

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY'S HONORS COLLEGE

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC). For the past 50 years, the NCHC has been committed to excellence in honors education.

In particular, I rise to honor Valparaiso University's honors college, Christ College, an NCHC member located in Indiana's First Congressional District, for its commitment to teaching America's finest students. Dedicated to the cultivation of intellectual, moral, and spiritual virtues, Christ College seeks to emphasize history, literature, art, philosophy, and religious studies. Small discussion-centered classes offer stimulating interdisciplinary study with master teacher-scholars appointed full-time to the honors college. The students enrolled in the honors program not only take rigorous honors coursework, but are concurrently enrolled in one of Valparaiso University's other excellent colleges from which they earn their degrees.

Prominent Christ College alumni include federal district court judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, class of 1976, and the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Energy Resources, Mary Burce Warlick. These outstanding examples, and the many other successful alumni of the honors program, are a testament to the dedication that Valparaiso University's Christ College has towards its students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the National Collegiate Honors Council on its 50th anniversary and in recognizing the exemplary commitment to education at Christ College. For its passionate dedication to the institute of education, the NCHC and Christ College are worthy of the highest praise. Founded in 1859, Valparaiso University has been a true asset to Northwest Indiana since its inception, and its faculty, staff, and students are a source of pride for the First Congressional District.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud member of the Congressional Black Caucus to participate in this special order hour on "Saving Our Communities" and to discuss how we can work together to address the militarization of law enforcement, the high rate of arrest of our African American youth in our

school systems, and the importance of criminal justice reform.

First, let me thank my colleague Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY, for organizing this special order and for her continued leadership on so many issues, especially as chair of the CBC's Health Braintrust. Her leadership is so critical for these important discussions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak about our broken criminal justice system and how its institutional biases overwhelmingly and negatively affect African Americans. Black bodies are criminalized, our police forces are becoming more and more militarized and we see astronomical arrest rates amongst African American youth.

From the East Bay to New York City, we see a common story of African Americans living in a different version of America. Their version is one filled with fear, distrust, and vicious cycles of incarceration, unemployment, poverty and recidivism.

Mass incarceration and a lack of reintegration policies have greatly hurt African American communities and I am frankly tired of waiting for "the people's" house to act.

For too long, we have ignored issues affecting African American communities. It is time to do the good work needed to save our communities. Let's pass criminal justice reform, end the militarization of our police forces, and work so that no student will have to go through what that young woman in South Carolina went through.

I applaud the President for his announcement today, and his bold and continued leadership to advance criminal justice reform. Yet much work remains to be done.

The cycle of incarceration and recidivism start early for African American students. The school to prison pipeline is very real and it pushes young people into prisons before they even have a chance.

While black students represent just 18 percent of preschool enrollment, they account for 42 percent of preschool student expulsions. We are talking about kids that are 2–5 years old—these kids don't even get a start, let alone a head start.

This carries over to high-school. Look at the incident at Spring Valley High school in South Carolina—it speaks to issues around black criminalization and the unnecessary escalation of discipline for African American students.

Having a phone out in class does not warrant a police call, and it certainly does not justify a student—a child, really—from being thrown out of a chair and dragged across a classroom floor.

Yet we see today that young African American girls are disciplined 10.5 times more than their white counterparts. Black girls are expelled and suspended at higher rates as well—what is going on?

We live in a country where black and brown youth are punished more often and more severely than their white counterparts. Yet few seem to raise an eyebrow at these gross disparities—disparities that have landed thousands of young people in jail, without hope and without a future.

As the mother of black men and the grandmother of two black boys, I find statistics like that troubling. For African Americans, we have allowed our school system to be turned into a prison pipeline. We must act now to stop it.

The sad thing about the Spring Valley incident is that this is not the first time we have seen students be brutalized at school. And while I commend the police department for firing this out of line officer and applaud the Justice Department for investigating, more must be done to prevent these miscarriages of justice.

We must address the systemic issues facing our education and criminal justice systems.

Nationwide, our local police forces have become increasingly militarized. Images from the unrest in Ferguson caused an outcry as we saw citizens being repelled by police officers in tanks. It looked like a scene from a battlefield than the streets of a suburban Missouri town.

For too long excess military equipment has been sent to local jurisdictions with the obligation to use them within one year. Weapons of war have no place on Main Street.

That is why I am a proud co-sponsor of the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act (H.R. 1232) a bipartisan bill that reins in the transfer of military equipment to civilian law enforcement agencies.

Instead of finding ways to arm our police forces, let's find ways to provide them with greater racial sensitivity training and work to build greater trust between law enforcement and the communities in which they serve.

That is why I introduced H. Res. 262, a resolution supporting community-oriented policing and encouraging greater diversity in law enforcement hiring and retention.

Our local law enforcement agencies must reflect the communities they serve.

Finally Mr. Speaker, it is past time that we tackle criminal justice reform. The President made some bold announcements today but Congress must act.

Let us ban the box, implement policies that increase integration, and address issues of income inequality and poverty that keep too many people and families trapped in a cycle of mass incarceration, unemployment, poverty and recidivism.

Systemic and institutional racial biases have broken our criminal justice system and eroded trust between law enforcement and the communities that they serve.

Thoughtful criminal justice reform is what is necessary to mend these relationships and work to "save our community" from the inside and out.

