

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM ST.
GEMME, ALL AMERICAN COM-
MANDER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William St. Gemme, Commander of Springfield, Missouri's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3404, to whom the VFW has given All American status as a Post Commander.

William was drafted into the United States Army in November of 1967. He served in a number of locations, including Vietnam, as a number in the Medical Service Corps and was honorably discharged in October of 1971. William joined the VFW Post 3404 in 2005 and was named Commander in October of 2011.

The title of All American Commander is the most prestigious honor given by the VFW. Out of more than 7,200 VFW Posts, only 204 VFW Post Commanders have been selected worldwide as an All American Commander. This honor is based on outstanding achievements in membership growth and participation in other VFW programs that benefit veterans and their communities.

Post 3404 and the Ladies Auxiliary of Springfield, Missouri also received the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Outstanding Community Service Post Award. There were only 68 recipients of this award. These Posts are remarkable examples of nearly 12 million hours of community service throughout the U.S. valued at over \$263 million performed by VFW volunteers last year.

I am honored to recognize William's achievements as Post Commander of VFW Post 3404.

DANIEL DEMELFI, UNICO
HAZLETON CHAPTER

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Daniel DeMelfi, the outgoing president of the UNICO Hazleton, Pennsylvania Chapter.

Mr. DeMelfi has served as the president of the UNICO Hazleton Chapter since 2010 and has held positions as a core committee member and entertainment co-chair for UNICO's Bell'Italia Festival. UNICO is the largest Italian American organization in the United States. Members seek to improve their communities by providing assistance to area and national charities through fundraisers and donations. Additionally, they strive to honor and educate others about their Italian culture and ethnic heritage.

Mr. DeMelfi's commitment to the community does not end with his service to UNICO. He serves as the founder and former president of the Hazleton Area Landlords' Organization, a core committee member for the Sounds of the Season Concert, and lector and piano accompanist for the Most Precious Blood Roman Catholic Church. Additionally, he is a board member for both the Hazleton Silent Santa organization and the Wiltsie Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Speaker, for his dedicated service to both his Italian heritage and our community, I commend Daniel DeMelfi, outgoing president of the UNICO Hazleton, Pennsylvania Chapter.

IN MEMORIAM OF STAFF SER-
GEANT ROBERT E. THOMAS, JR.

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. Mr. Speaker, the nation mourns the passing of Staff Sergeant Robert E. Thomas, Jr., age 24, who died last Friday at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, for injuries sustained while serving in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

A native of Fontana, California, Sergeant Thomas was stationed with the 1st battalion of the 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st armored division in Fort Bliss, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Kristina and daughter, Hailey, as well as his father and mother.

I send my condolences to the family, friends, and all those who knew and loved Staff Sergeant Thomas. We honor his love of country and his dedicated service to our nation.

CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my thanks to the Louisiana Society Daughters of the American Revolution for their efforts to promote Constitution Week, September 17–23. The women of the Louisiana Society Daughters of the American Revolution have dedicated themselves to promoting a better understanding of the Constitution since 1895, and I commend them for their continued contributions.

The Constitution of the United States of America sets us apart from every government that had come before. We are a nation of laws, not men. Our Constitution has survived the test of time in embodying and protecting that fundamental principle. Further, the Constitution guarantees our freedom of speech, religion, our right to bear arms and protects us from the government itself. Our Founding Fathers well understood the need to limit the power of any one branch of government through checks and balances.

We owe the Daughters of the American Revolution a debt of gratitude for their efforts to promote the study of and reflection upon this critical document, as only an informed public can protect its own rights.

When I was sworn in as a Member of Congress, I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution. The principles found in our Constitution have propelled our country to be a "shining city on a hill." I believe our nation's greatness can be renewed by returning to our founding ideals.

INDIA'S MISSING GIRLS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing that my subcommittee held last week examined the problem of "India's Missing Girls." While for most of us today our attention was drawn to the unfolding crisis in Syria—I was on C-SPAN's Washington Journal Program call-in program and introduced a resolution calling for establishing a Syrian War Crimes Tribunal—other atrocities continue unabated around the world. We cannot ignore these atrocities, among the most egregious of which is violation of the human rights of the girl child and women in India.

