Iowa area and the Cass County community. There is great work and service being accomplished every day at Rex Pharmacy. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them for their service. I wish Josh Borer and the entire staff the very best in all their future endeavors.

H. RES. 810 HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF ELIE WIESEL IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE, AND HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 810, recognizing and celebrating the life and important work of Elie Wiesel in promoting human rights, peace, and Holocaust remembrance.

As an author of at least 60 books, plays, and essays, Elie Wiesel enlightened his readers and taught them lessons of history concerning injustice, intolerance, and indifference, pulling from his personal experience as a Holocaust survivor to give a first person point of view of the horrors the faced by Holocaust victims.

From 1933 to 1945, two-thirds of the Jewish population living in Europe at the time of World War II were brutally murdered by Nazis during the Holocaust.

Families were torn apart; children were separated from their parents; babies were ripped from the arms of their mothers.

The Jewish community suffered incredible losses, losses that will never be remedied.

Elie Wiesel is a heroic survivor who lived to share his experiences of loss and tragedy.

He lost his father at Buchenwald and his younger sister and mother to a gas chamber at Auschwitz, but he and his two older sisters survived.

Following the liberation of the concentration camp, Wiesel moved to France and worked as a journalist, becoming a U.S. citizen in 1963.

His first and one of his best known works, "Night", was published in 1958 and has been translated into more than 30 different languages, allowing the story of his family's deportation to reach millions around the world.

In addition to his publications, Elie Wiesel was commissioned to chair the President's Commission on the Holocaust in 1978, and they recommended the creation of the Holocaust Museum.

Following this, Elie Wiesel worked as the Founding Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council and put forth incredible efforts for the United States Holocaust Museum to open its doors in 1993.

In his desire to fight indifference, intolerance, and injustice, Elie and his wife Marion Wiesel founded the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity.

Elie Wiesel was also passionate about teaching and served as a Visiting Scholar at Yale University and a professor at the City University of New York and Boston University, striving to provide insight and knowledge among students.

Elie Wiesel has been honored in many ways by receiving a variety of awards, such as the Nobel Peace Prize, Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States Congressional Gold Medal, the National Humanities Medal, the Medal of Liberty, the rank of Grand-Croix in the French Legion of Honor, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Award.

Elie Wiesel's passing on July 2, 2016 is saddening, but the legacy he leaves is one of honor, justice, and determination.

Elie Wiesel left behind a voice for the voiceless, ensuring the promotion of peace and tolerance and the fight against indifference, intolerance, and genocide.

This man was an inspiration, and though he may be gone, his light and impact remains.

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family members of Elie Wiesel who feel this heartbreak more than any other.

We promise to keep Elie Wiesel's memory alive; to prevent the recurrence of another Holocaust; and, ultimately, to never forget the lessons we as a people have learned from history and from Elie Wiesel.

64TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST: PART ONE

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, February 4, 2016 I had the privilege of co-chairing the 64th Annual National Prayer Breakfast with Representative JUAN VARGAS. I would like to submit Part One of the transcript:

64TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST: PART ONE

U.S. Representative Juan Vargas: Jesus once said, that when we lift up his name, it would draw a crowd, and wow, it worked. Look at this group, unbelievable. What a miracle you are here this morning—elected and appointed officials, religious leaders, business leaders, entertainers, athletes, farmers, sons, and daughters, moms and dads, folks from all 50 states, and from more than 140 countries.

U.S. Representative Robert Aderholt: We are not here this morning to see a show, or to watch a ball game, or to participate in a political rally. Each and every one of us are here this morning with a single focused reason, and that is to pray. And what a holy moment it is, for not only Washington but also the entire world. We could not be more different. The thousands of you who have gathered here this morning, you know—just look around, everyone is different. But what we are seeking and what we are asking God to do is to bring us together in unity. Not just for today, but also for the days ahead, and not just for us that are in this room and that are hearing this message this morning, but for the entire world.

