

HONORING AUSTIN VAN BLACK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Austin Van Black. Austin 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 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Austin has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Austin has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned 121 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Austin has led his troop as Senior Patrol Leader, attended the 2010 National Jamboree and 2011 World Jamboree in Sweden and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe Mic-O-Say and became a member of the Order of the Arrow. Austin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Austin completed 137 service hours for Hillcrest Transitional Housing, a homeless transition and education ministry, in Liberty, Missouri.

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

MINGO COUNTY SHERIFF EUGENE CRUM A TRUE TITAN IN THE BATTLE FOR LAW AND ORDER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, each April just a few blocks from the Nation's Capitol Building, we witness in full bloom 10,000 daffodils, amidst well manicured lawns, signaling the advent of the season of renewal and hope. This peaceful setting surrounds two blue-gray curved marble walls that help form our Nation's lasting tribute and memorial to law enforcement officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Every 57 hours in this Country, a law enforcement officer lays down their life, so that the rest of us can enjoy lives enriched by the very safety and security our officers provide.

Last week, West Virginians lost a true titan in the battle for law and order. Mingo County Sheriff Eugene Crum had just left his friend and compatriot, Judge Michael Thornsby, with the parting words, "I'm going to fight the good fight," so he could spend his lunch hour in his vehicle, keeping an eye on a former illegal pill mill. Moments later, the Sheriff would be slain. While the cause of the heinous murder remains under intense investigation its effect is well known.

Dave Rockel, Sheriff Crum's friend and teammate as the Commander of Mingo County's Drug Task Force said the murder has "awakened a sleeping giant." Commander Rockel pointed out "Operation Zero Tolerance" has taken on a new significance to continue the Sheriff's legacy of waging a success-

ful war against the scourge of prescription drug abuse. As Judge Thornsby calculated, the Sheriff had already achieved 57 felony convictions within 93 days of being sworn into office. Make no mistake, Eugene Crum may have been a new Sheriff, but he was a three-decade-old seasoned veteran of law enforcement, having served as a police lieutenant, chief of police, magistrate and chief magistrate.

Since the Sheriff's passing, many tributes have been offered by friends, officeholders and multiple newspaper editorials have been written to honor Sheriff Crum, his achievements, his compassion, his humility, his selflessness, and his fervent dedication and devotion to duty. And, what honor and comfort it must be to his widow, Rosie, his children, Julie and Bub, and his entire family to know that, as Judge Thornsby relayed, Eugene was often times able to personally enjoy one of the highest compliments anyone can be paid. For when many of those he had previously arrested would see Eugene on the street, they would stop to thank him for saving their lives. I ask my colleagues, here in the people's House, "What truer measure of a man is there?"

To such a man, this Nation remains deeply indebted and eternally grateful. On the National Memorial honoring the fallen, one of its four inscriptions reads, "In valor, there is hope." Eugene Crum's valor was as significant as that of the bravest soldier on the most tumultuous of battlefields. For Eugene, the field of battle was in the hills and hollows of home, on the front porches and through the backyards of neighbors, on the streets of Mingo County's downtowns and on their corners during the darkest hours of night. His battle endured without end until justice had ultimately prevailed. Indeed the legacy of Eugene Crum will live on each time justice is served and tempered with mercy to give new hope to those who have wronged their families and their communities. Eugene Crum's hope for a more civil world, born of his life of valor, is the badge of honor Sheriff Rosie Crum now wears, as do his comrades in law enforcement throughout our Nation.

As it was strongly and passionately relayed at his memorial this past weekend by Mingo County Commission President John Mark Hubbard, shame on anyone who will not make sure that the change Sheriff Crum laid his life down for does not continue.

Mr. Speaker, the obligation of the Congress to aid our law enforcement officers is clear. As American citizens, let us pray for their safe keeping, and that their resolve—this Nation's resolve—will be strengthened by the indelible mark left by Eugene Crum to serve and protect the people he loved.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support of the Equal Pay Day, April 9, 2013, which recognized the critical disparity between the working wages between men and women.

