

says, six minors, as young as 15, were killed in her neighborhood. Some were hacked apart. She plans to try the journey again soon. Asking for help from the police or the government is not an option in what some consider a failed state. The drugs that pass through Honduras each year are worth more than the country's entire gross domestic product. Narcos have bought off police officers, politicians and judges. In recent years, four out of five homicides were never investigated. No one is immune to the carnage. Several Honduran mayors have been killed. The sons of both the former head of the police department and the head of the national university were murdered, the latter, an investigation showed, by the police.

"You never call the cops. The cops themselves will retaliate and kill you," says Henry Carías Aguilar, a pastor in Nueva Suyapa. A majority of small businesses in Nueva Suyapa have shuttered because of extortion demands, while churches have doubled in number in the past decade, as people pray for salvation from what they see as the plague predicted in the Bible. Taxis and homes have signs on them asking God for mercy.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees recently interviewed 404 children who had arrived in the United States from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico; 58 percent said their primary reason for leaving was violence. (A similar survey in 2006, of Central American children coming into Mexico, found that only 13 percent were fleeing violence.) They aren't just going to the United States: Less conflicted countries in Central America had a 712 percent increase in asylum claims between 2008 and 2013.

"If a house is burning, people will jump out the window," says Michelle Brané, director of the migrant rights and justice program at the Women's Refugee Commission.

To permanently stem this flow of children, we must address the complex root causes of violence in Honduras, as well as the demand for illegal drugs in the United States that is fueling that violence.

In the meantime, however, we must recognize this as a refugee crisis, as the United Nations just recommended. These children are facing threats similar to the forceful conscription of child soldiers by warlords in Sudan or during the civil war in Bosnia. Being forced to sell drugs by narcos is no different from being forced into military service.

Many Americans, myself included, believe in deporting unlawful immigrants, but see a different imperative with refugees.

The United States should immediately create emergency refugee centers inside our borders, tent cities—operated by the United Nations and other relief groups like the International Rescue Committee—where immigrant children could be held for 60 to 90 days instead of being released. The government would post immigration judges at these centers and adjudicate children's cases there.

To ensure this isn't a sham process, asylum officers and judges must be trained in child-sensitive interviewing techniques to help elicit information from fearful, traumatized youngsters. All children must also be represented by a volunteer or government-funded lawyer. Kids in Need of Defense, a nonprofit that recruits pro bono lawyers to represent immigrant children and whose board I serve on, estimates that 40 percent to 60 percent of these children potentially qualify to stay under current immigration laws—and do, if they have a lawyer by their side. The vast majority do not. The only way to ensure we are not hurtling children back to circumstances that could cost them their

lives is by providing them with real due process.

Judges, who currently deny seven in 10 applications for asylum by people who are in deportation proceedings, must better understand the conditions these children are facing. They should be more open to considering relief for those fleeing gang recruitment or threats by criminal organizations when they come from countries like Honduras that are clearly unwilling or unable to protect them.

If many children don't meet strict asylum criteria but face significant dangers if they return, the United States should consider allowing them to stay using humanitarian parole procedures we have employed in the past, for Cambodians and Haitians. It may be possible to transfer children and resettle them in other safe countries willing to share the burden. We should also make it easier for children to apply as refugees when they are still in Central America, as we have done for people in Iraq, Cuba, countries in the former Soviet Union, Vietnam and Haiti. Those who showed a well-founded fear of persecution wouldn't have to make the perilous journey north alone.

Of course, many migrant children come for economic reasons, and not because they fear for their lives. In those cases, they should quickly be deported if they have at least one parent in their country of origin. By deporting them directly from the refugee centers, the United States would discourage future non-refugees by showing that immigrants cannot be caught and released, and then avoid deportation by ignoring court orders to attend immigration hearings.

Instead of advocating such a humane, practical approach, the Obama administration wants to intercept and return children en route. On Tuesday the president asked for \$3.7 billion in emergency funding. Some money would be spent on new detention facilities and more immigration judges, but the main goal seems to be to strengthen border control and speed up deportations. He also asked Congress to grant powers that could eliminate legal protections for children from Central America in order to expedite removals, a change that Republicans in Congress have also advocated.

