

Mrs. Bond has also served as a delegate to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and is a nationally recognized educational expert in special techniques of speech correction for the culturally disadvantaged.

I have known Mrs. Bond, her late husband (the remarkable Dr. Leslie Bond), and her wonderful family since my earliest days growing up in St. Louis. Both she and her husband stood shoulder-to-shoulder with my father, former Congressman Bill Clay, as he led the historic Jefferson Bank protests which broke down the walls of segregation in our city.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of Congress to join me in honoring this great American who has helped so many and continues to inspire us to have courage, to work towards transformative change, and to confront injustice and inequality wherever it exists.

TRIBUTE TO THE ATTACK 121 VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Attack 121 Volleyball Team of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for qualifying for the USA Volleyball Junior National Tournament. The competition began June 27th and ran through June 30th.

This team dedicated their time and talents to achieving a single goal and I commend them for their hard work and determination. They were able to come together to achieve great success.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this group of young Iowans demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Attack 121 volleyball team on a job well done, and wishing them nothing but continued success as they continue their volleyball careers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 468; my flight was delayed due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

HONORING TURLOCK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF TIM LOHMAN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Turlock City Fire Department Chief Tim Lohman, who announced his retirement after serving 35 years in the fire service.

Since the beginning of his career, Tim Lohman has always been dedicated to the Turlock City Fire Department. On July 1, 1980, he took his first step into the Department by becoming a Volunteer Firefighter. After only three years of hard work and perseverance, Tim Lohman succeeded in becoming a full-time Firefighter for the City of Turlock. There he worked at all levels of the department including Fire Engineer, Fire Captain, Battalion Chief, Division Chief of Training, and Division Chief of Operations. On account of his commitment, professionalism, and integrity he had demonstrated throughout the years, Tim Lohman was awarded the high rank of Fire Chief four years ago.

Response times and personnel safety are a priority to Chief Lohman, and during his tenure as Fire Chief, he ensured many technological advances to the Turlock City Fire Department to achieve this goal. He oversaw the installation of Mobile Data Computers to each fire engine, which provided the crews with the most recent advances in mapping systems and programs. Furthermore, Chief Lohman oversaw the implementation of the 911 system and other additions that changed the landscape of emergency service response for the Fire Department.

Serving as a Firefighter was not the only calling for Chief Lohman, as he owns and operates his own almond farm in Ballico, California. In 1989, he purchased the 28 acre parcel from his grandparents, and has been growing and harvesting the land ever since. Chief Lohman has been familiar with the almond industry for some time, but will be experiencing a new challenge after his retirement from the Turlock City Fire Department. He will be beginning a new career as Chief Executive Officer with the almond cooperative Northern Merced Hulling Association. Chief Lohman's vast experience and leadership will ensure he thrives in his imminent position.

Chief Lohman has been recognized by colleagues with many awards and accolades. He is well respected by his community and fellow firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commanding the outstanding contributions made to fire service and the City of Turlock by Turlock City Fire Department Chief Tim Lohman and hereby wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER OF CURTIS M. GRAVES

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished public service career of Curtis M. Graves.

Mr. Graves was one of the first African Americans elected to the Texas House of Representatives since the turn of the 20th century. A Democrat and political contemporary of Barbara Jordan, Mr. Graves served in the Texas legislature from 1967 to 1973, where he championed progressive legislation on issues ranging from gun control to criminal justice reform. Mr. Graves also spent many years actively participating in the Civil Rights

Movement, fighting for equal rights of all Americans.

Mr. Graves was born August 26, 1938 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is an alumnus of Texas Southern University and Princeton University. After serving in the Texas House of Representatives, Mr. Graves had a thirty year career at the National Aeronautic and Space Administration—first in NASA's Academic Affairs Division and ultimately as its Director for Civil Affairs.

