

Security Coordinator and understand the daily threat Israelis live with every single day. The constant and deliberate attacks by Hamas on Israeli civilians are unconscionable. The Israeli people must be allowed to go about their daily lives—and the only way to do that is by defending themselves.

The United States has always been and must always be a steadfast ally of Israel. We will support Israel's right to defend itself and continue to push for a return to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

I, like so many throughout the world, hope for a peaceful resolution to the current fighting and look forward to a sustainable peace when Israelis and Palestinians alike can live free from terror.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MICHAEL C. BARRETT

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of my dear friend, Michael C. Barrett. He was a brilliant attorney, involved civic leader, and philanthropist always looking for ways to give back to his community.

Although born in Salt Lake City, Michael was a Texan at heart. He was raised in Sherman, Texas and went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1974 and the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University in 1977. His academic excellence in law school earned him the American Jurisprudence Award and membership with the Journal of Air Law & Commerce. After graduation, Michael practiced with various firms before deciding to start his own firm, Barrett Daffin Frappier Turner & Engel, in 1990. As the founder and Chairman, he turned this Texas-based company into one of the nation's leading mortgage banking law firms. He was a pioneer and a leader of the mortgage banking industry, serving as a trusted advisor on mortgage banking issues for the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Legislature.

Aside from his professional career, Michael was an enthusiastic supporter of many local nonprofit organizations and causes like the Addison Police Department and veterans support groups. His generosity extended to nonprofits such as Hope's Door, KickStart, Dallas Junior Forum, and the Special Olympics. In 2007, Michael founded the BDF Homeworks Foundation, which encourages employees to become more involved in their local community by providing volunteer and contribution opportunities. Not only did this provide valuable financial support to nonprofits, but also boosted the esprit de corps among employees.

Michael was always full of life and had an amazing ability to captivate people's attention with his stories. He was as wise as he was generous and loving. He cared deeply for his friends and family and will be greatly missed. May the peace of God be with those he loved and sustain them through this hour of sorrow.

TRIBUTE TO OLIVER B. CONOVER
UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM
THE LEHIGH ACRES CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Oliver "Ollie" Conover of Lehigh Acres, Florida upon his retirement from the Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce.

Ollie served as the Executive Director of the Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce for the last seven years, and during that time, has helped to make the Chamber an influential organization in Lehigh Acres.

Ollie's community and public service didn't start with the Chamber, however. Ollie served in the Ordnance Corps in the U.S. Army and continued on to serve in the Reserves when his active duty service was completed.

Ollie's subsequent professional career spanned 22 years as an insurance agent and broker, and 25 years in non-profit fundraising for educational and cultural organizations. It's this unique experience that made him well-suited to take the helm of the Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce in 2002.

Since moving to Lehigh Acres 10 years ago, and serving with the Chamber for the last seven, Ollie has made an indelible mark on a community that is growing by leaps and bounds. In fact, Ollie has joined a number of community officials and activists on the Lehigh Acres Community Planning Corporation to put together a master plan for controlling the substantial growth in the area. Ollie's leadership and guidance on the issue of controlling Lehigh's growth while expanding opportunities for residents and businesses will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on the Corporation, its members and the people of Lehigh Acres.

Madam Speaker, Ollie's enthusiasm and passion for serving his community is inspiring. His efforts have helped to make Southwest Florida a great place to live, work and visit. It is truly an honor and a privilege to represent Ollie in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I wish Ollie and his family all the best during his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
ELECTION INTEGRITY ACT OF 2009

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Federal Election Integrity Act of 2009. This legislation would take the long-overdue step of prohibiting chief state election officials from taking part in the political campaigns of Federal candidates in elections over which the officials have supervisory authority.

As a former President of the League of Women Voters in San Diego and a proud American voter myself, I know that election officials are entrusted with a crucial responsi-

bility for our democracy. Their only allegiance must be to the will of the voters, not to partisan political agendas.