This would allow life-or-death decisions to be made within hours by Homeland Security officials, even though studies have shown that border patrol agents fail to adequately screen Mexican children to see if they are being sexually exploited by traffickers or fear persecution, as the agents are supposed to do. Why would they start asking Central American children key questions needed to prove refugee status?

The United States expects other countries to take in hundreds of thousands of refugees on humanitarian grounds. Countries neighboring Syria have absorbed nearly 3 million people. Jordan has accepted in two days what the United States has received in an entire month during the height of this immigration flow—more than 9,000 children in May. The United States should also increase to pre-9/11 levels the number of refugees we accept to 90,000 from the current 70,000 per year and, unlike in recent years, actually admit that many.

By sending these children away, "you are handing them a death sentence," says José Arnulfo Ochoa Ochoa, an expert in Honduras with World Vision International, a Christian humanitarian aid group. This abrogates international conventions we have signed and undermines our credibility as a humane country. It would be a disgrace if this wealthy nation turned its back on the 52,000 children who have arrived since October, many of them legitimate refugees.

This is not how a great nation treats children.

HONORING DAVE DOBILL FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AS FRANKLIN COUNTY CLERK

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dave Dobill, who will be retiring at the end of this year after over 29 years as County Clerk for Franklin County, Illinois.

Dave Dobill began his service to the people of Franklin County in 1979 as Supervisor of Assessments. In June of 1985 he was appointed to the position of County Clerk and was elected to that position for the first time in 1986. He has held this office continually ever since.

Dave is not only one of the longest-serving county officials in Illinois, but he is well known among his peers as a knowledgeable leader willing to help his constituents and his colleagues. Dave is one of the foremost experts in property tax law in the State of Illinois and has assisted numerous colleagues and officials understanding the law to ensure fair and lawful taxation. He has also been a leader in election administration, having modernized the election process in Franklin County to an electronic voting system long before the Help America Vote Act mandated such improvements.

Dave has earned the respect of his peers and was recognized for his professional accomplishments last year when he was named the State of Illinois County Clerk/Recorder of the Year at the Illinois Association of County Clerks/Recorders fall conference.

Known as the "go-to guy" in Franklin County, Dave has not limited his community service to his official duties as County Clerk. The community and fraternal organizations that have benefited from Dave's involvement have included: the Franklin County Tourism Bureau, Six Mile Democratic Club, Benton Chamber of Commerce, Royalton Jaycees and Little League, Zeigler Rotary and Eagles and West Frankfort Moose.

Dave is also very active in his church, St. Aloysius, and has served as treasurer of the St. Aloysius Men's Club.

Dave and his wife, Dixie, had two children and have one grandchild. Dave looks forward to spending more time with his family, and more time engaging in his favorite pastime, fishing. The fish in Rend Lake and around Southern Illinois have reason to be worried as Dave approaches retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Dave Dobill well and thanking him for a lifetime of service to the people of Southern Illinois.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on July 28, 2014. I was visiting the Savannah

River Site in the Second Congressional District of South Carolina with Department of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and National Nuclear Security Administrator Frank Klotz where I appreciate their recognition of the dedicated professionals at the site promoting vital missions. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present if the flight from Columbia had not been delayed.

Roll Number 455—H.R. 935—To amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes—“aye.”

Roll 456—H.R. 3202—Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act—“aye.”

Roll 457—H.R. 3107—Homeland Security Cybersecurity Boots-on-the-Ground Act—“aye.”

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,611,454,807,678.76. We've added \$6,984,577,758,765.68 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING VENEZUELAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER AND OPPOSITION LEADER MARIA CORINA MACHADO

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an individual who, at great risk to her own life and safety, has been standing up for democracy and freedom in Venezuela. Maria Corina Machado, a Member of the National Assembly and a leader of the opposition, has taken a courageous stand against the repressive regime of President Nicolas Maduro, speaking out on behalf of those whose voices have been silenced by fear of arrest or violence.

