

JOSHUA OKOLO CAN THINK

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joshua Okolo of Katy, Texas for winning the Texas Summer THINK Challenge.

Joshua, a student at Fielder Elementary, dedicated his summer to keeping his mind sharp. Over the course of the summer, he completed over 2,000 math problems—approximately 52 hours of math. What a great way to spend a summer. Thank you to his parents and teachers for encouraging Joshua to love and excel in math. We are all proud of your hard work.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Joshua for winning the Texas Summer THINK Challenge. What a way to strengthen your math skills.

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION WEEK

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor community foundations all across the country that embody the generosity of spirit that is such an important American value. Community Foundation Week was founded in 1989 and every November 12th–18th it honors the tremendous contributions of these organizations made up of Americans voluntarily working together to improve their communities. Since the first community foundation was founded in my home state of Ohio in 1914 these groups have filled a unique place in American society and provide assistance and inspiration to millions of people.

Today there are more than 750 community foundations in the United States, with 84 in Ohio, and several who serve communities in the 12th District such as the Delaware County Foundation, the Dublin Foundation, the Granville Foundation, the Licking County Foundation, the Morrow County Foundation, the Muskingum County Community Foundation, the Richland County Foundation, and the Columbus Foundation. These foundations work with their communities to make meaningful contributions in many areas like education, the arts, social services, and healthcare, and have provided millions of dollars over the years to these causes.

As just one example of the huge impact these foundations can have, the Licking County Foundation is working to transform a parking lot in downtown Newark into the Canal Market District through a \$4 million fund established by the Evans Foundation. The district will feature new walkways and green spaces centered around the Canal Market Plaza, three new structures that will form an open air farmer's market and provide a venue for many different events from the spring through the fall. This project would not be possible without years of working with local leaders, business owners, and the citizens of the community. Since the project was announced

last year, Denison University, Licking Memorial Health Systems, the City of Newark, Bon Appétit Management, USDA Rural Development and the Ohio and Licking County Farm Bureaus have all come forward to help with the district. This project will provide economic benefits to Newark, as well as increased access to fresh food.

The Columbus Foundation, the seventh largest community foundation in the nation, provides other great examples of the importance of community foundations. Recently, the Columbus Foundation set up a trust using a generous gift by David and Nanci Gobey that will allow graduates of Columbus City Schools to keep the instrument they have been using in high school. As a member of the marching band in high school and at The Ohio State University, I personally experienced how the arts can have an everlasting impact on one's life. The arts and art education are important for personal and intellectual growth of students and people of all ages. Music programs have been shown to increase academic performance, and programs like the one the Columbus Foundation facilitated help keep music in our schools and our students' lives despite a tough budgetary environment.

These examples merely hint at the outstanding work done by community foundations in central Ohio and all across the nation. I am honored to recognize Community Foundation Week this year, and acknowledge the tireless philanthropic efforts of these organizations to improve communities all across the country.

NLRB REFORM ACT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for too long, the partisan bias of the National Labor Relations Board—has caused instability in how the NLRB will interpret labor policy rules, harming employees and destroying jobs. The President's 'Big Labor Bully' has constantly abused its authority by overregulating and restricting right-to-work states.

Today, I have introduced the NLRB Reform Act to end the bias in the NLRB by adding a sixth member—establishing equal representation for each political party. It will benefit employers and employees and will help create jobs by reining in the unfair general counsel and enforcing timely decision-making.

A non-partisan board would restore fairness to promote new jobs. Last week, I announced my introduction of this legislation at Nephron Pharmaceuticals in Lexington County with CEO Lou Kennedy, Representative Todd Atwater, President of the South Carolina Manufacturer's Alliance Louis Gossett, and former CEO of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Otis Rawl; and at CommuniGraphics in North Augusta, with owners Mark and Tracy Cook, and Representative Bill Hixon.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism. Our sympathy for America's First Ally, France, as the latest target in the Global War on Terrorism.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARC OF YATES

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arc of Yates on its 40th anniversary.

