

Conservation League. John facilitated each retirement from start to finish. He worked with multiple people and agencies and exhibited great professional skill and patience in getting each retirement completed. His outstanding work with various parties under short deadlines was critical to the success of this program.

I also want to thank the ranching families on the East Fork of the Salmon River. They are great people, who with their past generations, have made significant contributions to the region and to our country. When we first met together 17 years ago they told me their concerns and we came up with an idea of how we might go forward. They put their trust in me and I believe we came up with a plan to give them an opportunity to help put them in a better place. It has been a pleasure and honor to work with each family and I can proudly say that I believe the promises we made have been kept.

I would also like to recognize the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for their assistance in processing the retirements. In particular, I want to thank Kit Mullen, Sawtooth National Forest Supervisor; Kirk Flannigan, Sawtooth National Recreation Area Ranger; Andrea Cox, Supervisor Rangeland Management Specialist, Sawtooth National Forest; Ed Cannady, Recreation Manager, Sawtooth National Forest; Chuck Mark, Salmon-Challis National Forest Supervisor; Kurt Pindel, Challis-Yankee Fork District Ranger; Faith Ryan, Range and Weeds Program Lead, Salmon-Challis National Forest; Tim Murphy, BLM State Director (retired); and Todd Kuck, Field Manager, BLM Challis Field Office. They each did great work and we could not have completed the retirements without them.

Finally, I would like to note that without this voluntary grazing retirement program, the Boulder-White Clouds and Jerry Peak wilderness bills would never have become law. The program was a lynchpin to the compromise that allowed us to protect one of the most pristine areas of Idaho. It seems apparent that the cost of the program was small in comparison to the benefits that future generations will receive when they enjoy the remarkable beauty and serenity of the Boulder-White Clouds and Jerry Peak. We all owe a great deal of thanks to those who provided the resources for the program and to the ranchers who put their trust in allowing it to go forward.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GEORGE  
DAVID JONES, II

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN  
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, January 10, 2018*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of George David Jones, II. David was a resident of the First District of Virginia and my hometown, Montross. David was a self-employed farmer who served the community as a member of the Westmoreland County Volunteer Fire Department. Additionally, David was a member of the Westmoreland Hunt Club, Virginia Dog Hunting Alliance, Pantico Run Hunt Club, and Eastern Virginia Young Farmers Association.

I had the pleasure of knowing David for many years and was a witness to his dedica-

tion to his family and community. David is survived by his partner, Alexandra Jones; sons, George David Jones, III and Jeffrey Flynn Jones. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you extend your thoughts and prayers to David's family and friends as they mourn the loss of their loved one. I pray that God is with David's family and friends during this difficult time.

SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF THE  
PEOPLE OF IRAN TO FREE EX-  
PRESSION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my continued support for the people of Iran and continued support for freedom of speech as it is encapsulated in H. Res. 676, a resolution supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression and condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests.

On Sunday, January 7, 2018, I stood in protest with Iranian-Americans on the streets of Houston to take a stand for human rights in Iran.

At that event, I stated "It is time for freedom to take over" and I stand by that statement here in Congress and add that separation of church and state is essential for a free and democratic Iran.

On December 28, 2017, popular protests against the Iranian regime began in the city of Mashad and rapidly spread throughout the country, in the most significant antigovernment protests in Iran since June 2009.

The protesters have expressed numerous economic grievances, including the regime's widespread corruption and the Revolutionary Guard Corps' control of the country's economy.

Protesters have decried the regime's costly, destabilizing activities abroad, including its support for terrorist groups such as Hezbollah and the murderous Assad regime in Syria.

Reports indicate that more than 1,000 Iranians have been arrested and almost two dozen killed in connection with the protests.

The Iranian regime has shut down mobile internet access and has blocked and pressured companies to cut off social media applications used by activists to organize and publicize the protests.

Congress has provided authority to license the provision of communications technology to Iran to improve the ability of the Iranian people to speak freely.

I encourage the Administration to expedite the license of communications technology to Iran to improve the ability of the Iranian people to speak freely and I call on companies to reject requests by the regime to cut off the Iranian people from social media and other communications platforms.

On January 1, 2018, regime officials threatened to crack down, with Brigadier General Esmail Kowsari of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps stating, "If this situation continues, the officials will definitely make some decisions and at that point this business will be finished."

Congress has provided authority to designate and sanction elements of the Iranian re-

gime involved in significant corruption and serious human rights abuses.

I urge the Administration to use targeted sanctions and work to convene emergency sessions of the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Human Rights Council to condemn the ongoing human rights violations perpetrated by the Iranian regime and establish a mechanism by which the Security Council can monitor such violations.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and its Basij militia have been sanctioned by the United States for planning and carrying out serious human rights abuses against the Iranian people, including for the cruel and prolonged torture of political dissidents, behavior that is absolutely intolerable.

The regime has routinely violated the human rights of Iranian citizens, including ongoing, systematic, and serious restrictions of freedom of peaceful assembly and association and freedom of opinion and expression, including the continuing closures of media outlets, arrests of journalists, and the censorship of expression in online forums such as blogs and websites.

The Department of State's 2016 Human Rights Report on Iran noted:

severe restrictions on civil liberties, including the freedoms of assembly, association, speech, religion, and press.

Other human rights problems included abuse of due process combined with use of capital punishment for crimes that do not meet the requirements of due process, as well as cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; and disregard for the physical integrity of persons, whom authorities arbitrarily and unlawfully detained, tortured, or killed.

For a country that once enjoyed great pride in its freedom of thought, the information in this Report comes with sadness.

On December 29, 2017, the Department of State strongly condemned the arrest of peaceful protesters and noted that "Iran's leaders have turned a wealthy country with a rich history and culture into an economically depleted rogue state whose chief exports are violence, bloodshed, and chaos."

On January 1, 2018, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, Boris Johnson, stated that:

The UK is watching events in Iran closely.

We believe that there should be meaningful debate about the legitimate and important issues the protesters are raising and we look to the Iranian authorities to permit this.

On January 2, 2018, the French Foreign Ministry stated that:

French authorities are closely monitoring the situation in Iran.

Demonstrating freely is a fundamental right.

The same is true for the free movement of information.

France expresses its concern over the large number of victims and arrests.

On January 1, 2018, a spokesman for the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that:

We call on the Iranian authorities to uphold and respect democratic and human rights and "We are encouraged by the Iranian people who are bravely exercising their basic right to protest peacefully."

Canada will continue to support the fundamental rights of the Iranians, including freedom of expression.

As hypocrisy has it, Iran is a member of the United Nations, voted for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is a signatory to