

and may God comfort those she left behind with His peace and strength.

—
VFW POST 6996

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of Washington County Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6996. VFW Post 6996 was established in 1965 in Potosi, Missouri. Since then, members of Post 6996 have contributed countless volunteer hours in the Washington County community. Their selfless acts continue to set an admirable example for all.

VFW Post 6996 is comprised of members who have served honorably in foreign wars or overseas operations. These dedicated veterans seek to continue serving the American people and their fellow veterans. This non-profit service organization embodies the spirit of service and generosity by supporting troops currently overseas and ensuring returning veterans have access to health care, counseling, and housing.

For their many years of service and commitment to helping others, it is my pleasure to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Washington County Memorial VFW Post 6996 in the House of Representatives.

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RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SELMA VOTING RIGHTS MARCH
WITH THE ISSUANCE OF A POST-
AL STAMP

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bipartisan resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 23, that would honor the Selma to Montgomery, Alabama marches with a commemorative stamp.

I thank the 102 House Members who co-sponsored this resolution and leading sponsors Congressman BYRNE, Congressman HURD, and Congresswoman SEWELL.

The Selma Voting Rights March was a pivotal moment in our history that brought together Americans to march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama 50 years ago.

This stamp celebrates the march and reminds us to protect voting rights.

For 125 years the Postal Service has been issuing stamps that celebrate cultural milestones and the unique history of our nation.

Surely the protection of voting rights is a landmark development in our nation's development.

It is my hope that as we remember the struggles of discrimination and inequality we lift our hearts and unite to find bridges to equality and justice.

I ask that all Members unite and join with me in commemorating this critical watershed event.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VISION
ZERO ACT OF 2015

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, our communities need to be safer. More than 33,000 Americans die on our roadways each year, yet this is accepted as inevitability. Even more concerning, fatalities of our most vulnerable road users—pedestrians and bicyclists—make up a growing share of those deaths, with pedestrian fatalities increasing 16% from 2009 to 2014. People who die on our streets are disproportionately children, seniors, and people from low income or minority communities.

Communities across the country are recognizing that there is only one number of acceptable deaths on our streets: zero. "Vision Zero" is the goal of eliminating all transportation-related fatalities, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists and passengers. Cities from New York to San Diego are implementing interagency Vision Zero plans connecting engineering, education, and enforcement, to reach the goal of ending transportation deaths.

Congress should encourage this innovative approach to transportation safety, and today I'm pleased to introduce the Vision Zero Act of 2015 with my colleague, Representative BUCHANAN. This bill provides local communities of all sizes with funding and best practices to plan and implement a Vision Zero framework. We should no longer accept bicycle and pedestrian fatalities as harsh reality, and this bill gives us the tools to reverse this trend.

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HONORING MS. DORIS GENTRY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doris Gentry and the Human Trafficking Steering Committee for the planning and implementation of the first Napa Conference on Human Trafficking. Ms. Gentry saw the need to bring awareness on this important issue, created and led a steering committee made up of the honorable law enforcement officers of Napa County, and has been working hard to bring this conference to fruition.

Human trafficking affects as many as twenty-seven million people worldwide, and as many as eighty percent of the victims of human trafficking are former foster youth, but it is both a global and a local problem. The effort by individuals, businesses, organizations, and governing bodies to promote the observance of Human Trafficking Awareness on March 13th of 2015 represents one of the many examples of the ongoing commitment to raise awareness of and to actively oppose human trafficking.

For Ms. Gentry, philanthropy and volunteerism has been a life-long activity. She has led numerous boards and organizations dedicated to making our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family, and this

conference is yet another demonstration of her devotion. Ms. Gentry is also a foster mom to one hundred teen boys, and has four children and six grand children of her own.

I am proud to represent a district with principled, community-minded and globally conscious people such as Doris Gentry. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Gentry and the Human Trafficking Steering Committee deserve to be recognized and honored here today.

