency she founded after encountering systemic inequities in our state's child welfare system. Because of Mary's work, the needs and hopes of families of all backgrounds have been elevated and heard, and we are better for her presence among us.

Mary was a fearless champion of children. Having grown up in rural Louisiana with loving parents who endowed her with a strong sense of self-esteem, Mary's work was grounded in her firm belief that all children deserve a safe and supportive home. After graduating from Grambling State University, Mary became a social worker in Arizona's child welfare system, where she became acutely aware of the hardships faced in trying to place Black children in foster care and adoptive families. She responded with leadership and faith, dedicating herself not only to finding loving and caring homes for Black children, but also developing policies and programs that valued children of color and treated all families with dignity and respect. Mary's vision resulted in the founding of Black Family and Child Services of Arizona, which has become one of the

state's most respected nonprofit social services agencies. Since its inception, the agency has kept families together, found foster and adoptive homes for children in need, and created prosperity and opportunity for Arizonans of all races and backgrounds. Mary and her pioneering work have been recognized numerous times for its innovation and focus on human dignity.

Mary's passion and leadership have inspired Arizonans to do justice, to love kindness and to keep fighting to ensure all children grow up in safe and supportive homes. We join her family in grief and gratitude, thankful that we bore witness to her work in Arizona and confident that her legacy will be felt for generations. Godspeed, Mary.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP L.D. SKINNER, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay homage to an outstanding man of God, dedicated servant, and dear friend of longstanding, Bishop L.D. Skinner, Sr. Bishop Skinner transitioned from labor to reward on Saturday, July 18, 2020, at the age of 69. His homegoing service will be held on Friday, July 31, 2020, at the River Mill Event Centre in Columbus, Georgia. He leaves behind a loving family, a dedicated church family, and an appreciative community for his extraordinary life of serving God and humankind.

Bishop L.D. Skinner, Sr. was born in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, to the union of Richard, Sr. and Alethia Bembyr Skinner. He always had a thirst for knowledge and improving himself. A highly educated man, Bishop Skinner graduated from the North Carolina College of Theology with a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies, A Master of Arts in Theology, and a Doctor of Theology Degree. He also earned a Doctor of Divinity Degree from Christ United Theological School.

He was a man of God who was devoted to his calling. He was the Founder and Senior Pastor of the Bread of Life Christian Center and the Founder and Presiding Prelate of Explosion Ministries Fellowship of Interdenominational Ministers. A gifted teacher and mentor, Bishop Skinner guided many in their ministerial calling.

But Bishop Skinner also knew that involvement in his community was an integral part of his calling as a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Accordingly, he was involved in many social and civic organizations that had as their purpose the uplift of humankind. He served as Vice President of the Columbus Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, Vice President of the Columbus NAACP, Chaplain and Counselor at the House of Mercy, Volunteer Chaplain at Jack T. Rutledge Correctional Institution, a member of Dr. Creflo Dollar's Ministerial Association, Board Member of the Columbus Salvation Army, the Columbus NAACP, and the Urban League of Greater Columbus.

A man of many talents, he was also a gifted author. During his lifetime, he authored four