

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

life-long resident of the Circle City. David later married Luisa Ruiz, his wife of fifty-one years, and together they raised eight children. David is survived by his loving children, Joe Ruiz, Jesse Ruiz, Sr., Luci Ruiz-Hernandez, Sally Ruiz-Cortez, David Ruiz, Jr., Gloria Ruiz-Sabatelli, Rufus Ruiz and Mary Lou Ruiz-Statham, eleven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Not only was David a committed family man, but he was also a vital member to the Corona community. David began his working life in irrigation at Foothill Ranch and as a milk processor at Grand View Dairy. From 1965 to 1978, he went to work at the Circle City Hospital in Riverside County, followed by employment for the Corona Police Department until his much deserved retirement in 1992. All the while, from 1965 to 1980, David had his own janitorial business rooted in Corona.

His tireless passion and love of family has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community and we will all miss David dearly. A funeral mass honoring David's life will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2014. The level of commitment he showed to his community, his work, and his family is truly an example of a life lived well and a legacy that will endure. I extend my condolences to David's family and friends; although David may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remains and will never be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, VINEYARD HAVEN

### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize War Veterans Memorial Park in Vineyard Haven and the generous contributions by residents of this Martha's Vineyard town that helped to create this memorial to our nation's veterans.

Legionnaires at the General George W. Goethals Post #257 in Vineyard Haven wanted their memorial to be something that could be enjoyed by Vineyarders, and not simply observed by them. Instead of a statue or other traditional sculpted war memorial, these men deemed a park with playing fields and a playground would be a more suitable tribute to their brave service to America. As such, construction began on 10 acres of an undeveloped swamp in 1951.

Construction on the Memorial Park engaged the Vineyard Haven community in a variety of fundraising events such as bean suppers, dances, and auctions. Over the last 8 years, many contributions by Islanders have made possible the leveling and developing of the Park's land, laying down a grass surface, and replacing over a thousand yards of peat with top soil.

The War Veterans Memorial Park in Vineyard Haven will serve as a proactive memorial to the men of Legion Post #257 and General George W. Goethals himself, distinguished nationally for his role in digging the Panama Canal and, locally, as a member of the Martha's Vineyard community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor these veterans as well as recognize the vast and

generous contributions by Vineyard Haven residents who made possible this memorial park and engaging community center.

RECOGNIZING FULTON COUNTY HERITAGE DAYS AND THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAST CONFEDERATE BIVOUAC

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Fulton County Heritage Days and the 150th anniversary of the last Confederate bivouac, which took place in Fulton County Pennsylvania, and was a pivotal event in the Civil War.

On July 30, 1864, Confederate soldiers descended on Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and burned the town of Chambersburg to the ground when the \$500,000 ransom they demanded was refused. Following this brutal act, the soldiers made their way to McConnellsburg, where the Confederate forces encamped and proceeded to terrorize the local citizens. Though these Confederate soldiers inflicted a brutal toll on McConnellsburg during their time in the town, this moment was a turning point in the course of the war. Indeed, no more battles would take place on Union territory, as it would be the last time that the Confederacy would have troops occupying land north of the Mason-Dixon line. For this reason, the time these Confederate soldiers spent encamped in McConnellsburg has come to be known as the last Confederate bivouac.

Fulton County Heritage Days commemorates this important event, which is so crucial to both the history of Pennsylvania and our nation. We must never forget the lessons of history, or the great sacrifice made by the brave Pennsylvanians who gave their lives to hold the Union together. I wish to thank all those involved with organizing Fulton County Heritage Days, and invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 150th anniversary of the last Confederate bivouac.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. In 1964, our predecessors in the House and Senate passed the Wilderness Act by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote and President Johnson soon followed with his signature making the Act law on September 3, 1964. This action created America's National Wilderness Preservation System that reserves lands in a special status to be, in the words of the Act's remarkable preamble, "administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and will provide for the protection of these areas and the preservation of their wilderness character."

50 years later, the wilderness idea is going strong with over 100 million acres of our nation's most spectacular lands preserved for future generations. It is an achievement truly worth celebrating. And while I rise today to recognize it, I also rise to celebrate the Americans who have kept the wilderness idea alive in our national consciousness and who have worked to care for each designated acre and to shepherd new additions to the system.

The people of the Central California Coast region that I am privileged to represent exemplify this ethic. There is a deep commitment to open space conservation in the communities that border the Monterey Bay. From the farmers and ranchers who fuel a dynamic agricultural economy to individual citizens who recreate on the public lands to rural residents who care deeply about the landscapes that surround their homes, the open space ethic runs strong. And when it comes to the wilderness lands of the Santa Lucia Mountains and the Big Sur Coast, no group of people lives that commitment more strongly than the community activists of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

Founded in 1998, the VWA is dedicated to preserving the wild lands of the Northern Santa Lucia Mountains managed by the U.S. Forest Service. VWA members partner with the Forest Service to maintain trails and clean up the debris from illegal marijuana plantations. VWA members lead hikes and education programs. And VWA members advocate. They advocate for better management of existing wilderness, and they advocate for the inclusion of additional wild lands into the wilderness system when those lands warrant such inclusion. I have had the great fortune to work with the VWA in all of these capacities, but most especially in the several wilderness bills that I myself have had the honor of introducing. And while I may claim credit for authoring those bills, I know it is the hard work of VWA members like Gordon Johnson, Tom Hopkins, Nikki Nedeff, and so many others that made those bills possible.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the Wilderness Act's 50th Anniversary, we are not only celebrating the great American landscapes that this idea has preserved, but the great Americans who have done the preserving.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL NONVIOLENCE WEEK RESOLUTION

### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the goals and ideals of establishing a National Nonviolence Week.

Tragedies at school, at home, and in our communities are destroying too many lives. We need to find ways to make our country a beloved community—where the dignity and respect of every person is a clear, common value.

Simply said, Mr. Speaker, no one should have to live his or her life in fear. We must all love each other as brothers and sisters. This resolution will raise awareness of youth violence in our country and encourage all Americans to learn how the doctrine of nonviolence