

Rock. He was only 40 years old when his life was cut tragically short. Agent Terry is survived by his mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, brother and two sisters.

Some of those involved in Agent Terry's shooting were recently convicted for their terrible crime. However, the Obama Administration continues to actively resist turning over information related to the Congressional investigation into Operation Fast and Furious. We must never give up our fight to ensure the Terry family gets nothing less than full accountability from their government. I have pledged to them before, and do so again today, that I will continue to pursue the truth.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN SCHWEIZER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ryan Schweizer from Dowling Catholic High School for winning the Class 4A Boys Cross Country individual title. Ryan is the son of Mike and Kathy Schweizer.

Ryan has spent his high school career working towards a single goal: winning a coveted state championship. After 4 long years of hard work, Ryan was able to achieve that goal when he crossed the finish line at the 2015 Class 4A Boys Cross Country State Championship. He finished 4 seconds ahead of any other runner.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Ryan demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ryan on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing him nothing but continued success in his education and athletic pursuits.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR GERALD W. GROSS OF WEST EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Mayor of the Borough of West Easton, PA, the Honorable Gerald W. Gross, for his 50 years of service as an elected official. His accomplishments were recognized by the West Easton Borough Council on the evening of Monday, December 14.

Mayor Gross first held an official role in West Easton as a member of the Borough Council. It was a position he held for twenty years. In 1986, he was sworn in as the Mayor of West Easton. He has been the mayor for thirty years.

Known to be a patient and giving man, Mayor Gross would take calls from home to hear complaints and questions from Borough residents. He owns a landscaping business and often donates free materials and services to the Borough to maintain parks and recreational areas.

As a dedicated leader, Mayor Gross closely oversaw several large community projects, such as the installment of public sewer lines and the planning and construction of the West Easton municipal building. He also led planning and preparations for the Borough's centennial celebration in 1998, which was ended with a fireworks display.

Mayor Gross has been ardent in his efforts to boost economic development in the Borough. A notable accomplishment was his role in the establishment of a new Northampton County leased DUI Treatment Center in 2012, which generates \$50,000 in impact fees for the Borough's general fund. Additionally, he has worked to make the community and its parks safe and clean in order to promote West Easton as a great place for families.

Mayor Gross is also known to be someone who can bring people together. He believes much can be done when people are willing to compromise, and he stresses the importance of listening to each other and staying focused on the greater good of the community. His good works have served as a role model for his daughter, Kelly Gross, who was first elected to West Easton Borough Council in 1993 and currently serves as Council President.

It is an honor for me to recognize Mayor Gerald Gross for his generous nature and his lifetime of service. With a will to do for others, he has improved his community and inspired the next generation of leaders.

CHINA DISCRIMINATES AGAINST CANADIAN FALUN GONG CONTESTANT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I come here today with yet another example of China's egregious disregard for the most basic of human rights—the right to live freely.

After the Falun Gong's rise in popularity in the 1990s, the Chinese Government perceived this peaceful group as a threat. Over the years, Falun Gong followers in China have been imprisoned, tortured, and killed. In fact, there are more Falun Gong practitioners in prison in China than any other persecuted group.

Last month China hit a new low in its attempt to silence the Falun Gong community. Anastasia Lin is a Falun Gong practitioner who also happens to be Miss World Canada. The Miss World competition is held this year in China but Miss Canada can't go. Why? Because China refused to give her a visa. She was given no explanation why. However, the motive is clear. Beijing does not like how outspoken Ms. Lin has been about China's human rights abuses and religious oppression.

Anastasia Lin moved from China to Canada when she was 13 years old. Yet she has not stopped fighting for the rights of her fellow members of the Falun Gong community. During a congressional hearing in July, Ms. Lin told Members that tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been killed so their organs could be harvested and sold for transplants. Clearly, Beijing's only concern is remaining in power, not the welfare of the Chinese people.

Last week, on the 65th annual International Human Rights Day, I gave another speech demanding Beijing put a stop to this atrocious practice of harvesting organs from prisoners of conscience. It is high time China ends its illegal subjugation of Falun Gong practitioners. Justice must be served.

Unfortunately, Anastasia Lin is an innocent victim of the Chinese Government's attempts to persecute the Falun Gong. It just goes to show how obsessed the Chinese Government is about persecuting the Falun Gong. Beijing is now censoring beauty pageants. But the courageous men and women of the Falun Gong community will not be silenced by Beijing's abuse—beauty pageant or no beauty pageant.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH LAMPE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Ruth Lampe, who at the age of 102 has received her honorary high school diploma from Winterset High School.

Back in Ruth's younger years it wasn't uncommon for students to drop out of school and go work to help support their family. She did so after her freshman year at Winterset High School. Ruth would have graduated with the class of 1931. Today, Ruth volunteers her time two days a week at the senior center in Winterset where she helps serve meals to those who need it the most. A friend of Ruth's, and another regular at the senior center, worked with the school district for months to attain her honorary diploma.

Mr. Speaker, applaud and congratulate Ruth for receiving her high school diploma after so many years and thank her for staying active in her community. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ruth and wishing her nothing but the best.

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AND TERRORIST TRAVEL PREVENTION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today while I rise in support of H.R. 158 the Visa Waiver Program Improvement Act of 2015, I must also note my reservations about some of the provisions in this bill.

