

ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO  
DEFEND ITSELF

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, Hamas, which was designated as a terrorist organization by the United States under President Bill Clinton, has a history of using schools, hospitals, and civilian areas as staging grounds and launch sites for their attacks against Israel. They have also built a network of tunnels under those locations to facilitate the movement of soldiers and weapons for use against Israel. When Israel responds to these attacks by specifically targeting the missile launchers, Hamas uses human shields—many times children—as propaganda tools. The civilized world should be horrified at such tactics by Hamas and condemn them absolutely.

Just recently, I cosponsored a resolution that reaffirms Israel's right to defend itself, and I would note that they have shown incredible restraint in fighting back. They give ample warning prior to an attack, advising all innocent parties to flee. In truth, if Israel were as indiscriminate as Hamas and used all the military might at their disposal, Gaza would be a smoking wasteland within hours. That this has not happened is testament to Israel's care in targeting only areas that have been used as attack launch points. The United States must speak with one voice on this issue and stand with our strong ally Israel.

HONORING JUDGE IVORY E.  
BRITTON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Ivory Britton, a Justice Court Judge of District 2, who is a native Jacksonian.

Judge Britton was reared on Tougaloo Street in the Virden Addition Community.

Judge Britton attended Brinkley Elementary School, which is now Walton Elementary School, and graduated from Brinkley High School. He attended: the University of Judicial Court, National Judicial College, Reno, NV, National Judges Association, American Judges Association, and National Center for State Courts.

As a Justice Court Judge, Britton works hard to ensure fair and equal treatment for all litigants of his court. He has increased his knowledge of the judicial process to enable citizens to easily use the Justice Court System. Judge Britton will continue to be fair and accessible to all citizens and be knowledgeable and obedient to the laws of The State of Mississippi.

Judge Britton is married to Liza Britton and they have three children: Perry, Dexter and Tabathia. He is a member of Cade Chapel M. B. Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Judge Ivory E. Britton.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed one vote on July 24. Had I been present, on rollcall No. 449, H.R. 3393, the Student and Family Tax Simplification Act, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MS. LUCY COFFEY,  
AMERICA'S OLDEST LIVING FEMALE VETERAN

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we honor America's oldest living female veteran, Ms. Lucy Coffey of San Antonio, TX.

Ms. Coffey, who is 108 years old and lives in my Congressional district, is in Washington today and tomorrow to visit the WWII Memorial, the Women's Veterans Memorial and Arlington Cemetery.

Ms. Coffey served honorably in the Women's Army Corps during WWII. Serving mainly in the Pacific theater, she was awarded two Bronze Stars for valor. After the war, she continued serving her country, working at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio for twenty years until retiring in the early seventies.

The United States is stronger today because of the sacrifices all our veterans have made. And Ms. Coffey exemplifies what is best about our veterans and our great nation.

It is with great appreciation and admiration that today we recognize and honor Ms. Lucy Coffey.

HONORING DR. VINCENT HARDING

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Vincent Harding. Known throughout the country as a scholar, activist, father, friend and former speechwriter for Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Harding has left an indelible mark on our national discourse. With his passing on May 19, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of his life's work and the inspiring role he played in the Civil Rights Movement.

Born on July 25, 1931 in Harlem, New York, Dr. Vincent Harding began his education by attending New York public schools, graduating from Morris High School in 1948. After high school, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the City College of New York, and in the following year, he graduated from Columbia University, earning a Master's degree in Journalism. Dr. Harding went on to

serve our country in the United States Army from 1953 to 1955.

In 1958, Dr. Harding met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who urged him to move to the South to join in the Civil Rights Movement. Once in Atlanta, Dr. Harding and his wife, Rosemarie, founded the Mennonite House, an interracial service center and began engaging in a wide variety of social and political campaigns. Dr. Harding worked closely with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Student Nonviolent Coordination Committee to challenge segregation in the South.

