

human rights advocates. We know what they are up to. We cannot let this continue.

The Chinese Government is an enemy of human rights. It is the enemy of its own people.

As a former judge in Texas, I know a thing or two about justice. And, justice has not been served to the Falun Gong community.

Over the years, Falun Gong followers have been imprisoned, tortured, and killed. But, despite Beijing's abuse, they continue to fight back.

Today, China must end its persecution of the Falun Gong.

The world leaders have been talking about climate change in Paris.

There needs to be a "climate" change in China. The air is polluted with the cries of the innocents murdered by the government.

The land is defiled by the acts of torture and organ harvesting.

The blood of the Falun Gong is on the hands of the Chinese officials.

I hope that one day soon all Chinese people will have the basic human right that the Creator endows to all creation: life.

The Falun Gong deserves to live free of oppression and murder.

They are courageous men and women.

The Chinese Government, in its zeal to keep power, kills its own people.

Power, not people, is the quest of the Chinese Government.

If the Chinese Government was put on trial before the world of free peoples and tried for its violations of human rights, it would be found guilty of terrorism. Its government officials would be in prison. They would be locked up. They would not see the light of the morning sun. They would be in the cold damp darkness of the jailhouse—the place reserved for the evil ones who harvest the organs of the Falun Gong.

And that's just the way it is.

IN MEMORY OF MR. TONY HADDAD
OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I commemorate the life of Mr. Tony Haddad, a restaurateur and local icon of Peoria, Illinois, who passed away this past Saturday at the age of 78.

Immigrating to Peoria from Lebanon in 1977, Mr. Haddad and his family arrived in the United States with only thirty dollars in his pocket. Although far from home, Haddad brought his culture to life through the food he sold from a pushcart in downtown Peoria for almost 35 years, which he later expanded into his own local restaurant. Mr. Haddad was the personification of the American dream.

His empathy and generosity made those who visited his food cart and restaurant not only his patrons, but his friends. Tony was always charitable, giving a meal to someone even if he knew they would not be able to repay him and, and he made time to listen to his customers' problems.

Alongside his work, the cornerstone to Haddad's life was the love and friendship of

his wife of 60 years, Loreece. Together, they came to America and created their own legacy, raising six children, 18 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Although he will be greatly missed, he will be remembered fondly and remain an icon of the 18th District.

TRIBUTE TO DULA AND BETTY THOMPSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dula and Betty Thompson of Lewis, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They married on October 11, 1945 in Troy, Kansas.

Dula and Betty's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Marvin, Bill, Lanette, and Ken, along with their grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchild, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Thompsons that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call vote 682. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

HONORING BETTE STOLTZ

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend, neighbor and activist who dedicated her life to improving South Brooklyn. On November 19, longtime neighborhood activist Bette Stoltz passed away. This Saturday, Brooklynites will come together to celebrate the life of this dedicated advocate and leader.

Bette made countless contributions to South Brooklyn, helping bring vitality, energy and entrepreneurship to the area. She worked to sure-up small businesses at a time of disinvestment. She was instrumental to revitalizing Smith Street and helping organize the Merchants Association in the 1980s, which fostered so much cultural life and vibrancy in the area. She organized the Smith Street Fes-

tivals in the fall and the Bastille Day Pétanque Tournament. She worked tirelessly to ensure Smith Street thrived, and most recently she was organizing to create a Business Improvement District on Smith and nearby Court Streets.

Her efforts extended well beyond the commercial corridors. By starting the South Brooklyn Local Development Corporation and the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce, she worked steadfastly to defend industrial businesses in Red Hook and Gowanus and expand opportunity and commerce throughout Brooklyn. Bette helped organize Friends of Greater Gowanus and served on the EPA Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group, working on multiple fronts to push to remediate and restore the Gowanus Canal in a green, sustainable manner.

Bette created partnerships to connect low-income and public housing residents to businesses and jobs. She created internships for youth and a Culinary Arts Curriculum at the High School for International Studies on Baltic Street. Bette also helped develop adult training programs to better connect people to good-paying jobs in the trades, industry and with local merchants. For years, Bette served as a member of Community Board 6, ensuring her neighbors' voices were heard in development decisions shaping our area's physical, cultural and economic future.

Ultimately, South Brooklyn would not be as vibrant, diverse and culturally rich without Bette's hard work and many endeavors. My thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Michael, her children and her beloved grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, New York City's communities and, indeed, our local neighborhoods throughout the country are only as strong as the local residents who are willing to put in personal time and effort to organize and improve the areas in which we live. Every community would be lucky to have a community leader as vocal, engaged, dedicated and personally warm as Bette. She leaves behind a proud legacy, one that we will honor by continuing to improve our community. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her memory.

CHALLENGER ELEMENTARY ARTISTS TAKE TOP HONOR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three talented students from Challenger Elementary School in Pearland for winning top honors in the Texas Renaissance Festival's art contest.

In the drawing category, Brendon Thai took home first place and Amanda Yee took home third place. Katherine Tran took home second place in the painting category. Challenger Elementary is lucky to have such talented young artists and an incredible teacher, Lori Ellis, who does a great job of helping her students find their creativity.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Brendon, Amanda, and Katherine for their award-winning art.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY AND GLORIA
SOUTH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Larry and Gloria South of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1960.

Larry and Gloria's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, Dee, Tammie, Judy, Margaret and Alice, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Souths that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 55th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

THE OCCASION OF MR. PAT
CORELLA'S RETIREMENT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and congratulate Mr. Pat Corella on the occasion of his retirement from his post as Deputy Director of the Pima County Library.