I think we can all agree that an inherent conflict of interest exists when a state's chief election official is responsible for monitoring and certifying the results of a Federal election while actively participating in the campaign of one of the candidates in that election.

In recent years, multiple Secretaries of State have captured national attention and incited great controversy because of their political involvement in elections they were responsible for overseeing.

Although such individuals may be honorable public servants with no improper intentions, it is of the utmost importance for the integrity of our democracy that we provide legal safeguards to ensure the public trust is never violated.

This is not a partisan issue. The record shows that officials of both parties have in the past held these two types of positions simultaneously. Rather, this is an issue of preserving the American people's faith in the integrity of our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to offer this important legislation to protect the public's trust in the electoral process.

IN RECOGNITION OF RON
SHELTON, NATIONAL APART-
MENT ASSOCIATION'S CHAIRMAN
OF THE BOARD FOR 2009

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ron Shelton, elected Chairman of the Board for 2009 for the National Apartment Association (NAA).

Ron has been a part of the multi-family housing industry for twenty-eight years. His career began with Lincoln Property Company where he started as a part-time grounds person while attending the University of Texas at Arlington. He quickly moved up the ranks into a leadership role that oversaw properties in Dallas and Houston before leaving to become Vice President of Operations for SBC Realty Company in 1989. Since then, he dedicated thirteen years to the Apartment and Investment Management Company (AIMCO) and subsequently moved over to Amalgamated Management Corporation.

Ron is committed to quality rental housing and meeting the housing needs of the public. He has served in numerous roles such as chairing the New Technology Task Force, President of the Apartment Association of Greater Dallas and the NAA's Education Institute. His career exemplifies his enthusiasm for NAA's mission. As Chairman Elect, Ron's hard work, skills, and insight garnered from his many years of experience will greatly benefit the NAA.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our best wishes to him on this special day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to explain the reason for missing three votes on January 13, 2009. I was attending the swearing in ceremony for the 81st session of the Texas Legislature that took place yesterday in Austin, TX, where two former staff members from our office were sworn-in as newly elected State Representatives.

Carol Alvarado and Armando Walle were elected to represent Districts 145 and 140, respectively, on November 4, 2008. State Representative Alvarado worked in our office prior to working in Houston City Hall, and for the last six years as a member of the Houston City Council. Prior to being sworn in, State Representative Walle also worked in our office for over six years as Community Liaison.

Both these newly elected members of the State House have a tremendous record of service through their civic involvement, their time working for elected officials, and as elected officials. I wish them the best as they continue to serve the people of Texas in the State Legislature.

On the three votes I missed:

I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 41, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2009;

I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 50, Honoring the life of Claiborne Pell, distinguished former Senator from the State of Rhode Island; and

I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 43, Recognizing the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promoting the holiday as a day of national service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CHARLES
E. ALLEN

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the unsung heroes of the Intelligence Community. Mr. Charles E. Allen, who has ably and admirably served our Nation over the past fifty years, will soon retire from a long and legendary public service career.

Charlie began his career with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) back in 1958 and climbed the ranks from analyst to liaison to program manager and beyond. He was assigned to the Department of Defense in 1982 and became a senior adviser on strategic mobilization planning for the Secretary of Defense. He returned to the CIA in 1985 to take on the responsibility of National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism and, a year later, was appointed the first Chief of Intelligence for the CIA's Counterterrorist Center.

Charlie's depth of expertise and dedicated professionalism led to the position of National Intelligence Officer for Warning, where, in July 1990, he made his mark as the guy who accurately predicted Saddam Hussein's invasion of

Kuwait in August 1990. Dismissed as a contrarian by others within the CIA, the conclusions in Charlie's "warning of war" memorandum bore out his sharply analytic judgment.

