

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

H.R. 3670, ANTI-SPOOFING ACT OF 2013 AND H.R. 5161, E-LABEL ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3670, the Anti-Spoofing Act and H.R. 5161, the E-LABEL Act.

H.R. 3670 updates the Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009 to combat against fraudulent phone calls and text messages received by millions of Americans, including seniors, veterans and the disabled. According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), "caller ID spoofing" is defined as the deliberate falsification of caller ID information, including a telephone number and/or name for the purpose of disguising the identity of the calling party.

Just last month, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department reported a series of spoofing incidents in which San Diegans received calls purported to be from the Sheriff's office, indicating a warrant for their arrest. With similar reports of fraudulent behavior around the country, this bipartisan, pro-consumer bill will better protect Americans from becoming victims of scammers. I commend Representative MENG for her leadership and I urge the House to pass this commonsense bill.

I also urge House colleagues to support H.R. 5161, a bipartisan bill which I introduced with Representatives LATA, WELCH and BLACKBURN in July. Following on the E-Labeling guidance issued by the FCC this summer, H.R. 5161 would promote electronic labeling for FCC certified devices such as phones, computers, smart watches and other consumer electronics products.

As the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) described in a July op-ed, "etching 17 characters into a phone might not seem like a Herculean feat, but as wireless devices have proliferated and shrunk in size, many manufacturers have been forced to buy increasingly expensive equipment and invest more design time into placing the label." Electronic labeling thus provides manufacturers with a more practical solution to existing FCC labeling requirements and does so while lowering device costs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 3670 and H.R. 5161.

ELBRA WEDGEWORTH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth on the dedication of the Elbra M. Wedgeworth Municipal Building.

Elbra Wedgeworth was elected to Denver City Council in 1999 representing District 8.

Serving a second term in 2003 her City Council peers unanimously elected her the Council President, serving 2003 to 2005. Through her leadership and perseverance Elbra was instrumental in the revitalization of District 8 through improvements to City Park Golf Course, the redevelopment of East Village Housing project, Mercy Hospital redevelopment, Colorado Convention Center expansion and the Blair Caldwell African-American Research Library, only to name a few. Elbra also served as the President and Chair of the Denver 2008 Convention Host Committee; her participation was instrumental in Denver being chosen to host the Democratic National Convention. The Convention itself generated over \$266 million dollars in economic benefit to the State of Colorado.

Elbra currently serves as the Chief Government and Community Relations Officer at Denver Health and Hospital Authority.

I extend my deepest congratulations and gratitude to the Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth for her countless hours of dedication to the citizens of Colorado. Elbra's continued commitment has made our community a better place for all of us.

GENOCIDAL ATTACKS AGAINST CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN SYRIA AND IRAQ

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I convened a subcommittee hearing on the desperate plight of Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq and Syria.

As images of beheaded American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff are seared into our consciousness, we would do well to honor their memories by recalling that they saw it as their mission to alert the world to the horrors committed by the fanatical Islamist terrorist group ISIS in Syria and Iraq: Children forced to view crucifixions and beheadings; women bartered, sold, and raped; prisoners lined up on their knees to be shot—this is ISIS' legacy.

Today Christians and other religious minorities, such as Yezidis, Shabaks, and Turkmen Shiites are not just facing a long winter without homes. They are not just hungry and thirsty and wandering from village to village in Northern Iraq and Kurdistan.

They are facing annihilation—genocide—by fanatics who see anyone who does not subscribe to its draconian and violent interpretation of Islam as fair game for enslavement, forced conversion or death.

If the phrase "Never Again" is to be more than well moving sentiment we simply give lip service to, then we must be prepared to act when we see genocide unfold before our very eyes.

After the U.S. pulled out of Iraq in March 2011 we left in charge a prime minister hostile to political inclusion of all Iraqis beyond simply Shiites. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL—also known as the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham, or ISIS—saw an opportunity to exploit Sunni resentment at this treatment, and surged to fill the gap.

We withdrew, they surged.

This is not the "Junior Varsity" team of terrorists, as the President dismissively asserted earlier this year. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iraq and Iran Brett McGurk has described ISIL as having "unprecedented" resources in terms of funds, weapons, and personnel.

We have seen what ISIS is doing in Syria, beheading and crucifying Christians and political opponents, taking hostages and kidnapping religious leaders, blowing up churches and mosques, and forcing religious minorities to convert, flee with the clothes on their backs, pay an exorbitant tax for infidels—or die.