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H.R. 280 AND H.R. 294, REFORMS TO
IMPROVE THE CARE FOR VET-
ERANS WHO HAVE SACRIFICED
SO MUCH FOR OUR NATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 2, due to inclement weather I was unable to vote on H.R. 280 'Authorizing Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Recoup Bonuses and Awards' and H.R. 294 the 'Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act'. If I had been present I would have voted "yes" on the passage of both bills as these reforms would serve to improve the care of our Veterans who have sacrificed so much for our nation. These bills respectively improve the ability of the Veterans Administration to provide for the well being of those who have given so much for this nation, and expand the power of that Department to hold its employees accountable when they fall short of upholding that sacred duty.

Over the past year, the Department of Veterans Affairs has received scrutiny on issues that affect the care and benefits of our Veterans. Congress has taken action, along with the Department's Office of the Inspector General to investigate these wrongdoings. One finding of these investigations was the despicable act of manipulating the Department's appointment system to hide evidence of increased wait times for medical appointments, and the doctoring of medical records to the same effect.

I believe these acts are despicable and the Department of Veterans Affairs must be held accountable. Veterans Affairs employees are placed in positions of special trust and confidence and are charged with the sacred duty of caring for those who have sacrificed for the security of this nation. This bill, H.R. 280, provides the Secretary of Veterans Affairs more authority to hold accountable those employees who break faith with this obligation. While employees would be afforded due process prior to being fined for misconduct, the Secretary's decision would be final and could not be appealed to any other agency or court. No system is perfect and no person is perfect. But the American people entrust the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with the responsibility of caring for our Veterans—which is why it is critical to empower that Department's leaders with the authority to hold their employees accountable for their actions.

My District in Jacksonville, Florida is one of the most popular retirement locations for Veterans. So this bill, H.R. 294 the 'Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act', hits very close to home. As our Veterans enter the twilight of their lives, they often find themselves needing

increased daily care, which the Department of Veterans Affairs is required by law to provide. This care is given by way of veterans nursing homes, which are currently the only institutions capable of fulfilling the Department's obligation to provide such services. However, this "one size fits all" method of caring for our Veterans is not always the most appropriate for their condition or medical situation.

H.R. 294 corrects this situation by authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs to fund Medical Foster Home care for Veterans whose situation is conducive to receiving long term care in a non-institutional setting. Medical Foster Care provides actual homes for Veterans and families willing to accept the challenge of caring for them. Many of these families are themselves retired service members, nurses, and doctors that are able to garner a little extra money and a purpose for getting out of bed every day. There is no downside to this bill. It provides a choice for our Veterans to receive the kind of care they want and deserve in a fiscally responsible manner. I can't think of a better way to honor their service and sacrifice.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, had I been present for these votes, I would have placed my full support behind their passage.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JERRY TARKANIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Mr. NUNES to honor the life of Jerry Tarkanian, who passed away on February 11, 2015, at the age of 84. Jerry's family and friends as well as people throughout the nation, will miss him greatly as he dedicated much of his life to inspiring young athletes in countless communities.

Although Jerry was most recognized for his achievements as the basketball coach for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in the Central Valley we remember Jerry as Fresno State's spirited and energetic former head basketball coach. Fresno State was Jerry's alma mater, and the community is very proud to say so.

Born in Euclid, Ohio, Jerry was the son of Armenian immigrants. He moved halfway across the country, to California, to get an education and play basketball. In 1955, he graduated from Fresno State, and later earned his master's degree in Educational Management from the University of Redlands.

Jerry was an enthusiastic coach for 31 years who began his basketball coaching career at San Joaquin Memorial High School in Fresno. Jerry coached his first Division I team at California State University, Long Beach from 1968–1973. As a coach during the late 60s, his courage defied social norms of the time, becoming one of the first coaches to start more than three African-American players. Jerry took an intense interest in his players and wanted them to succeed both on and off the court. He was a man of encouragement who reached out to young men who lived in inner-cities and normally would not have access to a higher education. I once had the pleasure of having a conversation about Jerry

Tarkanian with Magic Johnson. He told me that Coach Jerry Tarkanian was known around inner city playgrounds in America as the coach of second chances. In the Central Valley, we are truly grateful for those second chances.