President Obama in an address to the American people from the Oval Office specifically asked Congress to pass legislation to address any weaknesses within our visa waiver program (VWP) and for a "stronger screening for travelers to the U.S. without a visa to check if they have travelled to warzones."

After the terror attacks in Paris, France and San Bernardino, California we must ensure

that a law created to encourage travel and cultural exchange is not exploited by those who would do us harm. We must scrutinize and strengthen our VWP and many of the provisions in this bill do just that. I support the provisions in this bill that encourage our allies to share biometric data, improve data sharing on criminal and security concerns and stronger vetting systems. This bi-partisan effort is a significant improvement over H.R. 4038, a bill which did nothing but target innocent refugees and exploited xenophobic and unsubstantiated fears.

While I support the overall thrust of this bill, I do have some reservations. I am concerned that there are not exceptions for journalists, ministers or aid workers who provide vital services to a needy population. The exclusion for law enforcement or military personnel should be extended to include people who visit Syria, Sudan, or Iraq for completely innocent and humanitarian reasons. We should continue to scrutinize the VWF so that we do not unnecessarily target innocent travelers.

I hope our colleagues in the Senate take these reservations into account when they consider this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, on December 2, 2015, I inadvertently voted "aye" on Roll Call 657. I intended to vote "nay". This amendment was offered by Mr. TONKO of New York.

RECOGNIZING TIM GORDON

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Tim Gordon for his service to our country in the United States Army. I believe that America's brave men and women in uniform are the nation's greatest assets. They have made incredible sacrifices for our country and deserve our utmost support and aid for their service.

Mr. Gordon was in the Army from June 1966 through April 1972. During this time, he fought in Vietnam from February 1969 through February 1970, no soldiers were lost under his command. Ultimately, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than the one we owe our veterans. They and their families should be commended. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Mr. Tim Gordon.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Tim Gordon for his accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MICHAEL
POCHE

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Michael Poche of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Poche and his wife Stephanie will be moving on from his present assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison for the Office of the Secretary of Defense to serve as an officer in the Louisiana National Guard.

Army Congressional Liaison officers provide an invaluable service to both the military and Congress. They assist Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their first-hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices. Prior to serving as a Congressional Liaison, Mike served as a Military Congressional Fellow. During that year he also earned a Masters in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.

A native of Monroe, Louisiana, Mike first joined the Louisiana National Guard in 1996 and subsequently earned his commission through the University of Louisiana at Monroe ROTC in 2004. During his 19-year Army career, Mike has served in numerous tactical leadership and staff assignments as an Armor and Cavalry Officer. As a platoon leader and troop commander, Mike commanded troops in Iraq over three separate combat tours totaling 35 months.

His great work has not gone unnoticed. During Major Poche's distinguished service to this nation, he has earned awards and decorations including: three Bronze Star Medals, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and four Army Achievement Medals.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Major Poche, his wife Stephanie, and their three children: Kaley, Mari Katherine, and Evan. I wish them the best as they continue to serve our great nation and proceed to the next chapter in their remarkable careers.

IN HONOR OF DAVIDSON COUNTY
MANAGER ROBERT HYATT'S
SERVICE TO THE STATE OF
NORTH CAROLINA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Mr. Robert Hyatt, Davidson County Manager. Mr. Hyatt has been a tireless advocate for the people of Davidson County, and has fully earned the admiration and gratitude of his fellow North Carolinians.

Mr. Hyatt served as Davidson County Manager for over 16 years after being appointed to the position on May 24, 1999. Prior to his appointment as Davidson County Manager, Mr. Hyatt served as Assistant County Manager of Brunswick County, North Carolina, from 1995

to 1999; Town Manager for the Town of Clayton, North Carolina, from 1988 to 1995; and Town Manager for the Town of Wallace, North Carolina, from 1983 to 1988. This is an impressive record of service for any public servant, and is certainly worthy of the recognition and praise Mr. Hyatt has received during the later years of his service as Davidson County Manager.

Recently, Mr. Hyatt was presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest award the Governor of North Carolina can bestow, on December 8, 2015. The Order was created in 1963, and has been presented to honor persons who have a proven record of service to the State of North Carolina. In addition to this prestigious honor, Mr. Hyatt received the "Service to Agriculture and Extension Award" from the Davidson County Cooperative Extension for his efforts in support of the local agricultural industry and for his representation in 2015 on the North Carolina State University Visioning Team. Mr. Hyatt was also recognized for his thirty years of service from the International City/County Management Association on September 25, 2013.

In addition to his service as Davidson County Manager, Mr. Hyatt has been an exemplary civil servant through his contributions to a number of other organizations. He has served on the North Carolina City/County Managers Association's Membership Support and Program Committees, and served a three-year term as a member of the executive board for the Boy Scouts for the Uwharrie District of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in thanking Davidson County Manager Robert Hyatt for his esteemed service to the state of North Carolina and wishing Robert, his wife Teresa, and their two sons, Will and Thom, well as they enter an exciting new chapter of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO RODNEY AND KAREN
WAHLE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rodney and Karen Wahle of Carson, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on November 6, 1965, at the Malvern Methodist Church in Malvern, Iowa.

Rodney and Karen's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, James and Jennifer, and their grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Wahles that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.