

is said Allstott's final actions saved a member of his unit from capture. As a United States soldier, there is no greater honor than laying down one's life to save a brother-in-arms.

While more than forty years have passed since Allstott gave his last measure of devotion, the cause he fought for lives on in the ripples throughout history his heroic efforts will have caused.

It is a privilege to honor Pfc. Mark Allstott's bold and courageous life. Such distinguished service to the United States of America continues to serve as an inspiration to us all.

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter from Governor Greg Abbott:

NOVEMBER 16, 2015.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,
President of the United States,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: As governor of Texas, I write to inform you that the State of Texas will not accept any refugees from Syria in the wake of the deadly terrorist attack in Paris.

Further, I—and millions of Americans—implore you to halt your plans to accept more Syrian refugees in the United States. A Syrian “refugee” appears to have been part of the Paris terror attack. American humanitarian compassion could be exploited to expose Americans to similar deadly danger. The reasons for such concerns are plentiful.

The FBI director testified to Congress that the federal government does not have the background information that is necessary to effectively conduct proper security checks on Syrian nationals. Director Comey explained: “We can query our database until the cows come home, but there will be nothing show up because we have no record of them.”

The threat posed to Texas by ISIS is very real. ISIS claimed credit last May when two terrorist gunmen launched an attack in Garland, Texas. Less than two weeks later, the FBI arrested an Iraqi-born man in North Texas and charged him with lying to federal agents about traveling to Syria to fight with ISIS. And in 2014, when I served as Texas attorney general, we participated in a Joint Terrorism Task Force that arrested two Austin residents for providing material support to terrorists—including ISIS.

Given the tragic attack in Paris and the threats we have already seen in Texas, coupled with the FBI director's acknowledgment that we do not have the information necessary to effectively vet Syrian nationals, Texas cannot participate in any program that will result in Syrian refugees—any one of whom could be connected to terrorism—being resettled in Texas.

Effective today, I am directing the Texas Health & Human Services Commission's Refugee Resettlement Program to not participate in the resettlement of any Syrian refugees in the State of Texas. And I urge you, as president, to halt your plans to allow Syrians to be resettled anywhere in the United States. Neither you nor any federal official can guarantee that Syrian refugees will not be part of any terroristic activity. As such, opening our door to them irresponsibly ex-

poses our fellow Americans to unacceptable peril.

Respectfully,

GREG ABBOTT,
Governor.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Christian Life Center on its 25th anniversary.

With the prayers and planning of a small, but committed, group of Christians, the Christian Life Center was born in 1990. In the years since, the Center has continued to grow in faith and mission at its beautiful complex in Bensalem Township, Bucks County.

Through its tireless work, the Christian Life Center has taken the Gospel into homes and hearts throughout its community while growing a welcoming place of worship for Christian families and individuals dedicated to their faith, each other.

My best wishes for ongoing devotion and continued growth in the coming years.

RECOGNIZING VETERANS DAY

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, as we come together today to recognize the service of all who have served in our nation's armed forces, let us take a moment to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms and could not be here today to join in the celebration. Let us also remember those young men and women who at this very moment are in far off lands, standing between the forces of oppression and freedom loving people everywhere.

We must also not forget the sacrifices made by the families of our service members, who go long periods of time without seeing their loved ones, and often have to perform the duties of two parents, while the other willfully places themselves in harm's way for our grateful nation.

As you know, our beautiful island, while small geographically in comparison to other states and territories, has the highest rate of enlistment into our nation's armed forces, a fact that I persistently remind Congress of. In fact, it is 10 times that of the states. This means that in American Samoa, today is just a little more special, and I want to personally salute all from our island who have served.

May God continue to bless the United States and those who stand to protect her.

RECOGNIZING THE TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION OF EL PASO, TEXAS

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand today in recognition of the Texas Veterans Commission offices located in El Paso, Texas. Created in 1927, the Texas Veterans Commission has a longstanding tradition of honoring Texas Veterans.