In 1973, Jerry moved to Nevada to become head coach at UNLV. He is now remembered as the determined individual who turned around the basketball program at UNLV and made it into a winning program. Jerry returned to Fresno and coached at Fresno State from 1995–2002. While coaching at Fresno state, his teams had a total of six 20-win seasons for a total of 153 victories. In total, his teams had 729 victories, a National championship for UNLV in 1990, and four straight NCAA tournament appearances for Long Beach State. Additionally, Jerry coached 42 players who were drafted by the NBA, including 12 first-round selections. Due to the efforts made by Jerry and the "Stadium Builders" in the mid 1990s, Save mart Center was built. For years, there had been discussions regarding an on-campus arena at Fresno State, but it was not made a reality until Jerry began his successful coaching career at the university. When he finished his coaching career, Jerry worked as the Senior Development Consultant for Save mart Center.

In 2013, Tarkanian was elected to the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame, an honor his fellow coaches argued for years was long overdue. Though hospitalized in the summer for heart problems and weakened by a variety of ills, he went on stage with a walker at the induction ceremony.

Jerry is appreciated by individuals throughout our nation, but he is especially treasured in Fresno, California. Central Valley residents take pride in Fresno State, and it was an honor to have Jerry lead our Fresno State Bulldogs on the basketball court. Although I come to you with a heavy heart, I am honored to have known such an admirable man.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. NUNES and I ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in honoring the life of Coach Jerry Tarkanian, as he is remembered for all of the contributions that he has made to individuals throughout the country as well as the people to whom he gave a second chance.

JESSE REED CHAMPION TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Jesse Reed. Mr. Reed cemented his name in Colorado high-school wrestling history on February 20th, 2015, at the Colorado State High School Wrestling Championships in Denver, Colorado, by winning his fourth consecutive state title.

Jesse, a senior at Paonia Junior-Senior High School, began his dominant career as a freshman, winning the 113-pound state title. In an incredible show of dedication and pure mental toughness, Jesse overcame a MCL tear during his sophomore football season, and returned to the mat that sophomore winter and battled his way to the 120-pound state title. In a sport renowned for the extreme

physical and mental conditions, in which athletes are subject to match after match, it is a testament to Jesse's resolve that he was able to prevail even without a 100 percent healthy knee.

Following another dominant season during his junior year and his third state title, Jesse, now in his senior year, knew that he had the opportunity to become the 18th wrestler in Colorado State history to win four consecutive titles. In a 4–1 decision, not only did Reed join that elite group but he also capped off an impressive final two seasons in which he didn't lose a single match.

Mr. Speaker, Jesse Reed's tenacity, unwillingness to succumb to adversity, and unparalleled success is truly to be admired and for that I congratulate him. Although he has wrestled his last match for the Eagles, his commitment to the sport of wrestling and to Paonia Junior-Senior High School will remain on the mat and inspire the Eagles who follow in his footsteps.

COMMEMORATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY, TURNAROUND TUESDAY, AND THE FINAL MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago tomorrow, in Selma, Alabama, hundreds of heroic souls risked their lives for freedom and to secure the right to vote for all Americans by their participation in marches for voting rights on "Bloody Sunday," "Turnaround Tuesday," or the final, completed march from Selma to Montgomery.

Those "foot soldiers" of Selma, brave and determined men and women, boys and girls, persons of all races and creeds, loved their country so much that they were willing to risk their lives to make it better, to bring it even closer to its founding ideals.

The foot soldiers marched because they believed that all persons have dignity and the right to equal treatment under the law, and in the making of the laws, which is the fundamental essence of the right to vote.

On March 15, 1965, before a joint session of the Congress and the eyes of the nation, President Lyndon Johnson explained to the nation the significance of "Bloody Sunday":

I speak tonight for the dignity of man and the destiny of democracy. . . .

At times history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom.

So it was at Lexington and Concord.

So it was a century ago at Appomattox.

So it was last week in Selma, Alabama.

The previous Sunday, March 7, 1965, more than 600 civil rights demonstrators, including our beloved colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, were brutally attacked by state and local police at the Edmund Pettus Bridge as they marched from Selma to Montgomery in support of the right to vote.

"Bloody Sunday" was a defining moment in American history because it crystallized for the nation the necessity of enacting a strong and effective federal law to protect the right to vote of every American.