

IN TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MICHAEL SMITH OF THE DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Michael Smith of the Dallas Police Department. Sgt. Smith, along with his fellow police officers: Lorne Aherns, Michael Krol, Brent Thompson, and Patrick Zamarripa died in the tragic police ambush in Dallas, Texas, last week. All of these officers were serving to help facilitate the First Amendment rights of all citizens to freely assemble and express their views. When shots rang out in downtown Dallas on the evening of July 7th and the early morning of July 8th, these officers ran towards the danger and harm's way to keep the citizens safe that they are sworn to protect.

A resident of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, Sgt. Smith lived in Carrollton and was a veteran supervisor officer of the Dallas Police Department (DPD), having joined the force in 1989. Prior to his service as a police officer, Sgt. Smith served all of us by wearing a different uniform—the uniform of an Army Ranger. In both his military and police service, Michael Smith was among the very best of public servants.

Service in uniform was only one of the ways that Michael Smith gave back to the community. He was an active volunteer member for his church, Watermark Community Church, and the YMCA. His lasting legacy will be found in the hearts of the many people whom he touched, served, and protected.

He is survived by his wife Heidi, a teacher at Mary Immaculate Catholic School and a former city employee for Farmers Branch, Texas, and two daughters, Victoria and Caroline.

I ask that all of my colleagues, and the entire nation, honor the life of Sgt. Michael Smith and keep the Smith family in their thoughts and prayers.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
PIOPOLIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the celebration of the 175th Anniversary of St. John the Baptist Parish in Piopolis, IL.

St. John the Baptist church was established in 1841. The parish operated a school from 1870 through 1964. Precious Blood Sisters came from Burwell, Germany, to teach at the school. Nine sisters arrived on February 28th, 1870. There were Precious Blood Sisters teaching in Piopolis until the school closed in 1964.

The parish is in a farming community; their membership is comprised of 184 families. Because of the strength and character of its members, the parish possesses both a rich history and a vibrant future. They are commemorating their 175th anniversary with a

special mass with festivities to follow on August 21st, 2016. I am honored to recognize such a strong faith community in my district.

I look forward to the continued prosperity of St. John the Baptist Parish in Piopolis for many years to come.

PRESIDENT ERDOGAN'S ASSAULT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE TURKISH PEOPLE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind our government that the human rights abuses committed by Turkish President Erdogan are grave and ongoing, and to distinguish between the Turkish president and the Turkish people—and to stand with the people.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has in recent years been aggressively violating the human rights of Turkish citizens and undermining the rule of law, in order to root out dissent and consolidate his personal power. The freedom of the press and the rights of common citizens to run schools, businesses, and volunteer associations have come under direct threat.

Since assuming the presidency two years ago, President Erdogan has undermined the independence of the judiciary, jeopardizing access to a fair trial and undercutting government accountability. In 2014, he worked to stack the country's High Council of Judges and Prosecutors with party loyalists, enabling his government to ease arrest procedures and curtail opportunities for appeal. This facilitated the detention of thousands of activists, journalists, and businessmen under the country's overbroad terrorism statute. The President has exploited his growing leverage over the courts: his government's reshuffling last month of 3,700 judges and prosecutors rewarded pliant members of the judiciary while punishing others who ruled against the government or heard cases involving official corruption. A law passed earlier this month dismissed most of the judges on Turkey's highest courts, leaving it up to the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors to reappoint them or pick their successors.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to undermining government institutions, President Erdogan's tightening grip on Turkey is also weakening the vitality of Turkish society. Under President Erdogan's direction, state authorities are undertaking a campaign of retribution against Erdogan's critics. Since Erdogan assumed the presidency in 2014, the government has opened nearly 2,000 cases against people suspected of "insulting the president"—a crime in Turkey.

Professional journalists and major news outlets in particular have incurred the wrath of the President. For reporting that is unflattering to Erdogan, whether on national security issues, the conflict with the Kurds, or official corruption, press outlets have been charged with "supporting terrorism" or have had their entire operations taken over by government-appointed trustees. In one of the most egregious examples, Turkish authorities in March raided the offices of the nation's highest-circulation newspaper, Zaman, and overnight placed it

under hand-picked, progovernment management.

