

insufficient funding for such vetting the major problem?

Of the 158 countries we provide with security assistance each year, 46 had some aid withheld in 2011. The typical percentage of global Leahy vettings that don't meet requirements is at most 1–2 percent with just under 10% suspended. In Fiscal Year 2012, according to Congressional Research Service expert Lauren Ploch “the State Department vetted 1,377 members of the Nigerian security forces—of that figure, almost 85% were cleared to receive assistance, with 15% were rejected or suspended.”

In Colombia, the government rejected the requirements of the Leahy laws before changing their minds and accepting the process. Now there reportedly are more high-ranking Colombian military officers behind bars than in any country other than Argentina, and Colombia is cited as a Leahy law success. In Nigeria, there have been no disciplinary actions against Nigerian military for scorched earth assaults on populations, and few high-ranking Nigerian military officers have been held accountable for human rights violations.

We are here today to examine the questions these facts raise, and our witnesses have been asked to walk us through the process, to tell us what works and what doesn't work and to suggest ways to make this process more effective.

In more than three decades of promoting human rights adherence in Congress, I have seen far too much brutality and indiscipline among military and security forces that are charged with establishing the peace and protecting their people. The Leahy laws are intended to prevent our Government from supporting such behavior, but if these laws are not implemented properly, they cannot achieve the goals for which they were created. No law is perfect, and we must never stop trying to perfect the laws we create—especially when they are meant to be both practical and aspirational.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE YMCA OF GREATER HOUSTON AND CHILDHOOD SWIM SAFETY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the three children who die every day in our country as a result of drowning and to recognize organizations, like the YMCA, that are working to give America's children the necessary skills to prevent these tragic accidents from happening.

Drowning is the leading cause of death nationally for children aged one to four and is the second leading cause of death for children aged five to nine. For children between five and nine, the drowning rate for African American and American Indian children is three times the rate of white American children. At ages 11 and 12, the disparity between black and white children grows even worse. Regardless of race or ethnicity, lower income populations disproportionately bear the burden of drowning.

For my hometown and state, the numbers are very sobering. In the Houston metropolitan

area, 22 children drowned last year. For the State of Texas, 82 children were victims of drowning in 2013 and 66 percent of all child-aged drowning victims in our state in 2012 were male.

The YMCA is one example of an organization that is changing statistics for children across the country. The YMCA is bringing swimming safety and drowning prevention programs to underserved communities throughout the U.S., including communities in Houston and Harris County. YMCAs partner with schools to bring kids to the Y for lessons and offer swimming lessons year around. I learned to swim at the M.D. Anderson YMCA in our congressional district.

I am proud that the YMCA of Greater Houston is one of 15 YMCAs across the country piloting a program to improve childhood swimming and drowning prevention. This commendable program is providing drowning prevention and water safety skills to underserved communities who would otherwise not have access to these lifesaving skills.

The YMCA of Greater Houston is one of 103 Y's providing additional scholarships to children in their communities that may not otherwise have access to swim lessons as part of a nationwide data collection project on effectiveness of skill instruction in all communities.

I would like to congratulate the YMCA of Greater Houston on serving the people of Houston and Harris County for over 100 years and on its great efforts to save the lives of all our children and I invite Members of this chamber to join them in educating parents and providing children the skills they need to swim safely and avoid harm.

REMEMBERING THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the ongoing genocide in Darfur, which began in 2003 and continues unabated. During that time more than 300,000 Darfuris have been murdered, countless numbers of women and children as young as 6 years of age have been brutally raped. Millions have been left homeless. The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Bashir for crimes against humanity and, in July 2010, issued a warrant for his arrest on charges of genocide.

The government of Sudan, however, has yet to turn him over, and since the issuance of the warrants, the country has seen increased violence. Furthermore, the government's forceful expulsion of humanitarian aid agencies from the country has further jeopardized conditions for many more thousands of displaced and marginalized civilians. Days, weeks, months, years pass and the people of Darfur are not closer to security, a just peace, or adequate humanitarian relief. The international community must do much more to help the people of Darfur.

RECOGNIZING JUAN ESPARZA LOERA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Juan Esparza Loera as he receives the “Service Above Self” award presented by the Fresno Latino Rotary. Juan's dedication and commitment to reporting quality news to the community is something to be honored.

Juan was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, and immigrated with his parents to the United States when he was only three and a half years old. He moved to the San Joaquin Valley in 1969, and has lived there ever since. Upon his graduation from Delano High School, Juan continued his education at Bakersfield Junior College and then went on to California State University, Fresno, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism.

Juan's career in journalism began in Bakersfield as the high school sports editor for the Bakersfield Californian. His career would then take him to Modesto, where he worked for the Modesto Bee. During his time at the Modesto Bee, Juan held multiple positions ranging from general assignment reporter to business editor. His hard work in Bakersfield and Modesto created opportunities for him in Fresno. In May 1990, Juan was hired as the Editor and Publisher for Vida en el Valle. Twenty-four years later, Juan still holds the position.

