

Could we?  
 Would we? . . .  
 But such gifts so give?  
 In Honor, If?  
 Ooooh. . . Rah!

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HONORING BOB TRUSELA

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bob Trusela, a distinguished restaurateur in San Pedro who passed away on June 6, 2014. As a longtime resident of the Los Angeles Harbor Area, Bob was well-known in the community for his exceptional Italian dishes, his unforgettable smile, and his unique ability to make every customer feel like they were part of the Trusela family. The community's praise of his delicious cuisine attests to the lasting imprint that his positive character will leave on those within the Los Angeles Harbor Area community and beyond.

When he was a young man, Bob's desire to enter the restaurant industry led him to pursue a job as a busboy in Scottsdale, Arizona. He later worked at various restaurants in Nevada and California. In 1992, Bob's love for the restaurant business ultimately led him to meet his wife, Josephine. That year, both were working at Josephine's uncle's restaurant in San Pedro. In 2007, the couple opened Trusela's restaurant on the same spot where they met sixteen years earlier, a restaurant where I enjoyed countless fabulous Italian meals and memories. Just a few months ago, Bob and Josephine opened their new restaurant in San Pedro, Otto Trattoria, which has already proven to be a local favorite for many residents. Los Angeles is famous for its cultural diversity, which is reflected in the wide array of restaurants that feature cuisines from across the globe. I am proud to say that Bob played a major role in this part of the community while touching so many lives in the process.

He is survived by his wife, Josephine, as well as his five children: Bobby, Louis, Tony, Dominic, and Isabella.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members of the House join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the life of Bob Trusela.

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IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOSEPH W. GREENE, SR. FOR HIS DEDICATED CAREER AT KANSAS CITY POWER AND LIGHT

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding dedicated employee of Kansas City Power & Light. On Friday, June 13, Mr. Joseph W. Green, Sr. will officially retire from the electric utility, having served for sixty-eight years. His commitment to the service of KCP&L is unparalleled, as he is the company's longest serving employee. Mr. Greene is a trailblazer, civil rights activist, a devoted family man, and a community leader who has devoted his life to the fight for justice and equal rights for everyone.

Greene, affectionately known as "Mean" Joe Greene, was born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1925. When he was just sixteen years old, he joined the Masonic Lodge where he ascended to the rank of Wisdom Master, 30 degree. Four years later, he joined KCP&L, in 1945, and began as janitor. Through his years he has worked as a machinist, apprentice mechanic, tool room attendant at Hawthorne Station, and Union Steward for IBEW Local 412. An investor-owned, regulated electric utility, Kansas City Power & Light serves more than 800,000 customers in 47 Missouri and Kansas counties. Mr. Greene helps to serve approximately 18,000 square miles, with more than 3,000 miles of transmission lines, 24,000 miles of distribution lines, and more than 400 substations to deliver power to their customers.

Greene joined the NAACP in 1963 where he served in various capacities, including on their Board of Directors and as a delegate to many of the annual conventions. For many years, he was the top membership recruiter for the NAACP. Greene also served on the Board of Kansas City's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"Mean" Joe Greene has never been afraid to speak up and fight for his beliefs. Of his activism, he once said, "It's been a struggle and I hope I've been able to help lay the groundwork for the acceptance of minorities to come into mainstream America and be given equal opportunities to do what they can and to the best of their abilities." One of the highlights of his life was the election of President Barack Obama, the nation's first African American President.

Greene was married to the late Thelma C. Greene for 56 years. He is the father of three sons, Joseph Greene, Jr., Earl Greene and Dr. Wesley E. Greene, and one deceased daughter, Joan Greene. He also has several grandchildren, including two medical doctors, one attorney, one completing law school, a former NFL football player and an aspiring film producer. He says of his family, "I am going to do everything I can while I'm alive for my family, my community and my people."

Mr. Greene has been a lifelong proponent of education and, in conjunction with KCP&L and the University of Missouri—Kansas City, supported an annual Spelling Bee for fourth and fifth-grade students from an inner city school.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in recognizing and honoring Mr. Joe Greene for a lifetime of devoted commitment to Kansas City Power & Light and our community. While he embraces this next phase of life in retirement, I wish to thank him for his tireless service over the last 68 years. His life's motto, "We will get along fine as long as you respect and treat me right," will continue to guide his colleagues and all of us in the days ahead. Demonstrating unparalleled dedication, Joe serves as an inspiration and role model for our community.