On behalf of the people of Maryland's Eighth Congressional District, and in anticipation of his seventy-seventh birthday on August 26, 2015, I would like to thank Curtis M. Graves for his lifelong career of public service and for his many contributions to our nation. I wish him and his family all the best in the years to come.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS OF THE SENSELESS SHOOTING IN LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to speak out against the loss of innocent lives that resulted from yet another unimaginable act of violence in our great country.

I humbly ask the House to observe a moment of silence for the victims of the horrific tragedy that occurred in a movie theater in Lafayette, Louisiana, on July 23, 2015.

My thoughts and prayers are with these victims, the families, and the friends of those who lost loved ones in this horrific shooting.

From current reports, we know that the gunman unloaded over 13 rounds into the crowd at the movie theater late Thursday night.

The gunman inexplicably began his rampage by firing shots into the seats directly in front of him, and then took his own life.

His actions claimed the lives of two young women, Mayci Breaux and Jillian Johnson, and injured nine others at the Grand Multiplex Theater in Lafayette, Louisiana.

I want to commend the rapid response by the law enforcement personnel that arrived at the scene and acted with courage and skill, likely preventing any further loss of innocent lives.

Individuals who have a history of mental instability, as did this shooter, should never be allowed to possess a firearm.

This is why my colleagues and I co-sponsored, H.R. 226, the "Keeping Guns from High Risk Individuals Act", which prevents individuals with a history of mental illness from gaining access to firearms.

Tragic events such as this should not be a part of the American culture.

Yet, in 2015 alone, we have had 204 mass shootings where innocent lives have been senselessly taken from our communities.

No American should ever have to experience fear and violence when they are stepping out into their communities to participate in activities, such as going to the movies or attending a faith meeting.

Americans have proven time and time again that we are capable of tackling the tough issues that face our nation and culture.

Violent acts such as this highlight the need for serious and positive reforms to help enhance public safety.

Congress needs to work with the President to develop and enact sensible gun violence prevention legislation.

We cannot give up, no matter the obstacles placed before us.

We can no longer be complacent or passive; we need to enact policies that could save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask, how many more lives and incidents will it take before Congress acts to take on this pressing issue?

Are not the shootings in Aurora, Colorado; Sandy Hook, Connecticut; Charleston, South Carolina; Tucson, Arizona; Blacksburg, Virginia; and Chattanooga, Tennessee, or any of the other 200 mass shootings across the nation, enough to spur us to act?

Mr. Speaker, it does not have to be this way; there are many actions we can take to reduce gun violence in America.

All we have to do is summon the will.

HONORING KRISTIN WELSH-SIMPSON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of this great institution and those who serve and work here to acknowledge and express appreciation to one of our long-tenured House employees, Kristin Welsh-Simpson—a Senior Employee Assistance Counselor with the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)—who is departing the House following her fifteen years of service in the Office of Employee Assistance (OEA).

Kristin first came to the House in 1996 as a graduate student intern in the Office of Employee Assistance as part of her graduate studies at the National Catholic School of Social Services, at The Catholic University of America. Following the awarding of her Master's Degree in Social Work, she took a position in the private sector as an Employee Assistance Account Manager for an international EAP provider, and oversaw the employee assistance service contract for a large global health products company. Fortunately for the House, the CAO and OEA were able to permanently hire her in 2000 when she joined the Office of Employee Assistance as an Employee Assistance Counselor.

Almost immediately, Kristin began applying her special case management and organizational skills in service to the Members and employees of the House, the Congressional Budget Office and the United States Capitol Police. She has worked diligently and tirelessly to assist managers and employees in addressing the myriad of personal challenges, mental health and addiction problems, and other behavioral and work-life balance issues that potentially impact the performance and productivity of our workforce. With barely a year of service under her belt, Kristin and her OEA colleagues found themselves in the uncharted territory of assisting House Leadership, Members, Officers, and employees through the emotional turmoil and psychological recovery following September 11th and

the anthrax crisis in October 2001. Specifically, she was part of both the OEA team's response to the emotional and psychological support needs of individual employees and work groups, and the CAO's larger communications effort managed by the (OEA). She served with the OEA as the critical informational link to the House workforce throughout the six weeks in which sections of the House campus were closed—keeping employees and families informed of the status of the remediation efforts and the staggered opening of offices as well as the availability of House services as sections of the House buildings were cleared for occupancy and resumption of operations. Unfortunately, with the realities of our world, these were not to be the only crises that Kristin and the employee assistance team would be called upon to assist us with and support us through. Kristin's skills and capabilities would be particularly helpful following the tragic shootings in Tucson in January 2011, beginning with her on-site support and assistance within hours of the incident.