Since the death of former President Hugo Chavez, the Maduro regime has maintained Venezuela on the path of suppressing democracy, silencing protest, preventing press freedom, and intimidating political opponents like Ms. Machado. In one instance, Maduro supporters physically assaulted opposition Members in the National Assembly chamber, and Ms. Machado was beaten and had her nose broken. None of the perpetrators were brought to justice.

Over the past several months, Venezuela has seen a number of mass protests by those

seeking greater democracy. These are not part of a ‘coup d’etat,’ as President Maduro has alleged, but a result of his oppressive regime. The Venezuelan people deserve the chance to build a free and democratic nation and choose their own future course, free from fear. As democracy continues to come under assault by the Maduro regime, Americans will continue to look to Venezuela with a deep concern for the safety of its people and solidarity with those seeking to restore their freedom.

Maria Corina Machado has helped draw international attention to the ongoing repression in her country, and for her work she will be honored by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems with its annual Charles T. Manatt Democracy Award on October 1. This annual award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing freedom and democratic values in their nations and around the world.

I will continue to monitor the situation in Venezuela closely, and I will continue to highlight the work of courageous pro-democracy activists like Ms. Machado, who have faced death threats and been accused of treason by the ruling regime. The United States is watching what takes place in Venezuela with great interest, and Congress will be paying particular attention to the safety and security of Ms. Machado and other opposition figures who have dared to speak out for the rights of the Venezuelan people.

I congratulate Ms. Machado on being chosen for the Charles T. Manatt Democracy Award, and I stand with her and other peaceful supporters of democratic reform as they seek to build a brighter future for all Venezuelans.

HONORING EMMITT AND PAT SMITH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emmitt and Pat Smith, the recipients of the Congressional Award Foundation’s 2014 Horizon Award.

The Horizon Award is bestowed upon individuals who have made a significant commitment to expanding opportunities for all Americans through personal contributions. Emmitt and Pat Smith, exemplify the virtues of integrity, respect, accountability and character embodied by this award. Through their philanthropic activities, they have inspired young people throughout North Texas to reach for their dreams and to do the seemingly impossible.

The Pat and Emmitt Smith Charities create and fund unique educational experiences and enrichment opportunities for underprivileged youth. Because of their sacrifices and humanitarian efforts, these deserving children are given the opportunity to attend the most prestigious learning institutions throughout the city of Dallas.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Emmitt and Pat Smith’s selfless contributions to the City of Dallas and communities beyond. Because of their partnership,

the City of Dallas is better; our nation is better; and our future is brighter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on July 28, 2014, I was unable to be present for all votes due to my attendance at a graduation ceremony at Fort Hood, TX.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following votes: H.R. 935, Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act—“aye”; H.R. 3202, Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment—“aye”; and H.R. 3107, Homeland Security Cybersecurity Boots-on-the-Ground Act—“aye.”

HONORING BLUEGRASS COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bluegrass Community and Technical College, located in Lexington, Kentucky, on the celebration of its 75th anniversary.

Since its establishment 75 years ago, the Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) has set an example of excellence for central Kentucky and provided Kentucky’s youth with strong higher education programs.

As the largest two-year institution in the State, BCTC offers daytime, evening and weekend classes at six convenient locations and online. With more than 11,500 students, BCTC has recently expanded to its third campus in Lexington—the Newtown campus—to accommodate its continued growth. The Bluegrass Community and Technical College is specifically designed to promote the advancement of academic achievements in young people. The BCTC education encourages students to achieve success at their own pace and to explore various technical programs to help further their careers.

BCTC’s recent expansion is a testament to its continued success in the educational community and the positive impact it is making on students and employers across our Commonwealth. I commend BCTC for its dedication to education and community outreach, and I know that its varied educational services will continue to serve the people of our great district for years to come.

RECOGNIZING ISMAEL “SMILEY” CORDOVA

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of New Mexico resident, and businessman Ismael “Smiley” Cordova.