

as a member of the County Recorder's Association of California from 2001–2012. She also was a member of the California Assessors' Association from 2007–2012 and the Bay Area Assessor's Association 2007–2012, serving as its president in 2010. She has been a member of the Sonoma County Historical Records Commission since 2000 and is recognized throughout the state for her knowledge of the California Elections Code and voting procedures.

Ms. Atkinson is a longtime supporter of the Cloverdale Boys and Girls Club and served as the lead public information officer for Sonoma County during disasters, providing vital information to those impacted by floods, mudslides and fires.

Mr. Speaker, Janice Atkinson has a long and distinguished career in service to Sonoma County and it is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge her today and wish her well in her retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE INTERMOUNTAIN JEWISH NEWS ON ITS 100TH YEAR

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Intermountain Jewish News on its 100th year of continuous publication.

The Intermountain Jewish News has served as an important conduit of information for people of the Jewish faith across the Rocky Mountain West. With insightful reporting and a keen eye to the stories that matter most to its readers, it has provided the Jewish community with relevant news and a constant connection to the community.

Freedom of the press and freedom of religion are two of the pillars that have made the United States the beacon of light across the world. The Intermountain Jewish News is more than just the product of these freedoms; it is the medium through which these freedoms live on today.

I applaud the hard work and dedication of all who have contributed to this publication's success over the past 100 years and I wish them continued success in the future.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FORWARD ON CLIMATE RALLY FEBRUARY 14, 2013

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join President Obama and concerned citizens around the world to say it is high time we move forward on addressing climate change.

As President Obama said in his State of the Union address: "We can choose to believe that Superstorm Sandy, and the most severe drought in decades, and the worst wildfires some states have ever seen were all just a freak coincidence. Or we can choose to believe in the overwhelming judgment of science—and act before it's too late."

This weekend, tens of thousands of people—including 100 buses from over 30 states—will be traveling to Washington, DC to participate in Sunday's Forward on Climate Rally to demonstrate their support for action on climate change.

My home state of Maryland knows all too well the devastating effects of extreme weather events, and the threat that coastal flooding and sea level rise present to our coastal communities. In that regard, I'm proud that Maryland is tackling this issue head on by committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent below 2006 levels by 2020. In addition to restoring a healthy climate, this initiative will boost economic growth, create jobs and save consumers money.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the Forward on Climate Rally to the nation's capital, and I stand with concerned citizens from across the country who say the time is now to address climate change.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REFORM THE FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to improve the level of security provided by the Federal Protective Service, FPS.

Formed in 1971 as the uniformed protection service for the General Service Administration, GSA, the Federal Protective Service's mission is to safeguard the Federal buildings that Americans access every day across the country. FPS is charged with protecting over 9,000 Federal facilities, including many of our own Congressional district offices.

Since FPS was transferred to the Department of Homeland Security in 2003, a series of government audits have uncovered major breaches in the security services FPS provides and attributed these lapses, in large part, to slipshod oversight by the agency of its contractor workforce.

One glaring example of FPS's lapses in providing security occurred in February 2011 when contract guards failed to detect explosive material that was left undetected inside the Patrick V. McNamara Federal building in Detroit for 21 days.

Testifying on July 13, 2011 about this incident before the Committee on Homeland Security, the Government Accountability Office, GAO, stated that FPS needs to undertake a stronger role in overseeing contractor performance, to reevaluate its hiring and training practices for contract guards, and to implement a comprehensive risk assessment strategy.

On July 24, 2012, at a subsequent Committee on Homeland Security hearing, FPS's lack of a comprehensive risk management strategy was identified as a major obstacle to FPS' ability to safeguard Federal facilities and effectively serve as the lead agency charged with coordinating infrastructure protection government-wide.

Both hearings addressed the Federal Protective Service's pressing need to replace the failed Risk Assessment and Management Program, RAMP, to monitor the hours and duties

performed by contract guards—which has cost of over \$41 million—with an effective tool to implement risk assessment. As an interim step, FPS has since developed the Modified Infrastructure Survey Too, MIST.