Rep. Vargas: Now, to gather our hearts and point us in the right direction, I am honored to introduce Major General Julie Bentz, to offer our opening prayer. Her important job at the Pentagon, is figuring out how to protect American soldiers who are in harm's way around the world from so called improvised attacks. She is also part of a small group of members of the military who meet regularly to focus on the teachings of Jesus, General Bentz.

Major General Julie Bentz: Jesus, here we are gathered in your name from across this nation, in all corners of the earth, here to learn how to pray together, with and for one another. You ask all of us who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, to come to you and find rest. You ask us to learn from you, who are gentle and humble of heart. You show us, our Heavenly Father, not only as holy and just, but also as good, loving, and merciful, full of tenderness and kindness. And so we have the courage to stand in the presence of Holy God and pray for a miracle of unity across borders, boundaries, and beliefs. We ask you, Father, to look favorably on those you have placed in our care, and on those who have elected us to our current positions. I ask specifically for your grace on behalf of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, coasties, and marines, our commander in chief, and all those in authority over us. In this year of mercy, Lord God, let us discover your generous love, and be transformed into patient, tolerant, and tender leaders. Enter into our actions, oh God. Remove our fear of suffering, our fear of humiliation, and our fear of failure. Lord, I acknowledge before you and before those present here, that I have failed, in my thoughts, in my words, and in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do, but I trust in your limitless mercy. You shower me and each one of us here abundantly with your goodness. Oh God, Heavenly Father, holy is your name. Your children yearn for your kingdom and pray that your will be done. We thank you for our daily sustenance, for forgiving us as we forgive others, you who direct our paths, and secure us from evil. Pour out your Spirit on us today, and in so doing, renew the face of the earth. Amen.

Rep. Aderholt: Well thank you so much General Julie, I like the sound of that. The President of the United States is on his way, and the First Lady, so at this time, please enjoy your conversation and your breakfast.

Speaker introducing the president: Ladies and Gentlemen, the President of the United States and Mrs. Michelle Obama.

Rep. Aderholt: We want to get started this morning. We have a great lineup here this morning at our head table, and we are excited that everyone is here. I am Representative Robert Aderholt from the state of Alabama, and I am privileged to be here with my co-chair for this event, my new best friend, Juan Vargas from the state of California.

Just so you know, over the past 13 months we have been praying, and we have been working, and we have been praying some more about what happens over the next 75 minutes. We prayed this head table together. We have prayed for you who are here in this ball room, for those that are in the overflow room—which are probably enjoying an even better breakfast than we are having. Some are out there watching it on a computer screen monitor, some are watching it by television. We pray for everyone that is listening, or that is in our presence, because we believe that Jesus and his reconciling power of prayer is so desperately needed these days. So thank you for showing up and for your prayers. Here is the most obvious thing that you will hear—and that is we all need all the help we can get.

I would like to introduce my co-chair, Congressman Juan Vargas. He served in the jungles of El Salvador as a Jesuit missionary, and now he serves in the jungles of the House of Representatives. He grew up on a chicken ranch, and quite honestly, that is a high qualification for government service in my district. He brings great joy and passion to his new responsibilities in the House of Representatives, and I wish all of you could just spend a couple of hours with him.

What is so maddening about the place where we work is that there is so much division and it prevents us from appreciating each other, and from understanding the wonderful strengths that 435 unique individuals

have that we all work with. And if you are not all from around here, you might not know that Juan is a progressive Democrat and that I am a conservative Republican. Our voting records are probably about as similar as our hairstyles. But I love him, and I know he loves me because we share a common friend in Jesus. Juan, thank you.

Rep. Vargas: Thank you. That is so true, I do love Robert and I appreciate it, but compared to Robert, I just got here. He has served 20 years in the House, which seems like 90 dog years I think, quite some time. Prior to coming here, he was a judge and I bet he was a great one. He is good at seeing things from all sides and all angles, and it is really a rare gift. I represent Southern California, and he represents northern Alabama. These places are very different according to most demographics, but they are alike in that they are both full of folks with really a very deep faith.

