

Turkey also owes that to itself, too, for Turkish society will be stronger for having ended the charade of denying what the whole world knows to be true.

Mr. Speaker, to the Armenian people, including the very few remaining survivors, I want to express my great sorrow and deepest condolences. And I say to them, as we say regarding the Holocaust, "Never again."

21ST ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS NATIONAL FOOD DRIVE

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I show my support for the 21st Annual National Association of Letter Carriers National Food Drive, which will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2013.

Every year, NALC members across the country work together to execute the largest one-day food drive in the United States. To participate, those who are able to make a donation need only place a box of non-perishable food items by their mailbox. On May 11, letter carriers will pick up the contributions along their route and pass them along to local food banks.

Donations to the NALC stay local and help feed needy Americans in our own communities.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me and support the 21st Annual NALC National Food Drive.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO ADDIE MAE COLLINS, DENISE MCNAIR, CAROLE ROBERTSON, AND CYNTHIA WESLEY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a sense of indignation, sadness, and deep and abiding pride in the memory of four little girls from Alabama who were callously murdered by the bomb of a homegrown terrorist.

Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robinson, Cynthia Wesley and Denise McNair did not get a chance to celebrate any more birthdays, run through the fields of Alabama, go to the prom, dance at a wedding, or simply grow up and enjoy life as Americans.

As was reflected in the prayer given last week in this Chamber by world-renowned soul and gospel singer Yolanda Adams we have been taught to embrace God's grace and mercy, and for those who will listen, to stand in the sunlight of joy as one looks toward the hopefulness of the future, while standing tall as a Black woman in the memory of my four little girls, your girls—these little girls were America's children, and bore the brunt of a very ugly side during a very nasty, ugly, vicious, cruel, and inexorably painful era in the history of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, on August 27, 1963, at the March on Washington, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered the speech that both challenged and inspired a nation. "I have a dream," he said, that "one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers."

Nineteen days later, on September 15, 1963, the nation learned that there was still a long path to travel before it realized Dr. King's dream. For on that day 50 years ago, the nation was shocked—and the City of Birmingham was rocked—by an explosion at the 16th Street Baptist Church that severely damaged the church, injured 22 people, and claimed the lives of four beautiful and innocent little girls: Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robinson, Cynthia Wesley and Denise McNair.

But the horror and heartbreak of that tragedy galvanized a nation to act. Less than two years later, the nation responded to one of the worst and cowardly acts of hatred with two great acts of justice that have changed America for the better and still stand today as monuments to what can be achieved when challenged to live up to the true meaning of its creed.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 are a part of the legacy of Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robinson, Cynthia Wesley and Denise McNair.

Today we celebrate their lives—lives cut down as they should have been learning to bake cakes, play hopscotch, and learn the violin, instead they were murdered in a place which should have been a safe haven, a sanctuary. The death of the four girls drew national attention to the fight for civil rights and is credited with creating a surge of momentum for the civil rights movement.

It is also important that we pass on the lessons learned through this deep tragedy so that we do not repeat it. Little girls and little boys around this great nation should hold hands and walk together regardless of race, color, religion, or creed.

This bill simply directs the Speaker of the House and the president pro tempore of the Senate to arrange for the posthumous award of a Congressional Gold Medal to commemorate the lives of Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robinson and Cynthia Wesley in recognition of the historical significance of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church. But this bill is more than that. It is a reckoning.

This legislation, which I am proud to cosponsor and strongly support, is intended to complete some of the nation's most important unfinished business. And that is to address one of the most depraved acts of violence against school-aged girls belonging to a racial group which was vulnerable, politically powerless, and innocent, and against those persons who risked life and limb to help them secure the rights promised in the Declaration of Independence and made real in the Constitution.

The Congressional Gold Medal recognizing the 50th Anniversary of 16th Street Baptist Church bombing is long overdue. I thank my CBC colleague who hails from Alabama, Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL of Birmingham, who sponsored this legislation, and Senator RICHARD SHELBY of Alabama, who leads the Senate effort for this special recognition as America comes to terms with its rich and often painful history.