Arc of Yates is a non-profit organization located in Penn Yan, New York. Since 1975, it has provided services to individuals with developmental disabilities, empowering them to lead "self-directed" and "meaningful" lives.

Arc of Yates serves more than 400 children, adults, and seniors across the Finger Lakes region. It provides a wide range of services, including day habilitation, residential living, employment training, and various educational opportunities. In addition, Arc of Yates offers several clinical programs, focusing on social work, nursing, and nutrition.

Last month, Arc of Yates reopened its facility in Penn Yan, less than eighteen months after it was badly damaged by devastating floods. This resiliency is a testament to their commitment to serving our local families and communities.

I commend the staff and volunteers of Arc of Yates on everything they have achieved in the past forty years, and I look forward to their continued efforts to empower our neighbors with disabilities to live independent and inclusive lives.

TEXAS REAL ESTATE COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rayito Stephens of Pearland, Texas on her appointment to the Texas Real Estate Commission by Governor Greg Abbott.

Mrs. Stephens is a licensed realtor and broker with over twenty-one years of experience. Throughout her career, she has been involved in almost every aspect of the real estate industry from home construction to real estate negotiation. She shows her big, Texas-sized heart by dedicating her time to helping veterans and people with disabilities become homebuyers. Rayito's appointment is a reflection of her impressive career and dedication to others.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Rayito Stephens on her appointment to the Texas Real Estate Commission. Governor Abbott made a great decision in selecting you.

H.R. 1694

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I asked unanimous consent that my name be removed as a co-sponsor of H.R. 1694.

I urged a change in the language to strengthen support for our veteran business

owners by establishing a dedicated funding stream. Unfortunately the bill sponsor declined to make this change.

I urge my colleagues to instead support H.R. 3997 which would much more effectively ensure that our veteran business owners have the opportunity to compete and succeed.

TRIBUTE TO DEB WEILAGE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Deb Weilage of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being named a Parent Educator of the Year. She was honored recently at the Parents as Teachers Conference in Dallas, Texas.

Deb, along with four other parent educators from around the country, accepted the award before 1,300 conference participants. Each of them there were representing early childhood, child care, health, mental health, social services, and government agencies from across the nation and around the world. The Parent Educator of the Year award is intended to honor those individuals and affiliate programs whose practices exemplify the mission of Parents as Teachers.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Deb in the United States Congress, and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better the state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE VICTIMS OF TERROR PROTECTION FUND—HOUSE RESOLUTION 528

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the past 36 hours have been a very trying time for the world family as we grapple with the reality of terrorists wreaking havoc in our world.

One only needs to look at the current news events across the globe to appreciate the imperative of countering violent extremism, empowering and protecting victims of terror, refugees and displaced persons.

In the past three months alone, ISIS has claimed responsibility for crimes, atrocities and terroristic attacks, claiming lives in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Beirut and Paris.

Daesh-ISIL and other terrorist networks that have pledged allegiance to ISIS today pose the gravest extremist threat faced by our generation and those of our children.

But we must not be moved by their evil ways, for eventually, the arc of the moral universe always tips on the side of justice of peace of equity of the rule of law.

This is why I remain steadfast in my commitment to combatting violent extremism and protecting victims.

Today, I introduced legislation expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the creation of a Victims of Terror Protection Fund.

I urge support of this legislation.

As a result of terrorism in the region and Boko Haram in particular in Nigeria, recent reports inform us that Nigeria has the highest number of displaced persons in Africa and the third largest in the world, following Syria and Columbia.

As we know, the recent coordinated attacks in Paris, following military interventions by at least two United Nations Security Council permanent members: Russia and France highlights the fact that we are dealing with an enemy of humanity and compels us to launch an international and coordinated strategy to diminish ISIS to protect our children and our children's children.

Moreover, the recent events underscore the importance of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to degrade and permanently destroy ISIS and its vitriolic ideology that is inflicting pain on innocent people.

As we all know, humanitarian crises triggered by sectarian and ideological violence has plagued our world at a disheartening rate.