One of the landmarks of Robert's district is a beautiful 60 foot high sandstone bridge, called Natural Bridge, and like that bridge, Robert is able to connect people. He brings people together to get work done for America. Robert and I have the responsibility of facilitating a weekly prayer group of members of the House. The House has had such a group for over 50 years now. This group includes Republicans, Democrats, older members, younger members, women, and men and folks from different faith traditions. We have much yet to accomplish, but we are making progress by coming together in unity around Jesus. This morning's event is simply a big, public version of what we do intimately and privately every week that the House is in session. We hope we all make progress here today as well.

One idea we would like to plant in your minds this morning is, despite our very busy schedules and all our differences, we make time to come together every week and pray. Could you do that in your city, your workplace, your mission in life? If a lefty Chicano from California and a conservative judge from Alabama can do it, why can't you?

Rep. Aderholt: Now I would like to introduce to you those who will be leading this morning, and if you could, please hold your applause until I introduce the entire head table. Way down to my right is the hero of Alabama, Heisman Trophy winner, Derrick Henry of the University of Alabama, the national champion University of Alabama. Roll tide. He has got some big shoulders, so we have asked him to carry us all the way through the program this morning—he is going to finish with our closing prayer. You have already met Major General Bentz—thank you for being here. Next, we have our counterparts from that other chamber in the Capitol that are here with us, Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia, and Senator John Boozman of Arkansas—they will be sharing greetings from the Senate group just shortly. And you should know that in about an hour, they will start working on the 2017 breakfast; gentlemen, thank you for your leadership and as we hand the torch over to you in a few minutes.

Rep. Vargas: Most important to me, I would like to introduce my beautiful wife of 25 years, Adrianne Vargas. Honey, you truly are a gift from God to me and I love you very much. Next is a distinguished member of the President's cabinet, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, which he has dubbed the Department of Opportunity. Prior to federal service, he was mayor of San Antonio, Texas. Secretary Julian Castro will be offering a prayer for unity and the needs of the poor. Next is the First Lady, Michelle Obama. And it is impossible to hold your applause for her, it really is. We love her. First Lady Michelle Obama is a lawyer, a writer, and the wife of the 44th and current president, President Barack Obama. She is the first African American First Lady of the United States and is a role model and an advocate for poverty awareness, higher education and healthy living.

Rep. Aderholt: Continuing down the table is our brand new Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan of Wisconsin. We haven't cut the tags off of him yet, he is so new. And he is a great colleague with a lot of energy. He has a lot of knowledge, and he has a lot of faith, and we are honored to have him with us while he is still fresh. Sitting next to him is Democrat Leader and former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi of California. She has been a strong and gracious force on so many issues during her time serving in Congress, and she will offer a reading from Scripture. Next to her is my dear wife and best friend, Caroline Aderholt. We have been blessed by trying to put God in the center of our relationship each day, and so I appreciate her being here and her support through all of this. And by the way, Adrienne, Juan's wife, and Caroline informed Juan and myself that this does not count as a date.

Rep. Vargas: We tried. Next, our keynote speakers who will be introduced in a little bit. Next is the Honorable Judge Robert R. Rigsby of the District of Columbia Superior Court. He has served our nation in so many ways, including service in the United States Army for 34 years. His service makes him the first District Judge ever deployed to a theater of War. Robert and I are blessed to have Judge Rigsby as a member of the weekly prayer group. He will offer a prayer for national leaders. Next is the distinguished Rabbi Jack Bemporad. He is a great hero of ours because he has done about as much as anyone alive to try to bring people together, of all the world's great religious traditions to find common ground. He will offer a reading from the Scriptures.

Rep. Aderholt: Quite a group, isn't it? Thank you all for being here and for leading us this morning.

