

of Staff of the Air Force, the Director of Legislative Liaison, and numerous other senior military and civilian leaders on issues of the greatest concern to the Air Force and Congress. He has been more than a liaison between the Pentagon and the Hill, he developed and improved key relationships to enable the Congress to make better decisions about the future of the Air Force and our national defense. He is extremely intelligent and articulate, and has helped shape my thinking and influenced many Members of Congress. Simply put, we trust him and will miss him!

Col. McKenzie is a command pilot with over 3,200 flying hours and 630 combat hours in the F-16. He is the recipient of numerous major medals and decorations for his service and accomplishments. The most significant of these include the Defense Superior Service medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, and Meritorious Service medal.

Throughout his distinguished career he has represented our country and the Air Force with dignity and honor, and this is why I'm so privileged to pay tribute to this fine Airman. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congress and the United States of America, I thank Colonel Patrick T. "Smack" McKenzie, his wife Jennifer, and their daughter Ashley, for their service and sacrifices of the past 26 years. I wish them Godspeed, and continued happiness as they start this new chapter in their lives.

TOM NEUMANN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my close friend Tom Neumann, a thoughtful, dedicated and respected leader who served as an example for all those who wish to make a meaningful, positive change in our world. Sadly, Tom passed away this week, on September 9, at the age of 69. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Agnes, and his entire family.

For more than 30 years, Tom served to help end anti-Semitism, to safeguard democratic principles and to build understanding and support for Israel. He previously served as the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Southwest Regional Director, ADL's National Director of Community Services and its National Director of the Intergroup Relations Division. At ADL, Tom worked to build friendships and working relationships between Christian and Jewish clergy under the Christian-Jewish Committee for Israel. It was during this time that I traveled to Israel with Tom and when I observed firsthand about the challenges that Israel faces each day and why America must always stand with this ally.

Tom later joined B'nai B'rith International as Executive Vice President where he created a presence for the organization in the USSR and Eastern Europe, an important feat and the first to happen since World War II. In 1991, he served as the Executive Director of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), where he worked until his retirement in 2012. As Executive Director, Tom helped establish JINSA as a prominent voice for U.S. national security ties as well as U.S.-Israel security

ties. Through his leadership, he helped JINSA grow its membership to over 20,000 individuals. His writings on the U.S.-Israel bilateral relationship were published in outlets across the world. For his work, he was recognized as the "6th Most Influential Jewish Leader" by *The Forward* in 1999. Locally, Tom founded The Houston Center for International Affairs, a business form that focused on international and economic issues, created the Christian/Jewish Committee for Israel, a coalition of inter-denominational clergy who support Israel), and Texas 1990, a dinner discussion group of religious, business and community leaders.

Tom was someone who believed that "people, even more than causes and things, have to be restored, renewed and reclaimed." To those he worked with, he was a friend and mentor. Always kind, always sincere, always focused. To our entire community in Houston, he will be greatly missed. My deepest sympathies to the entire Neumann family.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit an explanation for my absence during legislative business on the evening of Monday, September 8 and Tuesday, September 9. On these two days, I was in my district hosting the United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julian Castro during their visit to the 7th Congressional District of Alabama. I hosted Secretary Duncan for a stop in Birmingham on his 5th Annual Back-to-School Bus Tour. We met with community leaders, educators, parents, and other education advocates in Alabama to showcase reforms and investments the Department has made in Birmingham and across the State of Alabama. Secretary Castro joined me on his first visit to the 7th District since being sworn in as the HUD Secretary. During their visit, the cabinet secretaries and I participated in a "My Brother's Keeper" panel discussion at Phillips Academy which was attended by community leaders, educators, and many bright young students from throughout Birmingham.

Considered and passed by the House during my absence was H. Res. 644, a resolution condemning President Obama for the exchange of five Guantanamo Bay prisoners for the release of Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl. I would like to state for the record that I supported President Obama's decision to act swiftly and exercise his constitutional responsibility as Commander-in-Chief to protect the lives of U.S. service members. Furthermore, I agree with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who unanimously supported the exchange, along with Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. The United States has a sacred obligation when sending our service men and women onto the field of battle with the assurance that we will honor their sacrifice by leaving no one behind. Army General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said the swap was "likely our last, best opportunity" to free Sergeant Bergdahl.

