

served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher. Judge Littlejohn was a man of family, faith, and a servant of God.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Julia Gray Littlejohn; his daughters, Lisa Gault (Phil) of Huntsville, Alabama and Christy Adair (Avery) of New Albany; his son, Bradley Littlejohn (Morgan) also of New Albany; his six grandchildren, Phillip Gault, Justin Gault, Katie Allison Gault, Julianne Littlejohn, Gray Littlejohn, and Ivy Littlejohn; one sister, Ivy Jean Weeden (John) of New Harmony; one aunt, Elaine Pannell of New Albany; and many nieces and nephews.

My thoughts and prayers are with Judge Littlejohn's family and friends during this difficult time.

THANK YOU MIKE PODEGRACZ
FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE
CITY OF HESPERIA

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, over my time representing the citizens of California's Eighth Congressional District, I have been able to spend time with and learn from some of the best community leaders America has to offer.

Today I rise to speak about Mike Podgracz, the City Manager of the City of Hesperia.

Mike was first appointed City Manager in 2005. During his time as City Manager, he has overseen the completion of the Ranchero Underpass and Interchange projects, the G Avenue Lead Track and the completion of the Hesperia's Civic Plaza Complex. Being fiscally conservative, Mike led the organization through the recession without staff layoffs while maintaining a balanced general fund budget. Having spent the first half of his career in the private sector, Mike understands the impact of superior customer service on the community, and places a special value on this trait across all city departments. Hesperia is a city known for its excellent customer service, and Mike has made this possible through all he has been able to accomplish.

I wish Mike the best in all that is yet to come. He has left a huge imprint on the City of Hesperia and I'm proud to have worked with him.

MARYANN PROCTOR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize MaryAnn Proctor for receiving the West Chamber's 2015 Celebrate Women Award. This award celebrates local women leaders with drive, perseverance and service to their community.

Whether it was tutoring second graders through the Bring up Grades (BUGS) program or volunteering at the Tennyson Center for abused children, MaryAnn lived to help others. On a daily basis, she oversaw the complex operations of Propp Realty leading the staff

and making business connections, not only from tenant to tenant, but with every person she met. She insisted on quality work, respect among coworkers, and encouraged potential leaders to conduct business fairly and professionally.

She served as a board member for the West Chamber, President-elect for Lakewood Kiwanis, a volunteer at ARC, The Action Center and Lakewood High School Key Club. Additionally, she served on several City of Lakewood committees and belonged to the West Colfax Business District. MaryAnn unexpectedly passed away at the end of 2014, leaving behind a tremendous legacy.

Thank you for recognizing MaryAnn Proctor with the 2015 Celebrate Women Award. Her leadership and service to the community will forever be remembered.

MARKING 20 YEARS SINCE THE
SIGNING OF THE DAYTON
AGREEMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, November 21 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Dayton Agreement, which ended the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

As a member and later Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I remember those events vividly—many Bosnians and Serbs testified before the Helsinki Commission in the 1990s (including victims of human rights abuses and human rights defenders) and some have since played leading roles as elected officials. In 1991, Frank Wolf and I visited Vukovar in neighboring Croatia while it was still under siege. With a group of other Helsinki Commissioners and Members of Congress, I urged a decisive international response under U.S. leadership from the very beginning of the war. In 1995 we spearheaded a movement to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia, so that it would not present such an inviting target to Serb militias. Sadly the embargo was lifted too late for the Bosniaks in Srebrenica.

Just last month I met with a group of young Bosniaks belonging to Voices of the Bosnian Genocide. It was so moving to meet with these young people—many of them were from Srebrenica—and to learn how many of them had taken up work or study that sought to bring some good out of the horrors of 1995. Many studied human rights law, or conflict resolution, or medicine.

Their lives were shaped not only by Srebrenica but also by Dayton, which brought an end to the killing. Yet as public officials we have a responsibility to remember that robust action earlier in the conflict could have saved many more lives and produced better prospects for the future.

Twenty years later, this Dayton anniversary offers the opportunity to assess what has been achieved in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The agreement should rightly be remembered for restoring a peace that has held to this day, and for ensuring the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Dayton gave the country time to begin to heal from a horrific conflict infamous for ethnic

cleansing and atrocities against innocent civilians, including the genocide at Srebrenica—which we remembered with the unanimous passage of House Resolution 310 this past July—as well as the shelling of Sarajevo and other urban centers, and the rape and death camps established by Serb militant forces at the beginning of their aggression. In this small country, over two million were displaced by the conflict, more than 100,000 were killed, and tens of thousands were raped or tortured. Scars made by crimes of this scale still remain.

