

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to five former political prisoners who arrived in Miami on March 15, 2016: Vladimir Morera Bacallao, Jorge Ramirez Calderon, Yojarne Arce, Aracelio Riviaux Noa, and Niorvis Rivera Guerra. These men were victims of vicious acts at the hands of Castro's thugs.

Vladimir, Jorge, and Aracelio were among those on the so-called "list of 53" who were released as part of the Obama-Castro deal. Although Castro released these 53 wrongfully incarcerated political prisoners, many, including Vladimir, Jorge, and Aracelio, were re-arrested.

While in prison, Vladimir began a hunger strike on October 9, 2015. In December, I expressed grave concern for his health as he lingered near death in a Cuban prison, and in January wrote a letter to President Obama expressing serious concern for Jorge and others re-arrested on the list of 53.

The five political prisoners I mentioned here were promised safe haven in the U.S., but their families remain in Cuba, subject to abuse and harassment at the hands of the Castro regime. These activists are extremely worried about their families in Cuba who are suffering retaliation because they had the courage to speak out against an unjust government.

The Castro regime holds the worst human rights record in our hemisphere, and its repression has escalated. The concessions that President Obama has provided to the Castro dictatorship has emboldened the Cuban people's oppressors, and they further harass, brutalize, and abuse courageous activists such as these five individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues in Congress to condemn the egregious human rights abuses perpetrated against Cuban pro-democracy activists and their families, and demand the immediate, unconditional release of all political prisoners.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE

**HON. DENNIS A. ROSS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 75th anniversary of MacDill Air Force Base. MacDill has had a long and storied history during the last 75 years. With much of the world engulfed in conflict in 1939, the War Department selected Tampa, Florida to house a new military air field which would go on to become MacDill Air Force Base. With

Tampa's natural and strategic location, MacDill has grown and expanded over its 75 years serving as a testament to our nation's military might and the Tampa Bay area's dedication to supporting the brave men and women of the Armed Services.

Officially activated on April 16, 1941, MacDill trained World War II airmen to fly and operate bombers including the B-17 Flying Fortress and the B-26 Marauder. Throughout the Second World War, MacDill saw thousands of servicemen train to lead the force in the dangerous skies over Europe. From start to finish, MacDill played a critical role in our country's great military achievement.

After World War II, the bombers gave way to fighters when MacDill became a Tactical Air Command. The turmoil of the 1960's again highlighted the strategic importance of MacDill's location. Throughout the Vietnam War and up until the first Gulf War in 1991, the Tampa Bay region became a home for the F-4 Phantoms and later F-16 Fighting Falcons. Between 1979 and 1993, about half of all F-16 fighter pilots trained at MacDill Air Force Base.

Currently, MacDill houses the 6th Air Mobility Wing and 39 Mission Teammates, including U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command. MacDill is home to more than 13,000 military and civilian personnel and about 170,000 retirees live in the Tampa Bay area and depend on the base for many necessary services. MacDill remains a vital economic driver and a source of good paying jobs in the counties of Hillsborough and Polk in my district. MacDill extends the global reach of U.S. air power through global air refueling and airlift operations and is a mission our community embraces.

In facing our nation's ongoing and future national security challenges, I am confident that MacDill will continue to play a vital role in protecting the safety of our families and all Americans. The Tampa Bay region is proud to host and I am honored to represent thousands of servicemen and women, veterans, and civilians who work at and rely on MacDill Air Force Base every day, and especially on its 75 year anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRUCE TEAGUE JR.

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Bruce Teague Jr. (The Bossman), who was called to rest by his heavenly father on Thursday April 7, 2016.

Bruce, Mr. Speaker, was born in Henry County, Tennessee on March 29, 1931. He was the seventh child out of eight born to Bruce and Essie (Boyd) Teague and he loved each of his siblings.

Due to the limited opportunities available in Tennessee, Bruce decided to explore the bright lights, big city life in Chicago, Illinois. While residing with his big sister, Alice, Bruce began to work various jobs until he landed a career at the National Casting Company (NCC). Being a man of faith, he was led by God to pursue what became two of his own successful entrepreneurial endeavors in towing and in real estate investing. After 40 years of being a hardworking, dedicated, and exemplary employee, he retired from NCC in 1992.

In 1958, he met Mary Helen Hargrove and they were married the following year on December 18, 1959. To this union six children were born: Regina, Donna, Tasha, Juan, Bruce, and James. There was nothing he enjoyed more than celebrating the accomplishments of his family and friends through weddings, anniversaries, graduations, baptisms, recitals, and many other special occasions. A major accomplishment of his own was celebrating 56 years of holy matrimony to his beloved "May Helen".

Mr. Speaker, Bruce was a man of strong core values. His foundation and beliefs were deeply rooted in the Love of Family and Faith in God. Bruce believed in attending church faithfully no matter where he was. Whenever in Iowa City, he attended House of Praise Church under the leadership of Pastor Rick McCaslin. He poured his time, energy, and experience into the next generation of upcoming Deacons. Bruce implemented the "Deacon Apprenticeship Program" at House of Praise Church to train and develop young men how to carry out the duties of a deacon.

Mr. Speaker, some of his greatest pastimes were having breakfast with his friends in Chicago and Iowa City, watching and attending baseball games while eating popcorn, gardening, and traveling with his family. "Switchblade Bruce", the "Bossman", shot straight from the hip. One could never mistake what he meant; he told you just what he felt. but Deacon Teague cried about everything. He even cried when he was forced by Mary Helen to discipline the children. He often reminded his children, "If you do wrong, I will only come to get you from jail one time".

His legacy will live on through: his loving and devoted wife of 56 years Mary Helen; his children, Regina, Donna, Ricky, Tasha, Juan, Darron, Bruce, James, Jeremiah, Danielle and a host of family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, those who truly knew Bruce Teague Jr. know he was not pompous or prideful, but proud of his life and all of those in it.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF THE LATE ANDREW STEPHEN GROVE

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, Andy Grove (née András István, Gróf) was born September 2,

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