

term to ensure that grant money achieves the greatest impact.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Young Americans Financial Literacy Act.

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sugar Land Marriott Town Square for providing exceptional service to visitors of my home town. It recently received top honors from the Marriott brand, and earned a ranking as the top full-service Marriott hotel in Texas, third in the United States, and fifth among Marriott's 358 hotels all around the world for overall guest satisfaction. What an accomplishment.

In addition to these awards, the hotel also won a 2014 Excellence in Quality Award from Remington Hotels. These accolades are thanks in part to seven of the hotel's associates, who were honored for their exceptional service by receiving the 2014 Marriott Spirit to Serve Awards. Thousands of Marriott guests have expressed their satisfaction upon receiving the Sugar Land Marriott Town Square's exemplary customer service and hospitality.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Sugar Land Marriott Town Square for being selected as an outstanding hotel.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to add my voice in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom HaShoah. The Holocaust claimed the lives of 11 million people, including six million Jews, and with each passing year it becomes increasingly important to keep alive the memory of those who perished. We must ensure that "never again" is a reality. It is also important that we remember those who fought back for humanity, such as the brave men and women who rose up against the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto in 1943.

Seven decades later, the scourge of anti-Semitism still exists throughout the world. This is evidenced by the recent attacks against Jewish establishments and religious sites in Paris and Copenhagen, as well as anti-Semitic attacks inside the United States. A recent Anti-Defamation League survey found 24% of Western Europeans harbor anti-Semitic views. The survey also reported that anti-Semitic incidents in the United States rose 21 percent in 2014. Many of us have spoken out about this unacceptable situation for years, but we must reinforce our words with actions. There is no room for such bigotry and violent intolerance in today's society.

Let this day of remembrance, Yom HaShoah, strengthen our resolve to fight anti-Semitism worldwide. We cannot allow ourselves to become complacent, and we must continue to raise our voice against anti-Semitism, wherever it might arise. Sadly, every year there are fewer and fewer Holocaust survivors among us. We must take up their mantle, educate our youth, and tell their stories. Otherwise, there is a far greater risk of history repeating itself. Today, I remember the victims of the Holocaust, and I say "never again."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT PITTENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Votes # 145, 146 and 147, I am not recorded because I was absent from the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

On Roll Call # 145. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA. On Roll Call # 146. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA. On Roll Call # 147. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

HONORING WILLIE HARRIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Willie Harris.

A Holmes County native, Willie Harris, who stands 6-foot-8 and spent a year playing basketball at Alcorn State University, was one of the first black stuntmen in Hollywood.

Harris landed in California while serving in the military. He and two others entered into the stunt business through acquaintances. Harris' story is perhaps the most bizarre; a friend introduced Harris to Calvin Brown. This was the first time Harris had heard of a stunt man. Not long after that, he was driving a friend to north Hollywood, got lost and stopped to ask for directions. Harris had no idea he had walked onto the set where the 1969 blockbuster "Bob & Carol, Ted & Alice" was being filmed. The person volunteering directions was actor Elliott Gould, who was poised for stardom.

Gould noticed Harris' tall stature and asked if he'd ever considered stunt work. Harris was open to the idea. Gould met with him the next day and gave him a letter of recommendation by producer Robert Altman to help him gain membership into the Screen Actors Guild.

He had the chance to personally thank Gould last October when they were brought together to film a documentary segment about the Black Stuntmen's Association.

Harris is now the president of the Black Stuntman's Association in Jackson, Mississippi. Harris is accompanied in the organization by two other Mississippians: Henry

Graddy and Dewitt Fondren. The group has been honored by former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Nevada legislature. The Smithsonian Institution is also planning to acknowledge the group through an exhibit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing stuntman that has been instrumental in magnifying the strides of African Americans in film.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE POLIQUIN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 154, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to an oversight, I voted incorrectly on H.R. 685, the Mortgage Choice Act of 2015, on April 14, 2015. I had intended to vote yea on Roll Call vote 152, on passage of the Mortgage Choice Act of 2015.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FOR ITS EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the United States Capitol Police. Congress is a very unique place that presents special challenges for a law enforcement agency, yet every day, the men and women of the Capitol Police work tirelessly to protect this institution. Their coordination, guidance, and support ensures that Members and Staff can fulfill the legislative responsibilities of Congress, all while securing the Capitol Hill campus so our constituents can visit and see first-hand how the legislative branch functions.

Specifically, I also want to note the excellent job done by the Capitol Police during the New Member Orientation program held last November for the incoming Members of Congress. The Orientation program is a significant effort that requires extensive coordination and communication, but the Capitol Police's work in providing security at the hotel and for all of the events was critical to the success and productivity of the week. I am very grateful for all they did to help with the program.

The officers and civilians within the force continually display professionalism and excellence in carrying out their duties, and I thank them for all their hard work.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
NORMA GARCIA FULLER

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Norma Garcia Fuller, an American patriot, who will be receiving the Living Hero Award. I have the immense privilege of representing so many courageous former service members and their families in Florida's 26th Congressional District, and Master Sergeant Garcia Fuller exemplifies the greatness of our military. Born and raised in Homestead, Florida, Master Sergeant Garcia Fuller enlisted in the United States Army in 1989 and attended Fort Jackson, South Carolina for the majority of her training. Serving in several different roles in the United States Military, Master Sergeant Garcia Fuller was placed on orders in support of Operation Enduring Freedom at United States Southern Command in March of 2010. During this assignment she held numerous positions such as Assistant to the Inspector General, Human Resources Sergeant for the Resources and Assessments Directorate, and Executive Assistant to the Senior Enlisted Leader, where she was promoted to Sergeant First Class. In April 2013, she was mobilized to Guantanamo Bay where she served as the Joint Personnel Center Noncommissioned Officer and the Manpower and Personnel Noncommissioned Officer, where she was promoted to her current rank of Master Sergeant for her service to our country. Brave men and women like Master Sergeant Norma Garcia Fuller protect and preserve the integrity of our nation and the freedom that we enjoy. I offer my sincerest recognition of her service to our community and our nation, and highest accolades for receiving the Living Hero Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
PROTECTIVE SERVICE REFORM
ACT OF 2015