Women in India are confronted with a compounding crisis. By most estimates, there are tens of millions of women missing in India due to the devaluing of female life beginning in the womb.

Sex-selective abortion and female infanticide have led to lopsided sex ratios. In parts of India, for example, 126 boys are born for every 100 girls. This in turn leads to a shortage of marriageable women, which then leads to trafficking in persons, bride selling and prostitution.

Perhaps the best figures we have concerning the magnitude of the problem come from India's 2011 census figures, which find that there are approximately 37 million more men than women in India.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has addressed this issue head on, stating "the falling child sex ratio is an indictment of our social values. Improving this ratio is not merely a question of stricter compliance with the existing laws. What is more important is how we view and value the girl child in our society . . . It is a national shame for us that despite this, female feticide and infanticide continue in many parts of our country."

Even when they are not killed outright either in the womb or just after birth, this bias against girl children manifests itself in situations where family resources are limited and little food is available, in boys being fed before girls, leading to greater incidents of malnutrition among girls and a mortality rate that is 75% higher for girls below age 5 than for boys.

The desire for a male child can be so great that there is a trend towards sex change operations for girls between ages 1 to 5, a process known as "genitoplasty." Each year, hundreds of girls reportedly are pumped with hormones and surgically altered to turn them into facsimile boys. India's National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has correctly stated that this "highly unethical" procedure is a violation of children's rights as well as a "perpetuation of the age old preferences for boys and biases against the girl child."

But the roots of the present problem lie not only with cultural factors, but also misbegotten policy decisions—including population control policies that were hatched in the United States—which have had a disproportionately negative impact on India's women.

We learned from our witnesses that this includes policies advanced by the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID, and funded by foundations such as

the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, and abetted by non-governmental organizations such as the Population Council and the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

During the debate in the U.S. House of Representatives on a bill to ban sex selective abortion, I noted that for most of us, "it's a girl" is cause for enormous joy, happiness and celebration. But in many countries—including our own—it can be a death sentence. Today, the three most dangerous words in China and India are: it's a girl. We can't let that happen here.

Our witness today, Dr. Matthew Connelly, in his book *Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population* traces the sordid history of sex-selection abortion as a means of population control. In her book, *Unnatural Selection: Choosing Boys Over Girls, and the Consequences of a World Full of Men*, Mara Hvistendahl, elaborates "[b]y August 1969, when the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Population Council convened another workshop on population control, sex selection had become a pet scheme . . . Sex selection, moreover, had the added advantage of reducing the number of potential mothers . . . if a reliable sex determination technology could be made available to a mass market," there was "rough consensus" that sex selection abortion "would be an effective, uncontroversial and ethical way of reducing the global population."

Fewer women, fewer mothers, fewer future children.

At the conference, one abortion zealot, Christopher Tietze co-presented sex selection abortion as one of twelve new strategies representing the future of global birth control. Planned Parenthood honored Tietze four years later with the Margaret Sanger Award.

Hvistendahl writes that today "there are over 160 million females 'missing' from Asia's population. That's more than the entire female population of the United States. And gender imbalance—which is mainly the result of sex selective abortion—is no longer strictly an Asian problem. In Azerbaijan and Armenia, in Eastern Europe, and even among some groups in the United States, couples are making sure at least one of their children is a son. So many parents now select for boys that they have skewed the sex ratio at birth of the entire world."

In the *Global War Against Baby Girls* renowned AEI demographer Nicholas Eberstadt wrote in *The New Atlantis*; "over the past three decades the world has come to witness an ominous and entirely new form of gender discrimination: sex-selective feticide, implemented through the practice of surgical abortion with the assistance of information gained through prenatal gender determination technology. All around the world, the victims of this new practice are overwhelmingly female—in fact, almost universally female. The practice has become so ruthlessly routine in many contemporary societies that it has impacted their very population structures, warping the balance between male and female births and consequently skewing the sex ratios for the rising generation toward a biologically unnatural excess of males."

Many European nations including the UK as well as several Asian countries ban sex selection abortion. Only four US states—Arizona, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania—proscribe it.