Mr. Speaker, President Erdogan has taken to politicizing the charge of "supporting terrorism"—undermining the serious business of fighting terrorism, one of the gravest threats faced by the Turkish people. One persistent critic of Erdogan's centralization agenda and authoritarian tendencies is Fethullah Gulen, the founder of Hizmet, a moderate, Islamic civic movement dedicated to promoting education, popular piety, and civic engagement. Because of this criticism, Hizmet and its followers have suffered wave after wave of unfounded terrorism charges and forcible government seizures of businesses, universities, and schools. In May, the Turkish Cabinet approved a decision to designate Hizmet a "terrorist organization," guaranteeing that this campaign of political retribution will continue. Gulen's followers have been placed in the crosshairs of the very arbitrary policies they criticize. Yet neither our State Department, nor the European Union, nor any other respected body outside Turkey, has ever characterized Hizmet as a terrorist group or anything like it—the Cabinet's designation is absurd.

Mr. Speaker, in recent months, the Turkish people have been struck by a wave of violent attacks perpetrated by Islamist and Kurdish terrorists—most recently, a triple-suicide attack at Istanbul's international airport by Islamist extremists killed 44 innocent civilians. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those maimed in these attacks, to all those who lost beloved family and friends.

I am confident that the Turkish people—for centuries renowned for their bravery—will never be cowed by terrorists, and that they will equally resist President Erdogan's attempt to undermine their rights, laws, and freedoms. Our government should stand with the Turkish people on both fronts.

HONORING WILLIE "SATELLITE"
TOTTEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Willie Totten, who is a former professional football player and current college football coach. Totten played his high school football at J.Z. George High School in North Carrollton, Mississippi. Totten was a four-year starter quarterback at Mississippi Valley State University from 1981 to 1985, along with Jerry Rice as his target as wide receiver. Totten set more than 50 Division I-AA passing records, and Rice setting many Division I-AA receiving records.

The Delta Devils averaged 59 points a game during the 1984 season, with Totten throwing for a record 58 touchdowns and leading the Delta Devils to the Division I-AA playoffs in 1984. Archie Cooley, who was the head coach at MVSU from 1980 to 1986, was the architect of the pass-oriented offense that utilized the skills of Totten.

Totten played professionally in the Canadian Football League (CFL) with the BC Lions (and Toronto Argonauts before moving on to the National Football League (NFL), as a replacement player for the Buffalo Bills during the

strike-shortened 1987 NFL season. Totten played in the Arena Football League for the Chicago Bruisers, Pittsburgh Gladiators and the New Orleans Night.

Totten earned his master's degree at Grambling State University, and was a graduate assistant on the coaching staff for head football coach Eddie Robinson. Totten returned to his alma mater and served as quarterbacks coach and running back coach during the 1990s before moving on to coach at the high school level for two years. He returned to the MVSU coaching staff in 2000, and was elevated to head coach in 2001. Totten brought pride back to Mississippi Valley State, as he led the Delta Devils to back-to-back winning seasons in 2005 and 2006. Totten resigned after the 2009 season, and took an administrative position at MVSU in 2010. In 2013, Totten became quarterbacks coach at Albany State University in Albany, Georgia for one season before accepting the quarterback coaching position at Alabama A&M University under new head football coach James Spady.

Totten is one of a few college football coaches ever to coach in a stadium named after him. The Delta Devils football team plays in Rice-Totten Field, named for Totten and wide receiver Jerry Rice. He is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame. Totten is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Willie "Satellite" Totten, a professor football player and educator, for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

STAFFORD ELEMENTARY'S MS. CAROLINA SIEVERS IS NAMED 2015-2016 STAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stafford Elementary teacher Carolina Sievers for being named Stafford Municipal School District Teacher of the year.

Each year Stafford MSD recognizes a teacher with this honor as a reflection of his or her outstanding work and dedication to the students and the entire Stafford school community. Carolina's dedication to her students made her this year's recipient. She is the Bilingual Math, Science, and Technology teacher for Stafford Elementary. She has a Master's degree in Engineering Management from The Catholic University of America and previously taught at two Houston area colleges before becoming an elementary school teacher. She is known for her passion for teaching and instilling reasoning skills in her students that will be valuable to them for life. Stafford students are well served by her dedication to education.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ms. Sievers for being named Teacher of the Year by the Stafford Municipal School District. We thank her for all that she does for our community and the students at Stafford Elementary.

