

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL
LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION
ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the National Low Income Housing Coalition, or "NLIHC," on its 40th Anniversary.

NLIHC is the only national advocacy organization solely focused on the housing needs of extremely low income households—that is, households with incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median income.

While numerous organizations concentrate on federal housing policy, NLIHC is unique because of its sole focus on the needs of extremely low income people, the only population experiencing an absolute shortage of affordable housing. NLIHC remains firm to its mission, even at times when doing so is not popular.

Since its inception, NLIHC has been a leader in the effort to address the housing needs of those with the lowest incomes. From the time that Cushing N. Dolbeare founded the Ad Hoc Low Income Housing Coalition, a predecessor to NLIHC, the organization has worked to better educate constituents about when and how to make their voices heard.

Ms. Dolbeare authored or co-authored dozens of articles, books and reports, most notably a widely-cited annual report on the gap between housing costs and the wages of low income people. This publication continues to be relied upon on Capitol Hill, and the data included in it are instrumental in making the case for continued federal support for housing programs that reach those in our society with the very lowest incomes.

NLIHC has found through its research that for every 100 extremely low income renter households, there are only 31 affordable and available units. This shortage worsens every year and exists in every state in the country. The need is particularly acute given current funding for HUD programs, which is only enough to reach one in four eligible households. Households who cannot get assistance, even though they are eligible, must spend the majority of their meager incomes on housing, leaving very little for other expenses. Often, something like a medical emergency or job loss leaves a household at risk of experiencing homelessness or another unstable housing situation.

To address the housing shortage, NLIHC's most notable achievement to date has been its work towards creating a National Housing Trust Fund in 2008. The NHTF was initially to be funded by contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The contributions were temporarily suspended in 2008 at the height of the financial crisis. The Trust Fund, once it is capitalized, will provide the largest investment in over 40 years for the production, preservation, and rehabilitation of affordable housing for extremely low income households. It would jumpstart construction in our communities—providing both jobs and sustainable housing opportunities to moderate and low-income people.

I have been eager to see the Housing Trust Fund funded, and I call on my colleagues to find additional sources of funding from outside

of the appropriations process, to capitalize it. The NHTF, funded to scale, is the most promising way for our nation to end the affordable housing shortage which exists in every state in the country, and advance on the progress we are already making as a country towards ending homelessness.

In addition, NLIHC has been a leading voice in assuring that the rights of renters and extremely low income households are protected as Congress addressed foreclosures.

With hundreds of members across the country, and consistently incisive research and policy analysis, NLIHC is a respected voice in Washington, D.C. that has helped produce policies impacting the lives of millions. I congratulate NLIHC on its 40th Anniversary, and I look forward to working with NLIHC in the future to address the housing needs of the very poorest Americans. There is a lot of work that remains to be done, but I have no doubt that with NLIHC as a partner, we are up to the task.

PRESIDENTIAL PARDON FOR JOHN
KIRIAKOU

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for a Presidential pardon for John Kiriakou. Mr. Kiriakou is an American hero. A 15 year CIA veteran, he was decorated and recognized more than a dozen times for his outstanding work in the always-demanding intelligence world, served in dangerous Middle East posts and helped lead the team in Pakistan that captured our first high value Al Qaeda target during the biggest coordinated operation in Agency counter-terrorism history.

John Kiriakou is also a devoted family man to his wife and five children, a church-going member of the Greek-American community, a best-selling author and a serious-minded former Congressional foreign policy aide.

John Kiriakou is a whistleblower, as well. The first American intelligence officer to officially and on-record reveal that the U.S. was in the torture business as a matter of White House policy under President Bush. In confirming what the American media and policymakers were hearing whispered—that waterboarding and other enhanced interrogation techniques were a matter of standard military and intelligence procedures—he helped begin an intense and overdue debate over whether torture violated international law, tarnished our higher American principles and undermined the critical need for reliable, actionable information.

And John Kiriakou is a convicted felon, serving a 2½ year plea bargained sentence in a Pennsylvania federal prison. The charge against him is violating the Intelligence Identities Protection Act, whereby John answered a question from a U.S. reporter who was duplicitously fronting for lawyers defending Al Qaeda prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay and in the process unintentionally confirmed the classified identity of a CIA colleague. A colleague who, by the way, was being erroneously labeled as an enhanced interrogation techniques torturer.

