

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted No on Roll Call No. 222.

THE LANTOS FOUNDATION FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE'S
SOLIDARITY SABBATH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Lantos Foundation's second Solidarity Sabbath, which highlights the deplorable human rights violations committed by the People's Republic of China against its citizens who simply wish to openly and sincerely practice their respective faiths.

Many of us will attend worship services in the coming days and we will do so without fear of arrest, torture, or forced re-education. I hope that those of us attending services this weekend will take time to meditate and pray on the importance of religious freedom here at home and around the world. The human spirit is remarkably resilient. This resiliency is undoubtedly strengthened through religious faith and practice and cannot and will not be extinguished through the draconian state action we see taking place in China. Indeed, as I am sure the Chinese government is realizing, its draconian tactics to suppress and intimidate the religious faithful do not diminish the numbers of those seeking to practice their faith but rather multiplies their number exponentially.

Sadly, there are myriad cases of people of faith being harassed, intimidated, and arrested today in China. Indeed, Protestant, Catholic, Tibetan Buddhist, Uyghur Muslim, Falun Gong, and other religious minorities face such a reality every day. A recent survey of religious intimidation in China noted that Chinese officials oversaw the demolition of over thirty churches, the removal of more than four hundred crosses from houses of worship, and the detention of over three hundred worshipers with half of these people suffering injuries sustained during their arrests. It should be noted that this paints a picture for just one province in China; there are many similar stories across China where those seeking to simply practice their respective faiths are consistently harassed, detained, and injured for exercising a basic human right.

While we must certainly lend our support to the religious faithful in China as they strive to exercise their basic human right to worship where, when and what they so desire, we must also applaud and support the brave human rights lawyers in China who champion the rights of the religious faithful in the face of unthinkable intimidation as practiced by the Chinese government. These brave men and women have provided rule of law training to church members throughout China. Indeed, this past year these lawyers were able to conduct over one hundred trainings for over one

hundred thousand religious practitioners. This has resulted in these practitioners filing important administrative lawsuits against the government in an effort to quell the Chinese government's acts of religious persecution.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Lantos Foundation for its inspired work to bring light to the plight of the religious faithful in China. I will this weekend, as I always have and will continue to do, stand in solidarity with my brothers and sisters of faith in China. Their right to practice their religion is a fundamental right and it must be protected.

HONORING JENNY SHUNYAKOVA
ON BEING ACCEPTED BY THE
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE
PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCI-
ENTISTS AS A DELEGATE TO
THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE
MEDICAL LEADERS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laurel Springs High School student Jenny Shunyakova, of Springfield, Missouri, on her being accepted as a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.

The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is an honors-only program that is designed to motivate and direct the top students in the United States. Specifically, it's designed for students aspiring to become physicians or medical researchers, and provides a path and mentorship for students to accomplish their goals.

To be considered for acceptance as a delegate, applicants are either recommended by a teacher or member of the Academy based on a proven track record of academic excellence. Delegates represent all 50 states plus Puerto Rico, and must have a minimum 3.5 GPA. Students like Shunyakova who qualify for this incredibly selective honor exemplify top-tier diligence and academic talent.

Mr. Speaker, Jenny Shunyakova has not only excelled in her academic studies, but also shown a persistent interest in biology and other fields related to medical professions that will serve her future aspirations well. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her for this achievement. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I wish Jenny the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN AND JIM
WHIPPLE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Evelyn and Jim Whipple of Clarinda, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on April 22. They were married in 1951.

Evelyn and Jim's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies

Iowa values. It is because of Iowans like them that I'm proud to represent our great state.

I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE MS
GULF COAST 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Gulf Coast on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary.

In serving the citizens of Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District, I am proud to meet people of all kinds, especially young people who have their hopes and dreams still ahead of them. As part of their daily routine, they must decide what actions they will take that day which will, in turn, affect their future. The Boys & Girls Club of the Gulf Coast plays a vital role in shining a ray of hope into the lives of young people who may not see a bright future ahead of themselves.

Originally named the Biloxi Boys Club, the organization began in 1966, with the help of the Biloxi Jaycees, to serve 15 young men. Today, there are over 1,700 registered members, five locations, and a daily attendance of approximately 800 young men and women of the Gulf Coast region.

It is our responsibility, as a community, to invest in the lives of our future leaders. The Boys & Girls Club of the Gulf Coast strives to develop productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

The organization leads our community's efforts to improve academic success, healthy lifestyles, and good character in our young men and women. This is accomplished by offering our young people a safe and supportive place to go and by providing them with quality programs to teach responsibility, positive character development, sports, and academic progress, among other important aspects of leadership.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Gulf Coast is a valuable asset for our Coast children. Once again, I commend the Boys & Girls Club of the Gulf Coast as they mark the 50th anniversary of improving young lives along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SERGEANT
MICAH WELINTUKONIS UPON HIS
RETIREMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished military service of Army Sergeant Micah Welintukonis of Coventry, Connecticut who will retire on May 19, 2016 after 16 years and 5 months of active duty. Sgt Welintukonis' record reads like a history book of U.S. military action over the last

22 years. He served in Kosovo during his first stint of active duty in the 1990s. Later, as a member of the Connecticut National Guard he deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom, then served in Afghanistan where he was severely injured by a suicide bomb attack in 2012. During that time, he rose through the ranks to Sergeant and accumulated an impressive array of awards and medals, including the Purple Heart, Army Commendation with Valor, Combat Medic Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Commanding Generals Certificate of Merit, and the Coast Guard and United States Marine Corps Certificates of Appreciation.

