

RECOGNIZING BRAD KEARNS ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brad Kearns, chief of inspectors with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, who is retiring at the end of June after 38 years of law enforcement experience.

Before serving as chief of inspectors, Brad worked for 24 years at the Oakland Police Department and also served as chief of police to the town of Moraga.

For 7 years as a deputy district attorney, I had the opportunity to work with Brad at the District Attorney's Office and appreciated his commitment to ensuring crime victims received the justice they deserved and also his openness to embracing new technologies to better prosecute cases.

It is fitting that I am honoring Brad in Washington, D.C., as just 2 years ago, he and I were here with District Attorney Nancy O'Malley for Federal advocacy to bring more Federal grant money back to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

Brad plans to take a well-earned retirement and spend it with his wife of 39 years, Diane, and his children and grandchildren, all of whom live nearby in the Bay Area.

On behalf of the residents of the East Bay, I want to thank Brad for his years of hard work and dedication to keeping our community safe. And I want to wish him well as he begins this new, exciting chapter in his life.

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES OF SERGEANT RACHEL CAREY AND ILLINOIS VETERANS

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sergeant Rachel Carey, a courageous veteran, mother, and leader. Originally from Aurora, Sergeant Carey proudly served in the U.S. Army from 2003 until her passing on May 24, 2009, including tours in Afghanistan and Germany.

Rachel was only 24 years old when she lost her battle to cancer and left behind a loving daughter, Madison. I was privileged to honor Rachel as her name was added to the Kane County Veterans Memorial this past Memorial Day. Those present who were touched by her life spoke volumes about Rachel's impeccable character and honorable service.

This past week, I had the privilege to visit Normandy during the 70th anniversary of D-day during World War II. 553 Illinois soldiers were laid to rest in the Normandy American Cemetery, including Irvin Hinman, whose grave site I visited.

These servicemembers exemplify bravery on those French beaches, and we will remain ever indebted to their sacrifice.

WARREN WEINSTEIN, CAPTIVE OF AL QAEDA

(Mr. DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of my constituent, Warren Weinstein, who has been held captive by al Qaeda for over 1,000 days. This past week, the headlines have been dominated by the release of Bowe Bergdahl. But these headlines should also remind us that there are other Americans held as prisoners overseas.

Warren is a loving husband, a father, and a grandfather. He is 72 years old. Recent videos released by al Qaeda show him in bad and deteriorating health. This is a man of peace and of love. He has dedicated his life to public service, starting with the Peace Corps up until his service with USAID, which is what he was doing in Pakistan when he was captured 4 days before his scheduled return.

I have written the administration and encouraged them to use all means available to bring Warren home. This week, I will be introducing a resolution in the House encouraging them to do the same for Warren and for every American held overseas. We must not forget these Americans. We must bring them home.

Warren, today you are not forgotten by this Congress or this country.

RURAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

(Mr. DAINES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, in Montana, transportation services like Amtrak and Essential Air Service are critical for the strength of our economy. Montanans rely on rural air service every day, and thousands of tourists ride Amtrak every year to visit Glacier National Park, an important economic driver in northwestern Montana. But proposed changes to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill place these programs in danger.

We need to get our fiscal house in order, but we must do it responsibly, ensuring our rural communities aren't forced to bear the brunt of cuts that will harm their local economies.

I will remain a strong advocate for these programs and encourage my colleagues to support and protect the critical services on which rural Americans rely.

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, the San Gabriel Mountains are a defining feature of my district, and their peaks form a beautiful crown for the Los Angeles region. But they are deteriorating as forest rangers grapple with more than 3 million visitors annually.

Trails are marked by graffiti instead of signs, trash litters the ground as receptacles overflow, and blatant safety hazards leave the public at risk and threaten our water supply.

That is why I am introducing legislation to designate this area as a National Recreation Area. It would allow the National Park Service to work with the Forest Service and local partners on community-based, community-driven protection and restoration projects. It could mean more small parks in underserved communities, better access and connectivity to trails and bike paths from within our urban cities, new signs in the mountains, more bathrooms, more picnic areas, educational programs for a sustainable future, and more visitor services.

Our community deserves to see these mountains protected permanently. I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS SEASON

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the 2014 Atlantic hurricane season began on June 1, and as the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I urge citizens in hurricane-prone areas to prepare themselves and their families. Preparation saves lives.

Heavy winds, storm surge, and flooding are some of the hazards that must be considered when preparing for hurricanes, and I urge families and individuals to develop emergency plans. I also urge families and individuals to build an emergency kit that includes important supplies such as basic medicines. Previous disasters have shown that survivors can be on their own for many days before assistance arrives.

Information on how to prepare for emergencies, including how to build these kits, can be found at the Department of Homeland Security's ready.gov Web site or at fema.gov. I urge citizens to find their local emergency management agencies and Red Cross chapters on Facebook and Twitter to receive updates before and during storms. Please take these simple steps to prepare yourselves and your family should disaster strike, because preparation saves lives.

HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I watched as President Obama signed the long overdue Water Resources Reform and Development Act into law.

