

United States Air Force. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing him all of the best.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN HONDURAS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern about the steady deterioration of human rights in Honduras since the June 2009 coup d'état. In recent months, attacks against journalists; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) advocates; land rights activists and other vulnerable communities have increased. I want to draw particular attention to a few tragic deaths that occurred just this month: on May 1st, Santos Alberto Dominguez, a member of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations (COPINH), was murdered. On May 8th, Erick Martinez, a well-known LGBTI activist, was found dead in a gutter. And on May 9th, Alfredo Villatoro—a popular radio show host—was kidnapped on his way to work and has not been heard from since.

These deaths come amidst numerous reports of abuses committed by Honduran security forces. And yet the vast majority of these abuses as well as Mr. Dominguez and Mr. Martinez's deaths have yet to be investigated and prosecuted. I have repeatedly requested that all U.S. assistance to Honduran police and military forces be suspended as long as Honduran authorities fail to investigate and prosecute these abuses. It is a travesty that U.S. taxpayers dollars are bolstering abusive security forces.

But while the situation in Honduras continues to deteriorate, I am encouraged by the important work of Honduran human rights organizations. These groups are on the frontlines of justice, documenting human rights abuses and offering the support and legal representation that the Honduran state fails to provide. Yet these organizations are receiving threats of sexual violence—particularly targeted at female human rights workers—and death threats without any form of effective protection from the Honduran authorities. There has also been a troubling escalation of threats against international human rights accompaniers. All of these threats must be immediately investigated, and the individuals and groups that are behind them must be brought to justice.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to support human rights in Honduras. The people of Honduras deserve their rights. They deserve their freedoms. And they deserve peace. They have suffered too much. Justice cannot wait a moment longer.

THE COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5326, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2013. While there have been several amendments that have improved the bill, including the increase in COPS funding, I still cannot support the measure in its current form.

One program that is particularly hard hit by this bill and is important for many of my constituents, and citizens across the country, is the Legal Services Corporation. The Legal Services Corporation is the largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans, and makes aid available to some 60 million people nationwide. Once again, the Republican majority is proposing to cut millions of dollars from its budget, and leave thousands of the poorest among us underserved just when they need help the most.

The mission of the Legal Services Corporation is to provide at-risk citizens like the elderly, veterans, and single mothers with legal assistance when they need help from a trained lawyer or paralegal. The people we are talking about helping are mothers trying to protect their children from an abusive spouse; senior citizens trying to prevent their homes from being foreclosed on; and veterans trying to secure the benefits they are entitled to.

The economic downturn and the collapse of the housing market left many of our families in greater need of legal aid than ever before. We must make sure that access to well-trained legal assistance is not only available to wealthy Americans who can pay for it out of pocket, but also to the least among us.

In Connecticut, the cuts to funding will probably mean another round of layoffs in addition to the cuts the program was already forced to make last year. This will again decrease the number of trained staff available to handle calls when citizens who are confused and intimidated by the legal system reach out for help. Millions of dollars in additional cuts will mean that tens of thousands of calls from people seeking advice will go unanswered, and thousands of ongoing cases will remain unresolved.

Mr. Chair, for this reason, and for several others, I have decided that I cannot support this bill in its current form and hope that through negotiations we are able to find some way of rolling back these destructive cuts to a successful, longstanding program that benefits millions of our fellow Americans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY COLONEL CHANDLER C. (SKIP) SHERRELL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor U.S. Army Colonel Chandler C. (Skip) Sherrell who is retiring after 26 years of service to our nation as an Army Aviation Officer. During his distinguished career, COL Sherrell served the nation in peace and war in

numerous positions of steadily increasing responsibility. COL Sherrell has led soldiers in combat, trained soldiers for war, and served as an advisor and assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA), and as a DoD Fellow to the United States Congress. He has served his Nation in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Germany, and Korea, as well as in demanding assignments in the United States. His decorations for his service include awards for valor. He is an outstanding Army aviator, leader, and soldier, and he is deserving of our recognition.

COL Skip Sherrell concluded an outstanding career by serving for two years as the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Aviation & Missile Life Cycle Management Command (AMCOM). He brought a wealth of expertise in aviation operations to the AMCOM Command Group. Prior to joining AMCOM, COL Sherrell performed one of the most demanding and critical assignments of his career, serving as the Commander of Task Force (TF) 49. TF 49 was the Army's designation for a composite Aviation Brigade, formed from many units to perform combat operations in Iraq. In twelve months of intensive flying in multiple locations across Iraq, COL Sherrell led TF 49 to complete mission success with an impressive safety record—an outstanding achievement.

COL Sherrell served in a role that few Army officers experience: working as the Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS). Serving as a liaison to Congress as the personal representative of the CJCS is an important position, but more importantly, he also served as a soldier's advocate on Capitol Hill for equipment modernization and improved systems and protection.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring COL Chandler C. (Skip) Sherrell's exceptional service, dedication and devotion to duty, leadership, and professional competency. He exemplifies the fine tradition of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Department of the Army, and the United States of America. May he know that his nation is greatly appreciative of his dedication, and wishes him the best in all his future endeavors.

JUANITA WILLIAMS—100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, two years ago I had the privilege to be on the House floor to bring tribute to a wonderful woman, Mrs. Juanita Worsley Williams, to acknowledge and celebrate her 98th birthday. I come again today to honor this lady on her 100th birthday on May 18, 2012.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, there are many, many older Americans to celebrate, but this lady is special to me because she was with her husband, Dr. Williams, when he delivered me 69 years ago.

My father, the late Congressman Walter Jones, Sr., and my mother were very close with Mrs. Williams and her husband. My sister

and I were close friends with the Williams children as we grew up. In a small town like Farmville, NC, everyone knows each other and my unique relationship with the Williams family has always been very special to me.

