

Mr. Minh withstood the brutal tactics and refused to sign any report against him.

His trial was "open to the public," which in Vietnam means closed to the approximately 100 people who showed up to support him and the 15 of the 18 witnesses called by his defense.

Then on August 26, 2014, Mr. Minh was sentenced to serve 2.5 years in prison.

A few months later, the Supreme People's Court of Vietnam upheld the ruling from the preliminary trial, finding him and the other two activists, guilty of disturbing the public peace. This form of government sponsored religious persecution has no place in any nation.

In the Bill of Rights, freedom of religion is listed first because it is the most important. This was no mistake by our Founding Fathers.

Freedom of worship is a basic human right, and one that all countries should recognize.

I urge the State Department to do its job and recognize Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern.

And that's just the way it is.

POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS DAY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, September 3, was PKD Awareness Day. Throughout the country, ordinary citizens took the time to make their neighbors aware of a little-known disease affecting thousands of people in the United States.

Polycystic Kidney Disease or PKD is a genetic disease that eventually leads to kidney failure. Parents have a 50 percent chance of passing the disease to each of their children. However, 10 percent of the people diagnosed with PKD have no family history of the disease. More alarming, PKD is the fourth leading cause of kidney failure, and more than 50 percent of people with PKD will develop kidney failure by age 50.

Unfortunately, there is no treatment to stop or slow the growth of the cysts that develop and enlarge in both kidneys. The only remedy at this time for kidney failure or end stage renal disease (ESRD) is dialysis or a kidney transplant. While ESRD patients are less than one percent of the Medicare population, they account for nearly seven percent of the Medicare budget—totaling nearly \$35 billion annually.

PKD Awareness Day helps to bring attention to this debilitating disease and the constant challenges people impacted by PKD face. Advocates joined together across the country this year to highlight the need for research and innovation that could help PKD patients and their families.

I stand in support of these tireless advocates to help find better treatments, but more importantly, a cure for PKD. It is essential to raise awareness about PKD in the hopes of bringing relief to the more than 20 million Americans with kidney disease.

NURSING EXCELLENCE IN TX-22

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital's nursing staff for earning the Pathway to Excellence designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center awards hospitals that create flourishing work environments for their nurses. These nurses are committed to providing Katy residents with high-quality and safe patient care. The nurses' efforts to create a positive work environment makes this hospital one of the best places for nurses to work. This award recognizes what a strong and dedicated staff the nurses are at Memorial Hermann Katy. We are lucky to have such an incredible team of nurses so close to home.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital's nursing staff for earning the Pathway to Excellence designation.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE AND SELFLESS SACRIFICE OF STAFF SERGEANT FORREST B. SIBLEY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with both profound sadness and deep gratitude that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen decorated American hero. On August 27, 2015, Staff Sergeant Forrest B. Sibley, who was assigned to the 21st Special Tactics Squadron, 720th Special Tactics Group, 24th Special Operations Wing, Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina, tragically succumbed to wounds received during an attack the day prior while conducting operations in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel near Camp Antonik, Afghanistan. SSgt Sibley was 31 years old, but lived a lifetime marked by and full of service.

Although a Louisiana native, born in Shreveport in 1983, Pensacola, Florida, would become home to Forrest. By all accounts of his loved ones, he lived his life to the fullest and always savored spending time with friends and family along the beautiful coastline of Pensacola Beach. After Hurricane Ivan struck Northwest Florida in 2004, Forrest and his friends worked to clean up the destruction in its devastating aftermath, helping neighbors rebuild and recover, with his jovial nature intact.