All four of these realities about John are intertwined. He is not a spy nor a turncoat, he

did not sell secrets to an enemy or act to hurt U.S. national security. But John did shine a critical spotlight on a CIA practice that many wanted kept in the shadows and he did challenge the authority of those who authorized, oversaw, and encouraged the use of waterboarding and other acts of torture. And he did this with the moral authority of someone who served inside the intelligence world, refused an invitation to be trained in waterboarding and other like methods, knew and loved the rank-and-file men and women who sacrifice family life, safety, and prosperity for the mission of gathering and assessing secrets that might threaten American interests and lives.

The real issue here is the extremely selective prosecution of John and the ongoing efforts to intimidate him from talking about our intelligence community's misfires. Even former CIA Director Leon Panetta now concedes he accidentally revealed classified information to the writer of Zero Dark Thirty, but faces no legal ramifications. Jose Rodriguez, the CIA's former head of the Clandestine Service, admits to deciding without any legal authorization to erase videotapes of torture sessions so they could never be used in U.S. courts, but has never been forced to answer for this destruction of evidence.

Whatever John's misdeeds—and he admits that answering that reporter's questions was ill-advised and naïve—he has more than paid for them. After fifteen years of service to his country, the personal risks and costs of a life in the intelligence world, the legal double-standard applied, and now two years in prison John Kiriakou deserves a Presidential pardon so his record can be cleared, just as this country is trying to heal from a dark chapter in its history.

HONORING ALFONSO J. ORTIZ

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alfonso J. Ortiz, a devoted husband, loving father and proud New Mexican.

Alfonso's New Mexico roots run deep—he is a direct descendant of a Conquistador during the time of Diego De Vargas who served as Spanish governor for the New Spain territory of Santa Fe de Nuevo México. Alfonso would carry on this legacy. From the beginning, Alfonso displayed an impassioned sense of duty, pride and commitment to those he loved, his community and our country. At 17 years old, Alfonso proudly enlisted in the United States Army serving with honor and distinction in World War II.

Alfonso would embark on a 30 year career as a Civil Service Employee with the United States Post Office (USPS). Starting out as a Rural Route Letter Carrier, Alfonso ascended through the ranks and at one point supervised all the mail carriers in Santa Fe. Alfonso was a man of great integrity and revered by his employees. Whenever a letter carrier passed by, they would remind his children of what a wonderful boss he was; they would do anything in the world for him because they knew he never asked of them anything he would not do himself.

After World War II, Alfonzo returned to New Mexico to marry the love of his life Anne Rodriguez. They would live out their life together in Santa Fe, New Mexico with their 6 children and 8 grandchildren. Alfonso's unconditional and everlasting love for his family was boundless and when his wife Anne developed cancer he was her main caregiver, always at her side, even as she drew her last breath.

Alfonso represents the best of our country—kindness toward others, respect for everyone and limitless love. He lived his life with ardor, zeal and enterprise; striving to create a better life for his family and community. Alfonso is a spectacular new Mexican who moved and inspired individuals not with rhetoric but through actions, leading by example. Today, Alfonso is not with us but his legacy and lessons will endure in all those he met. May the memory of Alfonso live on in our hearts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on November 14, 2014 I travelled to El Salvador to commemorate the assassination of six Jesuit priests 25 years ago. As a result, I was absent for rollcall votes 518 and 519. If I were present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 518 and "no" on rollcall 519.

THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Daughters of Penelope, who for 85 years have been working to improve the status and well-being of women and their families in this country and around the world.

By promoting the ideals of ancient Greece including civic engagement and good citizenship through community service and philanthropy, the Daughters of Penelope have helped to raise awareness for a number of civic and humanitarian causes.

From its financial support for breast cancer research to its assistance to victims and communities affected by natural disasters to its work in support of affordable and dignified housing for this nation's senior citizens, the members of the Daughters of Penelope have answered the call of those in need for more than a half century.

So it is with great appreciation that I rise to recognize the work and members of the Daughters of Penelope for their commitment to volunteerism, for their charity and for all they have done over these many years to advance the standing of women around the world.

CONGRATULATING EAGLE SCOUT BARON RYAN

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eagle Scout Baron Ryan on earning all 139 Merit Badges possible during his time in the Boy Scouts.