Dayton was a central part of an effort that helped the international community transition from a world divided between East and West in order to meeting post-Cold War challenges, including the extreme and violent nationalism and its inherent hatred for others which manifested itself elsewhere in the Balkans and Europe. For the first time since World War II, an international tribunal was established to hold persons accountable for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Determining the fate of missing persons, using new technology such as satellite photography to locate mass graves and DNA testing to identify remains, became a priority. The NATO Alliance, previously confined to the borders of its member states, expanded its security role to operate “out of area,” first to restore peace and then to keep it. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also evolved to include significant field operations and new mandates ranging from election observation to police training. These developments remain relevant today.

As we commemorate the accomplishments of Dayton, Mr. Speaker, we also must remember that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina must live in its wake. It is my hope that, at the 30th anniversary of the end of the conflict, Bosnia will have made more progress and we will have more to celebrate.

STATEMENT PUBLISHED BY MRS.
MARYAM RAJAVI OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RESISTANCE OF IRAN, CONDEMNING THE RECENT TERROR ATTACKS IN PARIS

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following statement published in the Washington Times on November 18, 2015, by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, condemning the recent terror attacks in Paris.

On behalf of the Iranian people and the Iranian Resistance for freedom and democracy, I strongly condemn the terrorist attacks and massacre of defenseless people in Paris on November 13, 2015.

I extend my condolences to the Republic's President and government as well as the French people for the loss of life in these attacks, which are true examples of crime against humanity.

I express my heartfelt sympathies to the victims' families. Today, our hearts bleed for the French nation. The people of Iran deeply feel the bitterness of these crimes.

In these difficult moments, the Iranian people can empathize with the French people

and share their grief, because for the past 37 years they have been suffering under the religious and terrorist dictatorship, which is the Godfather of ISIS.

Today, humanity's conscience is in shock and disbelief, wondering how such crimes can be committed in the name of God and under the banner of religion.

Fundamentalism has nothing to do with Islam, whether it is under the pretext of Shiite extremism and religious tyranny or *velayat-e faqih* (absolute clerical rule) or under the pretext of Sunni extremism and Daesh (ISIS).

Such inhumane crimes have no connection to Islam, and are evils that represent enmity to peace and humanity everywhere.

Crimes committed by the religious fascism ruling Iran, including 120,000 political executions, hostage-taking and export of terrorism, have nothing to do with Islam or the Iranian people.

For this reason, I urge all Muslims to strongly condemn the crimes committed in Paris and to not allow the conduct of these ruthless terrorists to occur in the name of Islam and Muslims.

I also call on them to stand firm against such extremism, which violates the true teachings of Islam.

The Assad regime in Syria and its prime sponsor the mullahs ruling Iran are the chief sociopolitical enablers of ISIS, with their slaughter of 300,000 innocent people and displacing of more than half of the Syrian population.

As long as this dictatorship rules in Damascus with the backing of the religious fascism ruling Iran, ISIS will continue to thrive and extend its scourge of death from the Middle East to Europe.

At the same time, Iran's ruling mullahs, who are the primary beneficiaries of these crimes, are brazenly blaming the French government for the attacks.

According to what they published in a news agency affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), their demand is for France to abandon its firm policy against the Assad dictatorship in light of the November 13th massacre and to instead "coordinate its efforts with the Islamic countries," namely the mullahs in Tehran.

In such circumstances, it has become increasingly vital for France to insist on the removal of Bashar Assad from power and to adopt a more decisive policy in resolving the Syrian crisis.

Experience has shown that firmness is the most effective and the only principled and correct approach to confronting terrorists.

Once again, I extend my most sincere sympathies to the people of France and pray for a speedy recover for the injured.

THE PRESIDENT'S VOW: ENDING VETERANS HOMELESSNESS BY 2015

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Reps. CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY), SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. (D-GA) and I rise within the 100 days remaining to reaffirm our support for the President's Vow to End Veterans Homelessness by December 2015. We also reaffirm the First Lady and Dr. Biden's White House Joining Forces Initiative aimed at supporting military families, and last year's Mayor's Challenge to End Homelessness among veterans.

We also want to recognize the legendary Hon. CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY), who was the

first to call attention to our nation's greatest failing 'the plight of our homeless veterans' in 1992, on the heels of the seminal report 'Heroes Today, Homeless Tomorrow.' That report revealed that 250,000 men, or one of every three single homeless men sleeping on the streets or in shelters, on any given night, were veterans and 40% were Black. Now, 23 years later the Hons. CHARLES RANGEL, SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. and I convened the forum, "President's Vow" to review the past 20 year's accomplishments and shortfalls against the backdrop of Rep. RANGEL's 'Yesterday's Military Heroes Ought Not be Today's Homeless,' where high unemployment, homelessness, and health concerns prevailed.

