

IN RECOGNITION OF LILLI REY

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lilli Rey who was chosen as the 2015 Citizen of the Year by the Hillsborough Schools' Associated Parents Group. This extraordinary honor is reserved for an individual who has made sustained and significant contributions to the Hillsborough community, in particular to the education and well-being of our children. I can't think of a more deserving person than Lilli to receive this honor. She is the personification of generosity, grace and getting things done.

I have watched and admired her dedication and commitment since Lilli moved to Hillsborough two decades ago. I feel very fortunate to count Lilli as one of my closest friends and neighbors. The word "no" barely exists in her vocabulary; if there is a project that needs help, Lilli will take it on and bring it to a successful conclusion. She has given her time and energy to countless causes. She served as the President and Executive Board Member for the North School Parent Group, the 2010 Town of Hillsborough Centennial Co-Chair, Girl Scout Leader, 4th Grade North Yosemite Trip Chair, and Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance Tickets Chair. Lilli is part of the heartbeat of the town.

To say that Lilli loves children is an understatement. As the very proud mother of four—Zach, Zoe, Sadie and Cassie—she is devoted to them completely and always puts them first. But her love is not reserved exclusively for her own children, she shares the same care and tenderness for other children, always striving to contribute to their well-being.

Lilli has also been a steadfast and generous supporter of our local schools, Shelter Network, the San Mateo Community Hospital Foundation, NARAL and Protect Our Defenders Foundation. These groups protect the rights and dignity of our children, victims of domestic violence, the homeless, women, victims of sexual assault in the military, and health care for low income women—issues that are very near and dear to my heart and issues that have created a very deep bond between Lilli and me.

To watch Lilli at an event is to watch a symphony conductor. Even though she is working harder than anyone, she makes it look easy and harmonic. She is in the right place at the right time and she makes everything flow perfectly.

Any organization is lucky to have Lilli on board. She will identify what needs to get done and get it done while improving the organization and the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to recognize an exceptional woman and philanthropist who tirelessly gives back and never asks for anything in return. Lilli Rey is a treasured gift to the community and truly deserves to be honored as the 2015 Hillsborough Schools' Citizen of the Year.

DON NELSON: A LOCAL LEGEND IN BROADCASTING

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to wish a Houston icon, constituent and TV anchor Don Nelson a happy retirement.

Don has been a voice to Texans for 39 years and I have known him most of that time.

In those 39 years, Don has just about done it all.

He did broadcasting at a radio station in Pennsylvania after serving in the U.S. Air Force for 4 years.

And then worked in radio in West Virginia and New Mexico before he made it to the promise land, Texas when ABC 13 News hired him.

From hosting "Dialing For Dollars," "Good Morning Houston," covering traffic, and interviewing celebrities, sports stars and rodeo entertainers, Don is quite the commentator.

Don's genuine, happy personality and work ethic really have made Houston's morning news number one.

Our morning commutes won't be the same without him.

Hats off to you, Don.

You can now sleep in and enjoy your morning coffee.

The people of Houston extend our deepest appreciation.

Congrats on your retirement, you have earned it.

Best wishes in the next chapter of your life.

You are quite the legend in local broadcasting.

And that's just the way it is.

**CHURCH OF ST. PAUL'S "HOLY SMOKE" BBQ COOK-OFF****HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the annual Church of St. Paul's "Holy Smoke" BBQ Cook-Off which takes place each March 6th and 7th, 2015 in the city of Mission, Texas.

The "Holy Smoke" BBQ Cook-Off is an International Barbeque Cookers Association state championship event; the occasion features a festive combination of good music and good eating, with proceeds going to fund scholarships for area youth.

Talented barbeque chefs from Texas face off to see who can cook up the tastiest brisket, pork spareribs, and chicken, along with beans, fajitas, pan de campo, and desserts. The "Holy Smoke" BBQ Cook-Off is an exciting time for young and old alike and is a much-anticipated gathering for residents of South Texas due to the scholarship assistance it provides to students in furthering their education.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize this celebration of Lone Star State-style food and music.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN L. CURTICE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and celebrate the retirement of Fresno County Sheriff Deputy, Christian L. Curtice. Deputy Curtice served an honorable thirty-three years with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office, and his service is to be commended.