The timing of this condemnation was also particularly poor. The debate and vote coincided with a meeting in which the President discussed his strategy to confront ISIS with House and Senate leaders at the White House and a day before his address to the nation. At a time when the President needs Congressional support in rallying international support to combat the rising threat of Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, I believe the timing of this vote was counter to our national interests. I am disappointed that House Republicans chose such inappropriate timing to conduct their political gamesmanship.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
OFFICER ROBERT BUENDIA

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Robert Buendia of the Bothell Police Department. Officer Buendia was recently awarded the prestigious 2014 Crisis Intervention Team Officer of the Year Award, which recognizes outstanding work by police officers in the safe and effective use of crisis intervention techniques in response to mental health crises.

Officer Buendia received this award in part because of his quick and skilled response to a situation involving a suicidal woman. This woman was a recent victim of sexual assault who became upset after learning that the court case against her attacker did not have sufficient evidence for prosecution. When this woman threatened to end her own life, Officer Buendia used his training, intelligence and quick thinking to defuse this potentially tragic situation. He was able to open a dialogue with the woman, and was eventually able to convince her to come out of her apartment.

The outstanding actions of Officer Buendia are emblematic of the heroism that the members of the Bothell Police Department, and all our first responders in the 1st Congressional District, exhibit every day while serving our communities. I am incredibly thankful for the dedication of these public servants.

I want to thank Officer Robert Buendia for his commitment to serving the people of Bothell, and offer my congratulations on this recognition of his work.

DR. ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from an extraordinary experience in July, 2014 in Israel, the land I first came to in 1949 at the tender age of three and a half, already a refugee, from post-World War II Europe. Yet nothing could have prepared me for the surrealistic reality of approaching rockets and wailing sirens, a frightful scenario that Israeli citizens of all ages in its south have had to contend with for fourteen long years, with only fifteen seconds to find protective shelter. I will long remember being awakened

by the sirens' piercing sounds of war alert at 3:15 a.m. in Haifa, Israel's northern city, far away from Gaza or as proven rather close, and moving quickly with my mom, a ninety-two year old remarkably resilient Polish Holocaust survivor, to the best possible room in her apartment to await whatever might happen with our hearts pounding. Luckily the rocket was intercepted by an Iron Dome installation that the United States has gratefully financed.

No nation would have done less than Israel to fulfill a basic mandate of protecting one's population and all nations would have done more early on. Restrained by its legacy of Jewish and humanitarian values, ever conscious of the double standard applied to its conduct, Israel has exercised an admirable measure of caution to save lives even from the midst of a firing hostile territory controlled by Hamas, a recognized terrorist organization whose covenant unabashedly calls for Israel's destruction and criminally has used children, women and men as human shields; it shot 3500 rockets and also mortars from schools, hospitals, mosques, homes and U.N. facilities with the clear goal of indiscriminately killing and maiming Israelis.

When Hamas and the host of other Arab terrorist organizations will care more for their children than the death of its "enemy's" children, will there emerge new hope for the long-awaited to be transformed Middle East. When Israel's insistence on the sacredness of human life—all human life—will become the inheritance of the entire troubled region, replacing pagan human sacrifice, will the yearning of modern Israel and its biblical prophets for that essential though elusive Shalom, Salaam, Peace, reemerge as a potent force for the sake of all. How could Hamas, tragically and ironically elected into power by Gaza's misguided and long-suffering people, following Israel's 2005 withdrawal from Gaza at an enormous cost, squander its donated material resources away from the declared purpose of creating a supportive and necessary infrastructure toward establishing a terrorizing war machine with attack tunnels reaching into Israel with a goal of surprising Israel someday with mortal death blows? We are duty-bound to remember that Iran supplied Hamas with the smuggled weaponry and that Hamas is but Iran's proxy, alerted by Iran's stubborn search for a nuclear capability that will make all the difference. Sadly Qatar is not an innocent bystander, offering Hamas vast financial support.