Over the years, Vida en el Valle has been recognized for national awards. In 1998, Vida en el Valle was awarded the General Excellence Award by the California Newspaper Publishers Association. It was the first time a bilingual newspaper had ever won the award. Since then, Vida en el Valle has earned more than 20 additional awards from the California Newspaper Publishers Association. In 2003, Juan was recognized by Hispanic Media 100 as one of the most influential Latino journalists in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize Mr. Juan Esparza Loera. The contributions he has made to our San Joaquin Valley deserve to be commended.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS RELATING TO H.R. 4263

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters between the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure relating to H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2014.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, July 7, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. McCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group

Act of 2014, as reported by the Committee on Homeland Security on June 19, 2014. There are certain provisions in the legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not alter or diminish the jurisdiction of the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the measure on the House Floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, July 7, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 4263, the "Social Media Working Group Act of 2014."

I agree that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has a valid jurisdictional interest in emergency disaster response, and that the Committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision to forego consideration of H.R. 4263. As you have requested, I will support your request for an appropriate appointment of outside conferees from your Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation, should such a conference be convened.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the Floor. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. McCAUL,
Chairman.

16TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL FIRE AND RESCUE AND EMS AWARDS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire and rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

As first responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Oftentimes, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get "the call."

Two years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS

Awards to honor officers, departments, and units for outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate the following winners, who were selected this year by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district.

Dr. Steven R. Newman, a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians and Medical Director for Sarasota County Emergency Medical Services, was chosen to receive the Career Service Award.

Manatee County EMS Lt. Mark Jones, Charge Paramedic Angie Hadlock, and Paramedic Renee Bergschneider; East Manatee Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Stacy Bailey, Lt. Sean Battick, Lt. Chad Gamble, and Firefighters Stephen Beecher, Steven Rickman, Doug Sprigg, and Andrew Stark; and Bayflight 2 Flight Nurse Kelly Long, Paramedic Mike Bull, and Pilot Joe Mattina were chosen to receive the Unit Citation award.

Firefighter/Paramedic Larry Gibbs of the Sarasota County Fire Department was chosen to receive the Dedication and Professionalism award.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF HARIS SULEMAN

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a profound sense of sadness, as I grieve with so many of my fellow Hoosiers over the loss of a young man who cared deeply for his community. Today, we remember Haris Suleman, a 17-year-old student who passed away last week in a plane crash.

For the past month, Haris had been piloting a single-engine aircraft around the world with the hope of setting a world record and raising money to help build schools in his family's native country of Pakistan. He was a determined young man, who took interest in being a pilot after years of flying with his father, Babar. Sadly, his father, who accompanied him on this trip, is still missing.

Haris was going to be a high school senior this fall and he dreamed of becoming an engineer like his father. Although he was only with us for a short time, Haris made a positive and lasting impact in his community, and his passing is a great loss for so many. May his determination to reach his goals and his commitment to help others serve as an example for all of us to follow.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our thoughts and prayers to Haris Suleman's family.

REMEMBERING FORMER REP. CALDWELL BUTLER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor my former colleague, Rep. Caldwell Butler of Roanoke, who passed away on July 29, 2014 at the age of 89.

I will always remember Caldwell as a true Virginia gentleman. Representing Virginia's Sixth District from 1972 until 1983, I had the pleasure of serving with him during my first term in Congress. I appreciated Caldwell's golden character and the lasting impact he had on this body. He was a good, decent and honorable man—qualities that we should all aspire to emulate; qualities that are especially important for those in public service.

Rep. Butler had a great sense of humor and sharp wit. As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, he demonstrated these qualities each and every day. He served his country and his district with distinction.

Prior to serving in Congress, Caldwell joined the Navy during World War II and later attended the University of Richmond and the University of Virginia School of Law. In 1962, he was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, where he served until his election to Congress.

Caldwell and his wife, June, were always a team. Sadly, June passed away just last month. Together, they raised four sons—Manley, Henry, James and Marshall—and have seven grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

I submit the following article from The Roanoke Times on Caldwell's life and accomplishments. I respectfully ask that my colleagues join me in extending our deepest condolences to his family and in honoring his great service to our country.

[From the Roanoke Times, July 29, 2014]

CALDWELL BUTLER, FORMER ROANOKE CONGRESSMAN WHO CAST KEY VOTE DURING WATERGATE, DIES

Caldwell Butler, a former congressman from Roanoke who was thrust into the national spotlight when he became one of the few Republicans to favor Richard Nixon's impeachment during the Watergate scandal, has died. He was 89.

Richard Cullen, a close family friend and former Virginia attorney general, confirmed Butler's death this morning. Cullen said he expects funeral services to be held Friday at St. John's Church in Roanoke. Butler's wife, June, died last month.

Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Roanoke County, who holds the 6th District seat today, remembered Butler in comments before the Judiciary Committee today. Longtime Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., also recalled serving with Butler. Watch the comments here.

Butler was first elected to Congress representing Virginia's 6th District in 1972, running as a member of "the Nixon team" in a district where Nixon amassed 72 percent of the vote. But less than two years later, in a dramatic reversal, Butler voted for Nixon's impeachment.

As a freshman member of the House Judiciary Committee, Butler was thrown by circumstance into the Watergate scandal, which grew out of Nixon's cover-up of a break-in at the Democratic headquarters in 1972. Through the spring and summer of 1974, as the committee investigated the actions of the president and his advisers, Butler's role became more important.

Butler had supported Nixon's legislative efforts. And some said he owed his own congressional career to the GOP landslide sparked by Nixon.

Butler was viewed as one of the half-dozen crucial swing votes on the Judiciary Committee, though. During most of the committee hearings, he had not joined the president's attackers. But neither had he joined the defenders.