When ISIS overran Mosul in June, Mosul's 35,000 inhabitants not too old or sick fled for their lives. At checkpoints leaving the city, ISIS took the Christians' wedding rings, money, travel papers, and medicines—even their cars. Families walked carrying their children, pushing wheelchairs with elderly parents, mile after mile into the hot, barren, Nineveh Plain. As ISIS continued to gain territory in July and August, the Christians fled further north, joining Yezidi and many other minorities trying to find safety in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

More than 1.7 million people have been displaced in Iraq this year. Many were Christians who fled the brutal Syrian civil war, now on the run again.

Where will they be safe?

Kurdistan, a region of 8.35 million people currently hosts nearly 750,000 refugees. The Kurdish Peshmerga militias are underfunded and under-armed, now that ISIS has captured U.S. heavy weaponry across Iraq. Yet they soldier on.

I have received emails from Bishops and nuns chronicling the dire needs of their flocks who are being "exterminated" and "expelled" from regions their people have occupied for millennia.

The U.S. has in the last few weeks geared-up for the humanitarian crisis. As of September 5, the U.S. had dedicated nearly \$140 million in humanitarian assistance to Iraq—and USAID airlifted more than 60 metric tons of humanitarian aid into Kurdistan's capital of Erbil.

We need, however, to make sure that aid gets to people who need it most. This means working with religious leaders who are closest to those in need.

We may also need to invest more in our relationship with the Kurdish Regional Government—a regional government which has taken on the aspects of a de facto national government, and one whose brave militia men have stood up against ISIS while members of the Iraqi Armed Forces have folded and fled.

It must also be remarked and remembered with gratitude that the Kurdish Regional Government has extended protection to Christians

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and other victims of religious persecution. While their record has not been perfect, the Kurds appear to be more tolerant of diversity of thought and belief than many of their neighbors.

But aid alone is not the solution. The U.S. has already spent \$2.4 billion on the Syria humanitarian crisis that rages on.

We need shrewd power—a strategy for action that is in touch with reality on the ground. A strategy born of thinking ahead and preparing in advance for contingencies so that we are not playing catch-up while the enemy rapes, pillages, kidnaps, massacres—and amasses wealth and weapons.

The reality for religious minorities is that their very lives are at risk as long as ISIS controls territory and continues to gather strength on the ground, drawing funds and fighters from around the globe.

As Pope Francis has noted with regard to this crisis, “where there is unjust aggression . . . it is licit to stop the unjust aggressor.”

This may indeed require the use of force, but it also requires using other means at our disposal. I have called for the establishment of a Syrian War Crimes Tribunal, and introduced H. Con. Res. 51 to hold all sides accountable for the heinous atrocities they have committed.

H. Con. Res. 51, introduced last September, calls for the creation of an international tribunal that would be more flexible and more efficient than the International Criminal Court to ensure accountability for human rights violations committed by all sides.

With a Herculean diplomatic push by the United States and other interested nations, past success in creating war crimes courts can indeed be prologue. Such a tribunal would also draw upon past experience, creating a justice mechanism robust enough to right the most egregious wrongs, yet nimble enough not to derail chances for peace due to rigidity.

The Foreign Affairs Committee approved H. Con. Res. 51 on April 30, and I hope this measure will come before the House for a vote at the earliest possible time.

As ISIS does not respect borders, committing atrocities in both Iraq and Syria, the jurisdiction of such a tribunal could and should be expanded to hold ISIS accountable for its evil acts on either side of the border.

Today the Black Flag of ISIS flies over vast swaths of northern Iraq and even cities such as Fallujah, which we had won at such great cost. Indeed, ISIS says that they intend to see the Black Flag fly over the White House. Where the Black Flag flies, there is death and misery.

IN APPRECIATION OF COLONEL
PATRICK T. “SMACK” MCKENZIE

HON. HOWARD P. “BUCK” McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Patrick T. “Smack” McKenzie, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force after 26 years of service.

I have had the pleasure of working with Smack on a number of occasions during his tenure in the Air Force House Liaison Office. I greatly appreciate and admire his profes-

sionalism, knowledge, and dedication, which has benefited me, and numerous other Members and staff.

Colonel McKenzie has given a great deal to this Nation through his distinguished and selfless service. He began his Air Force career as an ROTC Cadet and a “Jayhawk” at the University of Kansas—an allegiance he maintains to this day, as evidenced by the Jayhawk lanyard you will always see around his neck. Upon graduating in May 1988, he was competitively selected for pilot training at Reese AFB, Texas. He was the envy of Class 90–06, not only because of his perfectly restored red 1965 Pontiac GTO affectionately known as “The Goat”, but also because as one of the top graduates, he was awarded the only F–16 training slot for the class. He was assigned to the 70th Fighter Squadron at Moody AFB, where he was certified as combat-ready and qualified for air-to-surface, air-to-air, and nuclear missions. He quickly caught the eye of his leadership, and was handpicked as one of only 15 squadron pilots qualified to operate the new LANTIRN system (Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared for Night). He also caught the eye of his future wife, Jennifer, and they have been married now for 21 years. Col. McKenzie’s skill as a fighter pilot was quickly recognized during his first deployment, patrolling the skies over Iraq for Operation Southern Watch. His leadership ability earned him a Regular commission and selection for Squadron Officer School, where he was a Distinguished Graduate.