Rep. Vargas: And finally, I would like to introduce a returning favorite artist to the Prayer Breakfast, Andrea Bocelli. Andrea Bocelli's voice and spirit has lifted hearts and souls all around the world. We are pleased to share his gifts with you this morning as he sings Panis Angelicus, 'Heavenly Bread'. He will be singing in Italian but listen to his words in English, they go like this: ''Heavenly bread that becomes the bread of all mankind; bread from the angelic host that is the end of all imaginations and images. Oh miraculous thing, this body of God will nourish even the poorest, the most humble of servants, even the poorest, the most humble of servants. Amen.'' To share a few remarks and a song, please again welcome Mr. Andrea Bocelli.

[Mr. Bocelli sings Panis Angelicus]

U.S. Senator John Boozman: I am John Boozman from Arkansas, and I can promise you one thing—next year when Tim and I are running the show, we won't be following that; simply remarkable. How does anyone do that? It really is a pleasure to be with you all, and to be with my colleague, Senator Tim Kaine. I greatly appreciate his friendship and have had the pleasure of working with him this last year as co-chair of the Senate prayer breakfast. As the fellows who are going to put this event on next year, together we realize that we are a part of a very, very long, great tradition. It is humbling to think that the Prayer Breakfast that we are a part of has been meeting longer than either of us has been alive—and in my case that has been a while. It is exciting to think also that it will be going on a long time after we are gone. We meet, we pray, we have personal prayer requests. Someone shares their testimony or spiritual thought. Who would believe that an hour of fellowship per week centered on the teachings of Jesus could make such a difference? It is not logical; it is a matter of the heart. So I would encourage all of you as you go back to your communities, as you go back to the different countries that are represented here, to start a prayer breakfast. The example that we have today, the example that we have every week in the House and the Senate—that is how you change hearts, that is how you change the world.

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine: Good morning. What a wonderful occasion. It is truly good to be here with my friend, John Boozman. When I was young, I spent part of 1980 and 1981 living with Jesuit missionaries in a small community in Honduras. I learned from that experience the power of a small group in advancing your spiritual life. And it has been my blessing to have opportunities since—in my parish in Richmond, with a group of legislators when I was Lieutenant Governor and Governor and now in the Senate working with John Boozman and my other friends in the Senate and the Senate prayer breakfast tradition. We are here in a very, very large room and there is greatness in a large room, but I think a lot of us are here because there is greatness in small rooms, and small groups. And so like John, I would encourage you to advance your spiritual life by joining a small group that focuses on spiritual fellowship.

And now a word of introduction, when I came to the Senate in January 2013, within nine months the government of the United States shut down. Because I am Catholic, I was tempted to blame myself. When the government re-opened, we had a hard task on our shoulders, which was that Congress was charged with finding a budget deal by the end of the calendar year. And I am on the budget committee; and I got to watch my chair woman, my great friend, Senator Patty Murray work with the then House budget chair, Paul Ryan. I came to know, in that work by observation, Paul is a person of strong principle, a person who knows that the American people send us here not to express our opinions louder than the next person but to be principled, but also respect and work with the principles of others, and we found a deal that enabled us to move forward.

I want to offer a prayer for the Speaker, from a letter of Paul, a letter to the Galatians: ''And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season, we will reap if we do not give up.'' Ladies and gentlemen, the Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan.

U.S. Representative Paul Ryan: That was quite nice. Thank you very much. First of all, I want to express my gratitude to my friends, Robert Aderholt and Juan Vargas for hosting us here today. Thank you. Thank you for what you have done. And I want to applaud their work to raise awareness of the plight of the persecuted Christians around the world. I also want to welcome all of you to Washington. You could not have come here for a better reason. This breakfast is a national tradition because prayer is a part of our national heritage. It goes all the way back to the Declaration of Independence. We believe that our rights come from God, and our job as office holders is to protect those rights. So it is only natural that we should ask for His guidance as we seek to do His will. I have noticed a growing impatience though with prayer in our culture these days. You see it in the papers, or you see it on Twitter. When people say ''We are praying for someone or something,'' the attitude in some quarters these days, is ''Don't just pray, do something about it.'' The thing is,

when you are praying, you are doing something about it.