Women have come so far in our society and make up 50 percent of the workforce by con-

tributing their skills and experiences that drive our economy, making it the most dynamic in the world. But, women are not worth their work according to their wages and the services they provide. On average, we still earn 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. For a woman working full time, the current wage gap represents a loss of \$430,000 over the course of her career.

There are many women in my district who are the sole providers for their family. They act as the mother and the father rearing their family and struggling to put food on the table and a roof over their heads.

One of our top priorities should be closing the wage gap. By doing so, the middle class will be stronger and struggling Americans will have the support they need. I am a proud sponsor of the Equal Pay Day Resolution and urge my colleagues to become a cosponsor.

PASSING OF FAMILY PATRIARCH ENRIQUE ROS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, my dad was and will always be the wind beneath my wings. His passing leaves in us a loss that is eternal and deep. 'Abu Kiki' as we lovingly called him was the center, the foundation of us all, and the one person who kept us grounded and confident in the path our lives had taken. If there is one comfort we feel during this time of unequalled sorrow is that we are confident that my dad is once again reunited with his beloved and cherished soul mate, Amanda Ros.

Today I can look at my life and the lives of my brother Henry and my dad's adult grandchildren with joy and fulfillment. And I can do that because Abu Kiki worked hard to instill in us ageless ideals of fairness and doing always what was right.

My dad was a prolific writer and well-known historian. He was working on his 20th book, a biography of Antonio Maceo, when he died of respiratory complications at South Miami Hospital late Wednesday night. He authored 19 other books on Cuban history and local politics that are an important source of information for other historians, academics and scholars. All who shared my father's life knew that he was happiest when he was busy doing research and writing his books. His beloved library was a meeting ground for our family and he kept a detailed log of all the articles and pictures that told the story of my family's life and of his cherished books.

For 65 years, Enrique and Amanda Ros, shared a wonderful life together and they did it by way of love and hard work. They raised two children who have families of their own, founded and expanded a successful family business for over 30 years (Ros-Forwarding), and labored both as one in noble endeavors to re-establish democracy to our beloved Cuba. They were in love and it showed through their actions.

In the name of all of us in the Ros and Lehtinen families we would like to ask his friends and everyone else to not be despondent but rather to come together and celebrate his long and fulfilled life. That is what my dad

would have wanted. I know my brother and I shall terribly miss him, but we know that this is not a goodbye but rather a time apart before we are reunited once again next to our creator.

HONORING JORDAN PAUL NAZARIO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan Paul Nazario. Jordan 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 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jordan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jordan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jordan has led his troop in various positions including Patrol Leader and Quartermaster. Jordan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jordan built a shed for his church's garden ministry, allowing the church to safely store hoses, wheelbarrows and other necessary garden equipment.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Jordan Paul Nazario for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to re-introduce the "Coast Guard Academy Opportunity Act," legislation to create new opportunities for careers in the U.S. Coast Guard with a geographically and politically diverse group of colleagues. They are: Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS of Maryland, Representative JOHN DUNCAN of Tennessee, Delegate MADELEINE BORDALLO of Guam, Representative CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Representative YVETTE CLARKE of New York, Delegate PEDRO PIERLUISI of Puerto Rico, Representative MICHAEL MICHAUD of Maine, Representative BETTY MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Representative JANICE HAHN of California, Delegate GREGORIO SABLÁN of the Northern Mariana Islands, Representative JACK KINGSTON of Georgia, and Representative KEITH ELLISON of Minnesota.

Currently, Members of Congress are allowed to nominate a limited number of candidates to the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. However, the smallest of the five federal service academies—the U.S. Coast Guard Academy

(USCGA)—does not accept congressional nominations.

Instead, the USCGA admits candidates through a process that resembles the admissions processes of civilian colleges and universities. Without a congressional nominations process, the applicant pool of candidates to the USCGA is predictably less geographically diverse than at the other military service academies. The inevitable result of a less geographically diverse applicant pool is a less geographically diverse class. The statistics bear this out; in fact, the incoming Class of 2016 does not have a single cadet from: Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, or Guam.

Under the "Coast Guard Academy Opportunity Act," starting in academic year 2014, each Member of Congress could nominate up to three qualified candidates to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. In turn, the Coast Guard would be required to fill a quarter of slots for the incoming class from this pool of congressional nominations comprised of qualified, geographically diverse applicants. Then, in each subsequent academic year, half of the slots in each incoming class would have to be filled through the congressional nominations process.