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IN HONOR OF LGBT PRIDE MONTH

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and celebrate the

month of June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month. As the proud sponsor of H. Res 416, Encouraging the Celebration of the Month of June as LGBT Pride Month, along with my fellow LGBT caucus members, this is an issue near and dear to my heart.

Too often have the contributions and the struggle of LGBT individuals for full recognition and equal protection under the law been intentionally ignored. That is why I join with my LGBT brothers and sisters this June in celebrating the positive progress we have seen across the country toward full recognition and equal protection for LGBT individuals. I also join with them to recognize the multitude of positive LGBT role models and public figures who are able to live their lives in such a way as to prove it really does "get better" to those around the world who struggle with their LGBT status.

I firmly believe everyone should be treated fairly and equally regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. I believe that Dr. King's words are as true now as they ever were in light of the continued invidious discrimination, hate, and bias we see against LGBT individuals in our world community: 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' An injustice against a member of the LGBT community is a threat to justice in every community.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, as we recognize and celebrate the month of June as LGBT Pride Month, let us recognize the LGBT trailblazers that have made this month possible and let their example guide us as we continue to seek equal protection under the law for all.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 273 on the Broun Amendment H.R. 4745, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "yes" when I should have voted "no."

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ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND SYRIA (ISIS)

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, as the author of the legislation that created the Iraq Study Group, also known as the Baker-Hamilton Commission, which helped lay the groundwork for the successful "surge" strategy that restored security to Iraq in 2007 and 2008, I am deeply troubled by what is unfolding in Iraq today on the Obama Administration's watch.

The rapid fall of multiple Iraqi cities to the terrorist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) brings the militant group notably closer to its declared aim of establishing a caliphate that spans the northern sections of Syria and Iraq.

In essence, this jihadi extremist group, with origins in al Qaeda, is effectively carving out a terrorist state in the heart of the Middle East before our eyes and the Obama Administration appears to have no plan to respond.

Let's be perfectly clear about what this group represents. A June 11 New York Times article describes ISIS in the following way: "They have attracted the most attention with their draconian enforcement of a fundamentalist interpretation of Islamic sharia law, including crucifixions of Christians and Muslims deemed kufar, or infidels."

It is inconceivable that places I, and other Members of Congress, visited just a few years ago—and that American men and women gave their lives to help secure—are now falling to hard-lined jihadists.

In an opinion piece in today's Washington Post, veteran John Nagl, who served in both Iraq wars, wrote: "We are reaping the instability and increased threat to U.S. interests that we have sown through the failure of our endgame in Iraq and our indecisiveness in Syria. There is a clear lesson here for those contemplating a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. Having given al-Qaeda a new lease on life in the Middle East, will we provide another base where it began, in Afghanistan and Pakistan? This is not the end state my friends fought for and died for."

I could not agree more with Nagl's analysis. The swift fall of these strategic cities to this terrorist paramilitary force is quite literally the dividends of the Obama Administration's failed policies in Iraq and Syria. I also fear it could foreshadow what we will see in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the coming years as a result of the administration's actions.

The president's precipitous withdraw from Iraq and continued failure to develop a coherent policy to fight extremists in Syria has undermined the ability of the U.S. and our allies to prevent these troubling developments which have seismic consequences for the region and U.S. national interests.

The utter lack of urgency on the part of the administration with regard to ISIS's efforts to solidify its territorial gains is baffling at best, and inexcusable at worst.

Thousands of innocents will be affected in unimaginable ways, not the least of which are vulnerable religious minorities which for centuries have inhabited these lands. Consider Iraq's ancient Christian community, which has been decimated in recent years. Those who have remained in the country have largely fled to Mosul and the Nineveh Plain. To people of faith, Nineveh is familiar name: the site of a dramatic spiritual revival as told in the biblical book of Jonah.

