

friend Bessie. Upon graduating the eighth grade she matriculated to Walter L. Cohen High School. She was in the second graduating class and one of the first majorettes. She was proud of her school and regularly participated in many of their functions.

As a teenager, Mrs. Brown was honored with the title of Miss Lincoln Beach. She enjoyed helping others and served as the monitor at the “baby pool” at Lemar Park Playground for more than 19 years.

Mrs. Brown married Mr. Eric Brown and together they raised three children—Melvin, Rhonda, and Margie. She supported her children in all of their life adventures, from the church house, ball parks, and dance recitals.

We cannot match the sacrifices made by Mrs. Brown, but surely we can try to match her sense of service. We cannot match her courage, but we can strive to match her devotion.

Mrs. Brown’s survivors include her children, Melvin, Rhonda, and Margie; grandchildren AJ, Hass, and Maddi; one great grandson A’Jay; her sister Elaine (Jack), her brother Ed, sister-in-law Valentine and two god children Karen Lynn and Tommy. She was preceded in death by her husband Eric, parents Edward and Maude, grandson Melvin John Eric, sister-in-law Annie and nine brothers and sisters-in-law.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mrs. Gloria Margie Brown—a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, and daughter.

COUNTER TERRORIST NETWORK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4578—Counter Terrorist Network Act. This legislation will allow the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to enhance border security operations that will interrupt and dismantle transnational criminal and foreign terrorist networks that threaten the security of our country. The purpose of this bill is to ensure the CBP has the authority necessary to prevent terrorists from exploiting legitimate avenues of traveling to and entering the United States.

We must continue to provide our law enforcement and security agencies with the appropriate resources to protect our great nation from terrorist networks. The CBP’s primary mission is to keep the United States borders and ports safe against all threats domestic and foreign. The CBP mainly deals with transnational criminal organizations, smugglers and human traffickers, and terrorist networks. All of these groups pose significant threats to our national security and the safety of the American people. The CBP’s border security mission uniquely situates this agency to combat terrorist threats that begin far from our homeland. Despite all the work performed by the CBP, the agency doesn’t have explicit legal authorization to combat threats or to assign their personnel to other U.S. agencies both domestically and internationally to support their mission. This bill seeks to provide such explicit authorization.

As a former member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have always voted to support our law enforcement and our security agencies. This legislation will help provide the CBP with the proper authorization to collect intelligence on foreign terrorist threats before they reach the border. This will help ensure the safety of our homeland and the security of our border. I support H.R. 4578 and I urge my fellow members to lend their support as well.

TO COMMEMORATE ST. JOSEPH’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TREY GOWDY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation to congratulate St. Joseph’s Catholic School on twenty-five years of educating and preparing future leaders of South Carolina.

Whereas, St. Joseph’s opened its doors in a small rented home to thirteen students in August of 1993 with the belief that God would provide. Today, that belief has paid dividends as St. Joseph’s enrolls nearly seven hundred students and has been nationally recognized by the Catholic High School Honor Roll as a “School of Excellence.”

Whereas, St. Joseph’s commitment to providing students with the knowledge and skills to be successful in life is clear from the contributions of their alumni to our community. St. Joseph’s alumni are serving our community in all professions from education and business to medical research, and many donate their time and gifts to serve as leaders in churches across the Upstate. Be it

Resolved, That I, TREY GOWDY, do congratulate the staff, students, and alumni of St. Joseph’s Catholic School on this milestone and look forward to their continued contributions to our community and the Fourth Congressional District of South Carolina.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on January 10, 2018 for an obligation at the White House. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

YES on Roll Call No. 10.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND KAZAKHSTAN

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the important and strategic relationship between the United States and Kazakhstan. I was in Kazakhstan in 1992 as the nation was being reborn.

Since declaring its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, Kazakhstan has reached toward the West to build strong relationships, particularly with the United States. They have been allies in the region and have become a destination for American business investment. The United States was the first country to recognize Kazakhstan’s independence and our friendship has grown ever since.

Kazakhstan works with us on issues like nuclear non-proliferation and counterterrorism. It exerts significant influence in Central Asia and has supported peace and stability around the world.

In 2015, after a protracted negotiation and having made material concessions, Kazakhstan was admitted into the World Trade Organization (WTO). However, since 1994, shortly after separation from the USSR, the United States has granted yearly normal trade relation status to Kazakhstan, due to its compliance with Jackson-Vanik, which requires non-market economy nations to improve human rights before allowing trade. However, the United States has not yet granted permanent normal trade relation status, which requires congressional action.

The United States has important economic interests in Kazakhstan and increased bilateral trade would strengthen our relationship. Therefore, we need congressional action to normalize trade with Kazakhstan.

COUNTERTERRORISM INFORMATION SHARING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4569—Counterterrorism Information Sharing Improvement Act of 2017.

This legislation will require the coordination of counterterrorism information sharing to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has access to biographic and biometric data collected by the U.S. Government on individuals associated with a terrorist organization for counterterrorism purposes.

I believe counterterrorism information sharing between the U.S. Government and the DHS will be an essential asset to the United States. Lack of interagency cooperation prevents critical details from being shared in time sensitive situations, leading to avoidable errors and potentially fatal consequences. In the past few years, ISIS has suffered significant defeats in Iraq and Syria. In the wake of these losses, ISIS fighters have dispersed into surrounding states, Europe, and even the United States. The changing landscape where we meet this enemy necessitates information sharing between law-enforcement agencies. Though we first made contact with members of ISIS on a foreign battlefield, this threat is pervasive and dynamic.

H.R. 4569 will allow the Department of Defense to share intelligence with the DHS, should members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria attempt to enter the United States. The DHS will be able to utilize this intelligence for frontline screening, vetting, and protecting Americans on domestic soil.