

community that supports its police and fire departments, and a town in which children respect public safety professionals.

In both the State Legislature and Congress, it has been my privilege to represent this remarkable city, and to interact with Chief Telford on many occasions. However, none of my interactions with the Chief were marked by tragedy until one late afternoon on September 9, 2010. Eight precious lives were lost that fateful afternoon when a natural gas transmission pipeline exploded in a residential neighborhood of San Bruno. Throughout the night and on through the days to follow, bravery and compassion in the line of duty were an every-moment event on the front lines. The explosion shaped this nation's laws and practices on pipeline safety.

Chief Telford led his police force through the fire and the difficult days thereafter with outstanding compassion, strength and calm. In those difficult weeks, events that might otherwise have marked decades of experience cascaded upon Chief Telford and other public safety professionals, the leadership and the residents of San Bruno. Through it all, Chief Telford stayed focused on recovery, protection of public safety, and the preservation of the dignity of every resident of San Bruno. While he has many other notable accomplishments in his career, Neil Telford will always be remembered as the Chief who cared when caring counted for everything.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Telford is a graduate of the State of California's Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), the Command College program, and he also holds Advanced, Supervisory, Management and Executive certificates from POST. California law enforcement is marked by a high degree of professionalism. In truth, Neil Telford could have written the definitive textbook on police leadership.

Please join with me in congratulating Chief Neil Telford upon the occasion of his retirement after 32 years of public service to the residents of San Bruno. He and his wife, Cindy, have lived for 22 years in the city that he protects. They have a son, Anthony, who also resides in this special place on the Peninsula. We wish the Telford family much happiness in the coming years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, this week I was not able to vote because I was home recuperating from surgery to remove plaque from my right carotid artery. I missed the following roll call votes: 516, 517, 518, and 519.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll call 516, the Government Reports Elimination Act (H.R. 4194); "aye" on roll call 517, the rule (H. Res. 748) to proceed to the measure to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; "nay" on roll call 518, the motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 5682; and "aye" on roll call 519, final passage of H.R. 5682, the bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 5682 and strongly support its passage, as construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline means jobs, spe-

cifically in the Pennsylvania manufacturing industry.

RECOGNIZING LARRY CHEEVES

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Union City City Manager Larry Cheeves on his retirement.

Larry earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pepperdine University in 1975 and then a Master of Public Administration degree from California State University at Fullerton in 1977. Since then he has devoted his 38 year career to serving California cities.

Following jobs with the City of Cerritos, City of Pico Rivera, City of Buena Park, and City of Norwalk, Larry took over as Director of Public Works for the City of Union City in 1989. Union City was in a period of growth at this time, and in his role Larry saw the creation of many new streets, parks, and fire stations. He helped Union City win two Helen Putnam Awards from the League of California Cities and the 1999 All-America City Award.

Larry served twice as interim city manager of Union City before earning the position permanently in 2004. Since assuming this role Larry has put together balanced budgets in each year for the city council, despite very difficult economic circumstances. During this time Union City also developed the Intermodal Station District and the Mark Green Sports Center.

Larry is an active contributor to our community. He is a member of the Alameda County City Management Association, a board member of the California Redevelopment Association, and a founding member of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority.

On behalf of the citizens of Union City and the entire East Bay, I want to thank Larry Cheeves for his years of dedicated service. I wish him good luck in the years to come.

A CELEBRATION OF TRIUMPH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Triumph Missionary Baptist Church as it celebrates its 45th church anniversary and Pastor James S. Hall, Jr.'s 63 years of preaching and teaching as its leader.

Over the past forty-five years, Triumph Missionary Baptist Church has endured as the spiritual home for countless numbers of Philadelphia citizens. Strong leaders, like Pastor James S. Hall, allow institutions like Triumph Missionary Baptist Church to thrive and support the communities in which they reside. Since he was elected Pastor for Life in 1969, Pastor Hall's wisdom and years of experience preaching have allowed him to sustain the church, even in the face of adversity, and provide a venue for Christians in the North Philadelphia community to worship their Creator.

Since its founding, the Church has had four homes in North Philadelphia. It has been in its current location since 2007 and has worked to uplift surrounding residents through numerous efforts, including the creation of a supermarket to serve the local underserved community. From the 63 members it began with, to the 5,400 Philadelphians who call this church home, Triumph Missionary Baptist Church has accomplished much in its forty-five years of existence.

