

The same Haaretz article, included for the RECORD, cited Prime Minister Netanyahu saying annexation is “still on the table” and that “extending sovereignty will be done only alongside the United States.” A senior Israeli political source is quoted as saying, “Applying sovereignty (to the West Bank) is on the table and we’re committed to it.”

Again, nothing has changed. The annexation of Palestinian lands must be stopped and must never be aided or abetted by any U.S. administration. The Palestinian people should be fully engaged diplomatically by the next U.S. president as partners and constructive peacemakers empowered to negotiate and determine their own political and economic future. Never again should the people of Palestine be ignored, isolated, and boycotted as the Trump administration has done.

Democrats in Congress, led by the courageous and righteous co-sponsors of this bill, must act to send an unambiguous message that annexation is contrary to U.S. interests and would devastate the U.S.-Israel bilateral relationship. The Palestinian people deserve the support of Congress and the American people in this dark moment. If our nation is truly a beacon of democracy, then let us use our power for good to protect the Palestinian people from Mr. Netanyahu’s illegal annexation.

[From Reuters, Aug. 14, 2020]

AFTER NETANYAHU COMMITS TO FUTURE ANNEXATION, TRUMP SAYS IT’S ‘NOW OFF THE TABLE’

(By Noa Landau)

PRO-SETTLER AMBASSADOR FRIEDMAN ARGUES ‘IT’S NOT OFF THE TABLE PERMANENTLY’ AFTER HISTORIC AGREEMENT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UAE

U.S. President Donald Trump said Thursday night that Israel made a ‘great concession’ by agreeing to suspend West Bank annexation as part of its agreement to normalize relations with the United Arab Emirates, adding that for now ‘it’s off the table.’

Earlier on Thursday, Israel and the UAE reached a historic peace deal on that would lead to a full normalization of diplomatic relations between the two Middle Eastern nations in an agreement that Trump helped broker.

“Israel agreed not to annex parts of the West Bank. It is more than taking it off the table—they agreed not to do it. This is a very smart concession by Israel. It is off the table now,” Trump said during a White House briefing.

This comes in contrast to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s earlier remarks that annexation is “still on the table,” and that it is a pledge the prime minister said he is “committed to.”

In addition, an Israeli senior political source said that “Applying sovereignty [to the West Bank] is on the table and we’re committed to it. The Trump administration requested to temporarily suspend the announcement [of annexation] to first implement the historic peace agreement with the UAE.”

Asked about Netanyahu’s statement that he considers this a ‘temporary suspension,’ and that the option of annexation will still exist in the future, Trump responded that “Right now it’s off the table, I can’t talk about sometime in the future, that’s a big statement, but right now it’s off the table.”

U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, however, said that “it’s off the table now but it’s not off the table permanently. You can’t have peace and annexation at the same time.”

Speaking in a televised speech earlier on Thursday, Netanyahu said that “Today marks a new era in Israel’s relations with the Arab world” and that the two countries agreed on “a full, formal peace.”

“For years, Israel has been portrayed as an enemy . . . now more countries will join us in this circle of peace,” the prime minister said.

He added that annexation is “still on the table,” and that it is a promise Netanyahu said he is “committed to.”

“Extending sovereignty will be done only alongside the United States,” Netanyahu said. “Without coordination, in the best case, will do nothing, and in the worst case, will harm relations between us. The United States asked that Israel temporarily postpone annexation.”

HONORING THE LIFE OF BEAUMONT POLICE OFFICER SHEENA DAE YARBROUGH-POWELL

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Beaumont Police Officer Sheena Dae Yarbrough-Powell, who tragically perished in the line of duty on August 9, 2020.

Sheena Dae Yarbrough-Powell was born on November 22, 1996, in Nederland, Texas to Mark and Shelia Yarbrough. She was the fifth of six girls and remained very close to her family. Highlights of family time included: Sunday lunches, yearly vacations, sleepovers with sisters, competing with family and friends in board games, and, of course, “lots of Blue Bell Ice Cream.” According to family and friends, Sheena never met a stranger, was a social butterfly, and would tire herself trying to make everyone feel included. Sheena graduated from Lumberton High School in 2015.

Sheena’s faith and family were her top priorities. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church where she developed many life-long friends. Her love of Jesus was evident in how she lived her life and treated others. After becoming involved with Calvary’s Renewal Bible study, she met the love of her life, Tyler Powell. From their first date in June of 2018, until her untimely death, Sheena and Tyler were inseparable. The two were married on October 4, 2019, in Beaumont, Texas. In their 10 months of marriage, Sheena was a faithful and loving wife who provided Tyler with a lifetime of great memories.