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill to reform the Federal Protective Service. On the twentieth anniversary of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building (Murrah Building) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, I believe it is long overdue to improve the Federal Protective Service (FPS). In the aftermath of the 1995 Murrah Building bombing, the Department of Justice (DOJ) assessed the vulnerability of Federal office buildings in the United States, particularly to acts of terrorism and other forms of violence. The DOJ report made several recommendations, including upgrading the Federal Protective Service (FPS) and bringing each Federal facility up to minimum standards suggested for its security level. When the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City was attacked, it was after careful planning that focused on gaps in the federal building security at the site to allow the massive destruction and the loss of life that touched all Americans.

The DOJ report noted that the FPS has the experience and historical character to provide security services in Federal buildings for much of the Federal workforce. But, the report also noted that FPS has limited resources to determine building security requirements to address terrorist threats. FPS, according to the report, needs to re-establish its role and take the lead in emphasizing the need for security.

Unfortunately years later, many of the reforms that DOJ found necessary have not taken place. Since the bombing of the Murrah Building, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General have both issued numerous reports indicating where FPS needs to improve in order to prevent another tragedy and improve security in Federal buildings. The GAO has made very clear that FPS must increase its oversight of its contract guard force, improve screening practices, and be more nimble in responding to threats to Federal buildings.

The Federal Protective Service is a part of the frontline defense for thousands of Federal buildings, which include Federal courthouses, Social Security Administration buildings, Agency headquarters, and other buildings. FPS has approximately 1,300 employees, including approximately 1,000 Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) or "inspectors" and 15,000 contract guards, also known as Protective Security Officers (PSOs). After the Oklahoma City bombings in 1995, FPS' authorized staffing level was 1,450. FPS maintained about the same level of staffing until it dropped to 1,100 in 2007. After concerns about the decrease and its effect on security, Congress, through the appropriations process, began mandating a minimum staffing level. The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act requires 1,371 full-time-equivalent staff, including 1,007 law enforcement officers. Ultimately, this means that the FPS has fewer employees than it had in 1996, in the immediate aftermath of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, while GSA has expanded its real estate holdings since 1996 by nearly 33%.

FPS spends about \$1.3 billion in executing its mission while delivering security and law enforcement services for the 8,700 assets that the General Services Administration (GSA) owns, controls, or leases. FPS services include providing a visible uniformed presence in major Federal buildings; responding to criminal incidents and other emergencies; installing and monitoring security devices and systems; investigating criminal incidents; conducting physical security assessments; coordinating a comprehensive program for occupants' emergency plans; presenting formal crime prevention and security awareness programs; and providing police emergency and special security services during natural disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and major civil disturbances, including man-made disasters, such as bomb explosions and riots.

As the Federal inventory of buildings has steadily increased over the last 30 years, the quality and implementation of security standards have varied greatly. The Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management has unfortunately found that security in Federal buildings is not uniform and is often set by non-security personnel employed by tenant agencies through a Building Security Committee for

each individual public building. This approach to security makes it difficult to gauge properly the actual risk at Federal facilities and then allocate FPS resources appropriately.

My bill, the FPS Reform Act of 2015, addresses some of the long standing issues identified by the original DOJ report in the aftermath of the bombing of Alfred P. Murrah Building and subsequent reports by the GAO. It creates a minimum level of training for Protective Service Officers (PSOs) while increasing the authority of PSOs to carry firearms and detain suspects accused of a felony. The bill also improves the training and procedures for federal agencies participating in the Building Security Committees to ensure that there are uniform and appropriate security standards for individual buildings occupied by federal agencies. Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of DHS to study and report back to Congress on several areas of concern with respect to securing federal buildings including the level of personnel needed to secure federal buildings, the best model for funding FPS, the feasibility of federalizing FPS contract officers, and best practices in preventing explosives from entering Federal buildings.

Nearly 20 years after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building it is readily apparent that although FPS has made some strides in improving the protection of Federal buildings there is more progress that needs to be made. In my role as Ranking Member of the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee and a former law enforcement official, I believe it is imperative that I do everything possible to protect the millions of federal workers and daily visitors, and to keep federal buildings safe. With increased oversight and additional legislative authority I believe the Federal Protective Service can thrive in its mission of protecting Federal Facilities, their occupants, and visitors by providing superior law enforcement and protective security services.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to consider this legislation and pass it as soon as possible.

HONORING W.C. GORDEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkably talented individual, W.C. Gorden, has brought tremendous honor to one of Mississippi's premier education institutions, Jackson State University (JSU). Coach Gorden's legacy at Jackson State remains unmatched, and he has truly cemented his place in college football history.

A native of Nashville, Tennessee and a graduate of Tennessee State University, Gorden came to Jackson State first as its head baseball coach in 1971, he then became interim head football coach in 1976 and then head football coach in 1977. From then on, he led the Tigers to eight conference championship titles in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) in the fifteen years he coached. In 1982, Gorden had 21 players drafted to the NFL, ranking JSU among the top 5 colleges in the nation for NFL draft picks. Also, during his tenure, JSU was the