The forum successfully blended the President's Vow and First Lady's Mayor's Challenge, along with Congressional efforts, while placing Black and women veterans homelessness within the framework of the national dialogue, or discussion. Furthermore, the forum succeeded in impressing upon lawmakers and the audience a fundamental truth that 'race and gender matter' in our comprehension of 21st century at-risk and homeless veterans. It argued the persuasive case of urban veterans' homelessness, joblessness and incarceration, the link between homelessness, poverty and hunger among veterans across America, disparities in health outcomes for male and female veterans, the triple disadvantages for African American female veterans, and the need for more case management services, transitional housing and permanent affordable housing development. It also exposed the need for better case worker-to-veteran ratios.

We began the forum with a musical prelude performed by David Bratton, known as the DC Lou Rawls, and the traditional military presenting of colors. In addition, Dr. James Averhart, Past President of the Montford Point Marine Association led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Chaplain Michael McCoy, Associate Director of VA Chaplains offered the invocation and benediction.

Congressman CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) then introduced Col. Nicole Malachowski, USAF, Iraq Combat Pilot and Executive Director of the White House Joining Forces Initiative, who brought greetings from First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden as a morale booster. Accompanying greetings came from Hon. SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. (D-GA) and Hon. CORRINE BROWN's (D-FL), who also introduced the new VA UnderSecretary for Health Dr. David Shulkin, MD for keynote remarks. Afterward, Congressman SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. (D-GA) introduced our impressive panelist and Executive Director Ron Armstead as moderator for the panel discussion to come. The panel discussion consisted of the following members:

Col. Eugene Scott, USA, Ret., President of Chicago Defender Charities, started by focusing on the Chicago Defenders more than 100-year history in defense of the black community. However, he was more outspoken about veterans' homelessness and in highlighting veterans' hunger in Chicago. Georgia State Legislator Calvin Symre, who is also Past President, National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) stated that NBCSL is formulating and leading discussions around homeless veterans policies with the White House and other agencies. The intention is to mobilize everyone at the state, city and local levels for support, because the struggle

doesn't end, and there is always the need for more people to be involved. Nan Roman, President/CEO, National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), presented statistics on veterans homelessness and discussed the overrepresentation of African Americans, who represent only 10% of the general veterans' population, adding that, although numbers appear to be declining, there still is a discrepancy. Gregory Scott, President/CEO, New Directions for Veterans (ND), talked about his father (a troubled Korean war veteran) who died all too soon and about his family knowing nothing about PTSD, thus establishing the importance of the connection between veterans and their families, in identifying with not only the homeless, but with all struggling veterans.

Baylee Crone, President/CEO, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) described the coalition, its services and its efforts to end chronic homelessness as well as the importance of listening to its founders, such as Ralph Cooper, M.Ed., a co-founder of NCHV, and others. Steve Peck, President/CEO of U.S. VETS, suggested the need for a long-range plan beyond December 2015. Carlyre Holder, President, National Association for Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCCJ), spoke about the criminal justice system and the need for reform—noting that President Barack Obama is the first president ever to visit a federal prison—in addition to expressing the NABCCJ's support of social justice and veterans' courts. Ed Jennings, Southeast Regional Director, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), indicated that the vast majority of the First Lady's Mayor's Challenge and state and other official signers come from the southeast region of HUD. The latest numbers being 555, out of 854 nationally from Region 4.

The question-and-answer period was a lively exchange between attendees and panel members reflecting motivation, stimulated thinking and enthusiasm; Anthony Love, VA Senior Advisor and Director of Community Engagement remained throughout in order to answer questions and address concerns regarding homelessness.

The Veterans Braintrust Homeless Forum was significant for its timing—we were 100 days away from the December 2015 deadline for ending veterans homelessness. And we are embracing the First Lady's and Dr. Biden's agenda, along with fulfilling our central mission of advocating nationally and articulating clearly the message that "Blacks are continually overrepresented among the homeless veterans population, despite being only 10% of the general veterans population." The key question—why are Black veterans disproportionately represented among the homeless—remains essentially unanswered, as does the issue of why "women veterans are now the fastest growing segment of the homeless population, particularly single women with children." Therefore, more needs to be done before the national media declares victory, and the 'political and public will' goes away.

Although, we are watching the national homeless statistics in order to anticipate and formulate the next steps, we envisioned the forum as part of an "all hands on deck" effort and opportunity for enhancing homeless veterans policy, programs, services with outside-the-box problem solving. Yet, we realized that representatives from the DC area alone were absent for some unknown reason. Further, despite not requesting the Friday morning forum