I was deeply touched by Israel's courageous people coming together in a heart-warming display of national unity in the face of a mighty and unique challenge, while maintaining its enviable democratic impulse of cherished freedom to express a variety of views that could not take place in Gaza. Israel is weeping for its heroic defenders as well as the innocent victims on the other side held hostage by an ideology alien to what we in the West will never willingly give up.

Make no mistake. Israel represents the American democratic heritage with common purpose and interest, in a part of the world disdaining it and in which Radical Islam increasingly makes disastrous inroads as the shameful slaughter in Syria and Iraq continues while self-righteous and callous Europe with its growing anti-Semitism fueled by Islamist forces looks aside, expecting the Israelis to be like past Jews who could not defend themselves and paid such a high price for it. Let all

Americans say with one voice for the sake of all that is sacred and sane in a triumphant message that dare not be misunderstood, "Never Again!"

Rabbi Israel Zoberman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach.

RECOGNIZING BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GREATER FLINT FOR 70 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint as they celebrate 70 years of dedication and service to children and families in Genesee County. Since 1944, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint has provided a no-cost mentoring program to thousands of youth and families facing adversity.

To celebrate 70 years of service, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint will hold a Platinium Jubilee—Royal Gala. The anniversary celebration will honor the volunteers that have helped shape this institution throughout the past 70 years and highlight the future direction of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint as they provide life-changing relationships through mentorship. Chris Broussard, American sports analyst for ESPN will also join in the celebration as a celebrity guest.

For 70 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. As the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, one-to-one, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 6 through 18, in communities across our great country. Their presence in our community is invaluable. Genesee County, as well as the entire State of Michigan, is better because of this agency.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint for 70 years of quality mentoring services, fulfilling their mission of creating relationships that change lives for the better, forever.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY HEALY AND HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Ms. Mary Healy, a valued community leader who recently passed away. Ms. Healy was the director and chief executive officer of the Sacramento Zoo as well as a leading advocate for engaging the community in the preservation and understanding of animals in their natural habitat. As her family, colleagues and friends gather to honor and remember her wonderful life, I ask all my colleagues to join

me in saluting one of Sacramento's most respected figures.

Ms. Healy began her career in 1975 as a bird keeper at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in Columbia, South Carolina. Following a stint at the San Antonio Zoo and Walt Disney World's Discovery Island in Orlando, Ms. Healy came to Sacramento in 1999. Under Ms. Healy's leadership, the Sacramento Zoo saw growth in attendance and improvements to its physical setting. During her tenure, a full-scale veterinary hospital was built and new habitats were constructed and old structures renovated for a number of animals including giraffes and North American river otters. She focused on improving quality of life for the animals and advancing the experience for zoo guests.

Ms. Healy's passion and commitment resonated in her work and will not be forgotten by the Sacramento community. Her dedication to advocating for animals is unmatched and she took pride in educating our youth. She knew each animal's name and background and was often found teaching zoo guests about the animal's unique features or the exhibit's purpose at the zoo.

In addition to her work in Sacramento, Ms. Healy was a well-respected board member and former chair of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and served on its accreditation commission. She was president of the California Association of Zoos and Aquariums and was one of nine international council members of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Her vision to make Sacramento the best small zoo in America was highlighted in 2013, when she was recognized with a Women Who Mean Business Award by the Sacramento Business Journal.

Mr. Speaker, as Ms. Healy's husband, Steve, and her colleagues, family and friends gather to celebrate her wonderful contributions to our community, I am honored to pay tribute to her. I ask all my colleagues to pause and join me in paying respect to an extraordinary woman, Ms. Mary Healy.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3522, the Employee Health Care Protection Act of 2014, a bill that sponsors say will permit a health insurance issuer that sold insurance coverage to employers who are mandated under the Affordable Care Act to provide insurance to their employees in 2013 to continue offering the same insurance in 2014.

I oppose H.R. 3522 for three reasons:

It does not obligate employers to provide insurance coverage for the essential health care services enumerated in the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Provisions of the ACA that prevent discrimination based on age, pre-existing conditions and gender are not part of the plans allowed under this bill.

Finally, the bill is opposed by the Administration and will not become law.