

TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Chair, I support the Neugebauer amendment because it will force the Conference Committee to deal with the use of enterprise guarantee fees in the Highway Bill. I do not necessarily oppose the reduction of dividends paid by the Federal Reserve to the largest banks.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM WHIPP

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished veteran from my district in Massachusetts: William David Whipp. This Veterans Day, Mr. Whipp will be recognized by the Dartmouth Veteran's Advisory Council for his outstanding service during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.

Born in 1926, Mr. Whipp joined the Army soon after his eighteenth birthday on April 11, 1944. Following his basic military training as an infantry scout, Mr. Whipp was assigned to the 11th Infantry Regiment of the 76th Infantry Division and deployed as a Private First Class to Western Europe as part of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations in World War II.

It was during Mr. Whipp's deployment to Ardennes that the Germans launched one of the most brutal offensive campaigns against Allied forces in this densely forested region. Known as the Battle of the Bulge, this bloody ground offensive claimed over 19,000 American lives—more than any other single battle in World War II. Surviving this fierce surprise attack and the ensuing counteroffensive by Allied forces, Mr. Whipp went on to serve through the end of World War II until, having received, among other medals and awards, the illustrious Bronze Star for his actions during battle, Mr. Whipp received an honorable discharge in January of 1946.

Upon the conclusion of the war and his return home, Mr. Whipp has been viewed by the citizens of Dartmouth and the Commonwealth as a leader, a trusted civil servant, and a friend to the community. His guidance on several Town Boards over the last twenty years has contributed significantly in improving the lives of everyone in Southeastern Massachusetts and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Whipp for his years of service to a grateful nation. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him for receiving this recognition and in humbly thanking him for all that he has done for his country.

CELEBRATING THE STATE CHAMPION MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Marian High School

Knights for their victory in the IHSAA Class 1A Boys Soccer State Championship. Hard work and dedication led the Knights to this victory and allowed them to finish out the season with twenty wins, eight of which were shutouts, and two losses. The championship game was the team's first appearance in the state finals and is their first state title.

During the championship game, Marian senior Augie Hartnagel started off with high intensity, scoring a goal within the first 20 minutes. The team took this momentum and scored two more goals, made by Kevin Torres and Jordan Morris. The team finished with 24 shots to Cardinal Ritter High School's four and a 3-0 victory.

I also would like to highlight the many players who were honored for their performance in the tournament. Seniors Richie Ontiveros and lead scorer Augie Hartnagel were named to the Northern Indiana Conference's First Team, Kevin Torres and Cristian Juarez were named to the NIC's Second Team, and Christian Verstraete received Honorable Mention. Keeper Michael Cataldo also walked away with eight shutouts for the season.

I want to congratulate Coach Ben Householter on this victory, which is truly a testament to his dedication to the boys' soccer program. This win gave Householter his first state championship in 18 years as head coach and earned him recognition throughout the entire conference as Northern Indiana Conference Coach of the Year.

The Knights' level of excellence as a whole is a reflection of the individual players and their desire for success and dedication to hard work. This victory is a result not only from talent, but also from hours of practice, strategic planning, and fine tuning the skills of each player. I look forward not only to cheering for the Knights in the future, but to cheering on the men of this year's team as they pursue their goals in the years to come. I have every confidence that they will succeed.

Congratulations to the entire team for their contributions: Kevin Torres-Villa, Christian Verstraete, Richie Ontiveros, Augie Hartnagel, Carlos Torres, Nate Pullin, Lorenzo Martinez, Michael Wuszke, Michael Cataldo, Max Frausto, Justin Saavedra, Alex Kokot, Cristian Juarez, Oscar Tavarez, Johnathan Tavarez, Roberto Ontiveros, Jordan Morris, Alex Rodela, Will Tiller, De'Quarius Strowder, Dennis Mammolenti, Gabriel Martinez, Juan Botello, Adam Evans, Alfredo Medina, Jonathan Magallon, Head Coach Ben Householter, Assistant Alfredo Juarez, Assistant Coach John Jonas, Assistant Coach Matt Englert, Manager Chloe Householter, Manager Jenna Householter, Athletic Trainer Anne Micinski, Assistant Athletic Director Linda Martin, Athletic Director Reggie Glon, and Principal Mark Kirzeder.

The Knights' dedication and sacrifices have truly paid off, and is a source of pride for the entire city and Indiana. This is truly an exciting victory and this is a memory these students will have for a lifetime. On behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District of Indiana, I applaud Coach Householter for building this program, thank the student athletes for their determination, and congratulate them all on an amazing season. It is my honor to represent Marian High School, and I wish continued success to the team and each of its members in their future endeavors.

DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY: EVALUATING THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I convened an oversight hearing on the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report. Far more than simply ink on paper, this report has proven to be both prize and prod: a prize for those countries whose progress in the fight against the grave abuse of human trafficking the report acknowledges, a prod to those nations that are failing the trafficking victims within their borders.

The power of the report lies in its credibility. And the credibility of the report lies in its accuracy. We must get the report right, or we will lose the most effective tool we have to help the more than 20 million victims of trafficking enslaved around the world today.

Some countries openly credit the TIP Report for their increased and effective anti-trafficking response. Over the last 14 years, more than 100 countries have enacted anti-trafficking laws, and many countries have taken other steps required to significantly raise their tier rankings: Tier 1 for those who fully meet minimum standards, Tier 2 for those who are making significant efforts to meet minimum standards, and Tier 3 for those who are not making significant efforts to meet minimum standards and, indeed, may be subject to sanctions.

And for those in a purgatory between Tier 2 and 3, Congress in 2003 created a "Tier 2 Watch List" for those which may have undertaken significant anti-trafficking steps late in the evaluation year. Unfortunately, this ranking has been misused to allow countries to escape accountability.

I held the hearing yesterday due to well-founded concern that some of the rankings in the most recent report are grossly inaccurate and greatly undermine the credibility of the report.

Indeed, we have massive grade inflation for certain favored countries, thereby defeating accountability, and demoralizing countries that actually made significant progress last year.

The State Department heard from many House members—161 to be exact—when it was leaked that Malaysia was upgraded this year from Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List.

The report justified the upgrade because Malaysia introduced—but did not pass—an amendment to their trafficking law, and allowed a limited number of their trafficking victims to work outside of detention, while keeping the rest of the victims in detention.

These incomplete actions pale in comparison to the size of Malaysia's trafficking problems. Malaysia was the subject of a Reuters investigative report in 2014, which found that human traffickers were keeping hundreds of Rohingya refugees from Burma captive in houses in northern Malaysia, beating them, depriving them of food, and demanding a ransom from their families.

At least two million vulnerable migrants work in the informal economy in Malaysia. NGOs on the ground tell us that traffickers operate openly and with impunity. And that those who get in their way are killed.

Only three traffickers were convicted in Malaysia last year. Three-in a country of more than 30 million people.

If that ratio were not bad enough, it also marks the third year of decline in convictions. Three convictions is one-third of the convictions Malaysia had in 2013—when Malaysia was Tier 3—and one-seventh of the convictions in 2012.

Trafficking in Malaysia is getting worse and the Government's enforcement of the law was nearly non-existent, and yet Malaysia was upgraded.

So what happened?

What happened is that this Administration wanted Malaysia to be eligible to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership. This spring, Congress approved the Trade Priorities Act of 2015, excluding Tier 3 countries from expedited consideration by Congress, for the simple reason that Congress did not want to increase trade with countries that engage in persistent labor trafficking.

Malaysia was disqualified—until their upgrade.

More than “bad optics,” more than flouting the will of Congress, such circumventing of accountability is disastrous for the labor trafficking victims in Malaysia.

Instead of demanding change before Malaysia became a major trading partner, the Administration changed our standards to give Malaysia a pass. In other words, we looked the other way to empower a slave economy.

The Administration also upgraded Cuba this year to the Tier 2 Watch List on flimsy justifications—namely, that Cuba began sharing information with the U.S. on trafficking and that it convicted 13 traffickers two years ago (which is outside the reporting period).

But what has changed in Cuba for trafficking victims in the last year?

Cuba legally permits the pimping of 16 year old girls, is the top destination in the Western Hemisphere for child sex tourism, and does not criminalize labor trafficking at all—indeed, Cuban health care personnel who are sent abroad by the Castro regime to generate income for the government report being forced to work in medical missions, having their passports withheld and their families threatened.

The trafficking rankings should not be used in hopes of bringing about better bilateral relations with Cuba; rather, better relations with Cuba should be pre-conditioned on real protection for Cuba's prostituted children and recognition of labor trafficking.

The bar also seemed to be lowered this year for Uzbekistan, which was upgraded to the Tier 2 Watch List despite the fact that Uzbekistan's Government openly and unapologetically forces its population into forced labor every year during the cotton harvest.

In recent years, the government has shifted away from pulling young children out of school and allowed the International Labor Organization to monitor conditions. But instead of children they conscripted adults, continuing the systematic exploitation of its population.