Sex-selection abortion is cruel and discriminatory and legal. It is violence against women. Most people in and out of government remain woefully unaware of the fact that sex-selection abortion was—a violent, nefarious and deliberate policy imposed on the world by the pro-abortion population control movement—it's not an accident. The Congress can—and must—defend women from this vicious assault today.

While India has taken steps to curb these practices, passing laws to ban sex selective abortion and temper cultural facts such as the need for brides to provide a high dowry that contribute to parents looking at their daughters as a liability, these laws are irregularly enforced. Moreover, there are laws at the state level which exacerbate the problem, mandating that parents only have two children, penalizing those who exceed this number and denying benefits. This leads inevitably to sex-selective abortion and, particularly in poorer areas, female infanticide, as parents will opt to have a son over a daughter, especially when their first child is a daughter.

We hope that this hearing will better understand how we can play a role in curbing such horrific abuses.

What, for example, can we do to help ensure that companies based in the US, such as General Electric, whose ultrasound equipment is used to determine the sex of the child in utero, take steps to prevent what should be a tool to promote life of both mother and child from being used as an instrument of death?

Given the past role of US agencies such as USAID in coercive population control policies, what oversight do we need to conduct to make sure such abuses do not creep their way into existing programs?

Similarly, to what extent are organizations that receive funding from the United States government implicated in such practices?

What role can our State Department play, beyond compiling information regarding what is occurring in India with respect to what some have labeled "gendercide," to influence positively the Indian government, so that it reforms laws and policies that exacerbate skewed sex ratios, such as two-child laws?

By shining a light on what is happening in India with its missing girls, we hope to move toward a world where every woman is valued and respected because of her intrinsic dignity, and where every child is welcomed regardless of his or her sex.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF BROWNELL-TALBOT

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brownell-Talbot School, an educational institution in my district that is celebrating a truly remarkable milestone in their rich history.

Today marks the Brownell-Talbot School Sesquicentennial. This school played a visionary role in Omaha during our city's formative years and has now enjoyed 150 years of rich history. Rt. Reverend Joseph Cruickshank Talbot, D.D. originally founded the school in 1863 as a girls' boarding school named Brownell Hall. It was established to bring cultural and educational opportunities to the daughters of the pioneers.

The school held the first commencement exercise for high school graduates in the State of Nebraska in 1868. It eventually became co-educational in 1952 under the name Brownell Hall-Talbot School for Boys. The school was ultimately renamed Brownell-Talbot School in 1963, and today is the only independent, pre-school through grade 12, college preparatory school in Nebraska.

Brownell-Talbot School continues to graduate some of the city's best and brightest students. The school has very high academic standards and has earned the highest published average composite ACT score in Nebraska.

This 150th Anniversary honors all of Brownell-Talbot School's founders, board members, supporters, past and present students and their teachers, administrators, and staff. All of these members of the Brownell-Talbot School community have had a hand in the exemplary education of Brownell-Talbot students, a tradition that will undoubtedly continue long into the future.

HONORING TERRIONA COWAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Ms. Terriona Cowan, who was born in Jackson, Mississippi, on July 11, 1993. She is the daughter of Mr. Reginald and Tianna Bennett. She is a student at Jackson State University, majoring in Chemistry Pre-Medicine. As an ambitious chemistry student, majority of her time is spent in class or doing biochemical research. She enjoys being a research scholar in her field of study and has many long term goals to enhance it.

Aside from using her intellectual gift, she is also committed to the community where she believes service is the way to build the world. She is a dedicated volunteer at Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital. Tending to kids with sickness is her motivation throughout the day. On her free time, she often goes to the reservoir and meditates on the blessings that God has yet to cease in her life.

After accepting Christ at a young age at Pleasant Grove M. B. Church in Bentonia, Mississippi she understands the importance of giving God credit for the things that he has done. In the future, she looks forward to being a positive role model to others that want to make the world a more peaceful and positive place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Terriona Cowan.

RECOGNIZING THE MEMBERS OF AMERICORPS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the members of AmeriCorps and their service to this country. On Saturday, September 21, 2013, AmeriCorps will celebrate their 20th anniversary. For 20 years,