In addition to being on the front lines in providing the support and services of the Office of Employee Assistance team to the House, CBO and Capitol Police communities in the aftermath of some of the most troubling events of the past fifteen years, Kristin has established a reputation as a go-to person. Kristin has been sought out for her day-to-day work in consulting with and coaching Members, managers and employees to assist them with the challenges presented when an employee's personal issues impact their performance or the effectiveness of the office. It is on this level that I personally became familiar with Kristin and her tremendous work ethic, insights and capabilities. She has worked with me and my staff for several years, helping to plan and facilitate our annual staff retreat and to incorporate some critical staff development into the process.

Whether providing the OEA's critical assessment, referral and follow-up services to an employee in crisis, consulting with a Member or Chief of Staff on strategies to effectively integrate communications and team development into an annual staff retreat, or conducting a training session for the general House workforce, Kristin has consistently brought compassion, competence, organizational insight, institutional sensitivity, and practical solutions to her work. It seems fitting that one of Kristin's major responsibilities in the Office of Employee Assistance this past year was serving as the office's Intern Field Placement Instructor for a graduate student from Catholic University—somewhat bringing her career with the House full circle.

As Kristin departs the House to assume the position of Employee Assistance Director for the United States Senate, I regret the House's loss but take comfort in knowing that the Congress will continue to benefit from her knowledge and experience. I join the Chief Administrative Officer, Ed Cassidy; the CAO's Acting Chief Human Resource Officer, Darnell Lee; and the entire OEA team—Bernard Beidel, Liz McBride-Chambers, Margot Hawkins-Green, and Paul Tewksbury—in thanking Kristin for her service to the Office of Employee Assistance and the House, and in wishing her well and much success as her employee assistance career takes her to new challenges and opportunities. As someone who has personally benefited from the assistance and support she

has provided my staff and office, I am confident I speak for the many Members, employees and family members she has helped, assisted and supported over the past fifteen years. Well done and Godspeed, Kristin.

TRIBUTE TO TOM McMAHON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tom McMahon of Fairfield, Iowa, for receiving the 2015 Leadership for Iowa Award from the Iowa Association of Business and Industry Foundation.

Each year, the Iowa Association of Business and Industry Foundation selects one distinguished recipient to receive the Leadership for Iowa Award. The individual selected for this award must display a willingness and commitment in serving Iowa. They must also have occupied a leadership position in civic or professional organizations as well as displayed a knack for leading others on a wide-range of issues.

Tom was granted this prestigious award because of his involvement and leadership in his community. He demonstrated his willingness to serve through his time as a volunteer for Leadership Iowa, Leadership Iowa University and Business Horizons, along with his tenure on the ABI Board of Directors. Tom's commitment to mentoring future business leaders truly embodies our Iowa values.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to represent Iowans like Tom in the United States Congress, and I applaud him for his commitment to service and giving back to the community. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him for receiving this award. I wish him all the best moving forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF TOM JAWETZ AND HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative ZOE LOFGREN of California, would like to thank Tom Jawetz for more than six years of service to the House of Representatives. Throughout this time, Tom has served as a dedicated counsel to the Judiciary Committee under three Chairmen, including myself, Representative LAMAR SMITH, and Representative BOB GOODLATTE. For the past year, he has served as the Minority Chief Counsel to the Judiciary's Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.

A native of New York City, Tom graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth College with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Government. Tom developed a passion for working with low-income communities through an AmeriCorps fellowship in Charleston, South Carolina. As an AmeriCorps fellow, Tom