

constituent service. Simply put, no one did it better than John Paul. Every day he prayed to our Lord for the strength to overcome pride and self-concern in order to always be mindful of the needs of others. Looking back on his life, I would say he was blessed with just that, and for it our State and our Nation will be forever grateful to him for his service.

Madam Speaker, on Saturday, John Paul Hammerschmidt will be laid to rest. As we prepare to say our final good-byes, I would ask for a moment of silence to honor one of the finest examples of statesmen this Chamber has ever seen.

Rest in peace, John Paul.

HONORING JOHN PAUL
HAMMERSCHMIDT

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, John Paul Hammerschmidt was truly a visionary champion for Arkansas' conservative values in Congress, but we will all remember him for his humble dedication to our country and to our State. His leadership inspired new generations of Arkansans, including all of us rising today to honor his memory.

A supremely successful ambassador for his district and, in fact, the entire State, John Paul helped build the airport and interstates that allowed northwest Arkansas to blossom into the success story it is today. Ten years ago John Paul said: "We are all put on Earth to serve others, and being a Congressman gives you a lot of leverage to really serve a lot of people."

Congressman Hammerschmidt truly embodied the spirit of public service, and his legacy is a powerful reminder for all public servants of why we are here and who we represent.

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HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN
PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas' great leaders—and my friend—former Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt.

For the past three decades, I have known and admired Congressman Hammerschmidt, and I have long respected his commitment to public service.

One of his most important actions was his legislation that made the Buffalo River the country's first National River, ensuring the preservation and protection of that extraordinary treasure designed by God's own hand.

Before John Paul's engagement, the Buffalo had been slated for a Corps of Engineers dam project, which would have destroyed the natural majesty

that generations of Arkansans continue to enjoy.

Arkansas' wilderness advocate and poet, Bill Coleman, captures the area's mystique:

Giant bluffs rise like medieval castles above this ancient river, sending us back to a time when all our land was wild.

Congressman Hammerschmidt also served as a freshman Congressman with my former boss, President George Herbert Walker Bush, and these two great men became fast friends from their time in the Air Force through being freshmen in this great body together.

They were close political allies, and Congressman Hammerschmidt was quick to support President Bush in all of his Presidential runs. The two men shared victories, defeats, joys, and sorrows throughout their great decades of personal friendship.

President Bush once said of John Paul:

He did something I could never do; he beat Bill Clinton.

I am humbled to have had the opportunity to know and learn so much from Congressman Hammerschmidt. He will be greatly missed.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN
PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt began his service as a Member of this body from my home State of Arkansas in 1967, the year that I was born. He did so for 12 terms, long enough for me to grow up, graduate from college, get a job, and get married.

His love for Arkansas and America was evident in his service. He was a champion for his district and our State. He was a tireless advocate for all his constituents on both sides of the aisle and worked hardest to do what was right for the citizens of Arkansas.

He served his country and fellow man with honor, both in the military and in Congress, leaving a lasting legacy and setting the bar high for those of us who follow him in service.

Congressman Hammerschmidt was from the beautiful Ozark hills, and many times, the people of Arkansas and America were blessed by the leadership of a gentleman from the hills who served his Creator by serving others.

As we remember his service, may we all continue to look to the hills and be comforted by the words of the psalmist who wrote:

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord, which made Heaven and Earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The Sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the Moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

PROTECTING ADOPTED CHILDREN
ACT

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, earlier today, I introduced the bipartisan Protecting Adopted Children Act, a response to the many problems and potential dangers associated with the term "rehomming" adoptive children.

Families involved in this underground practice are connecting online and making dubious or outright illegal arrangements to give away their children to strangers, often with forged or fake documentation. Some children are even transferred to individuals with a criminal history, including abuse or neglect.

Madam Speaker, my legislation provides States with the resources to help adoptive families receive pre and postadoption counseling, social skills training, and mental health services. It also expands the training of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to include combating the illegal transfer of a child.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues who have joined me in co-sponsoring this bill, and I encourage the House to take swift action to protect these vulnerable children.

SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF
NEPAL

(Mr. CRENSHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today as cochair of the Congressional Nepal Caucus to express my deepest condolences to the people of Nepal who are now recovering from a catastrophic earthquake that hit this prior Saturday.

When you see the devastation, you will find that—and all the final results are not in—early reports are that over 4,000 individuals lost their lives and several thousand were injured.

Whatever the damage, the United States stands ready to assist in any way. I want to say thank you to the leadership of our U.S. Embassy in Nepal and thank you to the Government of Nepal for their early and coordinated response.

To the people of that region, let me say that the United States stands with you in these difficult times. We will continue to pray for those of you who have lost your loved ones and continue to pray for the safe recovery of those who are still lost.

PROTECTING ADOPTED CHILDREN ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting Adopted Children Act, which was introduced by Congressman JIM LANGEVIN this afternoon.