In 2018, after graduating from Lamar University with a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice, Sheena entered the LIT Police Academy. She was hired by the Beaumont Police Department as a Cadet on August 13, 2018 and was sworn in as a Beaumont Police Officer on December 20, 2018. Her family, friends, and fellow officers lovingly referred to her as “Officer Hopps.” As an officer, Sheena was passionate about preventing sex crimes and helping victims of human trafficking. Becoming a police officer gave Sheena the ability to make a difference in her community and touch the lives of every individual she met.

Officer Yarbrough-Powell is survived by her husband, Tyler; her parents, Mark and Shelia Yarbrough; her sisters, Jennifer Rae, Jessica Mae, Samantha Fae, Sarah Kae, and Madison

Jae; her grandmother, Dorothy Yarbrough; and parents in-law, Rick and Deidre Powell, along with many friends and family whom she loved dearly.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Beaumont Police Officer Sheena Dae Yarbrough-Powell for her faithful service to her community. My thoughts and prayers remain with her family, friends, and her law enforcement family during this difficult time.

WOMAN’S CLUB OF ROCK HILL—
CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote.

The Nineteenth Amendment, enshrined in our constitution, lifted millions of women closer to equality in all aspects of American life.

The right to vote raised women across the nation to an equal footing in the laws and politics that govern them.

In my hometown of Rock Hill, South Carolina, The Woman’s Club of Rock Hill will be celebrating that hard-earned right.

The Woman’s Club of Rock Hill was organized in 1939 and is affiliated with some of the largest and oldest women’s volunteer service organizations in the world.

The Woman’s Club of Rock Hill serves our community with distinction. In the very best tradition of civil society, the Club strives to further the cultural, educational and social interest of its members, to promote action in civic development, social welfare, and to preserve its historic property.

Much work remains until the equality between man and woman is fully realized, but we should never forget the example set by the historic Suffragette movement, enabled by organizations like the Woman’s Club of Rock Hill, that did so much to advance the rights of women.

I am proud to honor the 19th Amendment that elevated more than 26 million women from subjects to citizens, thereby bestowing them the means to empower themselves, their families, and all communities.

The importance of this amendment to our society cannot be overstated. Today, I want to thank the Woman’s Club of Rock Hill for organizing such a special event and take the time to honor all women.

RETIREMENT OF CHARLES HUDSON FROM THE COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, it has been a great honor to work closely with Charles Hudson, or Chuck as many know him, for the last twenty-one years.

Chuck has been a key part of the team at the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, directing government affairs and serving as an absolutely indispensable resource on tribal fisheries policy and services for the Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Nez Perce tribes. This has meant that we have collaborated on any number of issues and projects, from creating the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act to righting historic wrongs done by the federal government with respect to tribal housing along the Columbia. Along the way, Chuck has been a tremendous partner in engaging not just my office, but the entire Pacific Northwest delegation in advancing the fisheries and related priorities of the four Columbia River Treaty tribes. He is an extraordinarily trusted, knowledgeable, and effective advocate. The work that he's done will benefit tribal communities for generations to come.

My connection to Chuck is deeper than most, as I've also had the pleasure of working closely with his son, Stone, who served as an intern in my office and then on my staff. It's been a true honor to work with Stone, who, like Chuck, is a skilled communicator, a dedicated professional, and an engaged member of the community. I have deeply appreciated the opportunity to partner with both of these wonderful people on many initiatives.

I congratulate Chuck on his retirement and thank him for his tremendous service to tribal communities in the Pacific Northwest. I am proud to call him my friend and co-collaborator. I look forward to continuing to work together, as he writes the next chapter of his remarkable life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERIC
JASON AMBERGE

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Eric Jason Amberge, who passed away on July 13, 2020. A veteran, proud volunteer, and beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Mr. Amberge will be dearly missed.

After graduating from SUNY Fredonia with a degree in Electrical Engineering, Mr. Amberge entered the United States Air Force. During his time in the military, Mr. Amberge was stationed at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, NY, where he served as a Lead Systems Engineer and Air Defense Initiatives and Program Manager, at the Advanced Planning System in Rome Laboratory, Airforce System Command. After 10 years in the Air Force, Mr. Amberge retired as a Captain and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for Outstanding Service, a distinction given to those who perform volunteer service that far exceed the duties required by a member of the Armed Services.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, Mr. Amberge went on to receive an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. During his career as an engineer, he worked for Kodak, Oracle, APG Technologies, and Aquila Technologies.