This feat is even more remarkable since only 242 boys out of the 110 million Boy Scouts who have ever been involved in Boy Scouts have earned every Merit Badge possible. Even then, because the Boy Scouts reissued 4 additional historical Merit Badges in 2010 to celebrate the organization's 100th anniversary, Baron earned a total number of Merit Badges that only a handful of Boys Scouts in all of scouting history have accomplished.

But Scouting is not only about achieving Merit Badges. In his time as a Scout, Baron has completed hours upon hours of service to his community through projects such as collecting food for Least of These during Scouting for Food, playing his bugle for numerous Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, cleaning up area rivers, serving our nation's veterans at VFW and American Legion events, and volunteering with charities such as Lost and Found, which serves children and teens in the Missouri Ozarks who are grieving due to the loss of a parent.

Aside from the time Baron dedicated to his community, he also dedicated himself and his time to his troop. During his time as a Boy Scout, Baron held many important leadership roles, including troop guide, instructor, historian, and chaplain's aide among others. As a Scout, Baron has also spent approximately 150 nights camping with his troop, including participating in high adventure crews at the Boy Scouts' Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Sea Base in the Florida Keys, and Northern Tier in Minnesota, all of which ultimately earned him the Boy Scouts' coveted Triple Crown award.

As if his accomplishments do not already seem vast, for his Eagle Project, Baron produced a 1,022 page book called Lamonga, River of the Seven Spirits that was ultimately donated free of cost to hundreds of Missouri schools and libraries.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Baron on all that he has accomplished and wish him well in his future endeavors.

NOVEMBER 15TH MARKED BEGINNING OF OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, November 15th was a big day for all of us. November 15th marked the beginning of open enrollment for quality, affordable health care for millions of Americans.

Because health care should be a right, not a privilege. We need to continue moving our

communities from a culture of coping to a culture of coverage.

This Saturday, alongside Executive Director of Covered California Mr. Peter Lee, I relaunched my "Enroll OC" or "Inscribe HOY" initiative to connect Orange County residents with certified, in-person, bilingual health insurance enrollment services.

Despite some bumps along the road last year, Orange County surpassed enrollment expectations by almost three-hundred percent, enrolling over 131,000 people, including more than 2,000 folks who were helped by "Enroll OC."

And believe me, we will do it again. In fact, we have to do it again.

We enrolled one million Californians and cut our uninsured rate in half—the Affordable Care Act is working. It's time to stop repealing and start enrolling and I hope all of my colleagues, from both sides of the aisle, will join our effort.

Let's commit to ready, set, enroll.

REMEMBERING TERRENCE P. ALLEN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of an important and respected member of the Chicago community, Terrence P. Allen, who recently passed away at the young age of 54. Terry Allen has been a long and outstanding activist for the middle-class, guiding him through a long and distinguished career fighting for workers. Terry passed away on November 11, 2014 after heroically battling cancer.

Terry served for decades as a dedicated leader of working people, taking over the city's largest electrical workers union in 2011 as the Business Manager for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 134. In this role, Terry represented thousands of Chicagoland workers with great distinction. As distinguished as he was on behalf of workers, Terry made many other contributions to the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago for which we are all grateful.

Terry's top priority was always his family and the love and support they provided was most important in his life. He married the love of his life, Jean Conrick, and together they raised 3 children; Billy, Amanda and Michael. Terry was the youngest of 8 children born to Thomas and Irene Allen. His loving family included his siblings Barbara (John) Wiemhoff, Nancy (Hon. Tim) Cullerton, Honorable Tom (Jan), Jim (Lin), Tim (Mary), Dan (Sue) and his twin brother, Pat (Laura), along with his wife's family; parents, Bill and Camille Conrick, Mary Ann (Dan) Jordan, Bill Conrick, Joanne (Dan) Lynch, Tom Conrick, and Cathy (Jay) Ek. Uncle and Great Uncle Terry will be fondly remembered by his 46 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Terrence Allen was an inspiration to all who knew him. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering him for his tireless service and dedication. I join his family, friends and IBEW Local 134 to honor his legacy, celebrate his life and remember his illustrious contributions to the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago. I wish to express my deepest condolences to his family, and may God bless the