

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

Numerous attacks on so many innocent lives in Europe alone is so much cause for alarm: Anti-Semitic rhetoric and acts, according to FBI reports involved 870 incidents in 2012 with anti-Jewish bias motivation, including 13 violent incidents, and 625 incidents in 2013 attributed to anti-Jewish bias; an increase in violent attacks on people and places of worship; and an escalation of frequency, variety and severity of the various attacks.

Anti-Semitic attacks are threats to the fundamental rights we hold so dear in our nation.

Security and diversity of all citizens, societies and countries are sacrosanct in our nation.

This is why the United States joined forces with France and the United Kingdom in recognition of the importance of partnership, training and information sharing between government entities and the Jewish community security groups with the eye towards the safety and security of Jewish communities.

As a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee, information sharing initiatives such as our national “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign implemented by our nation’s Department of Homeland Security is a critical initiative that will enable prevention of anti-Semitic violent attacks on individuals and communities.

This bill is also critical because it urges the United States Government, the Secretary of State, Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, Director of the FBI to engage their European counterparts to partner in the protection of the Jewish community in Europe.

This Bill reaffirms the very important U.S. support for the United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat anti-Semitism with the eye towards fostering and facilitating international religious freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 354 because it supports an end to the dramatic increase of the number of violent anti-Semitic attacks in some European countries.

These attacks, increasingly targeting places of ordinary daily life like market places and places of worship must stop.

Thus, I support and urge enhanced partnerships between governments and Jewish community groups—which are critical to helping keep Jewish communities secure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Monday, November 2, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on roll call vote 582.

RECOGNIZING REAL SCHOOL GARDENS’ 100TH LEARNING GARDEN IN TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize REAL School Gardens’ 100th learning garden at Jerry Junkins Elementary School, which will be the fifth REAL School Garden in the 24th district of Texas. REAL School Gardens is a nonprofit organization that has been creating outdoor learning gardens in low-income elementary schools since 2003. Once this 100th outdoor classroom is completed, the organization will have engaged more than 100,000 students in Texas in hands-on curricula integrating science with language arts.

REAL School Gardens’ strong commitment to having local communities invested in the design, build, and use of the school gardens is truly impressive. Each REAL School Garden involves a partnership between students and their parents, the school, and private funders. Once a school is selected, REAL School Gardens works with the principal and teachers to host a student design challenge. The community then comes together for a “Design and Dine” dinner to tailor the garden plan to the school’s culture and learning objectives.

Once the design is finalized, everyone, including corporate partners such as Mercedes Benz Financial Services, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, and Wells Fargo, participates in the “Big Dig”—an event when the community builds the garden in just one day. The results have been remarkable. In my district, there are outdoor learning gardens with earth science stations, drip irrigation systems, weather data stations, and wildlife habitats that serve as learning tools that have helped participating schools in Texas have standardized test score pass rates jump 12 to 15 percent.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to congratulate REAL School Gardens on this achievement and wish the organization the best with the next 100 REAL School Gardens. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating such an accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF PROJECT BLUE NOVEMBER IN WEST VIRGINIA

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the efforts of those in my district who are promoting Project Blue November, which seeks to raise awareness of Type 1 Diabetes. Diabetes is prevalent in millions of people of all ages in the United States, including approximately 200,000 people under the age of 20 that have been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. It is because of children like seven-year-old Ainsley Jackson of Milton, West Virginia, who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at an early age, that we must do all we can to combat this disease.

Increasing awareness within our communities of the symptoms and risk factors related to diabetes improve the chances that those with the condition will get the care and attention they need before the severe complications of diabetes develop. That is why the actions of those promoting the goals of Project Blue November are critically important to spread throughout our communities in West Virginia and the United States.

With the promotion efforts of those like the Milton City Council in my district, I am certain Project Blue November’s goal of raising awareness of Type 1 Diabetes will be successful in having a positive impact on the lives of many families in West Virginia.