Christian Curtice was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1959, and subsequently moved with his family to California. He graduated from the Pacific Grove High School in 1978. A few years after high school, Christian had moved to the Central Valley and was sworn in as a deputy sheriff with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office in 1982. The first few years Deputy Curtice served with the Fresno County Sheriff's office, he also pursued a college education. In 1986 he graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Criminology. Three years later he became a detective with the Sheriff's Crimes Against Persons Unit and became a member of the California Homicide Investigators Association. In 1992 he was promoted to Deputy IV, and was assigned as Field Training Officer in the Patrol Division in 2001.

During his years of service, Deputy Curtice has received many awards and commendations, including being the first deputy at the Fresno County Sheriff's Office to receive the California Highway Patrol's "10851 Award" for vehicle theft recovery in 1989. In 1992, he was the recipient of the American Legion's "Outstanding Law Officer of the Year" award for the Central Valley area, and in 1993 he was the recipient of the American Legion's "Outstanding Law Officer of the Year" for the State of California.

Apart from his awards, Deputy Curtice has been recognized in many instances in which he was integral to solving cases and saving lives through his use of ingenuity and bravery, often putting his own life at risk. Deputy Curtice was one of the principal investigators on the Ewell triple murder in the Sunnyside area of Fresno County. The case received major national news coverage and eventually led to the arrest and conviction of Dana Ewell and Joel Radovich. Following their conviction, Deputy Curtice and his partner, Detective Souza, wrote the book "Catch Me If You Can," which chronicled the investigation.

Outside of his position as Deputy and Detective, Deputy Curtice has been a firm believer in giving back to his community. In 2008, he worked with the Central California Blood Center to launch the Holiday Heroes Blood Drive, which is now held every year during the week before Christmas, and continues to become increasingly more successful. He also made it a personal priority to revamp the Fresno County Sheriff's ailing website by hiring a dedicated IT specialist. Working with the IT specialist, Deputy Curtice helped launch a redesigned, user friendly website. Additionally, by creating new Facebook and Twitter pages for the agency, Deputy Curtice played an integral role in ensuring the Sheriff's Office is able stay in contact with the community they serve.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing

the distinguished career of Fresno County Sheriff Deputy Christian L. Curtice, and to wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARC/MORRIS COUNTY CHAPTER

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the ARC/Morris County Chapter, located in Morris County, New Jersey as it celebrates its 60th Anniversary.

The ARC/Morris County Chapter, a non-profit organization, is Morris County's largest provider of services for people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities. ARC/Morris strives toward supporting and advancing these people and their families, and imagines a world where people with intellectual disabilities are valued by society. This organization participates in activities and projects for the purpose of helping people with intellectual disabilities achieve the highest level of self-sufficiency. With facilities in four towns, ARC/Morris is prominent in the Morris County region. By offering multiple training facilities, ARC/Morris presents convenient locations, which better serve members of the community with intellectual disabilities.

Formally incorporated as the Morris County Unit of the New Jersey Association for Retarded Children in 1954, ARC/Morris has created Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, Supportive Living Programs, and Supported Employment Programs. Over its 60-year history, ARC/Morris has formed a culture of assistance through the implementation of training programs. These programs, offered at ARC/Morris adult training facilities, provide adults with intellectual disabilities with the necessary skills to live independent and self-sufficient lives. Currently, over 200 individuals receive support from ARC/Morris at its several Morris County centers, while numerous families also receive assistance through ARC/Morris' After Care and Saturday Drop-Off Respite Programs. The caregiving services provided by ARC/Morris both support families in need of a helping hand. ARC/Morris currently provides individuals twenty-one years or older with housing options, including nineteen group homes, two respite group homes, and a variety of apartments and condominiums.

To serve individuals with intellectual disabilities, ARC/Morris holds various fundraising programs and events. The organization is innovative in its fundraising approach. For example, through the AmazonSmile Program, a portion of Amazon.com's profits is donated to ARC/Morris whenever an individual shops through smile.amazon.com. ARC/Morris has also implemented a Car Donation Program, where individuals can donate a car to the Charity Car Donation Center for the purposes of donating it to ARC/Morris. Volunteers are widely accepted by ARC/Morris and anyone looking to help persons with intellectual disabilities is welcome to assist in enhancing this cause.

