

served as Chairman—the Reynolds Scholarship Committee, the First-Year Seminar Committee, Divinity School Accreditation Committee and Dean of the College Search Committee.

Mr. Speaker, like many young men and women who attended Wake Forest, I am honored and proud to say I studied under Professor James Powell.

H.R. 2408, THE USA FREEDOM ACT

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2048, the USA Freedom Act. This bill makes important improvements to the PATRIOT Act, including to Section 2154, which is the underpinning of the National Security Agency's (NSA) nationwide bulk collection program.

Yet a ruling last week by the Second Circuit found that the bulk collection of phone records under this section violated the law. The right to privacy is a fundamental American value. And it is clear that the practice of unconstitutional bulk data collection endangers that right. Last week's court decision underscores this—and makes clear that more robust surveillance reforms are needed. While the USA Freedom Act is a good step forward, it does not go far enough. And I recognize the hard work of my good friend and colleague, Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, JR., on this important bill. More than thirteen years after the passage of the PATRIOT Act, Congress must do more to balance our national security with the protection of our civil liberties.

The USA Freedom Act should include more robust protections to prevent the surveillance of individuals with no nexus to terrorism or any specific investigation. This would ensure adequate protections against indiscriminate surveillance from the government and ensure that Section 215 cannot be used to collect Americans' records unrelated to any specific investigation. We should also be working for more robust minimization procedures to ensure that information collected under Section 215 is not stored in databases for years. This type of provision was included in a previous version of this bill and must be restored. We should also work to limit additional authorities outside of Section 215 that have been used to collect Americans' records in bulk. We know that the government has used other authorities—such as administrative subpoena laws—to collect Americans' records in bulk. And finally, H.R. 2048 should be amended to ensure that the government does not use authorities under Section 702 as a backdoor to conduct surveillance on Americans. Section 702 allows the government to intercept contents of Americans' electronic communications with individuals abroad—and stores them in a database—without a warrant. Reforms to Section 702 should be included in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues for working in bipartisan manner on this bill. Yet I believe that additional reforms were needed to adequately protect Americans' fundamental right to privacy. More than 13 years after the PATRIOT Act was first passed into law, it is time for Congress to let Section 215 expire

and work toward serious and meaningful surveillance reform.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, 2015, my flight was delayed and I was unable to vote on H.R. 91.

If present, I would have vote "yea" on H.R. 91.

H.R. 36

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 36. This bill would ban abortions after 20 weeks without an adequate exception to protect a woman's health—a violation of *Roe v. Wade*—and would impose unreasonable burdens on rape and incest survivors. The legislation is the latest attack by House Republicans on women's health, and what's even more insulting is that they brought it to the floor during Women's Health Week.

H.R. 36 would deny a woman the right to an abortion even if she is experiencing serious medical complications from pregnancy, or her physician is unable to diagnose her fetus with severe and lethal anomalies until after 20 weeks. These anomalies frequently lead to fetal death before or shortly after birth. Moreover, by imposing criminal penalties on physicians who provide abortion care, the bill would eventually lead to the deterioration of the critical patient-doctor relationship.

As you know, Republicans pulled an earlier version of this after a clash in their caucus over the exception for adult rape survivors which would require women to report the crime to law enforcement before they could get an abortion. That language has been modified to require rape survivors to seek and provide documentation of medical treatment or counseling 48 hours prior to an abortion. The bill also includes unfair reporting and documentation requirements for minors who have survived rape and incest. Without a doubt these barriers are deliberately designed to restrict a women's right to choose.

I'm pleased to see a range of organizations voice strong opposition to this bill including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Nurses Association, American Public Health Association, NARAL Pro-Choice American, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, National Organization for Women, National Women's Law Center, National Council of Jewish Women, and others.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand up for women's health and oppose this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF OAKTON-VIENNA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the volunteers of the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna and to thank them for their many contributions to the Northern Virginia community. Organized in 1997, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is a non-profit that provides services to help older adults continue living independently, and it offers programs that supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization.

Every year, approximately 200 volunteers support older residents who want to age in place in their homes and stay engaged in social activities. Services are available free of charge to anyone age 50 or older who resides in the local community.

Last year was a particularly successful year for SCOV. In 2014, drivers provided over 1100 round-trip rides for medical reasons and other errands. Volunteers made regular contact with individuals who may have limited interaction and may feel isolated in their homes. "Handy Helpers" made minor home repairs to help older adults keep their homes safe and livable. The Health Team provided individual health counseling, referral to community resources, and blood pressure readings. Volunteers also run programs such as Lunch n' Life, Adventures in Learning, trips and outings, special events, and caregivers' support groups. All told, SCOV served more than 3000 individuals in 2014. For these accomplishments, SCOV was recognized as 2014 Outstanding Volunteer Caregiving Program by the National Volunteer Caregiving Network.

The services and programs offered by this extraordinary organization help to ensure that our seniors stay connected to the community through promotion of active lifestyles, ongoing social integration, and availability of resources for older residents to use their experience, training, and skills in significant roles in society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Shepherd Center of Oakton-Vienna for its work to enable older adults in our community to age in place and enjoy their golden years with dignity and independence. I thank the many volunteers who generously dedicate their time and efforts to the welfare of our neighbors. The value of their contributions cannot be overstated and are deserving of our highest praise.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF VIRGINIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD BRIGADIER GENERAL WAYNE A. WRIGHT

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Brigadier General Wayne A. Wright for his 34 years of service to our nation and to congratulate him on his announced retirement.