Working as a state appointed advocate, the Texas Veterans Commission represents Texas and its veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The commission operates in four areas: claims representation and counseling services for veteran's benefits; educational benefits; employment assistance; and grant services for veteran service organizations, charities, and government agencies. The El Paso offices have extended these important services to veterans in my district and have been helpful in getting these individuals the benefits they deserve.

The local offices are well known for their work in the community. Specifically, the Commission has dedicated itself to combatting veteran unemployment with fairs such as “Hiring Red, White and You!” Since the first job fair in 2012, the Commission has been able to connect over 1,500 job seeking veterans with potential employers and information on opportunities in the El Paso community.

The El Paso Texas Veterans Commission offices have improved the quality of life for our community's veterans and their families. I am grateful for the work of Bruce S. Biegel, Karen L. Rooks, Frances Holden and the entire staff for their unyielding advocacy and assistance to our veterans.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF REVEREND ALBERT E. CHEW, JR.

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Reverend Albert E. Chew, Jr. for his service to Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church after 56 years of service to the church and his community. His passing on November 6, 2015 leaves a void in the Fort Worth community, and I join in giving our condolences to the Chew family.

Born in Bremond, Texas, Reverend Chew was the son of a Baptist preacher. He attended high school in both Bremond and Waco, Texas before pursuing a college education at Bishop College and Prairie View A&M and completing seminary studies at Brite College of the Bible in Fort Worth, Texas.

Reverend Chew served as a pastor at numerous Texas churches since 1946, but for the last fifty-six years, he served the community at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. During his time at Shiloh, he not only impacted the Northside neighborhood, but also the greater Fort Worth community through his community involvement.

Chew was a charter member of the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission, an organization that combated discriminatory practices

in the city. Alongside former City Councilman Bert Williams, Chew played a significant role in integrating Colonial Country Club, becoming one of its first black members.

Reverend Chew served as Moderator Emeritus and the Treasurer of the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas, a position that he held for the past thirty-five years. He was also the first Vice-President of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. Until his passing, he served as the head of the Black Ecumenical Leadership Alliance, an organization he helped found that brings Christian ministers together in an effort to impact and change the lives of people throughout Fort Worth, Texas and the world.

Reverend Chew not only gave back to his church community, but also served his country during World War II. As a troop coordinate in the United States Army, Reverend Chew demonstrated an unwavering commitment to his country. He was also committed to bettering the conditions of the African American community and played an active role in his local NAACP chapter.

In honor of Reverend Albert E. Chew, Jr., for his lifelong commitment to both his local and church communities; this statement will be submitted on Monday, November 16, 2015.

RECOGNIZING DR. CAROL GOMEZ SUMMERHAYS' ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Carol Gomez Summerhays, an accomplished dentist who recently was elected as the first Filipina President of the American Dental Association, a first the 156-year history of the ADA. Her election is a tremendous accomplishment for women and the Filipino-American community.

It is my honor to commend Dr. Summerhays on a lifetime of service and commitment to the field of dentistry and community service. Involved in a number of professional and civic organizations, she is a great choice to head this prestigious organization.

A graduate of the University of Southern California on a full scholarship through the Armed Forces Health Professions Act, she's owned a respected private practice for 32 years. Dr. Summerhays is a past president of the California Dental Association and a current member of the American College of Dentists, Academy of General Dentistry, the American Association of Women Dentists, the Hispanic Dental Association, and the Pankey Institute.

In addition to her numerous professional accomplishments, Dr. Summerhays served on Active Duty as a lieutenant in the United States Navy Dental Corps for four years.

Dr. Summerhays' time in the military was part of her life-long commitment to community service. As a board member of Rotary International Thousand Smiles, she helped establish a dental clinic in Ensenada, Mexico. She's also provided charitable dental services to St. Vincent De Paul's Homeless Shelter, Regional Access Medical LA, and USC's East LA Dental Clinic.