You are revealing the presence of God. Whenever people are in grief, or even when they are about to start some great undertaking, they feel the worst pain of all. They feel alone. How am I going to get through this? Why is this happening to me? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? That is why there is nothing more comforting, or more humbling really than to hear someone say, ''I am praying for you.'' Because when you hear that, you realize you are not alone—God is there. And hundreds, if not thousands, if not millions of people are all speaking to Him on your behalf. They are not praying for some abstract notion, they are praying for you, the person. You know it says a lot about our country, that people of both parties and of all faiths will drop everything and pray for their fellow Americans. What it says is ''We believe in the dignity of the individual, of the human person,'' and that is why prayer should always come first. All Americans believe this; but as Christians, we can especially appreciate this truth. We believe in Jesus Christ. We believe God came down from heaven and became a man with a name and a body so that we could know him, we could begin to understand. He walked among the poor and the lowly of this world so that he could raise us to new heights in the next. It is a miracle. It inspires us every single day, and that is why we should rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in all circumstances, give thanks. Thank you, and welcome.

64TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST: PART FOUR

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, February 4, 2016 I had the privilege of attending the 64th Annual National Prayer Breakfast chaired by Representatives ROBERT ADERHOLT and JUAN VARGAS. I would like to submit Part Four of the transcript:

64TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST: PART FOUR

The President: Thank you so much. Thank you. You're very kind. Thank you very much. Well, good morning. Giving all praise and honor to God for bringing us together here this morning.

I want to thank everyone who helped organize this breakfast, especially our co-chairs, Robert and Juan, who embody the tradition of friendship, fellowship, and prayer. I will begin with a confession: I have always felt a tinge of guilt motorcading up here at the heart of D.C.'s rush hour. I suspect that not all the commuters were blessing me as they waited to get to work. But it's for a good cause. A National Prayer Brunch doesn't have the same ring to it.

And Michelle and I are extremely honored, as always, to be with so many friends, with members of Congress, with faith leaders from across the country and around the world, to be with the Speaker, the Leader. I want thank Mark and Roma for their friendship and their extraordinary story, and sharing those inspiring words. Andrea, for sharing his remarkable gifts.

And on this occasion, I always enjoy reflecting on a piece of scripture that's been meaningful to me or otherwise sustained me throughout the year. And lately, I've been thinking and praying on a verse from Second Timothy: ''For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.'' For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

We live in extraordinary times. Times of extraordinary change. We're surrounded by tectonic shifts in technology and in our economy; by destructive conflict, disruptions to our environment. And it all reshapes the way we work and the way we live. It's all amplified by a media that is unceasing, and that feeds 24/7 on our ever-shrinking attention spans.

And as a student of history, I often remind people that the challenges that we face are not unique; that in fact, the threats of previous eras—civil war or world war or cold war, depressions or famines—those challenges put our own in perspective. Moreover, I believe that our unique strengths as a nation make us better equipped than others to harness this change to work for us, rather than against us.

And yet, the sheer rapidity of change, and the uncertainty that it brings, is real. The hardship of a family trying to make ends meet. Refugees fleeing from a war-torn home. Those things are real. Terrorism, eroding shorelines—those things are real. Even the very progress that humanity has made, the affluence, the stability that so many of us enjoy, far greater prosperity than any previous generation of humanity has experienced, shines a brighter light on those who still struggle, reveal the gap in prospects that exist for the children of the world.

And that gap between want and plenty, it gives us vertigo. It can make us afraid, not only of the possibility that progress will stall, but that maybe we have more to lose. And fear does funny things. Fear can lead us to lash out against those who are different, or lead us to try to get some sinister ''other'' under control. Alternatively, fear can lead us to succumb to despair, or paralysis, or cynicism. Fear can feed our most selfish impulses, and erode the bonds of community.