On the 19th of May, Mrs. Williams' family and friends will attend her birthday celebration. It will be a celebration of the 100 years of a lady with a strong religious faith who loves her family and community.

What Juanita Williams has given to the Town of Farmville is hard to measure, but her deeds speak for themselves: church service, Girl Scouts, Daughters of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution, Meals on Wheels, and much more.

This is a lady who gives more than she receives. Thank God for Mrs. Juanita Williams and may He continue to bless her, her family and these United States.

RECOGNIZING VICE ADMIRAL
SALLY BRICE-O'HARA

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader for her extraordinary service in the United States Coast Guard. Vice Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara served our nation for nearly 38 years, and on May 18, she will retire as Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard. We all owe her a debt of gratitude for her tremendous commitment to service and to our country.

As the 27th Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara not only led over 57,000 active-duty, reserve and civilian members and 30,000 Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers in executing all of the Coast Guard's maritime life-saving, law enforcement, environmental protection, ports and waterways security, and national defense operations world-wide, but she also served as the Chief Acquisition Executive responsible for guiding the Coast Guard through its critical, multi-billion dollar recapitalization program. Her leadership in driving the Service toward achieving the highest standards of professional conduct and competency, fiscal stewardship and public accountability led to the Coast Guard's first-ever qualified audit opinion, significant improvements in management of the Coast Guard's deployable specialized forces, and the implementation of numerous Service-wide aviation safety and training enhancements.

Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara's experience, foresight and commitment to serving her fellow Coast Guard men and women and the people of the United States can be seen in the many accomplishments she achieved throughout her service in the Coast Guard's most important and impactful leadership positions. As Deputy Commandant for Operations, Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara implemented vital improvements to the Service's operations and mission support execution and coordination through their modernization and stabilization programs; the most significant organizational change initiatives in the Service's history. As Commander of the Fourteenth District, Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara directed all Coast Guard operations in the Central Pacific encompassing an area of over 12 million square miles. Responsible for

protecting U.S. economic and sovereign interests in this vital region, Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara ensured the security of our exclusive economic zones, protected our natural resources, and represented U.S. interests to our international partners as the Deputy Commander for East Asia-Pacific Engagement. Her other Flag Officer assignments include Director of Reserve and Training where she developed Coast Guard-wide recruiting, training and management of over 12,000 Coast Guard Ready Reservists, and oversaw all Coast Guard training facilities; and Director of Personnel Management, where she administered Coast Guard-wide human resource and workforce development programs.

Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara has also served in numerous command positions around the country including several which have had a direct and vital impact on the residents of Southern New Jersey and my Congressional District. As commander of the Fifth Coast Guard District, she directed Coast Guard operations along the mid-Atlantic and was responsible for protecting some of our Nation's most important economic sea ports and military infrastructure. She also oversaw response to the ATHOS I oil spill, the largest oil spill ever to affect the East Coast. Her dedicated leadership helped the Delaware Bay region recover quickly and avoid a lasting negative impact on the regions economy and Bay's sensitive ecosystem. She also served as Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard's only Recruit Training Command in Cape May, New Jersey where she ably prepared recruits for service in the Coast Guard. Finally, she served as Commanding Officer of the Cape May Boat Station, where she oversaw the safety and security of South Jersey's waterways and the search and rescue of hundreds of individuals.

The conduct and leadership of Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara's has been exemplary. She has been awarded the Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, five awards of the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, six awards of the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and the Commandant's Letter of Commendation.

A native of Annapolis, Maryland, she graduated from Goucher College in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and received her Coast Guard commission from Officer Candidate School in 1975. She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, where she was named a Littauer Fellow, and a Master of Science Degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College. Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara and her husband Robert O'Hara, a retired Coast Guard officer, have two adult sons, Robert and Brice.

Both as the Chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee and as a grateful citizen, I am honored today to recognize the extraordinary career and distinguished service of Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank her for her and her family's sacrifices over the past 37 years, and I wish her well as she retires from the Coast Guard.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 568, a resolution emphasizing the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. I have long held that the United States should make every effort to stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and this resolution is consistent with that belief. Allowing them to do so would needlessly create instability in the region, potentially spark a nuclear arms race, and would threaten our ally Israel. As someone who has consistently defended the security of Israel, such an outcome would be unacceptable.

I applaud President Obama for taking a strong and decisive stand on this important issue. H. Res 568 recognizes the President's March 31, 2010 statement that the "consequences of a nuclear-armed Iran are unacceptable," and I wholeheartedly agree. That being said, we should give diplomacy and tough economic sanctions every chance to succeed in dealing with Iran. As I have said in the past, the consequences of rushing to war are grave and should be made with all due consideration. I have high hopes for the talks that the international community is holding with Iran at the end of the month, and look forward to seeing the result. The whole world is indeed watching.

HONORING PASTOR J.S. HOPKINS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 2, 2012 Dr. J.S. Hopkins is being honored for a lifetime of devotion to the Lord and his 52 years of service as Pastor to the spiritual community of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Flint, Michigan.

Dr. Hopkins was born on December 19, 1922 in Flora, Mississippi. He accepted Christ as his personal savior and was baptized on September 19, 1937. From 1942 to 1946 he served in the armed forces of the United States and in 1946, the year he was honorably discharged, he married Miss Lureatha Outland. The couple are proud parents of seven children. It was also in 1946 that Dr. Hopkins was crowned a church deacon and shortly afterward the couple moved to Michigan and Rev. Hopkins went to work for General Motors. He retired from GM in 1978 after 30 years of dedicated service.

After moving to Flint, Dr. Hopkins joined New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, serving on the Deacon Board. In 1957, the Hopkins moved their membership to True Light Missionary Baptist Church and within a year he