

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that address the monitoring and mapping of our Nation's coastlines. This function is an important function for the safety of navigation, environmental protection, and homeland security of the United States. There is little dispute that important commercial, military, and recreational activities are supported by this effort.

While important across the entire country, I want to address the specific needs of my State of Alaska. I understand that there is a concerted effort by NOAA to improve sea surface surveys. I fully support their efforts and applaud them for continuing this important work. The safety of navigation for our waterways is extremely important.

However, there is another dimension of survey that needs some attention also. Most of the shoreline in the Arctic along Alaska's northern and western coasts has not been mapped since 1960, if ever, and confidence in the shoreline depicted on the region's nautical charts is extremely low. Less than 10% of Alaska has contemporary shoreline data and less than 1% is mapped annually. There is also a disturbing lack of consistent elevation data.

The current state of shoreline mapping leaves those who ply Alaskan waters and depend on accurate shoreline mapping for their livelihood unnecessarily vulnerable. Due to Alaska's vast size and sparse population, the cost of acquiring traditional high-resolution topographic data and mapping thousands of miles of coastline is a daunting endeavor. Alaska has more than 44,000 miles of shoreline, which more than doubles the shoreline of the entire lower 48 states. Further, the emerging importance of the Arctic is adding to the need for updated shoreline charts. Increased economic development and shipping transits require that the most accurate data be collected and up to date charts be produced.

As a result, citizens and the State's economy are at risk. In addition to understanding sea-level rise impacts on fish and wildlife habitat, sea-level rise investigations are also important given that three quarters of Alaska's citizens live in coastal regions, which support 80% of the state's economic activity. Economic activity in Alaska's coastal zones includes world-renowned fish and shellfish industries as well as a burgeoning recreation and tourism industry.

Many approaches are available. Some techniques can be a painstaking undertaking due to cost and logistical challenges because of the vast area and distances involved. As a result the data collected within Alaska can be fairly limited in coverage. Another promising technology is the use of satellite remote sensing that can help assist current NOAA efforts. The complementary use of optical and radar satellites can add a new dimension to remote sensing applications. Within the State of Alaska there is an emerging capability using this approach that is cost effective and not dependent on weather conditions. This capability includes the ability to download data and provide the refined products needed to create the needed mapping quickly and cost effectively. I understand that NOAA regularly uses both government and commercial satellite imagery to support nautical charting in Alaska.

Regardless of the approach, I want to encourage NOAA to make a concerted effort to use funding received to reduce the backlog of outdated and uncharted shorelines in Alaska

as quickly and cost effectively as possible in addition to continuing the important work of conducting the sea subsurface surveying. The economic and strategic importance of the Pacific Northwest region and the emerging Arctic require that this be done.

GIRLS COUNT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 1, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as the Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and a senior member of the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees, I rise in strong support of S. 802, the "Girls Count Act of 2015."

I support this legislation which authorizes the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development to: (1) support programs that will contribute improved civil registration and vital statistics systems with a focus on birth registration; and (2) promote programs that build the capacity of developing countries' national and local legal and policy framework to prevent discrimination against girls, and help increase property rights, social security, land tenure, and inheritance rights for women.

In addition, this bill authorizes the Secretary and the U.S. AID Administrator to cooperate with multilateral organizations to promote such programs.

As co-chair of the Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Algeria Caucuses, I have long advocated for the rights for women around the world. In the current Congress, I introduced H.R. 69 and H.R. 57, two bills that promote women's rights.

H.R. 69 is a bill awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to Malala Yousafzai, the Nobel Laureate for Peace, in recognition of her devoted service to education, justice, and equality.

Malala Yousafzai is an inspiration to young people in the United States and children who must struggle to receive an education.

In a speech before the United Nations, she called for a global struggle against literacy, poverty and terrorism.

She closed her remarks by saying "One child, one teacher, one pen, and one book can change the world."

The Taliban remains unrepentant while she remains defiant and said that the day she was shot "weakness, fear and hopelessness died."

While her road to recovery proved to be amazing and complete, she has not been deterred in pursuing her goal of education rights for young girls in her native land and for this, her life continues to be threatened by the Taliban.

H.R. 57 requires that activities carried out by the United States in South Sudan relating to governance, post-conflict reconstruction and development, police and military training, and refugee relief and assistance support the human rights of women and their full political, social, and economic participation.

According to the United States Census Bureau's 2013 international figures, 1 person in 12, or close to 900 million people, is a girl or woman age 10 through 24.

The Census Bureau's data also illustrates that young people are the fastest growing segment of the population in developing countries.