As Dr. Martin Luther King's speechwriter, Dr. Vincent Harding drafted the famous and highly controversial speech, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence." Dr. Vincent Harding was a strong opponent to the Vietnam War and, as Chair of the History and Sociology Department at Atlanta's Spelman College, Dr. Harding was concerned that students were not aware of the situation in Vietnam. He worked to ensure that students and other Americans were aware of the atrocities occurring during the war in Vietnam.

Dr. Vincent Harding founded the Veterans of Hope Project in 1997, which is a multifaceted educational initiative encompassing the topics of religion, culture and participatory democracy. His work through Veterans of Hope emphasized the importance of nonviolence and a grass root approach to social change.

After the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, Dr. Vincent Harding worked with Coretta Scott King to establish the King Center in Atlanta, serving as the Center's first director. In addition, Dr. Vincent Harding wrote several books reflecting on the Civil Rights Movement and Martin Luther King Jr., including "Martin Luther King: The Inconvenient Hero" and "Hope and History: Why We Must Share the Story of the Movement." Dr. Harding was deeply passionate about public service and impacted countless lives with his theology, activism and scholarly efforts. Dr. Harding once wrote that "we are all a part of one another, and we are all part of the intention of the great creator spirit to continue being light and life."

On a personal note, Dr. Harding was a loyal friend for over 30 years. During the late 1970's, I worked on Capitol Hill for Congressman Ron Dellums while raising two sons as a single parent. My sons wanted to attend the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, but we did not have a place to stay. A mutual friend called Vincent and Rosemarie to ask if we could stay with them. With no hesitation, they said yes, not knowing me and on short notice. I will always remember that weekend in their beautiful, warm home and their delicious meals. They treated us like family and our spirits connected. I did not see Vincent and Rosemarie again until the late 1990's when, as a Member of Congress, I attended a retreat in Santa Barbara sponsored by the Faith and Politics Institute. The Harding's led this retreat, which renewed my spirit, challenged my intellect and warmed my heart.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding Civil Rights leader and social activist, Dr. Vincent Harding. His dedication and efforts have impacted so many lives throughout the nation. I join all of Vincent's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIVISION OF CYPRUS

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, as you know, July 20th marked the 40th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. At this time, the need for reunification becomes even more apparent.

Although negotiations between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots have been occurring since 2008, the two sides have been unable to reach an agreement that would reunite the country. Both sides must come to the table and discuss key status issues, including the right to return, future governance structures, and the citizenships status of Turkish settlers. As a member of the European Union, a united Cyprus can act as a stable and democratic strategic partner for the United States in a volatile region.

Unfortunately, while these unsuccessful negotiations have been taking place, many Greek Cypriots face continued discrimination and obstruction. A number of Greek Cypriots have been unable to return to their homes in northern Cyprus, and their property is often illegally confiscated and sold without their consent. They live in fear of the Turkish military troops that still occupy the island and are unable to determine the fate of those who have been missing since the 1974 division. Greek Cypriots are denied access to religious sites and a number of important sites have been looted and destroyed. The discovery of gas fields off the coast of the island has been complicated due to territorial disputes between the communities. It is unlikely these issues will be resolved unless a final resolution is agreed upon by both sides.

In February, with help from the United States, the negotiation proceeded when leaders of the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots reached an agreement regarding the language of the "joint declaration," which identifies the goals both sides hoped to reach by the end of the negotiations. Negotiations have resumed since the "joint declaration" was established and must continue until there is a consensus on the final status of the island.

Vice President Joe Biden's visit to Cyprus in May underscored U.S. support for negotiations and the importance of Cyprus as a key partner in the region. The United States must uphold its commitment to helping the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots reach an agreement regarding the reunification of their country. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing continued support for the people of Cyprus as negotiations continue.

**IRAQI CHRISTIANS DRIVEN OUT OF MOSUL**

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, we have learned that radical militants—the Islamic State terror group ISIS—are systematically targeting Christians in Iraq.