Since May 2007, the Committee on Homeland Security has held five oversight hearings of FPS. Additionally, since 2008, GAO has issued seven oversight reports, at my request, on the agency that identified a wide range of challenges FPS faces in protecting Federal facilities. Among the areas for reform identified in these reports are the need for increased oversight of the contract guard program; the need for FPS to implement a risk management strategy to improve facility security; enhanced schedule and cost estimating practices to facilitate the transition of management functions; and a comprehensive approach to human capital management.

The legislation I am reintroducing today: (1) seeks to increase security at Federal facilities by adding 500 more Federal Law Enforcement Officers; (2) directs FPS to intensify its monitoring of contract guards; (3) requires national minimum standards for the training and certification of contract guard staff; (4) requires that security standards for Federal facilities established by the Interagency Security Committee be implemented; (5) directs FPS to conduct a 1-year pilot program to assess whether a Federal Security Guard that is a Federal employee would do a better job protecting the highest risk Federal facilities than a contract guard; (6) requires a law enforcement presence at the highest risk Federal facilities; and (7) directs the Government Accountability Office to investigate the adequacy of the fee-based funding system utilized by FPS and determine whether it prevents the agency from fully executing its security mission.

Under my legislation, the FPS' inspector corps would be increased to 1,350, thereby elevating the Federal law enforcement presence inside Federal buildings by offering "boots on the ground" security expertise.

I strongly believe that a more robust inspector workforce would, for the first time, provide FPS with a core of specialized security personnel with the training and authority required to create long-overdue change within the entire organization.

My legislation also calls for dedicated contract oversight staff to oversee the performance of contract guards; this would allow FPS inspectors focus on their security and law enforcement duties and not be bogged down in contract-management concerns.

Similarly, my legislation would require a law enforcement presence at the highest risk Federal facilities, which directly addresses a gap in the current system, where contract guards, who lack arrest authority are charged with protecting high-profile Federal facilities.

I introduced similar legislation in the 111th and 112th Congresses to ensure that the Federal Protective Service fulfills its responsibility to coordinate infrastructure protection across the Federal government, and to make certain that effective management procedures are implemented to hold contractors accountable for the hiring, training and certification of security guards who are charged with protecting Federal facilities.

It has been 18 years since the Alfred P. Murrah building was attacked in Oklahoma City. We have been fortunate that an attack of this magnitude has not occurred against a

Federal building in the intervening years. That said, we must do more to ensure that Federal buildings are secure and that the Federal Protective Service can effectively fulfill its mission.

Enactment of my legislation will bring about long-overdue and necessary reforms and help FPS become the agency that Congress envisioned and the American people deserve.

HONORING CONNOR JAMES DERRY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Connor James Derry. Connor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Connor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Connor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 33 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Connor has led his troop in various positions including Patrol Leader, has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow. Connor has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Connor led a team of 15 scouts in removing and reconstructing a swing set at Hillcrest Transitional Housing in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Connor James Derry for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL (ABC) ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Access to Birth Control (ABC) Act with my colleagues DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, JOHN CONYERS, JR, GWEN MOORE, DAVID CICILLINE, BARBARA LEE, CHELLIE PINGREE, JANICE HAHN, SAM FARR, CHARLES RANGEL, JERROLD NADLER, KEITH ELLISON, DIANA DEGETTE, JAMES MORAN, RUSH HOLT, and SCOTT PETERS. Special thanks go to Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG for introducing the Senate version of the bill.

This legislation ensures women's timely access to basic, preventative health care and ensures that women of age will not be denied birth control or emergency contraception by their pharmacist. The ABC Act also requires pharmacies to help a woman obtain medication by her preferred method if the requested product is not in stock and protects women from being intimidated when requesting contraception.

Family planning is central to women's basic health care. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act

women can receive contraceptive coverage and other preventative services without a copay. While this is great news to the millions of women using some form of birth control, barriers to contraceptive access still persist. According to the National Women's Law Center, at least 24 states across the country have reported incidents where pharmacists have refused to fill prescriptions for birth control or provide emergency contraception to individuals who do not require a prescription. Furthermore, six states permit refusals without patient protections such as requirements to refer or transfer prescriptions and seven states allow refusals but prohibit pharmacists from obstructing patient access to medication.