At the time of his injury, he was a medic, certified at the highest levels and performed many life-saving missions with skill and care for the men and women he served with.

The first time I met Sgt. Welintukonis was under extraordinary circumstances. He had just arrived at Walter Reed Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland where he had flown in from Landstuhl Hospital in Germany, still suffering in agonizing pain from his life threatening abdominal injury. His amazing wife, Camilla, was at his bedside comforting him, but it was clear that his condition was very critical. Even though he was not aware of my presence, I had the opportunity to witness his incredible inner strength and ferocious will to live that carried him through that dark hour and a long and difficult recovery. With the support of his wife and family, Micah is healthy and ready to start a new chapter of his life.

Wherever he and his family go, one thing is sure. Micah will be a passionate advocate for American veterans and for a strong national defense. I know that because my email inbox has been bursting with messages, articles, and suggestions—sometimes sent in the middle of the night—about improving services for those who wear the uniform of our country. Today, he is active in veterans' service organizations such as the Connecticut American Legion, Special Operations Wounded Warriors, and as the Director of InTheLineOfDuty, a volunteer-run charity for First Responders.

In addition to that formal involvement he has organized fund raiser walk-a-thons, school visits, and national veterans media events to generate funds and awareness of the challenges America's veterans, in particular wounded veterans, confront every day.

America has been, and still is, lucky to have the tenacious, spirited, (sometimes a little grouchy) and high-quality contributions of Sgt. Micah Welintukonis over the last 22 years. Please join me in thanking him, his wife Camilla, and their children for all they have done for our nation and wish them well in all their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MR. E. DALE
WORTHAM

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the memory of a distinguished labor leader: Mr. E. Dale Wortham. Throughout Mr. Wortham's life, he held a variety of positions, including President of the Harris County Labor Assembly for over

20 years, Vice President/Organizer of Local 716, and as delegate at many national and state conventions. In these positions, he was on the front lines in the fight for a living wage and fair working conditions.

Mr. Wortham was not only a notable labor leader, but also served on the Harris County Board of Managers for the Harris Health System, earning the distinction of the body's longest-serving labor representative. Mr. Wortham will be especially remembered for his passion for helping people through the political process, especially working people.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to say farewell to a dear friend who is gone but not forgotten. He will be missed dearly by a multitude of family and friends. This family includes his children, Stephen Dale Wortham and Melinda Wortham; his sisters, Becky Rogers (George), Leslie Broussard (Jimmy), and Lisa Persky (Ronnie); as well as his brother, Jason Krieg.

TRIBUTE TO JANIS AND RUSTY
CREVELING

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Janis and Rusty Creveling of Manchester, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on March 17, 1966.

Rusty and Janis' lifelong commitment to each other, their children Ronda, Brian, and Holly, and their grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary may their commitment grow even stronger, and continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

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

IN MEMORY OF THE MEDAL OF
HONOR RECIPIENT UNITED
STATES NAVY SEAL PETTY OF-
FICER 2ND CLASS MICHAEL A.
MONSOOR

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this coming Memorial Day in memory and in gratitude to all of the magnificent heroes like Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael A. Monsoor. The ones who gave that last full measure in the name of freedom for their country and brothers in Arms. On April the 8th 2008, Michael was posthumously presented the Medal of Honor by President Bush at the White House for sacrificing himself by jumping on a grenade on September 29, 2006 for his fellow SEALs. On this Memorial Day let our thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family and all of those who have given their lives throughout the years in the name of freedom. I submit this poem penned in his honor by Albert C. Caswell.

THAT LAST FULL MEASURE

All in that moment between Life and Death
When, who lives or dies no less
When, courage comes to crest
As comes That Measure
That God-like Test
That Last Full Measure
Just All
Until, none lies left
As one of America's Best
Right between Life and Death
When, who lives or dies
So all upon us so rests
The greatest of all tests
As to one's soul expressed
When comes
That Last Full Measure
Of which now so Blesses
As when one looks into that Face of Death
And so valiantly vanquishes Evil's Quest
As When Come's,
That Last Full Measure
That Golden Test
All in that moment which lies
As all in ones soul comprised
Which, brings such tears to the Angels eyes
Up On High
All In That Last Full Measure
As they watch and cry
At this American Treasure
At The Greatest Gift of All
As how one's Life is Measured
To hear that most solemn call
Of Love and Devotion,
and Sacrifice
All in that moment of selflessness as so real-
ized
To do what is right
To carry that night
All in That Last Full Measure
All in that fight
With your gift
The Greatest of All
The one that our Lord so Treasure's
Is but that "That Last Full Measure"
A SEAL OF HONOR
The One who so endeavored
In that Gift Michael you so gave
All in that most splendid treasure Michael,
the Lives you so saved
Perhaps, one day a child will come
Who too all of us among
Will bless our world to come
This one
With such gifts of love you've begun
A Cure For Cancer
For our world's problems finding the answers
Or maybe too,
as you "That Last Full Measure"
And from all of this perhaps will come such
Treasures
From all of this such happiness begun
And yet such sadness for all of your love
ones
That we can not so Measure
Take heart,
as one day you will all be together again
All in Heaven's Sun embracing then
Because of you Michael
For what you've done
And your most magnificent endeavor
In what you gave America's Son
All in,
That Last Full Measure
In the moment of truth,
how you behaved my son
As to our Lord's heart,
you've brought such pleasure
SEAL,
your new battle has now begun
Mount Up
As Thy Will Be Done
As it's time to run
In the Army of Our Lord,
as you are now one
An Angel
An Angel on high Michael