Mr. Speaker, in 1989 the Civil Rights Memorial was dedicated in Montgomery, Alabama,

the birthplace of the modern Civil Rights Movement. The Memorial honors the lives and memories of 40 civil rights martyrs who gave their lives in the struggle for justice and equality. But we know that many more people lost their lives to racial violence during that era. In honoring the four little girls of Birmingham today, let us resolve to remain steadfast in the quest to obtain justice for these other heroes.

Mr. Speaker, fifty years later we have made much progress from the dark days of Birmingham. In those days there simply was no justice for African Americans because the criminal justice system—from the police, to the prosecutors, to the juries, and to the judges—was perverted by racial bigotry.

Inspired by the sacrifice of four little girls in Birmingham, Americans of good will and of all races and creeds, worked to hasten the day when all would be treated equally before the law and every person would be judged by the content of their character.

It is, of course, fitting and proper that H.R. 360 bears the names of Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robinson, Cynthia Wesley and Denise McNair. Although forever linked together in history, we must not forget that each of them was an individual. Each had her own hopes and dreams for the future. Sadly, they were robbed of that future by the cowardly act of persons motivated by racial hatred. But in sacrificing their futures, Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robinson, Cynthia Wesley, and Denise McNair helped to transform America into a place where little girls and little boys today can know that their dreams can come true and their futures will be bright and that racial hatred is no longer an insuperable barrier to realizing the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 50 years ago, on June 11, 1963, President John F. Kennedy addressed the nation from the Oval Office on the state of race relations and civil rights in America. In his historic speech to the nation President Kennedy said:

We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution. . . .

[T]his Nation, for all its hopes and all its boasts, will not be fully free until all its citizens are free.

H.R. 360 is intended to help bring justice to those whom justice has been delayed for more than two generations. In doing so, this legislation will help this Nation fulfill its hopes and justify its boast that in America all persons live in freedom.

And Mr. Speaker, let us also remember young Virgil Lamar Ware, a thirteen-year-old black boy who was killed by segregationists while riding on the handlebars of his brother's bicycle. His killers had just attended a segregationist rally held in the aftermath of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing.

It is a sad but unfortunately not uncommon occurrence that it is innocent children who suffer when adults give in to hate. But as the scriptures teach us, unearned suffering is redemptive. And the blood of the innocents—Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robinson, Cynthia Wesley and Denise McNair—helped to redeem our country and make it better.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this fitting tribute to their heroism and sacrifice by voting to pass H.R. 360.

IN HONOR OF MARANATHA
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor Maranatha Baptist Church in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

This month, Maranatha Baptist Church will celebrate 30 years of faithful service to the Lord and to the citizens of Onslow County. The church especially has a heart to reach the servicemen and women in the area for Christ.

The first members of Maranatha Baptist Church met in a small pawn shop under the leadership of Pastor Randy See. His work laid the foundation for the congregation to expand and move first to a piece of property on Anne Street and then to the church's current location on Onsville Drive.

Following in the footsteps of Randy See, Pastors Don Jones, Chuck Lindley, and Jon McConkey have blessed Maranatha Baptist Church with their leadership over the course of the last three decades. Each of these men contributed uniquely to the growth of the church from its humble beginning to the well-known community that it has become.

I am honored to represent Maranatha Baptist Church, and I am pleased to have the congregation and current Pastor Jon McConkey recognized by the United States Congress as they celebrate 30 years of service to Onslow County.

HONORING THE 2013 RECIPIENTS
OF THE OWENS COMMUNITY
COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the Owens Community College Alumni Association takes great pride in its annual Outstanding Service Awards celebration, now in its tenth year. The awards honor the selfless contributions of area police, fire, and emergency medical service professionals to our communities. I wanted to share the inspiring stories of two of my constituents who will be recognized at this year's ceremony.

Last April, A.J. Green of Gibsonburg was a passenger on a bus traveling on the Ohio Turnpike. The bus collided with another vehicle that had been involved in a multi-vehicle accident. It was subsequently hit by another vehicle unable to stop due to dark, rainy conditions. The bus driver was knocked unconscious and was trapped behind the steering wheel, which was rendered inoperable by the wreck. Together with another passenger, A.J., who serves with the Lindsey Volunteer Fire Department, took control of the bus and shut off the engine. He then guided the passengers to safety at a nearby travel plaza where they were attended by emergency personnel.