Even though most countries have birth registration laws, four out of ten babies born in 2012 were not registered worldwide.

Moreover, an estimated 36 percent of children under the age of five worldwide (about 230,000,000 children) do not possess a birth certificate.

A nationally recognized proof of birth system is important to determining a child's citizenship, nationality, place of birth, parentage, and age.

Without such a system, a passport, driver's license or other identification card is difficult to obtain.

The lack of such documentation can prevent girls and women from officially participating in and contributing to the formal economic, legal, and political sectors in their country.

The lack of birth registration among girls worldwide is particularly concerning as it can exacerbate the disproportionate vulnerability of women to trafficking, child marriage, and lack of access to health and education services.

A lack of birth registration among women and girls can also aggravate what, in many places, amounts to an already reduced ability to seek employment, participate in civil society, or purchase or inherit land and other assets.

Girls undertake much of the domestic labor needed for poor families to survive: carrying water, harvesting crops, tending livestock, caring for younger children, and doing chores.

Mr. Speaker, to help ensure that women and girls are considered in United States foreign assistance policies and programs, that their needs are addressed in the design, implementation, and evaluation of foreign assistance programs, and that women and girls have the opportunity to succeed, it is important that girls be counted and have access to birth certificates and other official documentation.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in strong support for S. 802.

REMEMBERING DR. PHIL
LINEBERGER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay my respects to Dr. Phil Lineberger. He was a noble, God-fearing man who left us too soon.

Pastor Phil served as pastor of Sugar Land Baptist Church since November 1995 and was the senior pastor until the time of his death. Pastor Phil mentored many people during his forty-five years as a pastor and was even coined "the real Dr. Phil" by members of his congregation for how readily he nurtured others through good and bad times. Pastor Phil touched many people throughout his life and always gave of himself unconditionally in service of others.

I extend my deepest condolences to Phil's wife, Brenda, his three daughters, and ten beautiful grandchildren. Our prayers are with each of you during this unimaginable grief. Your husband, father, and grandfather was

loved by many. I know that your family at Sugar Land Baptist Church is lifting you up in prayers and surrounding you with love. Again, the folks from the Twenty Second Congressional District are very sorry for your loss. We lost Phil too soon, and he will be missed.

PRESS CONFERENCE: BERTIE'S RESPECT FOR NATIONAL CEMETERIES ACT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, our national military cemeteries are hallowed ground.

And I ask my colleagues to agree . . . and support my bill, H.R. 2490, "Bertie's Respect for National Cemeteries Act."

On October 15, 1969, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a man named George Emery Siple shot and killed Bertha Smith, known to everyone as "Bertie."

Siple was convicted of the murder . . . and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Thirty years later, he died in prison.

Because he was a military veteran, he was buried in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in 1999.

He was buried there despite a federal law passed in 1997.

That law said that veterans convicted of federal or state capital crimes . . . are not permitted to be buried in Veterans Affairs National Cemeteries or Arlington National Cemetery.

For Bertie Smith's family, this is a heart-wrenching situation that has gone on for three decades.

Jackie Katz—Bertie's daughter—has called it "hell" and a "horror" to live with the fact that George Siple was memorialized and buried with full military honors.

When I first began to look into this issue, it was clear to me that it was as frustrating as it was heartbreaking.

Back in 1997—led by our Pennsylvania Senators—Congress passed a law that said that veterans found guilty of capital crimes could not be buried in our national veterans cemeteries.

At that time, you may remember, the country was still reeling from the Oklahoma City bombing.

And veterans everywhere were justifiably appalled that Timothy McVeigh, a military veteran, could be buried with full military honors.

Now, McVeigh did not receive that burial.

But a major problem we discovered was that the law was not actively enforced for others until 2006.

Since then, the VA has relied on an "honor system," which requires family members to willingly report their relative's criminal record.

In 2013, Congress once again sought to protect our VA National Cemeteries by passing a law to explicitly allow the VA to remove veterans from cemeteries, if they had been convicted of a federal or state capital crime. However, this law does not extend to veterans buried between 1997 and 2013, a time period that includes George Emery Siple.

That's why I've introduced "Bertie's Respect for National Cemeteries Act."

What this law will do is:

Require Veterans Affairs to take every reasonable action to ensure that a veteran is eligible to be buried, including searching public criminal records.

It will clarify Congress's original intent by providing Veterans Affairs the explicit authority . . . to remove veterans convicted of capital crimes that were wrongly buried after 1997.

And it will specifically provide for the removal of George Emery Siple from Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.

