

JAMES KRAMER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. James Kramer. Mr. Kramer is the Pueblo County Coroner and will be retiring this month after a remarkable 37-year career, making him one of the longest serving public officials in Colorado history.

Mr. Kramer was elected as Pueblo County coroner on November 1, 1977 and has investigated around 21,000 cases during his career. He has been a tireless servant to the people of Pueblo County and has remained on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the better-half of four decades. He has compassionately delivered tragic news on thousands of occasions and has served with his team nationally both at ground zero after the September 11th attacks and in Louisiana after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Prior to Mr. Kramer's service to the county of Pueblo, he served this nation in the U.S. Air Force from 1968–1977, and worked as a physician's assistant at Touchstone Family Practice.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kramer's dogged work ethic and dedication to serving both his country and community is truly admirable. I stand with the residents of Pueblo County and the citizens of the United States in thanking Mr. Kramer and congratulating him on a lifetime of public and selfless service. Although he is retiring from the Coroner's role, he will stay on as a physician's assistant at the Touchstone Family Practice and I look forward to seeing him continue his dedicated work as a leader in the Pueblo County community.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING
PRIORITIZATION ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees, I rise in strong support of H.R. 514, "Human Trafficking Prioritization Act."

I support this bipartisan legislation which amends the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to change the status of the State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to that of the Bureau to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Mr. Speaker, this change in the name of this vital office can be accomplished without an increase in funding or personnel.

H.R. 514, a bipartisan Foreign Affairs Committee bipartisan bill, directs the Secretary of State to report to Congress on each current Assistant Secretary of State position the exact title and length of designation as Assistant Secretary, and whether that designation was legislatively mandated or authorized and, if so, the relevant statutory citation; and

Further, the Secretary State is asked whether they intend to designate one of the Assistant Secretary of State positions as the Assistant Secretary of State to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the reasons for that decision.

I have a concern regarding the bill's amendment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to prohibit subsequent inclusion for more than one consecutive year on the special watch list of countries whose compliance with minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking is full, partial, or insignificant if the country:

was included on the list for four consecutive years after enactment of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, and

was subsequently included on the exclusive Tier 3 list of countries not making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with such standards.

It is important that the mechanisms for reaching determinations regarding compliance with anti-human trafficking measures are consistent and reliable over time.

There should be care taken that places around the globe with long histories of human trafficking do not find ways limit access to information that would better measure their progress in eradicating the practice and bring to justice those involved.

According to the Report, the most common form of human trafficking (79%) is sexual exploitation. The victims of sexual exploitation are predominantly women and girls. Surprisingly, in 30% of the countries which provided information on the gender of traffickers, women make up the largest proportion of traffickers. In some parts of the world, women trafficking women is the norm.

The second most common form of human trafficking is forced labour (18%), although this may be a misrepresentation because forced labor is less frequently detected and reported than trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Globally about 20% of all trafficking victims are children. Unfortunately in parts of Africa children are the majority, these numbers rise to 100% in some parts of West Africa.

Many of those who are victims of human trafficking are exploited in locations near their home.

According to the 2009 United National Report on "Human Trafficking Exposes Modern Form of Slavery" research reveals that internal regional and domestic trafficking are a source of the problems.

The United Nations Protocol against Trafficking in Persons reports that in the past few years the number of Member States seriously implementing the Protocol has doubled going from 54 to 125 out of the 155 nations.

In 2009, there were many countries that lacked the necessary legal framework or political will to take on the issue of human trafficking.

I join my colleagues in working to strengthen laws nationally and internationally against human trafficking, and supporting the allocation of resources toward that end.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of H.R. 514.

THANKING DIANE ENOS AND WELCOMING PRESIDENT DELBERT RAY, SR.

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the steady leadership of Diane Enos who recently ended her term as 23rd President of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community in my hometown of Scottsdale. Additionally, I would like to share my personal gratitude for Diane's friendship. Diane has spent her lifetime working to make Arizona better, and she has done so with incredible grace. Furthermore, it is with goodwill and faith that I welcome President Delbert Ray, Sr. to his post as the 24th President of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. I look forward to working on the many issues that are of vital importance to our community and the future of Arizona.

**PROTECTING THE VICTIMS OF
CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING****HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support a number of bills this week that will improve identification of, and services for, children who are victims of sex trafficking, including runaway and homeless kids.

Every year, as many as 300,000 young people become the victims of sex trafficking, while others are forced into a life of virtual slavery in hard labor and the drug trade. In particular, homeless young people are at risk of falling into this tragic life.

Unfortunately, many of our young that fall prey to the dark characters who run these trades have already been involved in the child welfare system at one government level or another. What this screams to us is that the welfare system has failed these children. It seems clear that the evils of trafficking are not something our child welfare workers are sufficiently prepared to deal with.

We must improve the ability of child welfare workers to identify and assess child victims of trafficking—including runaway and homeless youth—and the services they need. We must engage in a coordinated effort at the federal, state, and local levels to collect and share information that will help analyze and identify youth trafficking. We must also identify state efforts that successfully serve youth trafficking victims in order to spread best practices to other states.

These are commonsense solutions to better identify and serve victims of youth trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support these important bills.