I am proud to be a member of the CBC's Ferguson Task Force that is putting forth real, actionable legislation that should come forward for an immediate vote—

Legislation like the Police Accountability Act (H.R. 1102) and the Grand Jury Reform Act (H.R. 429, which together would ensure that deadly force cases are heard by a judge and ensure police accountability by expanding the DOJ's power to persecute cases.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Let's work to save these communities. Let's end excessive force in our schools, work to stop the decriminalization of black bodies, and find effective solutions to the end the school to prison pipeline.

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER ANTI-ISRAEL AND ANTI-SEMITIC INCITEMENT WITHIN THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of H. Res. 293, expressing concerns over anti-Semitic incitement within the Palestinian Authority.

I continue to support the safety and security of Jewish people across the globe.

Indeed, last week, I signed on to the Royce-Engel letter to President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian National Authority to express my deep concern over the recent wave of violence in Israel and the West Bank.

It is imperative that political leaders across the globe help to set the tone for peace by advocating non-violence.

Over the past two months, news reports inform us that scores of attacks on innocent Israelis have occurred.

This bipartisan legislation condemns these attacks and urges Palestinian Authority leaders to discontinue all incitement and exert political influence to discourage any form of violence by the Palestinian civil society.

This legislation also expresses support for individuals and organizations working to encourage cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians.

This legislation encapsulates the United States' unwavering support as Israel's strongest ally.

Indeed, among other things, the 1995 Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, also known as Oslo II, asks all parties to abstain from incitement without derogation for the principle of freedom of expression to prevent incitement by any organization, groups or individuals within their jurisdiction.

Moreover, Oslo II admonishes Israel and the Palestinian Authority to ascertain that their respective educational systems facilitate peace between Israeli and Palestinian peoples, working together towards peace in the region.

This legislation encourages and recognizes the work of individuals and organizations focused on facilitating the cooperation towards peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Thus, I support and urge continued efforts to urge an end to language that incites any form of violence and I encourage efforts to help facilitate peace between all parties involved.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING SAFETY AND SECURITY OF EUROPEAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2015

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution regarding the safety and security of Jewish communities in Europe. Seventy years after the Holocaust, we are seeing an alarming spike in anti-Semitic activity and violence targeting Jews throughout Europe. In the past year alone, there have been hundreds of violent acts targeting the Jewish community, including deadly attacks at a kosher supermarket in Paris and the Great Synagogue in Copenhagen.

As a world leader, the United States must make every effort to work with our European partners to keep the Jewish community safe and secure. This resolution does just that by encouraging the United States to work with European governments to create partnerships with Jewish community groups to improve preparedness and responsiveness to anti-Semitic attacks, create open lines of communication to share information about potential threats, expand relationships with local law enforcement, and to help develop baseline security standards for Jewish organizations and facilities. It also urges European allies to appoint senior officials to coordinate efforts to combat anti-Semitism and hold law enforcement accountable for training to monitor and respond to anti-Semitic violence. Additionally, this resolution commends the work of the United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism and its efforts in promoting religious freedom around the world.

As a member of the Intelligence Committee and the Bipartisan Task Force on Combating Anti-Semitism, I understand how crucial it is to the stabilization of communities in Europe that we forcefully stand up to anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism does not just impact the Jewish community. When this hatred flourishes, it affects all ethnic, religious, and other minority groups.

Given the urgency of addressing this growing threat, I am proud to have prioritized working to combat the rise in anti-Semitism, leading my colleagues in writing to the Special Envoy calling for the U.S. to continue to be a global leader in combating all forms of hate. My colleagues also joined me in encouraging the United Nations to work with member states to curb anti-Semitism by enacting strong hate crime laws, expanding education on diversity and tolerance in their own countries, and encouraging heads of state to forcefully speak out about the dangers of anti-Semitism.

This resolution furthers these efforts by highlighting the safety and security needs of Jewish communities across Europe and the role our European partners have to play in combatting anti-Semitism. I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in passing this urgent resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF BERWICK AREA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize retiring Berwick Area High School football coach, George Curry, as he concludes a highly successful career. George is the winningest coach in Pennsylvania high school history, and has had a tremendously positive impact on countless student athletes in my district.

For the past 46 years, George has embarked on a career underpinned by 450 wins and six Pennsylvania State Championships. He was twice named National Coach of the Year by USA TODAY, and his teams were selected as National Champions by that same newspaper three times.

It should also be noted that George was not just interested in procuring a prolific number of wins. Rather, he was focused on the development of his players, both academically and personally. Many of George's players believe that they would never have had access to such world-class educations if they had not counted him as a mentor and coach—and more than 700 of George's players went on to collegiate careers. Further, over 200 landed scholarships to top Division I programs in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. The fact that George would spend hours putting together promotional packages for college recruiters on behalf of players who did not even attend Berwick Area High School is a testament to his utter dedication and commitment to the development of our community's youth, and is a practice that should be commended.

It is no secret that George's players have enjoyed tremendous athletic success as a result of his leadership. But still others never played a single down of football beyond high school, and went right into careers, or trades, or into the military, and took with them lessons about life that only George could have instilled in them. They have raised, are raising, or soon will raise families that will become part of the expanding fabric of our community, and for this, we have George to thank.

Mr. Speaker, I am immensely proud to help commemorate George Curry's phenomenal career, and am forever grateful for the futures he has shaped, and the lives he has touched. This is the true measure of a great high school football coach and mentor, and I hope that George will celebrate the culmination of an impactful career in the company of his family and friends.

THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREAT BAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of Great Bay Community College in Portsmouth, New