Mr. Corella has dedicated over fifty years to serving his community with distinction. Born from humble beginnings, Mr. Corella has become a symbol of hard work, perseverance, and selflessness. A Tucson native, Mr. Corella is one of six siblings with strong family ties. Since a young age, Mr. Corella has borne much responsibility whether helping his family harvest crops in California during the summers to becoming an independent young man. He graduated from Pueblo High School in 1965 and soon began his involvement with the Pima County Public Library system. As a library page, he assisted in shelving, book circulation, operating equipment and researching.

In 1970 after marrying and beginning a family, he enrolled in the University of Arizona as a full-time student. In less than four years, Mr. Corella earned his bachelor's degree in Government and Public Administration. During that time, it was his job to drive the "bookmobile" to areas in Tucson and Pima County where he provided imperative library services to low-income and underrepresented communities.

Mr. Corella was instrumental in the opening of library branches in Tucson's barrios and surrounding rural communities. Due in part to his leadership, nineteen library branches were opened and sixteen others were either expanded or remodeled. Mr. Corella has always understood that libraries were educational institutions full of opportunity for underserved communities. He helped transition these library branches to modern technology and expanded the role of providing more services and resources beyond books. Today, Pima County branch libraries provide literacy programs for adults and children, after-school tu-

toring and access to computers and community services.

Mr. Corella's final day was November 26, 2015, exactly fifty years to the day he began as a library page.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and honor to recognize the commitment and dedication to our Southern Arizona community and the library system that Mr. Corella has demonstrated for well over fifty years.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Northern Virginia Community College. Over the past two decades, the National Capital Region, especially Northern Virginia, has experienced explosive growth, becoming one of the most economically vibrant and diverse regions in the country. Northern Virginia Community College has been a major contributing factor to this success.

Established in 1964 under the name Northern Virginia Technical College, the school opened with 761 students in a single building in Bailey's Crossroads. Renamed in 1966, Northern Virginia Community College, known locally as NOVA, now serves more than 100,000 full and part-time students at six campuses and three satellite educational centers, and through online learning.

NOVA graduates who receive passing grades in designated courses are guaranteed admission to more than 40 area four-year colleges and universities. An in-state student can save approximately \$15,000, or 30% of tuition and fees, for a baccalaureate degree by attending NOVA for two years and then transferring to a public four-year institution. High school students can take advantage of this opportunity beginning at age 16.

It is the largest public educational institution in Virginia and the second-largest community college in the United States. It is also one of the most internationally diverse colleges in the nation, with 20% of the student population consisting of individuals from more than 180 countries. Nearly 4,000 faculty and staff members serve the students and the broader community. Nearly 300,000 individuals attend community activities on NOVA campuses each year.

NOVA offers a wide variety of programs that support academic achievement and personal growth, and that promote civic engagement, leadership development, community involvement, health & wellness, and culture. Dozens of student-led organizations enrich campus life and specialized populations such as the disabled or current and former members of the military receive services tailored to their unique circumstances.

Our local economy and our nation's security have benefitted from NOVA's innovative workforce development programs and cybersecurity curricula. Employers can rely on new-hires with credentials from NOVA and can partner with NOVA to develop customized training solutions so that recent graduates or current em-

ployees possess cutting edge skills required to succeed in a dynamic economy. The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated NOVA as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance, and representatives from the intelligence community routinely recruit graduates with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Cybersecurity from NOVA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating NOVA on 50 years of delivering world-class post-secondary education and workforce development to ensure our region and the Commonwealth of Virginia continue to have such a highly-educated population and a globally competitive workforce. NOVA truly exemplifies the crucial role that publicly-supported higher education plays in our society. I look forward to seeing what NOVA will accomplish in the next 50 years.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO DEFEAT ISIS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday evening, President Obama addressed the nation and detailed his four-part plan, as Commander-in-Chief, to keep the American people safe from terrorist acts committed by terrorist groups like ISIL and al Qaeda or by persons abroad or lone wolf "franchise terrorists" at home who are inspired by groups that profane the peaceful religion of Islam.

First, the plan calls for our military to continue hunting down terrorist plotters in any country where it is necessary.

In Iraq and Syria, American airpower has been used to great effect, taking out ISIL leaders, heavy weapons, oil tankers, and infrastructure.

Second, the plan calls for the United States to take away safe havens for terrorists by continuing to provide training and equipment to the tens of thousands of Iraqi and Syrian forces fighting ISIL.

The third part of the plan involves working with friends and allies to disrupt ISIL's operations by cutting off access to financing and disrupting recruitment efforts.

Finally, the plan calls for continued American leadership, working in conjunction with the international community, to establish a process—and timeline—to pursue ceasefires and a political resolution to the Syrian civil war.

Ending the civil war in Syria will allow the Syrian people, our allies, and also Russia, to focus on the common goal of destroying ISIL.

Critics have every right to disagree with the President's approach but they also have an obligation to propose realistic and practical alternatives to the President's plan, which, by the way, has been designed by American military commanders and counterterrorism experts and supported by the 65 countries that are part of the American-led coalition.

Our quarrel is not with Islam so I also commend the President's appeal for calm, unity, and cooperation among all persons of goodwill both in the United States and around the world.

The terrorist attacks in San Bernardino were horrific acts on innocent civilians perpetrated