Capt. McKenzie was then assigned to the 51st Operations Support Squadron at Osan Air Base in the Republic of Korea. He continued to impress as a Wing Plans Officer, maintaining critical operational plans for wartime taskings. He again rose above his peers as a pilot, winning the 51st Fighter Wing’s Low Angle Strafe Top Gun award and selection as the Chief of Standardization and Evaluation for the 51st Operations Group—a position reserved for the Group’s most skilled and trusted pilot. In this position, he was responsible for assessments and maintaining operational standards not only in his F–16 squadron, but also in the HH–60 rescue flight, and a C–12 flight, a job essential to deliver wartime capability. He so impressed his leadership, that even as a Captain he was identified as a “future squadron commander” and was selected for USAF Weapons School, the premier advanced weapons and tactics school for our Air Force Pilots. While there, he was praised for his research on F–16 Night Close Air Support and Targeting Aids, advancing our operational capabilities in this critical capacity. Captain McKenzie’s training was put to immediate use with his assignment to the 510th Fighter Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy. He flew dozens of combat sorties during Operations Southern Watch, Decisive Edge, and Deliberate Guard, enforcing no-fly zones over Iraq and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He was also a Mission Commander for more than six large force packages in NATO’s Operation Allied Force in Kosovo, for which he garnered praise for his skills, leadership, mission execution, and most importantly ensuring zero combat losses.

Additionally, Smack was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement, planning the first NATO strike of Operation Allied Force to cross the Kosovo/Serbian border, defeating surface to air missiles, and executing the first-ever F–16 night

attack utilizing Night Vision Goggles and the LANTIRN system to destroy an ammunition storage facility. As a Flight Commander, Weapons Officer, and Instructor Pilot he was recognized by his superiors as an “exceptional leader with unlimited potential”, the “#1 Captain in the Group”, the “Wing’s top flight commander”, and the USAFE Fighter Pilot of the Year. Smack was sent to Air Command and Staff College, where his tremendous leadership and team building skills led his peers to recognize him as the “Outstanding Team Member” for his class. Following school, he became the Assignments Officer for nearly 1,500 Air Force F–16 pilots, single-handedly managing the Air Force’s largest group of pilots and maintaining 100 percent manning level despite historic shortages just after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Lt. Col. McKenzie then moved to Luke AFB for a short period as the 56th Operations Support Squadron Operations Officer before being entrusted with his first command—the 310th Fighter Squadron “Top Hats”—the largest fighter squadron at Luke, responsible for the only formal Forward Air Controller-Airborne course, which has been a vital capability in the War on Terror. He was heralded as the “top warrior and leader of 618 officers” and led his unit to the 56th Operations Group “Top Squadron” award. Following this highly successful command, Lt. Col. McKenzie attended National War College at Fort McNair and received a Master of Science in National Security Strategy. He then went to U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, VA where he provided readiness analysis on current operations, and was a liaison with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Government Accountability Office, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff on all readiness related issues. He provided critical data and assessments for the planning of Operation Enduring Freedom which were influential in leadership decisions. Col. McKenzie then Commanded the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. There he profoundly impacted the Global War on Terror, directing air operations and leading over 830 troops to execute over 24,000 missions, dropping 1.1 million pounds of ordnance, and delivering 37,000 tons of cargo—the busiest operation in the CENTCOM area of responsibility. Following this tremendous performance, Col. McKenzie was challenged with a new role as the SECAF’s legislative liaison to Congress for all USAF air and space weapon systems, ensuring the Air Force message and priorities were consistently and convincingly articulated to directly ensure the full authorization of their \$120 billion budget. Smack was then sent back to Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea to command the 51st Fighter Wing “Mustangs” where he previously spent time as a Captain. He was the Joint installation commander for over 10,200 personnel, executing the Combat Air Force’s largest and most highly-utilized A–10 and F–16 operation in a tense location, just 6 minutes flight time to North Korea. “A+”, “inspiring”, and “superb” were just a few words used to describe his tenure there. After his highly successful tour as a Wing Commander, the Air Force returned Smack to legislative liaison work by assigning him to one of the most demanding positions within the Air Force, his current job as the Chief of Air Force House Liaison. Since July 2013, Smack has advised the Secretary of the Air Force, Chief