GLOBAL ANTI-POACHING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a longstanding member of the Congressional Animal Rights Caucus and champion of wildlife preservation and protection of animals, I rise in support of H.R. 2494, the Global Anti-Poaching Act by Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman ROYCE of California.

Earlier this year, in light of the brutal killing of Cecil the Lion, I introduced and sought the support of my colleagues as original co-sponsors of my legislation entitled, Cecil the Lion Endangered and Threatened Species Act of 2015.

H.R. 2494 embodies the purpose of my legislation by strengthening partner countries’ capacity in countering wildlife trafficking and designating major wildlife countries for protection.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation on Cecil the Lion amends the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to prohibit the taking and transportation of any endangered or threatened species as a trophy into the United States.

This current legislation crystallizes our bipartisan collective efforts to address and tackle a yearly \$7 to \$10 billion illicit venture that seeks to destroy endangered and troubled wildlife.

Currently, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) does not protect the vast majority of wild animals killed and imported.

While the ESA allows for the importation of endangered and threatened species for scientific research, propagation or survival of the species, hunters are abusing this limited exception to murder and transport protected wildlife for sport.

As a result of this loophole, tens of thousands of wild animals are killed every year by trophy hunters and transported into the United States.

The conservation of endangered and threatened species is critically important to the sustainability of our biodiversity, ecosystem and the beauty of wildlife as we know it.

Terrorist organizations are not only proving to be a threat to global security but also a threat to our environment and natural wildlife, utilizing the funds from their illicit activity of wildlife poaching to fund their terroristic activities.

Vulnerable species are at the mercy of transnational terrorist groups whose actions

place these natural inhabitants of the earth in danger of extinction.

For example, the population of African elephants has decreased from 1.3 million to 400,000, with 22,000 poached in 2012.

Only 3,200 tigers remain in the wild, and these tigers remain in danger of being poached for their skins, bones and body parts.

H.R. 2494 works to enforce the United Nations Security Council multilateral sanctions against individuals and entities engaging in illicit trade of wildlife in support of armed groups like the Lord's Resistance Army, al-Shabaab and other terrorist organizations.

This legislation supports the efforts of the State Department under the Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program to dismantle the wildlife trafficking syndicates in the global south from Africa to Asia.

This legislation supports the President's Executive Order 13648, geared at combatting wildlife trafficking, through the creation of a Presidential Task Force responsible for our national strategy to combat wildlife trafficking.

Indeed, the United States along with 40 countries from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America participated in the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade where we collectively committed to addressing the cultural, social, environmental and economic consequences of the illegal trade in wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, this bill seeks to protect endangered species, expand and professionalize wildlife enforcement networks through: assessment of the capacity of existing enforcement networks in member countries; establishment of a central secretariat to coordinate enforcement networks; facilitation of law enforcement and intelligence efforts and information sharing; utilization of the expertise of international bodies and civil society organizations to tackle the issue; and training of enforcement personnel, and the creation and institutionalization of a wildlife enforcement platform based on the rule of law.

Indeed, by making certain large-scale wildlife trafficking crimes predicate offenses for money laundering, racketeering, and smuggling, this bill elevates the seriousness of major wildlife trafficking offenses, putting wildlife crime on par legally with other forms of transnational organized crime.

Mr. Speaker, as ranking member on the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, this bill is a step in the right direction as it enforces existing laws, directs fines, forfeitures, and penalties, all imperative for wildlife conservation.

I strongly support H.R. 2494 because it supports on-the-ground efforts to protect species, including elephants, tigers, and rhinos from becoming victims of wildlife crime.

HONORING MRS. LATONYA WILLIAMS-BRADLEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable entrepreneur, Mrs. LaTonya Williams-Bradley.

Strands of long, black locks fell effortlessly onto the floor as a pair of young eyes looked

on eagerly—carefully observing the technique of the hands behind the shears that snipped away to create a new, edgy look.