ARC/Morris holds many events to raise awareness of its goals and achievements. Included in these events are the 26th Annual

ARC/Morris Foundation Golf Outing, the 10th Annual Wine Tasting and Fine Art Exhibit, and an upcoming webinar on Social Security benefits for parents of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. On September 21, 2014, ARC/Morris held the 11th Annual Foundation Walk. This walk, which serves as a way to support the programs and services ARC/Morris offers, featured over 300 walkers and raised over \$28,000. Events like these help ARC/Morris continue its mission to create a society in which acceptance of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities is the norm and not the exception.

I commend the members and the Board of Directors of the ARC/Morris County Chapter for assisting individuals with intellectual disabilities in Morris County. This organization has consistently demonstrated a dedication and commitment to ensuring that these valued residents receive proper care and sufficient training in order to live a happy and self-sufficient lifestyle.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the ARC/Morris County Chapter as it celebrates its 60th Anniversary.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA: A SQUANDERED OPPORTUNITY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I held a hearing to examine the state of human rights in Cuba, which is a very timely topic indeed, given the Obama administration's sea change in policy toward Cuba announced at the end of last year.

I have repeatedly asked whether in undertaking this change in policy, the Obama administration used the considerable leverage that it wields to seek to better the condition of the Cuban people, or whether, as I fear, an opportunity was squandered in its haste to achieve a diplomatic breakthrough and create a legacy for the President.

The hearing was not only about Castro regime accountability, but also Obama administration accountability, with Congress exercising its role of both oversight and as a bully pulpit for reminding the world that Cuba remains a Communist dictatorship which continues to arrest political dissidents—over 200 so far in 2015—and one whose caudillo, Raul Castro, has declared would not change, even in response to the Obama administration's concessions.

This Castro regime continues to harbor fugitives from justice such as Joanne Chesimard, who was convicted in the 1973 murder of a state trooper in my home state of New Jersey, Officer Werner Foerster. Indeed, earlier this month, we had the Assistant Secretary of State for the Western Hemisphere Roberta Jacobson appear before the full Foreign Affairs Committee. I asked her what the response of the Cuban Government was when she raised the issue of the return of Joanne Chesimard to justice. She replied that the Cuban Government stated that it was "not interested in discussing her return."

This is unacceptable. I received a statement from Christopher J. Burgos, the President of

the State Troopers Fraternal Organization of New Jersey, wherein he states on behalf of our Jersey State Troopers that "We are shocked and very disappointed that returning a convicted killer of a State Trooper was not already demanded and accomplished in the context of the steps announced by the White House regarding this despotic dictatorship."

We had with us three very brave and uniquely qualified witnesses to the brutality of the Cuban dictatorship, three human rights activists who at great personal cost to themselves and their families stood up for human dignity.

We heard about the deplorable state of human rights in Cuba, how Afro-Cubans in particular face discrimination on a day-to-day basis, and the brutality with which human rights activists, including women, are treated. We heard of murders sanctioned by the government, of beatings, of arrests and re-arrests.

And I would also like to point out that after testifying here, in public, two of our witnesses returned to Cuba. They know that one day the regime will exact a price against them for their temerity. Yet they insisted on appearing, so that they can share the truth of what is happening in their beloved isle. What bravery!

I therefore would like to dedicate the hearing I held to the Cuban people, who have suffered for so many decades under the brutal regime of the Castro brothers, and to thank our witnesses for testifying. I also would like to thank in particular my dear friend and colleague, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her leadership day-in-and-day-out, in good weather and in bad, on behalf of the people of not only Cuba, but in countries such as Venezuela, China, and Vietnam, where the people continue to suffer under oppressive rulers. Thank you, ILEANA, for your leadership and moral clarity.

It is thus my belief that there should be no easing of the pressure until Cuba has met definitive and concrete human rights and democratic milestones. Among these milestones are the release of all political prisoners, the end of harassment and a policy of releasing and then re-jailing, the ending of restrictions on freedom of speech and the press, and on the rights of Assembly. Moreover, the Church must be allowed to conduct its affairs fully and freely without government interference.

And, finally, the Castro regime must be held to account for their harboring of some seventy fugitives from justice, including Joanne Chesimard, who is on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist list.

To that end, I would like to state that I intend to introduce legislation that will complement our existing legislation on Cuba, in particular Helms-Burton, making sure that important human rights milestones are met before our government makes concessions that are effectively unilateral, squandering leverage.

HONORING DAVID GOUDY

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, David Goudy has made the Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich his life's work. Over the three decades of his vigorous and enlightened service,