

DESTINY GARCIA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Destiny Garcia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Destiny Garcia is an 8th grader at Jefferson Senior/Junior High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Destiny Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Destiny Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

## DECLASSIFICATION OF THE 28 PAGES OF THE 9/11 JOINT CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in calling on President Obama to finally declassify the 28 pages of the Joint Congressional Inquiry into Intelligence Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 2001.

This year will mark 15 years since the horrific September 11 attacks that struck at the heart of our nation, and shook us to our core. The United States suffered an immeasurable tragedy that day, but for the victims and their families, their loss is beyond words. They lost sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, sisters and brothers. These families' lives were forever changed, and their road to healing is made all the more difficult by the questions that remain unanswered.

These classified pages in the 9/11 joint congressional inquiry contain vital information about the circumstances surrounding the attacks, and can provide crucial guidance for our future counterterrorism policies. I have personally read these pages and am confident that they can be released without compromising intelligence-gathering sources and methods. The Obama Administration is currently undertaking a review and is expected to announce its decision in the coming weeks. I strongly urge it to complete its review as soon as possible and declassify the 28 pages.

I am pleased to be part of this bipartisan effort to give the families the answers they deserve. Together with my colleagues Congressman WALTER JONES and Congressman THOMAS MASSIE, we introduced H. Res. 14 urging the President to release the pages. I want to thank Congresswoman GWEN GRAHAM for organizing these speeches that are bringing re-

newed attention to this matter. I also want to acknowledge and thank former Senator Bob Graham for his hard work as Chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence when the Joint Congressional Inquiry was written, and his steadfast advocacy for making these pages public.

Mr. Speaker, the victims' families and our nation experienced a profound personal loss and after 15 years they deserve to have their questions answered. The declassification of the 28 pages will be an important step in that direction.

## CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF COL. TANYA S. BAKER FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Tanya S. Baker of Woodbridge, VA on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Army. Throughout her 30 year career, Col. Baker has selflessly served our country and community; namely, during the time she spent as North American Aerospace Command and United States Northern Command (NORAD and USNORTHCOM) Coordination Officer to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), at the Pentagon. NORAD USNORTHCOM is a tremendous institution and its Washington Office is charged with building trusted relationships with mission essential partners, such as DHHS. NORAD USNORTHCOM provides command and control of Department of Defense (DOD) homeland defense efforts and coordinates Defense Support of Civil Authorities. In performing both of these critical missions, USNORTHCOM defends America's homeland and protects our people, national power, and strategic freedom of action.

Col. Baker was commissioned via Georgetown ROTC in May of 1986, after matriculating from George Mason University. She received her commission as a Medical Service Corps Lieutenant and served in many notable assignments of increasing responsibility, including Federal Coordinating Center Coordinator at Tripler Army Medical Center, in Honolulu, Hawaii and Battalion Commander for the Army Reserve Careers Division, 13th Battalion, in Aurora, CO. Such roles have enabled Col. Baker to positively and significantly influence her colleagues, fellow Soldiers, as well as the future strategic leaders of our military.

Col. Baker holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from George Mason University and Master of Strategic Studies from the Army War College. Col. Baker also completed a second Senior Service College—the Air War College. In addition to her academic success, Col. Baker has received an extensive number of awards and decorations. These include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation Award and Army Staff

Identification Badge. Such accolades are indicative of the high caliber of her unfailing and dedicated service to our nation.

On June 6th, 2014, Col. Baker assumed duties as the NORAD and USNORTHCOM Coordination Officer to the Department of Health and Human Services, at the Pentagon. As a Coordination Officer, Col. Baker has directly and significantly contributed to NORAD and USNORTHCOM's mission success in response to the Unaccompanied Children Humanitarian Crisis and the international and domestic responses to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak. The trusted partnerships that Col. Baker meticulously built among diverse stakeholders will remain as her key national-level contribution and legacy. Even though she will no longer be present at NORAD and USNORTHCOM on a day-to-day basis, her legacy will inevitably carry on.

Col. Baker is supported in her retirement by her parents: Thermus R. Baker, Sr. and Ruth B. Baker; her brothers: Thermus R. Baker, Jr., Everett S. Baker, Gary B Baker, and Reginald M. Baker; her sister Monica R. Frazier; and her faithful companion and dog Zoe Simone.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to congratulate Col. Baker on the culmination of a distinguished 30 year career in the United States Army. I wish her all the best in this next chapter of her life.

## HONORING MR. BRAD ONORATO

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Mr. Brad Onorato for his great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain

Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with Brad to further the preservation of our nation's great open spaces.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It is an honor to highlight their continued commitment to the spiritual and cultural life of the Washtenaw County community.