This bill really only reaffirms what Congress intended in the first place.

And it enjoys the support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

There are precedents for the removal of convicted murderers from veterans cemeteries—from Arlington National Cemetery, and VA cemeteries in Michigan, and Oregon . . . to name just a few.

Additionally, nothing in the bill would withdraw previous military honors, such as Purple Hearts or medals for valor, otherwise earned by the deceased veterans.

The discussion of military veterans who have been convicted of murder often raises the issue of mental health treatment and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

There is no question that PTSD is a real condition affecting many service men and women, and I have always stood for funding the evaluation and treatment of those who may be afflicted.

That said, those who have been convicted of capital murder by our judicial system have been declared guilty of the worst offense possible, and any mitigating factors would have been considered at trial and sentencing. And I don't think it's too much to say that murderers should not be buried next to true American heroes.

And the memories of victims like Bertie Smith should not be disregarded. I ask my colleagues for their support in saying that real, true honor really means something in our National Military Cemeteries.

HONORING GREATER GROVE STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the community, Greater Grove Street Missionary Baptist Church. Greater Grove Street M. B. Church has served as a catalyst for the African American growth in Warren County and the State of Mississippi.

Greater Grove Street Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1908 in the former home of the late Cosby family on the lower West end of Grove Street. The church was known commonly as "Cato's Church," a name noting the leadership and zeal of its principal deacon at the time. Deacon F. Jackson and family donated the Cornerstone.

Rev. Willie Wood was elected as the first pastor of the church and he served until death. The next pastor, Rev. George S. Lewis, served aptly, with deacons: William Fair, E. Sparkmen and W. Wilson serving faithfully under him.

In 1948, Rev. W.C. Porter was elected pastor; and under his leadership, the following officers served: Sing Robin, Lieutenant Bradley, Charlie Hunt, Jessie Ware, Theadore Shaw, Rufus Britten, James Williams, Rufus Price and Tom Neal.

In 1962, the church came to a major crisis. The City of Vicksburg began widening Grove Street. Grove Street M.B. Church laid in the path of the city's improvements. As a result, the church was torn down. The concrete baptismal pool remains on the old lot, and is the solitary reminder that the church ever existed there. In our hour of need, the Pastor, Rev. E. E. Tutt, and the members of Ebenezer M.B. Church proved to be our friends indeed, as they shared their church building with Grove Street M. B. Church over three years as they struggled to rebuild the church.

West of the old site, a new property on Pierce Street, was selected. On April 27, 1965, at a cost of \$13,000.00, the congregation moved into its newly built tabernacle. First, the old pews from the old church were shed. At a cost of \$600.00, more comfortable pews were purchased from Fisher Funeral Home. In 1972, at a cost of \$2,400.00, the members added 534 square feet of floor space to the rear of the church, which consists of the Fellowship Hall and the kitchen. On June 28, 1975, a chapter of their struggle and movement ended with the death of Rev. W.C. Porter, their pastor through their trials.

Rev. Albert Price succeeded Rev. Porter. Under his leadership, the march resumed for the church. They installed a public address system and added brick veneer to the building at a cost of \$10,000.00. This brief chapter ended in the death of Rev. Price after only serving eleven months as pastor.

In 1977, God blessed the congregation with the energetic leadership of Rev. John L. Brown. Under his leadership, the members were able to free themselves from the mortgage and all indebtedness. In 1979, a new central air unit was installed. However, there was still work to be done. For example, they purchased a Baldwin organ in 1979 to enhance the song service and installed a central cooling system for \$4,056.81; and in 1985, landscaping and drainage work was done which cost \$5,350.00.

In this description of the establishment, struggle, and movement of Grove Street M.B. Church, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit motivated them to have a place set aside for the many souls that were added to the church; and He motivated them to actively seek to grow spiritually and to inspire future generations with the spiritual mission. As Dr. John L. Brown continued to lead and direct the church, it was hoped that Grove Street M.B. Church would continue to grow.

Dr. John L. Brown was a native of Utica, MS. He is a graduate of Alcorn A&M College, in Lorman, MS, where he received his B.S. degree in Elementary Education. He did further study toward his M.S. degree in Elementary Education at Jackson State College, Jackson, Mississippi. He received his Ph.D. degree from McKinley Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS, in 1981. Dr. Brown was a teacher and principal in the Hinds County Public School System, Utica, MS, for twenty years.

As a community leader, he served as an adult leader of the 4-H Club, Mixon Junior High School, Utica, MS, for five years. He served as president of the N.A.A.C.P., Utica,