In recent years, I have had the pleasure of working with Charlie as he undertook the Herculean challenge of organizing and integrating the Department of Homeland Security's intelligence programs and coordinating these activities with the Intelligence Community writ large. When he first came to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as the Chief Intelligence Officer and the Department's then-Assistant Secretary for Informational Analysis, Charlie worked tirelessly to focus resources on counterterrorism and find a new way to move forward in the aftermath of 9/11. For all of his efforts, Charlie was rewarded with an elevation to Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, where he continued to—and will continue to—mold, shape, and guide the identity of DHS's intelligence operation. He created the foundation for all who will come after him.

On one occasion in August 2007, Charlie came down to the University of Texas El Paso's Border Security Conference to speak on the critical area of diversity in the intelligence workforce. I was really excited to hear him speak, because I understood that he is a great speaker, and he certainly always has something of substantive importance. As it turned out, though, I never got to hear his speech, because my daughter went into labor with my third grandchild. Charlie was gracious and understanding about it, since he's a grandfather himself. Every time I see him, he remembers to ask about that grandson.

I would be remiss if, outside of his exemplary resume, I didn't honor Charlie for his singular commitment to our country. Charlie has proved himself a dedicated public servant with a reputation as a workaholic, intent on giving America his best. While he has been honored time and time again for his service, receiving the CIA's highest and most coveted award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, he neither seeks recognition nor expects accolades.

Charlie is a straight-shooter. He will always give you the truth. And I will deeply miss his leadership in the Intelligence Community.

CONDEMNING RECENT VANDALISM
AND THREATS AGAINST JEWISH
INSTITUTIONS IN CHICAGO

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to draw my colleagues' attention to recent attacks on synagogues and Jewish day schools in my district and the Chicagoland area. These acts of intimidation and destruction are hate crimes, and I strongly condemn them.

On Saturday, January 10th, vandals shattered windows, broke down doors, and scrawled slogans including "Death to Israel" on Jewish synagogues and schools in the Chicago area, including Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation, Lubavitch Mesivta, Young Israel Synagogue of West Rogers Park, Congregation Anshe Motele, and Hanna Sacks Girls High School.

These recent attacks came just over a week after a Molotov cocktail was thrown at Temple

Sholom in Chicago, Illinois; and a bomb threat naming several area Jewish schools was mailed to the Ida Crown Jewish Academy. Local police are working with the FBI to determine if these attacks are linked.

Regardless of anyone's political views, attacks against religious groups, threats to schoolchildren, and the desecration of places of worship are contrary to the principles of religious tolerance upon which our country was founded and are serious crimes.

Similar crimes have been reported in other cities and communities across the country. In Knoxville, Tennessee, vandals threw rocks at two synagogues, smashing four stained glass windows. Signs supporting Hamas and comparing Israeli actions in Gaza to the Holocaust were reportedly posted at two synagogues in Irvine, California.

As a proud member of Chicago's Jewish community, I know that we are strong, vibrant, and resilient. The day after the vandalism, synagogue members put tarps over windows and returned to classes and other activities, while several hundred people gathered to denounce the attacks. Both the American Jewish Committee and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee have condemned the vandalism, and local and national groups, including the Jewish Federation of Chicago and the Anti-Defamation League, are working tirelessly in support of our community. I am proud that people of all religions in my district have come together to decry these hate crimes, just as they have come together in the past to condemn attacks on people of other religions.

Madam Speaker, what we have seen in Chicago in recent days goes beyond politically-motivated demonstrations. The intimidation and terrorization of the Jewish community is a hate crime, perpetrated against these institutions because of their religious identity. I hope that these prove isolated incidents and not a pattern of violence. I have every confidence that the police and FBI, working with the local community, will find and prosecute those responsible for these crimes.

HONORING MICHAEL MUSSER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Michael Musser. Mr. Musser passed away on November 3, 2008.

Michael Musser was born and raised in Fresno, California. He graduated from Fresno High School in 1968. Just four years later he was married to Anna. They lived a happy life together. They have two children; Jason and Julie. His children and five grandchildren still live in the Fresno area. Mr. Musser was an avid golfer. However, if there was a family event, his family would always come first.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Musser. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.