

Reverse-targeting of American citizens is inconsistent with the Constitution and must stop now.

Opponents of civil liberties will argue that these mass invasions of privacy will make us safer.

Americans should not have to give up their constitutional rights for national security.

Casting too wide of a collection net for intelligence can be a distraction from the analysis necessary to stop plots and—to counter terrorism.

Let's be clear: The NSA should keep close watch on suspected terrorists to keep our country safe.

But before invading the privacy of American citizens, a warrant must and can be obtained in a timely manner.

Programs that permit due process and are held accountable by an open court will serve as a just way to collect intelligence.

The sacrifice of our personal liberty for security is and will forever be a false choice.

I have introduced several pieces of legislation that would restrain the federal government: This legislation includes H.R. 2233, the End Warrantless Surveillance of Americans Act. H.R. 2233 would prohibit warrantless searches of government databases for information that pertains to U.S. citizens. It would also forbid government agencies from mandating or requesting “back doors” into commercial products that can be used for surveillance.

This legislation mirrors an amendment that was offered to the USA Freedom Act, which was backed by a broad bipartisan coalition, including members of Congress and outside groups across the political spectrum.

The fight for NSA reform is ongoing, and I will continue to stand up and defend the Bill of Rights.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING TIM SBRANTI ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize a great teacher, mentor, and friend, Tim Sbranti, as he retires after 17 years of public school teaching.

Since 1978, Tim has been a resident of our shared hometown, Dublin, California. Tim's service to Dublin started early, serving as student body president at Dublin High School and on the Parks and Community Service Commission.

After graduating from California State University, Sacramento, Tim returned to his hometown to teach and coach at his high school alma mater. I was fortunate enough to have Tim as my economics teacher, mock trial advisor, and tennis coach. As an educator, Tim encouraged me and countless other young people to help our community and go into public service. Over the past 17 years, few people have shaped the lives and inspired more youth in Dublin than Tim Sbranti.

Tim's advocacy for public education reached beyond Dublin. He worked as the chair of the California Teachers Association's Political In-

volvement Committee and led Californians Dedicated to Education. Beyond education, Tim has committed himself to working in all areas to better our local community. I was honored to serve with Tim when he and I were members of the Dublin City Council. Tim served on the City Council from 2002 to 2006, and as Dublin's mayor, from 2008 and 2014.

While always putting his hometown first, Tim has also been active in advancing opportunity in the greater Tri-Valley area. Tim has served as a board member of the Tri-Valley Housing and Opportunity Center, Dublin Historical Preservation Association, and Las Positas College Foundation. And, he is a past president of the Dublin Lions Club.

I am honored today to have the opportunity to publicly recognize Tim's many years of teaching and contributions to our shared hometown and the Tri-Valley.

HONORING BURNEY STARKS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize a leader in Tucson's community who dedicated his life to serve others.

Mr. Starks was a 1969 graduate of Pueblo High School, a proud Pueblo Warrior. In 1974 he graduated with honors from the University of Arizona where he also played football for the Wildcats. He then earned a Master's degree from Troy University. He was also known for his skills as an actor and singer. He appeared onstage in productions such as “Driving Miss Daisy” and “Look Ma, We're Dancing,” as well as many others. Mr. Starks also sang with the True Devotion Motown Revue.

Mr. Starks was a U.S. Army veteran. He went on active duty as an Army officer and had tours of duty in Georgia, Indiana, Missouri and South Korea. Following his initial active duty tour he returned to Tucson where he hosted a TV talk show called “Looking Black” and worked for Tucson Unified School District. He returned to active duty in 1981 and retired from the military service in 1996 at the rank of Major. After leaving active duty he worked for the Tucson Urban League and returned to Tucson Unified School District. Mr. Burney Starks was known as the long time educator at Pueblo High School, a school counselor specializing in dropout prevention. He instilled in the minds of those who didn't believe in themselves that they could accomplish anything they set their minds to, that nothing was out of reach as long as they wanted it enough and were willing to work towards it. Mr. Starks was also known for the many community activities he was a part of and in some cases was the driving force for. Burney served on the boards of the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, the Dunbar Coalition, the America Israel Friendship League, the Southern Arizona Academic Decathlon, the Pueblo Warrior Alumni Foundation and as President of the Board of the Tucson Juneteenth Festival Committee. He also served as Lieutenant Governor for Kiwanis International where he had been a member for 35 years; He was past commander in the Military Order of the World Wars and past president in the Reserve Officers Association.