Denying contraception to women represents an erosion of a woman's constitutional right of access to contraception and a threat to women's basic health care. Access is especially important for women living in rural areas who may not have multiple pharmacies near them and low-income women who lack the resources to find an alternative pharmacy in the appropriate time frame.

The use of birth control is widespread, with 99 percent of women having used contraceptives at some point in their life. Now that insurance plans are required to cover birth control, Congress must act to make sure that women receive timely access to both prescription and over the counter contraception at the pharmacy counter.

TRIBUTE TO TURKISH AMBASSADOR NAMIK TAN AND TURKISH EMBASSY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, in the early 30's the Turkish Embassy began a journey to heal racial integration through jazz in our Nation's Capital. Today, I wish to pay tribute to the continuing efforts of Turkish Ambassador Namik Tan and the Turkish Embassy for proudly telling this great story of racial integration in Washington, DC's history. This story involves an intriguing combination of jazz music, a foreign embassy, and race relations in the Nation's Capital in the 1930s and 1940s.

In 1934, Mehmet Munir Ertegun was named Turkish Ambassador to the United States. He moved to Washington with his family, including his sons Ahmet and Nesuhi, who were then 17 and 11 years old, respectively. Ahmet would eventually become the founder of Atlantic Records, while Nesuhi would run the Atlantic Records jazz department, producing albums for such legendary figures as John Coltrane, Ray Charles, Bobby Darin, and Roberta Flack.

In those early years after moving to the District of Columbia, the Ertegun brothers became active in the local jazz scene and eventually invited local performers to the Embassy for what would later be described by a 1943 Newspaper article as "Washington's most famous private jam sessions." In a 1979 interview with the Washington Post, Nesuhi described the mindset behind these sessions, "You can't imagine how segregated Washington was at that time. Blacks and whites couldn't sit together in most places. So we put

on concerts . . . Jazz was our weapon for social action."

Despite the complaints from certain "outraged southern senators" to the Turkish Ambassador, the jam sessions at the Embassy continued for several years, playing to a racially diverse audience and featuring such performers as Johnny Hodges, Harry Carney, and Barney Bigard from the Duke Ellington Band, Lester Young, Benny Carter, Meade Lux Lewis, Leadbelly, members of the Count Basie band, and many others.

To commemorate this tradition, the Turkish Embassy initiated the Ertegun Jazz Series in March, 2011, and has hosted ten performances since that time that have featured both up-and-coming artists and well-established performers such as Roy Hargrove and Jonathan Batiste. This series will continue in 2013 with a concert on February 26th at the Embassy. As we celebrate Black History Month, I wish to congratulate Ambassador Tan and the Turkish Embassy for recognizing the important role that Ahmet and Nesuhi Ertegun played in advancing racial integration and bringing jazz music to the world.

HONORING MR. VYRLE DAVIS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Mr. Vyrle Davis. His contributions to education and social reform in the Tampa Bay community and throughout the state of Florida are worthy of recognition by all.

Mr. Davis, a native of the Tampa Bay community, attended Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, before beginning his teaching career at 16th Street Elementary and Junior High School in 1960. Inspired by both his grandfather, a teacher who established the first school for African-American children in Jackson County, and his mother, who taught African-American students in a one-room schoolhouse within the Citrus Park community, Mr. Davis broke both racial and social barriers within his profession.

In 1971, Mr. Davis was named assistant principal at Gibbs High School and two years later he became principal at St. Petersburg High School. In 1986, he overcame countless obstacles to become Pinellas County's first African-American superintendent, a position he held for nine years.

Mr. Davis was also an advocate for social reform. In 1984, he established the Ebony Scholars program, providing institutional and financial support to high-achieving African-American students. Not only did Mr. Davis participate in raising money for his organization, he also contributed a significant amount of his own time and money. To date, the program has allocated over \$500,000 to students.

By 1990, Mr. Davis had left an indelible mark by reforming the role of African-Americans in political office. He founded multiple organizations, such as the African-American Voters Registration and Education Committee, that advanced both the political and educational causes of African Americans. He formed a coalition of other activists, whose mission was to help minorities attain elected