This legislation would not require the Coast Guard to lower its student selection criteria or increase the size of the student population. To the contrary, it anticipates that the Coast Guard will continue to use its criteria to select the best candidates from the pool of Member-nominated candidates for half of the slots in the incoming class, just as it will do to fill the slots in the other half of the incoming class. The "Coast Guard Academy Opportunity Act" simply seeks to make Congress a partner in helping to put talented young people—from every corner of the country—on the path to a rewarding career in the U.S. Coast Guard.

I urge support of this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

A FAILED POLICY ON SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, as of Friday, March 15, the position of Sudan special envoy at the State Department has been vacant.

This vacancy is symptomatic of a president that has all but forsaken the people of Sudan.

Last December a group of prominent Sudan activists and advocates wrote a letter to the administration, which I submit for the RECORD, expressing their "grave concerns that the current U.S. policy is ineffective at stopping mass atrocities in Sudan." They urged President Obama, in his second term, to embrace "an urgent shift in the U.S. policy to finally end the humanitarian crises and bring about a just and lasting peace in Sudan."

The letter cited the president's own words from 2007 when he rightly called the genocide in Darfur a "stain on our souls" and said that "as a president of the United States I don't intend to abandon people or turn a blind eye to slaughter."

And yet, I can't help but wonder if the people of Darfur, who have been displaced from their homes and brutalized by violence for ten years now, do in fact feel abandoned by this president and this administration.

On March 7, CNN featured a piece by the chairman of the Darfur Union in the United Kingdom, himself a Darfuri. Tellingly, he wrote, ". . . Khartoum's attempt to establish a racially pure Islamic state involves waging war against its own unarmed civilians, systematically and with impunity. In Darfur this has lasted a decade. The U.N. estimates that 300,000 Darfuris have died since 2003, but it hasn't bothered to estimate casualty numbers since 2008. With fighting continuing to this day, the number is likely to be far higher. The world assumes 'Darfur is over.' It isn't."

Not only is Darfur's nightmare ongoing, but Khartoum's brutality has only spread, consistent with its decades' long effort to systematically and ruthlessly consolidate power resulting in the death and displacement of untold thousands. More recently the Nuba people have been driven from their homes, targeted for killing and terrorized because of the color of their skin. Khartoum has indiscriminately bombed civilian populations—disrupting an entire way of life for this largely farming population. Starvation, death and despair have followed. I have visited the refugee camps and talked with the people personally. I have heard their pleas for help and I have conveyed their message to this administration—a message which fell on largely deaf ears.

On March 19, USA Today featured a joint op-ed by actor and co-founder of the anti-genocide organization Not On Our Watch, Don Cheadle, and John Prendergast the co-founder of the Enough Project, in the op-ed wrote, "By excluding all but a narrow clique of Sudanese from access to the power and wealth of the country, marginalized groups from the west (Darfur), south (Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains) and east have all taken up arms against that regime. . . . Any peace effort should deal comprehensively with all the rebel movements, the unarmed opposition, and civil society, in search of a solution for the whole of Sudan. Until the abusive governing system in Sudan is radically reformed, there will be blood."

Indeed, much blood has been shed, and yet inexplicably this administration has embraced a policy of engagement marked by conciliatory outreach to Khartoum, including the prospect of debt relief for a genocidal government, and a perverse sense of moral equivalence in dealing with South Sudan and Sudan.

While there has been criticism of two successive special envoys, ultimately they were merely the implementers of a policy that is inherently flawed and ultimately ineffective. In fact, I am grateful for the dedication and efforts of both Ambassadors Scott Gration and Princeton Lyman both of whom have poured much time and energy into a daunting task. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

In a February 12 letter to Secretary of State Kerry I wrote, "Our approach to Sudan and South Sudan needs reinvigorating. It demands a renewed sense of moral clarity about who we are dealing with in Khartoum—namely genocidaires. It necessitates someone who can speak candidly with our friends in South Sudan about their own internal challenges, including corruption, and shortcomings as a new nation. While an envoy alone does not a policy make, a high-profile special envoy, from