China's premature upgrade to Tier 2 Watch List in 2014 and continued presence there in the 2015 report also raises the question—How can a country that systematically traffics its own people be anything other than Tier 3?

After one year on Tier 3 in 2013, China passed a law to allegedly close its 320 Re-education Through Labor (or RTL) detention

centers, which forced prisoners and other detainees to perform manual labor and padded the pockets of the government.

The State Department upgraded China because of the “reform” in 2014. But now we know from the report itself that the government only closed “several” of the 320 forced labor sites, and converted other RTL facilities into state-sponsored drug detention or ‘custody and education’ centers.

In other words, China continues to force detained citizens to perform manual labor—and yet it got to keep the Tier upgrade it was given for allegedly ending this practice.

Additionally, China's official birth limitation policy, in combination with a cultural preference for boys, has resulted in approximately 40 million women and girls missing from the population—making China a regional magnet for sex and bride trafficking as men who reach marrying age cannot find a mate.

Just ask the Burmese, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Laotian, and North Korean women imported to meet China's demand.

To wit, an estimated 90 percent of North Korean women seeking asylum in China have been trafficked. Yet China refuses these women refugee status and sends them back to possible execution in North Korea.

Nothing in China's record in 2014 warrants any ranking other than Tier 3.

Consider this: China convicted 35 traffickers last year in a country of 1.3 billion people. That is one trafficker out of every 37 million people.

I wrote the TVPA to allow flexibility and discernment in rewarding a country for making progress over their record from the year before. And for significant—not just any—efforts that go to prosecutions, protection, and prevention.

Tier rankings are a tool to aid real change, not a rubber stamp for simply holding a meeting and being a major trading partner.

The rankings in this 2015 report seem to be a real opportunity lost, not just for the countries we gave a pass to but other countries whose good faith efforts at reform were not acknowledged.

No country will take U.S. trafficking rankings seriously when there seems to be a ‘wink and nod’ agreement to look the other way when it suits U.S. business or other interests.

Tellingly, Reuters reports that there was a lot of infighting at the State Department between the trafficking experts, and the bureaus. This year the two sides split on 17 countries in particular—and that J/TIP lost almost all of the conflicts.

Real people are suffering. Real lives are at stake.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF BROTHER HERBERT HAROLD SIMPSON

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Brother Herbert Harold “Briefcase” Simpson, exemplary Christian Brother and prominent professional baseball player in the Negro League. Brother Simpson passed away on January 7, 2015, at the age of 94.

Brother Simpson was born August 29, 1920 in Algiers, Louisiana. In his early years, Brother Simpson attended New Orleans public city schools where he played semi-pro baseball with the Algiers Giants while still in high school. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the military and served in the United States Army.

During World War II, Brother Simpson served in General Patton's Third Army Red Ball Express. He was also the only African-American player on a baseball team that played in the Battle League.

After his honorary discharge, Brother Simpson played professional baseball in the Negro League for the next decade. Earning the nickname, “Briefcase,” he was selected to play in Hawaii as a member of the all-star team called the All Star Cincinnati Crescents. Brother Simpson displayed great courage and perseverance when he integrated two minor league teams, the Seattle Steelheads and the Albuquerque Dukes.

Brother Simpson returned to his hometown where he played semi-pro baseball with the New Orleans Creoles while working for the New Orleans Parish School Board for 20 years and the State of Louisiana for ten years. Brother Simpson later became Deacon of the First Free Mission Baptist Church of Algiers. Brother Simpson's dedication to community extended beyond his Deacon duties. He was a member of Pride of Algiers Lodge #102 Free and Accepted Mason, Prince Hall Affiliation where recently Brother Simpson was honored as the society's oldest member.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Brother Herbert Harold Simpson, a soft-spoken man remembered for his faith and humility, and for his dedication to life-long civic and community service. His service and professional athletic achievements contribute significantly to our city's rich history.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER WILKES-BARRE ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors. The association and its members have played a crucial role in helping my constituents realize the American dream of home ownership.

Since 1915, the association has been able to support the interests of local realtors in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The organization has enjoyed a distinguished history of real estate brokerages that have grown from sole proprietorships to multiple offices over the course of the past century—a notable feat. The senses of entrepreneurship and dreams shared by all of its realtors have perpetuated a long list of members and have survived to the present day. They truly embody the spirit of American entrepreneurship, and I am thankful for the services that they provide my constituents on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors as it celebrates its 100th anniversary, and