He is survived by his wife Ruth M. Starks, 5 children Benjamin S., Burnes O. III, Elizabeth M., Bryan M., and Rebekah R.

Burney has 9 Siblings/Gary E., Daryl D., Terry L., Charles G., Donna R., Harry J., Jacqueline B., Larry D., and Timothy B.

Burney Starks has left a legacy which he will be remembered for and honored for years to come.

IN HONOR OF ELIJAH “SONNY” SINGLETON, JR.

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere condolences and to honor the memory of Elijah “Sonny” Singleton, Jr., for his achievements, contributions, and service to his community as a loving father and pillar of civic engagement.

Elijah Singleton spent his life serving his community as a teamster, putting the needs of others before his own. Elijah was also active as a member of his local union, imparting the importance of citizenship to his children at an early age. He taught them the value of a day's work and to appreciate life's gifts and opportunities.

His monumental example was the inspiration for his son, Troy, who now serves in the New Jersey General Assembly. Pursuing a life of service and following the lessons of his father, Troy once remarked that his father never looked for short cuts because true success only comes as a result of hard work and diligence.

Mr. Speaker, Elijah Singleton's dedication to family, community, and public service was evident. As a family man, he constantly surrounded himself with those he cared for, and no one worked harder or loved more passionately than Elijah. He is survived by two devoted sons, Troy and Derrick, and six adoring grandchildren. I join the South Jersey community and the State of New Jersey in honoring the life and accomplishments of this great man.

HONORING FRANK NASH

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank Nash from Ironton, Missouri for his academic success and service to our community.

Frank has set a wonderful example of hard work and a dedication to serve others. Now an Eagle Scout, Frank has earned nine Eagle Palms since he started as a Tiger Cub with the Boy Scouts. For his Eagle Scout project, Frank built tables and chairs for senior adults at his church to use. He also built a flower box to decorate the First Baptist Church of Pilot Knob's sign.

He is the salutatorian of his graduating class and has already earned more than 40 college credits through his high school's advanced placement program. He will be attending the

University of Missouri-Kansas City in the fall where he is interested in studying neurology.

On April 1, Frank was notified that he was the sole recipient of the National Eagle Scout Association's \$25,000 United Health Foundation college scholarship. This scholarship, which receives more than 5,000 applications each year, is awarded to a student who plans to pursue a career in healthcare and is willing to reinvest their skills in an under-served community. Frank has also received scholarships from the Hagan Foundation and the Elks National Foundation. It comes as no surprise that his hard work, both in the community and the classroom, have paid off.

Frank is a role model for all Missouri students and it is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and accomplishments before the House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF MASTER SERGEANT
TAUTALAGIA "TUNI" SOTOA
NUMERA

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Master Sergeant Tantalagia Sotoa Numera, or known to his family and friends simply as "Tuni", who passed away on June 1 at the age of 86.

Tuni was born on February 27, 1929, in Pago Pago, American Samoa to parents, Taua and Siao Numera. Following his childhood on the islands, and at the young age of 23, Tuni enthusiastically fulfilled his childhood dream of serving in our nations armed forces and joined the U.S. Marine Corps.

During Tuni's 27 years of service in the Marine Corps, he would fight in two wars and serve 8 total combat tours. Tuni saw his first action in Korea, but it wouldn't be his last . . . not by a long shot.

Master Sergeant Numera served 7 combat tours in the jungles of Vietnam. During his first tour in Vietnam, Tuni was wounded in combat for which he received the Purple Heart. While this would be more than enough sacrifice to one's nation for even the toughest and most patriotic of soldiers, it wasn't for Tuni. He would return to those jungles where he was initially wounded, 6 more times. When once asked by a friend "why did you serve 7 tours in Vietnam?" he replied . . . "I was looking for the guy that shot me during my first tour." This is a perfect example of just how much of a true Leatherneck he was.

Master Sergeant Numera was awarded numerous decorations during his career in the Marines, including: the Navy & Marine Corps Medal, the Bronze Star, and of course the Purple Heart, with a Gold Star, which is the equivalent of two Purple Hearts.