I invite you and all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating Triumph Missionary Baptist Church's 45th anniversary. May its success and commitment to helping the City of Philadelphia be an inspiration to all of us in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING THE HELIAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CRUSADERS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Helias Catholic High School Crusaders Girls Volleyball team for winning the Class 3 Missouri State Championship.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Helias Crusaders for a job well done.

SPEECH BY HELMA ADDE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to draw your attention to a speech given by one of my constituents, Helma Adde of Huntington, NY, when I visited St. Peter's Syriac Orthodox Church. Ms. Adde offered me a warm welcome and introduction to the community and I would like to share her words.

Congressman Israel, let me start with our customary greeting. Shlomo, which in the Aramaic language literally means peace. We are very happy to have you here in our home today, so that we may get to know you better, as our Congressman and man chosen to be our voice in government. And we are also excited for the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you, so that you may know who we, your constituents are, and so that you may understand our concerns as members of this community and participants in this democracy. I hope this brief history I will share with you helps you connect with us.

So who are the members of this congregation? The Syriac Orthodox Church is one of the most ancient Christian Churches tracing its roots to the Church of Antioch where Jesus' disciples were first called Christians, and Apostle Peter is believed to have established the first church. Ethnically and historically, we are indigenous to northern Iraq, southeast Turkey, northwest Iran, and northeast Syria, a region encompassing what was in ancient times known as the Assyrian empire and is often referred to as Mesopotamia, or the land between the two rivers, and we are proud to say that we speak a dialect of Aramaic, the language spoken by

Abraham and his sons, and Jesus Christ. Due to the effects and obstacles brought on by population growth, political shifts and religious fanaticism, our community has evolved like many others and today we have come to be known as the Syriac, Assyrian, Chaldean people.

As modern day Assyrians/Syriac Chaldean people, we do not have our own country, and those of our people that have managed to stay in the homeland, today find themselves referred to as minorities in the land of their forefathers. Our people are known to be a God fearing, peace loving people, and have contributed to Middle Eastern society in a positive way over the years. But, after years of being the target of religious fanaticism, many have fled the ancient homeland, and sought refuge in the diaspora in the hopes of providing safety and stability to their children and their families.

Today, The United States constitutes the largest population of Assyrian Christians in the diaspora. Our people first started arriving in Western New York in the late 19th century, after the Christian massacre in Diyarbakir, Turkey. We witnessed another large influx of immigrants after the Christian genocide in 1915 under the sword of the Ottoman Turks, during which nearly 1 million Armenians and about 500,000 Assyrians were killed. As a result, many of our people left Mardin, Midyat and other cities in Turkey and eventually settled in parts of New York and New Jersey. But after visiting Long Island, it was hard to resist its beautiful green pastures, and its relaxing beaches. Eventually, a small group made their way out and settled there, mainly in parts of Queens, and then later to Nassau County. These immigrants worked hard, and became prominent entrepreneurs mainly in the jewelry and garment industry, trades brought with them from the old country, back in the early 70s. They built homes, grew families and raised children who became lawyers, doctors, teachers, business owners, and upstanding members in the community. Eventually, in 1985, this growing community, now comprised of immigrants from Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Jordan, became large enough to establish a church where they could all congregate and meet regularly with other Assyrian Americans to preserve their ancient culture and practice their sacred religion. That church was named St. Peter's Syriac Orthodox Church. The community thrived and grew and after years of careful planning an opportunity arose that allowed them to finally purchase their own church. And in 2001, with the purchase of this church in Hicksville that we are gathered in today, we became permanent members of the Long Island community.

Over the years, our American born generation has begun to assimilate into American society and is proud of its American nationality. But this generation is also proud of its ancestral roots and works hard to maintain a balance between its nationality and ethnic heritage. We have always been grateful to our brave people living in our homeland knowing that we rely on them to preserve our ancient culture and language; they are the true torch bearers so to speak. God has somehow given them the strength and courage to stay rooted in their homeland, a feat many of us here could not achieve. And we have always feared that without them, our dwindling culture would undoubtedly face extinction, and our name and language that have survived for centuries would merely be something people hear about in history books. For centuries, it is our ethnic heritage and religion that have made us seem like a threat to governments in the Middle East. Some have forced us to stop speaking Aramaic in our homes with our children, forced

us to hide our crosses, and even forced us to change our names to assimilate into their societies and forget where we came from. They have even turned our century old churches to mosques, and some have even become ashes, along with our ancient archaeological sites. This cycle has been hammering away at our people to the point where they have realized the need for a safe haven, a place in their ancestral homeland that they can call their own again, where they can feel safe and protected, and be who they are. But their voices in the Middle East are being stifled, so we, their American brothers and sisters must be their voice.