Outside of work, Mr. Amberge was an avid volunteer who was passionate about honoring

local veterans. He served as Commander of the Skaneateles American Legion Post No. 239 and as the Director of Honor Flight Syracuse, an organization that transports local veterans to Washington, DC, allowing them to visit the national memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice. Throughout his life, he also remained dedicated to his wife, children and step-children, mother, siblings, and grandchildren. A man of strong faith, Mr. Amberge was an avid student of scripture and strived to always treat others with dignity and respect.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Eric Jason Amberge. A cherished member of our Central New York community, Mr. Amberge will truly be missed. I ask my colleagues to keep him and his family in mind as we remember his life.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF
PATRICK KEPLINGER

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick Keplinger, a member of my staff who has contributed over 20 years of exceptional service to our Country.

Patrick was commissioned as an officer in 2001 and served two tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom before achieving the rank of Major in the United States Marine Corps. In 2015, Patrick made his way to the House of Representatives, where he joined my team as a Wounded Warrior fellow. In this role, Patrick helped fellow veterans navigate the Department of Veterans' Affairs and access the benefits they have earned and deserve. Later that year, he became a permanent staff member in my Hemet office, where he has since served as a field representative. For the past five years, Patrick has worked diligently to address the military's use of toxic burn pits and advocate for veterans in our community.

One of Patrick's most significant accomplishments in my office was the case of Jennifer Kepner, a 39-year-old veteran from Cathedral City. Jennifer served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and in 2016 was diagnosed with Stage IV Pancreatic Cancer. Her doctors determined that her exposure to burn pits during her deployment was the cause of her cancer. The VA denied her claim for compensation, but Patrick helped her obtain 100 percent service-connected compensation. Additionally, Patrick helped bring the burn pit issue to the forefront, resulting in my burn pit bill, H.R. 4137, the Jennifer Kepner HOPE Act. Together, we continue to work to bring national attention to this issue.

Patrick's passion for serving our Country is not ending but starting a new chapter. He will be working at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in San Diego, where he will help active duty service members transition back to civilian life. I believe Patrick is perfect for this because wherever Patrick is, there is a purpose.

On behalf of our entire community, I thank Patrick, for his exceptional continued service and wish Big Marine good luck with his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES
BATTISE "C.B." CELESTINE

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Vietnam War veteran Charles Battise "C.B." Celestine, who passed away on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at the age of 84. Mr. Celestine was a long-time affiliate of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas and proudly served as a councilman.

C.B. Celestine was born on May 5, 1935, to Gus and Flanche Boatman Celestine in Livingston, Texas. As a young adult, he admirably joined the U.S. Army and fought bravely in the Vietnam War. Following his military service, C.B. worked for Triple S Construction in Texas, and after many years of service, retired as a Boilermaker Supervisor from the company. He spent much of his life in Livingston but had lived in Kountze, Texas, for the past nine years, married to his lovely wife Hazel and father to his four children.

Mr. Celestine was a proud member of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, a native speaker, and was known for his extensive traditional knowledge of the Tribe. C.B. was also the eldest member of the Beaver Clan. While growing up in the Tribe, he was in a singing quintet with a few of his tribal brothers called the Woody Woodrome quintet, and they produced an album together titled the Excitement of the Gospel. He spent much time of his adult life singing, playing gospel music, and celebrating the life of Christ with his family and friends.

C.B. reflected God's love daily in his service to his Tribe and others and leaves behind quite a legacy. A committed Christian, he spent much of his life as an active member of Indian Baptist Church in Polk County, Texas. In his spare time, he also enjoyed working on race cars with his son Jimmy, hunting, and spending time with his four wonderful grandchildren.

He is proceeded in death by his parents, Gus and Flanche Celestine; son, Timmy Celestine; daughter, Tania Honeycutt; brothers, Gus Celestine, Jr., Milton Warren Celestine, and Wesley Celestine; sisters, Florence Robinson and Claire Breaux. He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Hazel Celestine of Kountze; sons, Jimmy Celestine and Charles Celestine of Kountze; grandchildren, Maegan Drake, Morgan Celestine, Jordan Honeycutt, and Maddie Honeycutt.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the family of Mr. Celestine for C.B.'s faithful service and devotion to his country, Tribe, and community. My thoughts and prayers remain with his family and friends.

HONORING TANNERS TEAM
SPORTS AS A FOURTH DISTRICT
HERO

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional work of Tanners Team Sports in Hot Springs, Arkansas.