Known for his irresistible smile and grand sense of humor, Tuni was always at the center of whatever was going on and always had a kind word or helping hand to those who needed it.

Tuni also enjoyed a number of recreational activities, including fishing, bowling, playing poker, watching westerns, and TV shows like Walker Texas Ranger.

Perhaps the only things that Tuni loved more than his country were his faith in God and his beautiful family. Tuni is survived by his wife, Eleanor; children, Zina, Trinidad, Cynthia, Anthony, Jeffrey, Michael, Elena, and Christina; "adopted sons," Vincent, and Mike; 26 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. This man was obviously very loved by all who knew him and we all mourn their loss.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me recognizing the lifelong service and dedication to our nation that was exemplified by Master Sergeant Numera and honor him by continuing to uphold those values that we cherish as Americans and for which Tuni dedicated his life.

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Immigrant Heritage Month and salute the contributions of immigrants to the never ending glory and story of America.

I stand in solidarity with our immigrant soldiers who have fought to defend and extend our freedoms from the shores of the Atlantic to the Pacific, in the deserts of Africa and the jungles of Asia, to the seas of the Persian Gulf.

I stand in solidarity with our immigrant innovators and entrepreneurs who make up over 40 percent of the CEO of the Fortune 500 companies, which employ over 3 million of our fellow citizens.

And I stand in solidarity with the children of our immigrants who will be an integral part of our nation's future achievements.

This is why I have consistently introduced legislation such as H.R. 1525, "Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act of 2013," which sets forth a comprehensive and humane solution to immigrant reform.

This legislation works to secure our borders and brings close to 12 million illegal immigrants out of the shadows of society through earned access to legalization.

Our country has made progress because of the work and determination of immigrants and we owe it to them and ourselves to maintain a system that allows immigrants to prosper within our borders through approved legal processes.

In 1884 a Serbian immigrant name Nikola Tesla worked with American innovator Thomas Edison and would later contribute to the development of the alternating-current electrical system.

A son of an immigrant slave, Benjamin Banneker would grow up to be a scientist, surveyor, and author; these pioneers of their fields have helped advance the American economy through innovation.

We are a more prosperous nation because of the contributions from immigrants who helped build this country, but we have not done enough.

President Obama has used his executive powers to provide more resources for border security, modernizing the legal immigration system for workers, employers, and students, and focusing enforcement on the real threats to security.

Although more remains to be done to realize the full promise of the America dream for many immigrants, we continue to fight for those who are already contributing members of their communities to ensure there is a safe and legal path to the ultimate goal of full citizenship.

The unity of families is an essential American value and should be one of the fundamentals of immigration reform, along with increasing the diversity of immigration from parts of the world that have been historically underrepresented such as the Caribbean, Africa, and Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, my district is home to the most racially and ethnically diverse metropolitan area in the nation, and as a result I celebrate our immigrant leaders such as Texas Representative Hubert Vo, born in South Vietnam, graduate of the University of Houston, and now public servant for the people of District 149.

I celebrate Joseph Pulitzer a Hungarian immigrant soldier who served in the Civil War under the Union Army whose contributions would leave a legacy of literary excellence; Hakeem Olajuwon a Nigerian native and celebrated athlete of Houston who led the Houston Rockets to the NBA championship in 1994 and 1995, and the countless others who have made significant impacts that have advanced our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the countless Americans who have braved the seas and sands to build a new life in America and enrich the cultural tapestry of the greatest nation on earth.

I recognize that our nation would not enjoy the freedoms we have today without the dedication and hard work of our immigrant ancestors and we owe it to them to work on a more comprehensive immigration reform.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2015, which will help provide financial relief for federal employees who have a short-term injury or disability, become pregnant, or develop a pregnancy-related illness. This bill will offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees will be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums, and will be able to receive disability insurance benefits for up to one year that would replace a portion of their lost income due to a non-work related injury, illness, or pregnancy. These benefits will be particularly beneficial to ensure that our federal employees, who do not yet enjoy paid maternity leave, are able to utilize the 12 weeks of unpaid maternity leave permitted by federal law while continuing to pay their bills, buy groceries, and make their mortgage, car, and other loan payments without having to deplete their retirement or other savings accounts. Too many federal employees do not take advantage of federal unpaid