Mrs. Williams-Bradley of Cleveland watched intently as her mother cut, washed and curled mane after mane, building a strong clientele at her Rosedale salon.

She remembers while sitting and observing her mother at her salon as a child, that she desired to follow in her mother's footsteps and become a hair stylist.

But, what she didn't know was that she would also become an agent, to help others do the same, as owner and CEO of Goshen School of Cosmetology in Cleveland, Mississippi.

As a single parent Mrs. Williams-Bradley received her cosmetology education at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi, where she graduated in 2006.

After passing the state licensure to become a licensed cosmetologist, Mrs. Williams-Bradley returned to Coahoma Community College to further her cosmetology career to become a cosmetology instructor and completed that course of study in 2009. She was immediately offered the opportunity to become a cosmetology instructor at Coahoma Community College.

After working at Coahoma Community College she worked at Blue Cliff College in Gulfport, Mississippi as a cosmetology instructor.

During her tenure as an instructor she decided that it was time to pursue her dream of owning her salon and began researching entrepreneurship practices and opportunities, eventually, deciding it was time to pursue her dream of one day opening her own salon. In 2011 she opened Goshen Salon and Boutique in Cleveland, Mississippi. She chose the biblical name Goshen because it is a land of plenty, comfort and growth in Egypt. On July 29, 2013 she opened Goshen School of Cosmetology with a core curriculum and institution designed to promote growth, increase and comfort.

Now, what was once the dream of a little girl has become a reality. Mrs. Williams-Bradley has enjoyed substantial success in the exciting field of cosmetology. Where over the last nine years she owned and managed two successful hair salons while teaching at two colleges, inspired numerous students to strive for excellence and to achieve their maximum potential.

The motto she shares with others is "Whatever is your passion and your heart's desire—pursue it and be the best at it and believe that there is nothing too hard for God."

Mrs. Williams-Bradley is married to Tony Bradley and has four children: Teara, Tamaryea, Zira and Lauren. She is the daughter of Freddie and Barbara Graham and has two (2) siblings: Erica Jackson and Beauty Graham.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing entrepreneur.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote during the first vote of the last vote se-

ries on September 30, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "No" on Roll Call Vote 527, which was the Adoption of H. Con. Res. 79, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of the Senate amendment to H.R. 719.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 582, a recorded vote on H.R. 1853. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF T SANTORA

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate T Santora on his long career as a Los Angeles labor leader, and as an influential activist for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals.

T has dedicated decades of his professional life to the Communications Workers of America, a union that protects the interests of thousands of L.A. workers. He has spent 35 years as a full-time CWA representative, working in both local and national positions.

Today, T is President Emeritus of CWA Local 9003, which represents a diverse membership of approximately 2,500 workers in the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area. He also chairs the Legislative-Political Committee of the CWA Southern California Council, representing 27,000 CWA members in Southern California. And he serves as National Co-Chair of the CWA Telecom Ad Hoc Committee, which regularly convenes workplace leaders in the telecommunications industry from the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico.

T is also a leader in the LGBT rights movement, and a powerful voice for the needs of LGBT laborers. From 1998 to 2005, he served as National Co-President of Pride at Work, the AFL-CIO's LGBT constituency group. In addition, he represented CWA on the Executive Board of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and on the Coalition of Labor Union Women's HIV/AIDS Advisory Board.

T believes in the need to make Los Angeles' workforce the best it can be. Last year, L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti appointed T to the L.A. Workforce Development Board, where he serves on the Board's Executive Committee and chairs the Ad Hoc Committee on Expanding Apprenticeship Opportunities.

Finally, T cares deeply about the youth of Los Angeles. He is the Founder and an Executive Board Member of the CWA 9003 Children's Fund, a non-profit charitable organization which serves the needs of L.A.'s underprivileged and homeless children.

The L.A. City Council recently issued a resolution honoring T for his 30 years of community service. That honor was greatly deserved.