TRIBUTE TO JIM SORENSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Jim Sorensen of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for his volunteer services at The Center in Council Bluffs. Jim spends many mornings assisting members of The Center, which is a senior and adult facility focused on health and wellness.

Jim was born in Guthrie Center, Iowa in 1942. He graduated from Audubon High School in 1961 and began his career in the auto mechanic industry from which he retired in 2005. Jim and his wife, JoAnn, have been married 54 years and are the parents of two children, Robert and Kimberly, and they have three grandchildren.

Jim became a member of The Center about 10 years ago and started to volunteer his services at the facility. He enjoys helping with the welcome desk, assists with the annual health fair, and helps operate bingo games for the many patrons. Jim said that once he joined The Center, he started volunteering because there were a lot of people who needed help. Jim has been active in the community as a Cub Scout leader and he was a youth group leader at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Jim's trademark is that he always wears a smile and has never met a stranger.

I commend Jim Sorensen for the dedicated service he has provided to The Center and his community. I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jim for his many years of community service. I wish Jim and his family the very best in the future.

MARKING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROANOKER RESTAURANT—A LOCAL TREASURE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, good food at good prices—that's The Roanoker Restaurant's tradition. The Roanoker Restaurant, which opened its doors on July 1, 1941, is a local treasure in the Roanoke Valley. I am honored to recognize owner Butch Craft, and her team, as they mark 75 years of operation.

Regardless of whether you've been going for decades or just trying it for the first time, when you sit down for a meal at The Roanoker, you know you've found the real deal. From homemade biscuits that you won't soon forget or the comfort food that reminds you of your childhood, The Roanoker does not disappoint. I've enjoyed many a good meal there with my family.

Started in 1941 by Crafton Warren and later passed down to his son, E.C., The Roanoker Restaurant has continued to expand under the current owner, Butch Craft, now employing 75 people with room to seat 300 diners. Over the past 75 years, The Roanoker Restaurant has operated in five locations. But despite changes in address, The Roanoker's tradition of good food at good prices has remained steadfast.

Part of the restaurant's success is owed to the loyal staff, including many who have worked there for over 10, 20, even 30 years.

The Roanoker is locally owned and operated, making this restaurant a true cornerstone of the Roanoke community. Church and civic groups, family reunions, and business meetings all find a spot at the table. It is a meeting place for generations to come together. The Roanoker Restaurant also has a rich history of supporting various groups in the community, including its longtime sponsorship of The Roanokers, a Major League Division team in Cave Spring National Little League.

It is an honor to represent the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia, and businesses like The Roanoker Restaurant. Thank you for your continued presence in our community, and for bringing good food at good prices to generations of Roanokers. I wish you many more years of success. Congratulations to The Roanoker Restaurant on this 75th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate that I inadvertently voted "Yea" on Roll Call 403. I intended to vote "Nay".

HONORING THE LIFE OF AMANDA ALVEAR

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Amanda Alvear, a resident of my district who lived in Davenport, Florida. Amanda's life was cut short during the tragic shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, in the early morning hours of June 12, 2016.

Amanda was only 25 years old and had a bright future ahead of her. She was a graduate of Ridge Community High School and worked as a pharmacy technician. She was studying to become a nurse. She had reshaped herself over the last two years, shedding 180 pounds with the help of gastric bypass surgery and daily workouts. Amanda proudly documented her transformation with her phone.

Amanda's brother, Brian, remembers her positive energy and enthusiasm and that, "People got caught up in her wake. Whatever she was doing, that's what they were going to do." Amanda was the aunt who spoiled Brian's daughters, Bella and Zatanna with clothes. "She was a fashionista," he would say, "and she liked them to look good. She wanted my girls—her girls—to look good."

Amanda frequented gay and lesbian clubs because she believed they were places where she could have fun and feel safe being herself. She visited Pulse to enjoy Latin night with a group of friends. One of her closest friends, Mercedes Marisol Flores, also died in the nightclub that night.

Amanda Alvear will never be forgotten in our pursuit of a more just and loving world.