Answering the call of duty, Forrest entered into the United States Air Force and upon completion of basic training in 2008 became an Air Force Combat Controller, serving alongside some of our Nation's most elite. Among his qualifications, SSgt Sibley was a military static line jumper, free fall jumper, an Air Force combat scuba diver, and a joint terminal attack controller. SSgt Sibley's military career would include four deployments to some of the most critical and sensitive areas of operation. His awards include four Bronze Stars, one

with Valor Device, the Purple Heart, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

As exemplified by his extraordinary heroism, SSgt Sibley's life stands as a testament that freedom is not free, and his legacy will echo in time as an example of the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom. My wife, Vicki, joins me in praying that God is with Forrest's parents, Brent and Susan, and all of the beloved family and friends he held so dear, and we ask that God continue to bless them and the United States of America.

KENTUCKY STATE TROOPER JOSEPH PONDER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, another peace officer has been targeted and killed.

Late Sunday night, Kentucky State Trooper Joseph Cameron Ponder made a routine traffic stop. He pulled over the suspect who as it turns out was driving with a suspended license. The trooper was going to arrange for an overnight stay for the man and his fellow passengers, which included two children, but this plan never came to fruition.

This stop would prove fatal. Suddenly, the driver sped away and the chase began.

For nine miles, Trooper Ponder pursued the criminal. Then, the criminal's car made a hasty and abrupt stop. The trooper's vehicle smashed into the back of the criminal's getaway car.

The criminal emerged from the vehicle and fired intently at the officer. Bullets scattered around the hood and windshield and hit the officer.

Ponder was struck multiple times.

The armed criminal fled, this time on foot.

And a manhunt was underway for the killer. Helicopters manned the sky as officers and canines manned the ground and wooded areas.

The criminal was spotted. He refused to drop his weapon and instead hatefully pointed it straight at police. The criminal was taken down.

The trooper passed away at the hospital later that night.

This story is becoming all too common. Officers are being targeted just because of the car they drive and the uniform they wear. This war on police must stop.

Trooper Ponder graduated from the police academy in January and was working in Trigg County.

He was a Navy veteran and just 31 years old.

On the Kentucky State Police Facebook page, tributes fill the comment section.

One stands out, from Ponder's sister.

It reads:

"Thank you for all the kind words. My brother was the best man in the world and did not deserve what happened to him. Please pray for us, this was an enormous loss."

A loss that is felt around the country, as our nation continues to mourn fallen peace officers.

Kentucky State Trooper Joseph Ponder will not be forgotten.

As I have said many times before, those who wear the badge—the shield over their heart—represent the best of our communities.

Our gratitude goes to Trooper Ponder for his selfless service both to our country and our community.

We continue to pray for police. They are the silent safe guardians who protect our cities, neighborhoods and schools. They are the men and women of the thin blue line between the law and the lawless.

And that's just the way it is.

BUILDING A BIGGER FORT BEND

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ryko Development for being recognized as Developer of the Year by the Texas Association of Builders.

Ryko Development earned this prestigious award because of its outstanding work establishing the Lakes of Bella Terra community. This community brings new families and businesses to Fort Bend County every day. Through Lakes of Bella Terra, Ryko Development created an ideal living environment for families and has earned a reputation as a premier developer in the Houston area.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ryko Development for being named Developer of the Year. Thanks for bringing Lakes of Bella Terra to Fort Bend.

WELCOME, KATHERINE LEE WILSON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my daughter-in-law and son, Joy and Julian Wilson of Lexington, South Carolina, on the birth of their new baby girl. Katherine Lee Wilson who was born at 8:09 a.m., on Monday, September 14, 2015, weighing 8 pounds and measuring 20 and 5 inches long at Lexington Medical Center in West Columbia, South Carolina. Katherine joins an older brother, Jack Wilson, and older sister, Sally Wilson. She has been born into a loving home where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Sally's grandparents Gary Strickland and Sherry Strickland of Nichols, South Carolina, and my wife, Roxanne Wilson of Springdale, South Carolina. Additionally, are proud great-grandmothers, Martha Dusenbury, Lilly Strickland, and Sally Willoughby. I am so grateful for this new addition to the Wilson family.