By now, we have all read the reports about adopted children who have been “rehommed” by their legal adoptive parents. These children usually end up in the custody of strangers through arrangements that are often illegally made online in hidden Internet groups.

In order to combat these transfers, Representatives JIM LANGEVIN, ROB WITTMAN, and I have crafted legislation that provides protections and support services for adopted children and their families.

This legislation provides a more stable home for children with pre and postadoptive support services, such as training and counseling for parents, mentoring, and treatment services specifically for adopted children.

The bill also expands the scope of the preexisting Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force under the Department of Justice to include combating the illegal transfer of a child.

I firmly believe that this measure gives law enforcement the tools it needs to combat illegal transfers, which we have learned through investigative reporting, typically take place online.

We must be committed to helping these children succeed in a family that they may call their own.

2015 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, over the weekend, I was thrilled to be at the Winkler Gallery of Fine Art in DuBois, Pennsylvania, for the 2015 Congressional Art Competition awards ceremony for my congressional district.

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to recognize and encourage artistic talent among U.S. high school students. This year, I had the honor to serve as cochair of the annual national competition.

Madam Speaker, this year, I was blown away by the quality of work and the levels of creativity by the students in Pennsylvania’s Fifth Congressional District.

This year’s first place winner, determined by an independent panel, is Leah Kleiner of Waterford, Pennsylvania. Leah, whose work is titled “Little Brother,” attends Fort LeBoeuf High School in Erie County.

I am looking forward to hosting Leah in Washington this summer and dis-

playing her award-winning work in the Halls of the Capitol Building.

This year’s second and third place winners are Bethany Stoddard of DuBois and Madelyn Ostermann of Summit Township, respectively. Natalie Haupt of Oil City and Caitlin Cesa of Sandy Township both received honorable mentions.

I would like to congratulate all of this year’s winners and thank everyone who participated in this fun and exciting competition.

STANDING WITH THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, our thoughts are with the people of Nepal and their families.

My heart sank when I heard about the 7.8 magnitude earthquake and its unthinkable devastation. It is estimated that thousands of people have died, and more are missing.

Three of those still missing are constituents of Washington’s First District. These people are pillars of our community: retired special education teacher Doreen Richmond, retired Bellingham firefighter Jim Lane, and small-business owner Jeannie DeBari.

I want to do everything I can to assist and support their families during this difficult time. I will continue to pray for their safety and their return home. I was glad to see the State Department provide \$10 million in initial disaster assistance.

To the people of Nepal and those affected in the region or here at home, know that the United States stands with you during this tragic time.

FREE NADIYA SAVCHENKO

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, since July of last year, Nadiya Savchenko, a member of the Ukrainian parliament and a military veteran, has been unlawfully detained by Russian authorities—her crime, unsubstantiated charges stemming from her defense of her nation against Russian military aggression.

For months, Ms. Savchenko has been incarcerated in Russia, in clear violation of her human rights and international standards. As Russia tries to redraw the world’s borders, Ms. Savchenko has become the face of both Russian lawlessness and Ukrainian resistance.

This evening, I join with the free people of Ukraine in demanding Russia free Savchenko and call on this body and this administration to utilize all legislative and diplomatic means to secure her long-overdue release.

That is why I have joined with other lawmakers in introducing H. Res. 50,

which calls for an end to this injustice and reaffirms the United States’ commitment to a democratic Ukraine free from Russian interference.

Together, we must free Savchenko and push back against Russia’s continued threat to freedom.

COMMITMENT TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, we all watched with great concern and horror the tragic funeral of Freddie Gray and then the enormous outpouring of violence and young people taking to the streets in Baltimore.

We command our colleague Congressman CUMMINGS and the many other citizens—pastors—who went to the streets and called for peace, but it is important for this Congress to stand up and call for criminal justice reform because, as we move into the summer, I express great concern as to the reactions of young people who are unemployed, who feel oppressed, and feel that no one cares.

I will be introducing—and have introduced—the Build TRUST bill; the CADET bill that collects data on lethal force between civilians and police; a bill on prison reform—giving good time, 1 day of incarceration, 1 day of good time—to provide for early release of nonviolent prisoners.

At the same time, I will be asking for legislation that will provide the same reporting requirements for private prisons as public prisons, as well as grand jury reform, among others.

The important point is that the Nation needs to hear this Congress make a statement of their commitment to criminal justice reform.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and introducing legislation that will draw bipartisan support so that we can respond to these tragedies and get America on the right footing and rebuild the trust between police and the community.

PROTECTING ADOPTED CHILDREN ACT

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, today, too many children are falling victim to a system of adoption that lacks necessary oversight.

Horrifying stories have come to light about children being “rehomed” into the custody of strangers through dubious or even illegal arrangements. As a child of adoption myself, I am personally invested in this issue.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Protecting Adopted Children Act today to reduce that risk and better help these children find stable, loving homes and to improve support services for adoptive parents.