Brigadier General Wayne A. Wright retires as the Chief of Staff/Air Component Commander, Virginia Air National Guard, responsible for the command and control of 1,230 Virginia Air National Guard members, representing five organizations. Provided to the Governor and Adjutant General of Virginia, Air Guard military forces protect and defend the Commonwealth, and when activated to federal military duty, provide those same forces to the President of the United States.

General Wright entered the United States Air Force and received his commission in 1981 after graduating from the University of South Carolina. He transitioned from active duty to the Georgia Air National Guard in 1992. General Wright has held various leadership and command positions at the squadron, group, wing and major command levels. His assignments involved operations and formal training of United States Air Force and allied Command and Control personnel. He also worked in the developmental and operational testing arena. General Wright is a Master Air Battle Manager with qualifications in six ground-based Command and Control systems including joint and allied systems.

General Wright has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Force Commendation Medal (with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Service Star), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short Tour, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Long Tour, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon (with 1 Silver and 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

Brigadier General Wright has excelled throughout his distinguished career and I am honored to pay tribute to this Airman. I thank Wayne's wife, Jeanette, and their daughter, Jessica and Son-in-law, Jeremy along with their children, Noah and Haley as well as their son Justin and his wife Caitlin and also Kelly and Dawson for the many years they have supported Wayne while he served his country. I wish Wayne and Jeanette Godspeed, and continued happiness as they start a new chapter in their lives.

#### AMERICA'S HEART AND SOUL

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and in honor of all of The Fallen and their families this Memorial Day. The Men and Women who have given that last full measure in the name of freedom. I submit this poem penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

On this Monday each year.  
As all across our Nation appears.  
Rows of flags in graveyards here.  
And far across the distant shores too revered!  
As we take the time as a Nation so clear.  
With memories of them in our hearts so dear.

As the parade's line the streets all across the towns.

As throughout the Nation in graveyards planted flags are found.

When, we as a Nation take the time to stop and pause.

To remember and honor all of those patriot's in their just cause.

Because, Memorial Day represents America's very Heart so clear.

Her very soul all in what we hold dear!  
For on no other day do we as a Nation remember and grieve so here.

And shed such tears,  
as above all else this ranks each year.  
For all of those who now lie in soft cold quiet graves.

Who over the decades have shown,  
how men and women of honor behave!  
I'm sorry but your son Johnny's not coming home!

But for the greater good their fine lives they gave!

Because Freedom Is Not Free,  
but with only most precious lives bought and paid!

A price so high and grave!  
Remember this,  
and remember them this Memorial Day!  
And give thanks to all of their families with tears upon their faces.

Whose hearts on this and everyday so break in places!

And thank all those heroes who came back from war.

Without arms and legs and PTS the more!  
Who the rest of their young lives must endure.

Memorial Day is our heart and soul,  
the one fine reason we have all that we behold!

Our Freedom bought and paid for with the blood of human gold!

The one's who will never get that chance to grow old!

Carry them in your hearts so,  
and give thanks and remember what to them you owe!

Memorial Day is but,  
America's Heart and Soul!

#### CONGRATULATING CORNELIA "CONNIE" BAER

### HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Cornelia "Connie" Baer, an exemplary civic servant, advocate, and community leader in Ventura County.

Connie has embodied public service through her staunch leadership and advocacy, as well as steadfast dedication and continued commitment to our community. Over several decades, Connie has generously given her time and energy as a valued and highly respected board member and representative for an array of organizations, including the Harbor Community Council, the National Women's Political Caucus, and the League of Women Voters. Both locally and nationally, Connie has been a vocal advocate for equality. She was instrumental in the founding of the Stonewall Democrats of Ventura County. In addition, she has played a significant role in the establishment and development of the Ventura County Women's Political Council, which encourages all women to actively engage and participate in the political process.

Additionally, since earning her bachelor's degree in International Relations, Connie has

been an active alumnus of the University of Southern California (USC). Connie also attended the Southwestern University School of Law, where she received her Juris Doctor degree, and later embarked on a respected career in law in Ventura County.

Connie's dedication and outstanding volunteerism is best illustrated by her 19 years of service on the Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation's Board of Directors. Through her service and leadership, Connie has successfully assisted the organization in furthering its mission of supporting the medical needs of Ventura County's under-served and vulnerable communities.

From providing the life-saving medical equipment for premature infants to providing dental and vision care to children of low-income households to funding breast cancer prevention, early detection and treatment programs, the Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation is ensuring that quality health care services are readily available and accessible to all of Ventura County's residents. However, this outstanding organization could not offer these invaluable services if it were not for the remarkable generosity and commitment of individuals such as Connie Baer.

For these reasons, it is my sincere pleasure to join the Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation in recognizing Connie Baer with the 2015 Trailblazer Award for her extraordinary life of leadership and service to the entire Ventura County community.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE DAVID SILVA

### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judge David Silva. Born in Beeville, Texas, on May 26, 1944, to Marcos and Altagracia Silva, Judge Silva passed away on March 16, 2015, after losing a long battle with leukemia.

Judge Silva's life exemplified the American Dream. He graduated from A.C. Jones High School in 1963, before joining the U.S. Air Force to faithfully serve his country. While in the Air Force, Silva attended Boise State College in Idaho and married Yolanda Olivares.

One year after being honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force, Silva graduated from Bee County College. He would go on to earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree in American History in 1975 and a Master of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies: History, Psychology and Sociology from Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Judge Silva understood how education would forever transform his life. From 1974 until his passing, he taught at Beeville College, helping students realize their potential through education.

In addition to his active role in educating citizens of Beeville, he was a church pastor, served on the Juvenile Board to help at-risk youth, provided guidance to the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and helped plan the future of Beeville. Silva's contributions to his community are without equal.

In 2004, Silva's reputation for fairness, dedication, and love for his community earned him