A.J. has since coordinated a bus safety training day for area police, fire, and other emergency responders, turning this catastrophe into a learning experience. The asso-

ciation is presenting him with the 2013 Outstanding Firefighter Award for his exceptional efforts.

Keith Loreno, fire chief for the City of Fostoria, will be presented with the 2013 Outstanding Service to Community Award. Chief Loreno's three-decade career began with the Perkins Township Fire Department, where he served as a firefighter/emergency medical technician. Since then, he has worked as a corrections officer, a deputy sheriff, a top official with the Division of the State Fire Marshal, and as owner of an ambulance service.

Keith's devotion to volunteerism is an example to all who know him. A United Way board trustee, he has worked to ensure successful fundraising campaigns to aid vital community organizations. He also spearheads an annual clothing drive campaign and coordinates smoke-detector giveaway programs. His dedication to civic duty is further shown in his work with local students: Chief Loreno runs a Safety Town program for preschool children and coordinates mock-crash events to teach teenagers about the dangers of drinking and driving.

Mr. Speaker, this year's Outstanding Service Awards celebration will be held on Friday, April 26. I appreciate the opportunity to join the Owens Community College Alumni Association in recognizing the ongoing commitment and sacrifices of these first responders.

IN MEMORY OF CHIEF WARRANT
OFFICER 2 JARETT YODER

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from Pennsylvania, the Honorable CHARLES W. DENT and the Honorable JIM GERLACH, for the solemn purpose of remembering and honoring the life of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jarrett Yoder. On April 9, 2013, CW2 Yoder was tragically killed while serving our country. CW2 Yoder was just 26 years old when his AH-64 Apache Helicopter crashed in Nangarhar Province Afghanistan. A Berks County, Pennsylvania native, CW2 Yoder was a 2005 graduate of Oley Valley High School in Oley, Pennsylvania and attended Reading Area Community College.

CW2 Yoder joined the military in 2005, first serving in Company C of the 1st Battalion of the 111th Infantry of the Pennsylvania National Guard as an infantryman. He was then deployed to Iraq in 2008 with Company C and the rest of the Guard's 56th Stryker Brigade. In 2010, he then transitioned to the role of an aviation life support equipment officer and Apache pilot.

CW2 Yoder was an exceptional Pennsylvanian and American who served his state and country with honor and great courage. His military decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Driver and Mechanic Badge.

We send our deepest condolences to CW2 Yoder's wife, Heather Garay-Yoder, and his parents, Gary and Diane Yoder. CW2 Yoder goes to his rest with the eternal thanks of a most grateful nation.

HONORING COLONEL MARK C.
GARDENER

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Mark C. Gardener and to recognize his lifetime of service to our country.

On June 28, Col. Gardener will retire from the Georgia National Guard after thirty years of sacrifice and service to this great nation.

While he currently serves as the Georgia National Guard's State Inspector General, he has worked in many different capacities. In 1983, Col. Gardener's first assignment was with U.S. Army Missile Command, and he has since been assigned to infantry, maintenance, and forward support duties across the world. His career has taken him to Korea, Panama, Afghanistan, Iraq, and several military installations here in the United States.

For his distinguished leadership throughout his career, Col. Gardener has been awarded with decorations like the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal, the Army Reserve Service Medal, the Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

Col. Gardener has played an invaluable role in the U.S. Armed Forces for decades and he will surely be missed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 11th District of Georgia, my deepest thanks to Col. Gardener for devoting his life the upholding the Constitution of the United States and to the protection of its citizens. I wish him a happy—and well-deserved—retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE AUXILIARY
OF THE JFK MEDICAL CENTER
FOUNDATION ON ITS 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Auxiliary of the JFK Medical Center Foundation on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Since 1962, the Auxiliary has provided critical fundraising for special projects and contributed countless hours of volunteer service that directly impact and improve the lives of patients served by JFK Medical Center. Due to the remarkable efforts of the Auxiliary over a half-century of service, JFK Medical Center has grown into a highly respected health care facility that provides clinical excellence to the people of Edison Township, Middlesex County, and throughout Central New Jersey.

The Auxiliary actually predates JFK Medical Center by five years. Indeed, the idea of building a hospital in Edison was little more than a dream of late Edison Mayor Anthony M.