This new law is good news, particularly for the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which stand to gain tens of millions of dollars that they have collected in their harbor maintenance tax. It will help create good-paying jobs and keep our ports globally competitive.

As a representative of the Nation's busiest port complex, I believe it is about time that our Nation's ports finally get the critical investments that they need to remain strong. It has been a long haul, but after months of meetings and hearings, the ideas to fully spend this harbor maintenance tax and to increase the flexibility of the funds for these ports were included in the final water bill that was signed by the President.

President Obama and Congress recognize the critical importance of our ports to our Nation's economic growth and sustainability. Today's action is a victory not only for those ports in my community, but for all of our Nation's ports.

POLL FINDS MEDIA BIAS MAJOR PROBLEM

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans know that liberal media bias is a major problem in our country. They realize that our democracy rests on fair and balanced news coverage. Instead of reporting the facts, though, the national liberal media pushes the agenda of the administration.

A recent Rasmussen poll found that Americans now believe media bias is a bigger problem than large campaign contributions. It also found that a majority of Americans believe the news media has too much power and influence over government decisions. This is largely because many Americans believe that the media goes easy on this administration.

Americans will continue to view the media as a problem until it provides fair and balanced coverage. The media should give the American people the facts, not tell them what to think.

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YOUNG WOMEN UNDER ATTACK

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Boko Haram kidnapped hundreds of girls in Nigeria, and I am outraged. These girls were determined to get an education, to build a better life for

themselves, for their families and for their nation. For this, they were abducted.

As a school principal, I know the benefits of an education. Tragedies such as these are not limited to Nigeria. The pursuit of education for our girls is under attack globally. Young girls have had acid thrown in their faces in Afghanistan and Pakistan, been murdered in Somalia, have been abducted in Libya and Nigeria; and these are just a few examples.

We all know the story of Malala, the brave young girl from Pakistan who spoke about her passion for education. In return, Taliban gunmen boarded her school bus and shot her in the head.

Now, we have the Nigerian girls, and I am concerned. Are they hungry? Are they sheltered? Can they shower? Can they take care of their womanly needs? Have they been raped? Have they been beaten? Have they been sold? Are they still even alive?

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe we must continue to do everything we can to bring back these young girls.

JUSTICE FOR DR. MEHDI ALI QAMAR

(Mr. STIVERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar was gunned down and killed in front of his two-year-old son and his wife in Pakistan.

He was from Pickerington, Ohio, and was a cardiologist and humanitarian who was volunteering his time to care for folks at the Tahir Heart Institute in Pakistan.

He was also an Ahmadi Muslim, a peaceful reformist movement within Islam, which opposes jihad and radical Islam. I offer my condolences to his family and his loved ones. Sadly, he may have been targeted because he was an Ahmadi Muslim.

Today, I am calling on the Government of Pakistan to officially condemn this act and to seek an investigation to bring his murderers to justice. I am also calling on the State Department to institute a formal investigation looking into the killing of Dr. Qamar, as well as look into the increasing violence against Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan.

I urge my colleagues to sign a letter to the U.S. State Department regarding these issues. It is important to bring Dr. Qamar's murderers to justice and ensure the Government of Pakistan protects its religious minorities.

MAKING STUDENT LOANS MORE AFFORDABLE

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last August, in a rare flash of bipartisan to-

getherness, we passed a measure that protected new student loans from doubling to 6.8 percent, but there is still much work left to be done. The \$1.2 trillion of student loan overhang still haunts many who have graduated from university in prior years.

Yesterday, President Obama, with the stroke of a pen, extended the income-based repayment protections, capping at 10 percent of income the debt requirements for students who took out Stafford loans in the past, but there is still more work to be done.

Again, for many who have private student loan debts at 8 percent, 10 percent, 12 percent interest, they are still not getting any relief.

A few days ago, we introduced in the House the Bank on Students Emergency Refinancing Act, which will allow students with those loans to refinance down those high rates to 3.8 percent, something which middle class families do with home mortgages and credit cards.

We need to provide that assistance, particularly for young Americans who are starting out in their professional employment careers.

Let's come together as we did last August. Let's support the Bank on Students Emergency Refinancing Act. Let's pass this measure, which is a critical problem for middle class Americans.

JUSTICE FOR JOHN GRANVILLE

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on January 1, 2008, Buffalo native John Granville was tragically murdered by Islamic extremists in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum.

John Granville was a kid from my own south Buffalo neighborhood, who was committed to helping those in the developing world. He was a former Peace Corps volunteer turned career diplomat. At the time of his death, Granville was working in South Sudan to assist in their efforts to hold free and fair elections after 20 years of brutal civil war.

While John's killers were captured and convicted, they later escaped from prison under suspicious circumstances exactly 4 years ago. Two still remain at large. Meanwhile, the man who helped these killers escape was pardoned by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

The State Department has issued a \$5 million reward for information leading to the capture of these criminals through the Rewards for Justice program. It has classified the killers as global terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues, if you share my outrage, to please seek justice for John Granville by cosponsoring my resolution, H. Res. 171, calling on the State Department to maintain Sudan on the state sponsors of terrorism list.