

Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act.

Human trafficking is an ongoing atrocity that preys on the youngest and most vulnerable of our society. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security estimates that twenty million people worldwide are victims of human trafficking.

In my home state of Georgia, Mr. Speaker, Atlanta is now widely considered a hub in the complex web of illegal human trafficking in our nation. Hundreds of young women and children are ensnared in this criminal enterprise and are funneled through metro Atlanta on a daily basis. One of the most egregious aspects of human trafficking is that it takes place in the shadows, and we can only estimate the number of young women and children this affects. Congress must do all we can to combat and eliminate this terrible practice that threatens the foundation of our country.

I am pleased that the Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act is being debated on the floor today, Mr. Speaker. This legislation, along with other measures passed through the U.S. House of Representatives this week, will make a significant contribution in the fight to end human trafficking.

Specifically, H.R. 469 creates and expands stringent reporting requirements for state child welfare institutions so that we can more easily track illicit activity. With this information, we will be more equipped to address the needs of children who are trafficking victims. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 469.

HONORING BARBARA P. SMITH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, those who dedicate themselves to improving their neighborhood become cornerstones of the community. Barbara P. Smith is one of those cornerstones in Yonkers, who for 32 years has been an educator, civic leader and crusader.

Barbara began bettering the Yonkers community in 1982 as a teacher at the Orchard School at Andrus Children's Home on North Broadway. She taught a range of subjects from math and science to social studies and home economics. Eventually Barbara was elevated to Assistant Principal and in 1994 she and the school were recognized for their efforts and achievements with an invitation to the White House to meet then President Clinton. Barbara subsequently returned to the classroom where she could take a more hands on approach to teaching.

Outside of the classroom, Barbara has engaged in a number of civic groups aimed at serving the community. For the past 36 years she has served as board member and President of the Hudson River Community Association (HRCA) of Northwest Yonkers, a once dormant organization she helped resurrect.

Barbara has also generously given her time to organizations like the Yonkers Committee for Smart Development, which she served as an advisor to in 2008, and the advisory board for the First District of Council Woman Pat McDow in 2007. When time permits, she also likes to partake in a wide array of volunteer

work aimed at community improvement. Barbara shares the same goals as the organizations she works with: to stabilize, improve, support and promote the wonderful city of Yonkers. I believe she has achieved those goals admirably.

Last year, the Luther V. Garrison Masonic Foundation Inc. Scholarship Committee honored Barbara as their Woman of the Year for 2014. It was a supremely appropriate honor for one of Yonkers' most dedicated citizens. Congratulations to her on receiving such well-deserved recognition.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN TURKEY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns about the current efforts to punish and stifle freedom of expression in Turkey and to share my worry that Turkey is drifting away from the tolerant secular nation founded by Kemal Ataturk almost 100 years ago and towards religious extremism and authoritarianism.

The current Government in Turkey has arrested members of Turkish media deemed non-supportive of the government. For decades, Turkey has had a free press and the freedom to disagree and vigorous political debate. It is a disturbing negative trend for the current government to reverse decades of transparency and to seek to impose authoritarianism.

I am informed that Mr. Ekrem Dumanli, editor-in-chief of Zaman, a daily newspaper in Turkey, and Hidayet Karaca, General Manager of Samanyolu Media Group, were arrested on December 14, 2014. To the shame of the current leadership, Hidayet Karaca is still in detention awaiting trial. They were not arrested for actual crimes, but on transparently political charges, thus bringing the total number of detained press and media personalities to 29. These members of the media have ties to the Islamic scholar Fethullah Gulen, a scholar who preaches tolerance and peace and who is a known critic of the Erdogan Administration.

In December 2013, allegations of corruption were levied against the Erdogan Administration based on legal investigations. Afterwards, about some 400 people (including 150 stated Gulen supporters) were monitored on Twitter and ultimately the Turkish people's access to Twitter was blocked. These arrests, and the effort to stifle opposition, have a chilling effect on freedom, democracy, and economic prosperity for all of Turkey. Turkey's bid for accession to the European Union continues to languish under these policies—before negotiations on the matter develop, Turkey must recognize basic press freedoms and the right to political dissent.

Turkey plays a critical role as an ally to the United States in the Middle East. To allow it to go down the road of sectarian extremism and authoritarianism without meaningful discussion and diplomacy is disconcerting. Turkey is a key leader in the region and a cultural, historic, and political bulwark between the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. Turkey is an important member of NATO, and I believe all rational people want to see the Turkish

Government abandon intimidation and embrace a free press and tolerance of dissenting voices. The Turkey founded by Ataturk deserves our support. International remonstrance is needed to bring it back to the ranks of nations that do not fear its own people, do not fear opposition, and do not fear universal freedoms.

HONORING JERRY GALELLA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, those who choose the path of civic engagement can accomplish wonderful things for their communities. In Yonkers there are few who can claim they have done more to support the local neighborhoods than Jerry Galella.

Born seven minutes before his twin brother, Jerry grew up in the Bronx and is the oldest of three children. After graduating from Dewitt Clinton High School, Jerry served in the United States Army from 1971 to 1973 and after his discharge became a grocery store manager for the next 40 years.

In 2007, Jerry became a full-fledged member of the Yonkers community when he joined the ShopRite of Greenway Plaza as Store Director. Remarkably, in the seven years Jerry has been with ShopRite he has become affiliated with over 25 different churches and numerous other community organizations throughout Yonkers. His volunteer work has included helping out with three college scholarship funds, including the Yonkers African American Cultural Club, the Dominican Cultural Club of Yonkers, and the Hispanic Professional Scholarship fund. As a result of his efforts, Jerry has been honored various accolades and awards from a wide array of schools, churches, and veterans' associations, just to name a few.

As devoted to helping out the community as Jerry is, his real passion is for his family. He met his wife, Linda, at age 13 in 8th grade, and was immediately smitten. The teenage sweethearts would later become married and for the past 32 years have lived together in Carmel, NY. Over the course of their 40 year marriage Jerry and Linda have raised three wonderful children and have six amazing grand children, all who live within 15 miles of each other. Jerry also generously gives his time to many different organizations in the Carmel community, ranging from little league to organizations assisting veterans of the Vietnam War.

In 2014, the Luther V. Garrison SR. Masonic Foundation Inc. Scholarship Committee named Jerry Galella their 2014 Man of the Year. He was incredibly deserving of the honor, and I wish to congratulate him on receiving the well-deserved recognition.

HONORING LOYD IVEY

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Loyd Ivey who was elected to