According to one United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR's) annual Global Trends report, which is based on data compiled by governments and non-governmental partner organizations, and from the organization's own records, over 60 million people have been forcibly displaced across the globe.

Moreover, according to a report by the International Displacement Monitor Center, an estimated 3,300,000 persons have been displaced and 5,500 killed as a result of the violence wreaked by Boko Haram.

One United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report asserts that as the most populous nation in Africa with 174,000,000 persons, 1,500,000 people have fled their homes to escape Boko Haram.

In April, 2014, 276 girls were terrorized and kidnapped from their dormitories in Chibok by Boko Haram.

In addition to the still missing Chibok girls,

approximately 3,300,000 persons are dis-

placed in the Lake Chad Basin which sits on

the edge of the Sahara which encompasses

Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria.

We must not forget these girls or displaced

persons and must work to provide the support

they will need to recover from the trauma they

have suffered.

The victims will be in dire need of humani-

tarian assistance which the Victims of Terror

Protection Fund can provide.

The Victims of Terror Protection Fund should be modeled after the cases of

Khazistan and Equatorial Guinea where prior

kleptocracy initiatives have been created to

benefit communities and victims in need of

support.

A kleptocracy is when a government in

power exploits or steals national resources,

which unfortunately has happened all too often

across the globe.

Here, the United States Department of Justice

through its Kleptocracy Asset Recovery

Initiative has identified the forfeited "Abacha

Funds," funds stolen by former Nigerian dic-

tator Sanni Abacha.

Indeed, the "Abacha Funds" is the largest

kleptocracy forfeiture action ever brought in

the United States resulting in a \$450,000,000 judgment of the forfeited assets facilitated by Justice's remarkable Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative.

The Abacha Administration embezzled Nigerian public funds under other false claims, that the Administration was investing in national security measures to protect Nigeria and the Nigerian people.

As we all see now, as a result of or in part because of the Abacha Administration's failure to invest in and implement security measures, the security in Nigeria and the region is tenuous, with the country and region currently under continuous threat by the ISIS affiliated group Boko Haram.

Indeed, Boko Haram and other sectarian terrorists have trafficked, kidnapped, murdered and caused the displacement of millions of children, women and men.

Recovered victims displaced by terrorist activity as well as refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons fleeing for their lives will be in dire need of protection and support.

A Victim of Terror Protection Fund can supply health aid, educational support, employment training, economic empowerment, dignity and overall improved social welfare of these victims.

I continue to have a deep appreciation of the patriotism, resilience, and commitment of the Nigerian people under the leadership of their newly democratically elected President Muhammadu Buhari.

As an emerging democracy, Nigeria is a country that has faced its set of challenges, conflicts, and contradictions analogous to the human condition itself.

Yet, resiliency flows through the veins and into the hearts of the Nigerian people.

That is why I urge my colleagues to support the victims through the protection fund to protect, support and address the unprecedented migrant and refugee crisis across the Mediterranean triggered by violent extremism, conflict and natural disasters.

Boko Haram is an existential threat to the human rights, well being and security of the Nigerian people and their regional neighbors with its relentless drive to commit genocide.

Part of the strategy to help address the scourge of Boko Haram's atrocity should be through the creation of a Victim of Terror Protection Fund and accessibility of military technical assistance to Nigeria and its regional neighbors pursuant to the UN Security Council and neighboring African countries call for accelerated military collaboration to combat this extremist group.

This is why I commend the U.S. Administration's announcement that it is deploying 300 U.S. troops to Africa to set up a drone base to track fighters from Boko Haram, which continues to seek to destabilize Nigeria and neighboring countries during its blood thirsty assault on innocent people.

The U.S. forces' presence will be critical to combatting Boko Haram, which now appears to continue to wage its vicious insurgency in Nigeria and now spilling into neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger and leaving an estimated 20,000 people dead.

In light of these atrocities and its pleading of allegiance to the Islamic State (ISIS), we must remain vigilant of Boko Haram, since both groups are fighting to establish a caliphate across the Middle East and in Africa.

Our global strategy for ending the suffering, preventing displacement and creating solutions for displaced persons in Africa requires a