Her community involvement extends to the San Diego County Dental Society, the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Board, and the American Cancer Society-La Jolla League.

I commend Dr. Summerhays for her 37 years of distinguished leadership. I am proud to be a part of the Asian American community where our professionals go beyond what is required in order to make a positive impact on others.

I rise today to offer her my most heartfelt congratulations for her exceptional achievements in the field of dentistry and her continued commitment to community service.

RECOGNIZING THE SIKH MASSACRE OF 1984

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to honor those who were killed during the November 1984 anti-Sikh pogroms and massacre in Delhi, India. I also want to bring attention to the current desecration of the Sikh's Holy Scriptures. Sikhs are a minority group that should be officially recognized and I ask that this Congress support the plight of the Sikh people to gain recognition in India and halt the persecution against the Indian Sikh community.

TRIBUTE TO SWEET ALICE HARRIS

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and celebrate 50 years and community improvement in Watts and South Los Angeles, California, under the inspiration and leadership of Sweet Alice Harris.

Sweet Alice, as she is universally known, began speaking up against the health disparities and lack of access to services that she saw in her neighborhood five decades ago. She founded the organization Parents of Watts to give voice to those who were no longer willing to accept the circumstances in which they found themselves and their children after decades of civic neglect. Parents of Watts provided a platform for community organizing and self-empowerment.

Watts and greater South Los Angeles might be a very different place without Sweet Alice Harris. Fifty years ago she began clearly and effectively insisting that her children, her neighbors and her community should have the same access to education, health care, safety and employment that others have. Through her unrelenting, focused advocacy, her effective story-telling, and her development of relationships with both the neediest and the most powerful in Los Angeles, she has improved the quality of life for people well beyond her immediate reach.

I offer my personal thanks and congratulations to Sweet Alice on 50 years of service. I remember the founding of Parents of Watts, an organization that has grown to provide an array of services to a diverse segment of the

community, including emergency food and shelter for the homeless, college preparation for teenagers, drug counseling, health seminars and parenting classes. I am pleased that this work has been recognized over the years, including by Essence Magazine, the California Lieutenant Governor's Woman of the Year Award, the Minerva Award from the California Governor & First Lady's Conference on Women, President George H. W. Bush's #702 Points of Light Award, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Southern California.

With a list of accomplishments too lengthy to list here, her greatest success is that her work will continue to benefit Watts and South Los Angeles for the foreseeable future. It is an honor to recognize her work.

HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, LUCIO G. MORENO, CHAPTER 574

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chapter 574 of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) for their service to our country and support of Vietnam War Veterans, including those in El Paso. The Lucio G. Moreno Chapter has worked to assure that these veterans and their families are not forgotten in my district.

Named in honor of lifelong El Pasoan and United States Marine Corps Veteran Lucio G. Moreno, Chapter 574 expanded under Mr. Moreno's fifteen years of leadership as President. The chapter is now the second largest in Texas and has advocated for improved healthcare access for our service members and veterans.

Chapter 574 is an active force in our local community and the State of Texas. The Lucio G. Moreno Chapter held the Texas State Council convention for 37 VVA state chapters earlier this year, providing a space for Veterans to gather and discuss current issues facing veterans today such as reform efforts within the VA and access to benefits. The organization regularly performs color guard duty at my Town Hall meetings and volunteers their time to support local high school ROTC programs throughout El Paso.

The chapter has also worked to create a more welcoming environment for service members returning home. These Vietnam Veterans felt that their own homecoming and readjustment was difficult; they strive to ensure that "never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

I am honored to recognize the Lucio G. Moreno Chapter 574 of Vietnam Veterans of America and their work to diligently serve our community and our veterans.

HONORING CPL. ARNOLD ABEL

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cpl. Arnold Gordon Abel, of French Lick, Indiana.