Ten years ago, there were 60,000 Christians in the city of Mosul.

Today there are none.

Through violence, slaughter, and intimidation, the Christians have been murdered or driven out of the city—simply because they are Christians.

In a civilized world, we cannot let this stand.

The United States of America cannot and should not try to solve every world problem.

But when we withdraw completely, we leave a vacuum of leadership—and bad people will do bad things if given the opportunity.

I join with my colleagues in condemning these atrocious actions.

**TRIBUTE TO DENNIS DOUGHERTY**

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments and life of Dennis Dougherty who passed away last February at the age of 70. As his friends and loved ones gather to celebrate his life, he deserves our recognition as a distinguished veteran, businessman, community leader, advocate and philanthropist.

Dennis was dedicated to improving life for so many through both local and national politics as well as community organizations. He had a profound impact on countless lives, particularly on the young people of Colorado, and he was the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2005 Equality in Business Award from the Human Rights Campaign and the Matthew Shepard Foundation's Essential Peace Award.

Born in 1943 in Omaha, Nebraska, Dennis was drafted to fight in Vietnam at the age of 21. As a proud veteran and patriot, he led the charge for progress in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community, and his influence was a guiding force for public policy and opinion. He testified before Congress on the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and he mentored several young men who served in the armed forces.

Dennis relocated to Denver after his service in the military. He was the founder and CEO of the technology company Visual Electronics. His business success gave him the means to become a generous philanthropist, contributing to causes that ranged from disabled skiers to homeless youth. Moved by the story of Matthew Shepard, the gay college student who was tortured and killed near Laramie, Wyoming, Dennis became a major supporter and board member of the foundation started on Matthew's behalf. An unwavering and unapologetic voice in the community as an openly gay veteran, Dennis wanted to fight against the challenges he faced in his youth.

Dennis had a heart of gold. Every year he cleaned out his closet to donate to an organization that helped homeless vets get back on their feet. He always felt that a good suit gave them a better shot at a new start. In each jacket he put a note that read "someone loves you."

I am one of those lucky enough to call Dennis a friend as well. I know and have worked with numerous others who were touched by Dennis' efforts or encouragement in some

way, and many have gone on to do great things for our community. I have fond memories of the times he and I rode together in his pride and joy—his red convertible—in Denver parades.

Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Dennis Dougherty. Every day he fought to expand opportunity, equality and freedom. His determination sustained him through many challenges—with tremendous results for our community. He leaves behind a legacy of charity and compassion and serves as a role model for all who believe as he did: that "we are one tribe, y'all."

**THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION**

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, July 25, 2014 marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Legal Services Corporation, a private, nonprofit corporation tasked with ensuring equal justice for all Americans who are unable to afford legal representation. The creation of LSC was long-championed by President Richard Nixon who ultimately signed its enabling legislation on July 25, 1974 with bipartisan support from the Congress. Federally-funded, LSC awards grants to 134 local legal aid programs, with nearly 800 offices serving every congressional district and the U.S. territories.

LSC-funded legal aid programs provide vital civil legal assistance to the needy, including women seeking protection from domestic abuse, mothers trying to obtain child support, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking benefits duly earned, seniors defending against consumer scams, and individuals who have lost their jobs and need help in applying for unemployment compensation and other benefits.

Unfortunately, because of a decrease in its federal funding over the last several Congresses, LSC-funded programs have had to turn away more than 50 percent of eligible clients seeking assistance. With the growing number of Americans eligible for services and increased demand for legal services, the need for legal aid attorneys has never been greater. We should do more to support this vital program and protect our fellow Americans.

As President Nixon said in support of his legislation creating LSC, "[W]e must provide a mechanism to overcome economic barriers to adequate legal assistance." On this 40th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation, we should recommit ourselves to the founding principle and continue to ensure that LSC can fulfill its critical mission through sufficient funding.

I commend LSC and its grantee programs for the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel and for continuing its mission of equal justice for all.