Where now will these Christians flee? In the words of Nina Shea of the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom, writing in National Review Online this week: "Once upon a time, some of the Mosul Christians might have fled to Syria, but they now have few options. More will give up on the region altogether and join their relatives and former neighbors in Michigan, California, Sweden, and elsewhere in the West. The fall of Mosul is a serious blow for the Iraqi state, and the implications for Iraq's Christian community are devastating."

She lamented: "In other words, the religious cleansing of Christians from Iraq is entering the end game."

Mr. Speaker, it's time for this administration to recognize just how serious this development is and develop a plan to address it. America's credibility and national security depend on it.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF KEITH MORRISON

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Keith Morrison. Born in Jamestown, New York, Keith moved to Central Florida in the late 1970s where he quickly became an advocate for social justice. He became involved with Joy Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), an open and affirming church that reaches out to the LGBT community. Keith worked with Joy MCC on social justice issues such as feeding the homeless and informing the community of safe spaces for LGBT meetings.

Keith has worked with a variety of community organizations. In the early 1990's he worked with Central Floridians United Against Discrimination. This group fought to stop discrimination based on sexual orientation on a local and state level. He also worked with the Orlando Regional Pride on their early parades. These events gave the community the opportunity to express their pride in themselves and in the LGBT Orlando community.

Keith is a founding member of several local groups. In 1991, he helped found the Metropolitan Business Association (MBA), a LGBT business association. He and Debbie Simmons served as the first co-chairs of MBA. In 1993, Keith helped found the Rainbow Democrats Club of Orange County and served on its Board of Directors for five years. The organization worked to empower the LGBT community by registering residents to vote, educating people about the importance of their vote, and motivating them to get involved. In 1996, Keith worked with the State Democratic Party to form a state-wide LGBT caucus.

Keith is also the founding President of the Triangle Democratic Caucus, which gave the LGBT community a place at the political table in Florida. While serving as President of the Rainbow Democrats and the Triangle Democratic caucus of Florida, Keith worked with Congressman Barney Frank and other LGBT leaders from around the country to found the National Stonewall Democratic Federation. Keith served as the first Executive Director and helped establish offices in Washington, D.C., where the organization served as a voice and advocate within the party for LGBT equality.

Keith has also worked for local candidates that support equal rights for LGBT citizens. He ran the campaign for the first open candidate for Orlando City Council, Patty Sheehan, and the first open candidate for Florida State Representative, Tom Runyan.

Keith returned to Central Florida in 2000, where he remains an active member of Joy Metropolitan Community Church. He also works with Equality Florida and the Zebra Coalition to end discrimination based on sexual orientation, to strengthen women's reproductive rights, and to seek social justice for all without regard to socio-economic status.

For more than 30 years, Keith has worked for justice for his religious beliefs and sexual orientation. He is proudest of his 20 plus years of political work to empower LGBT voters in

order to obtain full equality for members of the community.

I am happy to honor Keith Morrison, during LGBT Pride Month, for his tireless work to empower and achieve equality for the LGBT community in Central Florida and around the country.

HONORING MR. EVAN GAINES LADNER AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY CLASS OF 2014

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Evan Ladner as a member of the United States Naval Academy Class of 2014.

Evan graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a degree in Economics and he received a commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy on May 23rd, 2014.

His career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Evan's unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation. The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

The challenge for this young man will be to retain as much as possible, pass what he learns to others, and live life for every moment.

South Mississippi is proud of Evan and his accomplishments, and we look forward to his continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Navy officer.

As Evan embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may always recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment graduating from a program as prestigious as the Naval Academy.

I would like to send Evan my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID RUIZ, SR.

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our country, state and community are exceptional. In my district, we are fortunate to have dynamic leaders who unselfishly dedicate their time and their talents to make our community, and our country, a better place to live and work. Mr. David Ruiz, Sr., was one of these individuals. David passed away on Saturday, June 7, 2014 at the age of 89. Mr. Ruiz's accomplishments are wide ranging, as he has made his mark in life as a successful businessman, an active supporter of the community, and a dedicated family man. He will most certainly be missed.

Born in Corona, California to Refugio and Beatrice Ruiz on July 18, 1924, David was a