In 1916, The Beth Israel Congregation was established, and for many years was the only Jewish congregation in Ann Arbor. At its inception, the congregation celebrated the Jewish High Holidays in the home of Osias Zwerdling who served as the President of the congregation for forty years. The congregation was without a Rabbi until Joshua Sperka who served from 1932–1934. For many years, the Beth Israel congregation occasionally had a Rabbi, but made the community work through a wonderful spirit of volunteerism and faith. Today, the congregation is blessed to have the leadership of Rabbi Robert Dobrusin and Rabbi Kim Blumenthal.

The Beth Israel Congregation has had an important influence on Jewish life in Washtenaw County. In fact, Beth Israel was one of the first conservative congregations in southeast Michigan to become an egalitarian congregation. For the Beth Israel congregation, participation in, leading, or chanting the service is an important aspect of the congregation and they have fully welcomed LGBT individuals into this congregational life. Beth Israel Congregation's services reflect Ann Arbor's rich diversity; making it one of the leading advocates for the ordinations of LGBT rabbis in the Jewish diaspora. Beth Israel is a faithful, forward looking congregation that is growing, welcoming new members, and staying positively involved in the community, in the finest tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Beth Israel Congregation and wish them many more years of faithful service.

JAMES TRESKO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud James Tresco for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

James Tresco is a 7th grader at Jefferson Senior/Junior High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by James Tresco is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to James Tresco for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF GUNNY SERGEANT GEORGE A. CRISWELL

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and career of Gunny Sergeant George A. Criswell as he retires from the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC). Gunny Sergeant Criswell served in the USMC for 20 years and deserves to be commended for his outstanding service and dedication to our country.

Gunny Sergeant Criswell was born in York, Pennsylvania on March 18, 1972. From a young age he embodied the traits of a Marine; he is selfless, courageous, intelligent, loyal, and enthusiastic. It is no coincidence that Gunny Sergeant Criswell would dedicate his life to serving our country and become a heroic leader to our nation.

During his most recent overseas deployment from November 10, 2011 through October 31, 2012, he served as the Staff Non-Commissioned-Officer-in Charge of CJ3 Borders Division, Combat Joint Task Force and Regional Command—East. While he was deployed, Gunny Sergeant Criswell was in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom XIII in Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan as well as other locations throughout Afghanistan. The mission of Operation Enduring Freedom XIII was to facilitate coordination of near-border combat operations and emergency de-escalation of fires between Coalition Forces, Afghan National Security Forces, and the Pakistani Military.

While stationed in the Bagram Airfield, Gunny Sergeant Criswell witnessed a situation in which 2000 local Afghans attempted to breach an entry control point. When Sergeant Criswell returned to the United States, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his valiant service where he was subject to over 45 indirect fire attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring the career and noble service of Gunny Sergeant George A. Criswell. It is with great pride that we thank him for his genuine selflessness and service to our country.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS OF U.S. AND CANADA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

**HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you and offer

my heartiest congratulations to the professional musicians and leadership of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM). This year, the union which represents more than 80,000 professional musicians will convene and celebrate its 100th Annual International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 20, 2016. Many members of Congress maintain a close personal relationship with the professional musicians of this storied organization many of whom live and work in your respective districts. I know you like I wish them another 100 years addressing the complex issues that drive the American music industry.

For more than 119 years, the AFM has represented the interests of musicians working in America's major and regional symphony orchestras like the Washington National Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and many others. The organization also represents jazz, country and pop greats such as Winton Marsalis, Bonnie Raitt, Bruce Springsteen, and Willie Nelson to name a few. AFM musicians for decades have performed the sounds movie goes around the world have been privileged to hear in such epic American films as Star Wars, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Sponge Bob Movie, the Wolf of Wall Street, and Trumbo to name a few. These incredibly talented American musicians have performed under the batons of such distinguished American internationally recognized composers and AFM members as John Williams, Clint Eastwood, Lennie Niehaus, and others.

The AFM also has a unique set of accomplishments on Capitol Hill, successfully representing musicians in the areas of performance rights, copyright, intellectual property, federal appropriations, immigration reform, Department of Transportation regulatory reform, Department of the Interior regulatory reform, as well as work in the area of tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, no other national instrumental music organization has the tenure and reach of the American Federation of Musicians having affected legislation and regulations that have helped more than one million professional musicians, students and amateur professionals create uniquely American music.

The AFM's longevity is so storied that the United States Department of Labor recognizes it as one of a few American labor organizations that has existed for more than 100 years and proudly displays a plaque in honor of that accomplishment in the corridors of the Department of Labor.

As a performing musician myself, I understand the nature of the music business and recognize that the work of the AFM has benefited more than its own members but has been a driving force in the advancement of America music recognized the world over as some of the most progressive and entertaining domestic product in great demand around the globe.

So, I ask members of congress to join with me in celebrating a unique American institution comprised of some of the best musicians recognized across the globe. Our hats are off to those who make American music great.