It is a primal emotion—fear—one that we all experience. And it can be contagious, spreading through societies, and through nations. And if we let it consume us, the consequences of that fear can be worse than any outward threat.

For me, and I know for so many of you, faith is the great cure for fear. Jesus is a good cure for fear. God gives believers the power, the love, the sound mind required to conquer any fear. And what more important moment for that faith than right now? What better time than these changing, tumultuous times to have Jesus standing beside us, steadying our minds, cleansing our hearts, pointing us towards what matters.

His love gives us the power to resist fear's temptations. He gives us the courage to reach out to others across that divide, rather than push people away. He gives us the courage to go against the conventional wisdom and stand up for what's right, even when it's not popular. To stand up not just to our enemies but, sometimes, to stand up to our friends. He gives us the fortitude to sacrifice ourselves for a larger cause. Or to make tough decisions knowing that we can only do our best. Less of me, more of God. And then, to have the courage to admit our failings and our sins while pledging to learn from our mistakes and to try to do better.

Certainly, during the course of this enormous privilege to have served as the President of the United States, that's what faith has done for me. It helps me deal with the common, everyday fears that we all share. The main one I'm feeling right now is that our children grow up too fast. They're leaving. That's a tough deal. And so, as a parent, you're worrying about will some harm befall them, how are they going to manage without you, did you miss some central moment in their lives. Will they call? Or text? Each day, we're fearful that God's purpose becomes elusive, cloudy. We try to figure out how we fit into his broader plan. They're universal fears that we have, and my faith helps me to manage those.

And then my faith helps me to deal with some of the unique elements of my job. As one of the great departed heroes of our age, Nelson Mandela, once said, ''I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. . . The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.''

And certainly, there are times where I've had to repeat that to myself while holding this office. When you hear from a parade of experts, just days after you're elected, that another Great Depression is a very real possibility—that will get your attention. When you tell a room full of young cadets that you've made a decision to send them into harm's way, knowing that some of them might not return safely—that's sobering. When you hold in your arms the mothers and fathers of innocent children gunned down in their classroom—that reminds you there's evil in the world. And so you come to understand what President Lincoln meant when he said that he'd been driven to his knees by the overwhelming conviction that he had no place else to go.

And so like every President, like every leader, like every person, I've known fear. But my faith tells me that I need not fear death; that the acceptance of Christ promises everlasting life and the washing away of sins. If Scripture instructs me to ''put on the full armor of God'' so that when trouble comes, I'm able to stand, then surely I can face down these temporal setbacks, surely I can battle back doubts, surely I can rouse myself to action.

And should that faith waver, should I lose my way, I have drawn strength not only from a remarkable wife, not only from incredible colleagues and friends, but I have drawn strength from witnessing all across this country and all around this world, good people, of all faiths, who do the Lord's work each and every day, who wield that power and love, and sound mind to feed the hungry and heal the sick, to teach our children and welcome the stranger.

Think about the extraordinary work of the congregations and faith communities represented here today. Whether fighting global poverty or working to end the scourge of human trafficking, you are the leaders of what Pope Francis calls ''this march of living hope.''

When the Earth cleaves in Haiti, Christians, Sikhs, and other faith groups sent volunteers to distribute aid, tend to the wounded, rebuild homes for the homeless.

When Ebola ravaged West Africa, Jewish, Christian, Muslim groups responded to the outbreak to save lives. And as the news fanned the flames of fear, churches and mosques responded with a powerful rebuke, welcoming survivors into their pews.

When nine worshippers were murdered in a Charleston church basement, it was people of all faiths who came together to wrap a shattered community in love and understanding.

When Syrian refugees seek the sanctuary of our shores, it's the faithful from synagogues, mosques, temples, and churches who welcome them, the first to offer blankets and food and open their homes. Even now, people of different faiths and beliefs are coming together to help people suffering in Flint.

And then there's the most—less spectacular, more quiet efforts of congregations all across this country just helping people. Seeing God in others. And we're driven to do this because we're driven by the value that