We have undertaken this duty to be their voice, not only as Christians and members of this church, but also as human beings and defenders of human, God given rights. Congressman, we attempted to voice our concerns for our persecuted people outside the UN where we rallied for our people back in August. We also voiced our concerns when we wrote to your office pleading for humanitarian aid and help in stopping the barbaric acts of terrorism. And we were so grateful when you replied both to our invitation to the UN rally and reached out to meet with us here at our church today. And now that you are here, and willing to build a relationship with us, we want you to know that our people need help, they are asking for their home back. We need a safe haven for them, in our ancient ancestral land, the Nineveh plains, under the protection of the United Nations so that we can break the cycle of constant persecution threatening our existence for too long. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to acquaint you with our community today. It is our sincere hope that our voices will be heard on behalf of our persecuted community, namely the hundreds of thousands of displaced men, women, and children suffering at the hands of ISIS today.

Thank you.

COMMENDING MONGOLIA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Honorable President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, His Excellency Ambassador Altangerel Bulgaa, the State Great Hural, and the people of Mongolia for their commitment to the development of a stable and prospering democracy. Since establishing diplomatic relations with the United States in 1987, Mongolia has successfully conducted six presidential and six legislative elections. Additionally, Mongolia has supported international peace efforts by deploying troops to Iraq from 2003 through October 2008, and now has approximately 350 troops in Afghanistan supporting Coalition operations.

Mongolia has also achieved remarkable success over the past two decades as one of Asia's fastest growing economies. Since 2003, Mongolia's GDP has more than doubled. With one of the world's largest copper and gold mines, such as the Oyu Tolgoi, which boasts one of the biggest metallurgical and thermal coal deposits as well, Mongolia is on track to become a thriving mining center in the Asian region. Additionally, Mongolia's trade with the United States has surged in the last few years, making the United States Mongolia's third largest trading partner.

Today the relationship between our two countries continues to grow and strengthen. I

look forward to the continuing cooperation and comprehensive partnership between Mongolia and the United States based on our shared values and common strategic interests, and I have every confidence that Mongolia will continue to flourish as a relevant and established presence in the region.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES VINCENT TASA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Chief James Vincent Tasa for his 32 years of service with the Pacifica Police Department. Chief Tasa has been an exemplary leader and confidant for his colleagues and the residents of Pacifica.

Chief Tasa first joined the Pacifica Police Department as an officer in 1982. Ten years later he was promoted to the rank of Police Sergeant and in 2002 he was promoted to the rank of Police Captain. He successfully completed the POST California Law Enforcement Command College in 2007 and in 2011 he was promoted to his current position as Pacifica's Chief of Police. Though he officially retired in February of this year, he continued to serve as Chief until now to allow the City of Pacifica time to search for his replacement.

Chief Tasa has received numerous awards for his exemplary work as a law enforcement officer, including the Police Officer of the Year Award by the San Mateo County Trial Lawyers Association, the Captain's Award, and countless commendations from the community, citizens and law enforcement professionals.

Chief Tasa has approached every aspect of his work with professionalism, integrity and a refreshing sense of optimism and humor. He has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow officers and residents. I've had the honor to work with Jim over the last three years to combat human trafficking in San Mateo County. His work and collaboration with all other chiefs of police have been essential to find cures for this epidemic of modern day slavery.

During his three decades with the police department, Jim has witnessed many memorable moments. One of them is without a doubt the afternoon of August 19, 2011. He accompanied Mayor Mary Ann Nihart and other city officials on a mayor's walk on Palmetto Avenue to meet local business owners. Towards the end of the walk, they opened the door of a "flower shop" and were met by an unmistakable aroma—the flower shop was a medical marijuana dispensary. Jim had to deliver the bad news to the owner that he had a false license and therefore needed to shut his flower shop.

Jim is married to Susan Kae Tasa and they have two sons, Nick and Ryan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Jim Tasa for his outstanding service keeping the residents of Pacifica safe. His leadership and warmth will be remembered long after he moves on to the next chapter of his life.