CELEBRATING THE NINETIETH BIRTHDAY OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED OAKLAND ARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and pleasure to wish a very happy birthday to Northwest Florida's beloved Oakland Ard on the occasion of his 90th birthday and to congratulate him on his many achievements and recognize his service to Northwest Florida and our great Nation.

Born and raised in Geneva County, Alabama, Oakland answered the call of duty, while in high school, joining the United States Army in December 1943. After completing basic training, Oakland deployed to Europe, where he joined his brother as a member of the 2nd Armored Infantry Division, 41st Armored Infantry Regiment, seeing combat in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. While engaged in battle with German forces, Oakland's company came under heavy mortar fire, and his brother, Dalton, was tragically killed in action. Despite this devastating loss, however, Oakland continued to serve with honor and distinction until injuries sustained from severe frostbite forced him to be called back to the United States. After recovering from his injuries, Oakland continued to serve our Nation as a heavy machine gunner instructor at Fort Knox until his discharge on May 10, 1946.

Oakland's military career proved to be a harbinger of many more years of selfless service to the Lord, his family, friends, community, and Nation. Following his discharge, he returned home and started working as a farmer to help put two of his siblings through school, and when his brother, Herman, was called to active duty to serve in Korea, Oakland moved to Port St. Joe, Florida, to fill his brother's position at the St. Joe Paper Company. In Port St. Joe, Oakland met his first wife, Marian and remained in the area until his brother returned from his military duties.

In 1957, Oakland gained employment at the Container Corporation of America and settled in Jay, Florida. The Ards quickly planted strong roots in the Jay community, where they raised their two sons, Freddy and Ronnie. Oakland would remain at the Container Corporation for nearly four decades, until his retirement in 1996. While working, Oakland helped establish and lead several organizations including the Eastpoint Employees Federal Credit Union, where he served as both President and Vice President, and the Brewton CCA Federal Credit Union, where he served a term as president and many decades as a board member and treasurer.

Outside of his working life, Oakland was also a leader in his church and civic communities. As a longtime member of Jay First Baptist Church, he served in countless positions, including Sunday School Director, Training Union Director, Brotherhood Director, and Church Treasurer, among many others.

Oakland also contributed to the Northwest Florida community in myriad other ways. He was appointed by the Florida Legislature to the Board of Directors of Jay Hospital, served nearly two decades as a board member of the

State Housing Initiative Program, and was a longtime member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce. In addition, the people of Jay also elected him to the Jay City Council, where he served for four years.

Still, all of these impressive accomplishments are only a small reflection on Oakland's selfless character and dedication to family, faith, and community. A dedicated family man, for more than 50 years, Oakland was a loving husband to Marian, until her passing from cancer. Today, Oakland enjoys spending time with his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and his wife, Jackie, and he has always been around to lend a hand to his neighbors in times of need.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Oakland Ard on his 90th birthday. My wife Vicki and I wish him and the entire Ard family all the best.

FORT BEND CARES

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fort Bend Cares for its dedication to improving the lives of the children in Fort Bend County.

Since the beginning, Fort Bend Cares has worked to improve the lives of our local children. Their latest project is a new playground located in Community Park in Rosenberg. Fort Bend Cares, with assistance from other local businesses, will work with a local playground manufacturer to ensure that the children of the community have a safe and fun place to relax and play. We are all looking forward to the playground's completion.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, thank you to Fort Bend Cares for leaving such a positive impact on the lives of so many children here in Fort Bend County.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE AND SELFLESS SACRIFICE OF CAPTAIN MATTHEW D. ROLAND

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with both profound sadness and deep gratitude that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen decorated American hero. On August 27, 2015, Captain Matthew D. Roland, who was assigned to the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron at Hurlburt Field, located in Florida's First Congressional District, tragically succumbed to wounds received during an attack the day prior while conducting operations in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel near Camp Antonik, Afghanistan. Captain Roland was 27 years old, but lived a lifetime marked by and full of service.