

on September 3, 2009. As we celebrate Flag Day, it is fitting to recall the contributions made by American citizens. Mr. Bialek's son, Joe, has requested recognition of his father's contributions to his community of Cleveland, Ohio. Thus, I submit the following recognition from Joe Bialek honoring his father. Mr. Bialek's memory beats strong in the hearts of his family and his son offers a moving tribute to his father:

"Walter Bialek grew up in the area of Saint Hyacinth in what is now considered a part of the Slavic Village neighborhood in Northeast Ohio. Born in a house next door to the convent that housed many nuns of the Order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, he always spoke very reverently of them about how much he appreciated the values they, along with his parents, helped to instill in him.

"Mr. Bialek graduated from East Tech High School in 1936 and earned a diploma with an emphasis in electricity. He was drafted into the Army-Air Forces in 1941 and served as a Staff Sergeant. At one time he was ordered off a troop truck headed for overseas combat in order to teach twin engine aircraft training to fighter/bomber pilots.

Through this he contributed greatly to the defense of liberty and the preservation of all those freedoms we enjoy today. After the war Mr. Bialek was offered a player contract from the Cleveland Indians baseball team but, on the advice of his father, declined it because he did not want to play on Sundays. He worked briefly for the Indians as a Territorial Scout (and kept the business card to prove it.) In 1950, he married Eileen C. Moran. Together they raised six children. Walter Bialek pursued an engineering career starting with Thompson Products—the T in TRW—and culminating in his retirement from the General Motors Chevrolet Plant in Parma, Ohio after 26 years of service. Throughout, he was active in the Third Order of Saint Francis.

"We join his family and friends in honor and remembrance of Walter J. Bialek, beloved husband of Eileen; beloved father of Mary, Patricia, Eileen, John, Alice and Joseph. He was also the adoring grandfather of Matthew, Chad, Katie, Kimberly, Timothy, Colleen, Tiffany, Nathan, Mark, John, John Jr., Daniel, Andrew, Elizabeth, Steven and Teresa.

"Mr. Bialek's devout life was defined by his deep dedication to family and friends, and his exceptional faith in the Catholic Church. His strong spirit, integrity, energy and good works have served to uplift the lives of countless individuals, families—and the communities in which he resided."

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTE BY MAIL ACT OF 2016

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Vote By Mail Act of 2016. The individual right to vote is the foundation of our government, and making sure that all Americans have the ability to exercise that right is critical to the democratic process. My home state of Oregon is a leader in innovative voting rights policy, and this legislation provides a pathway for the federal government to follow Oregon's model program.

Too many Americans around the country face extreme barriers to registering to vote and casting a ballot. Many voters often have work, family, or other commitments that make getting to polls and waiting in line on Election Day difficult or impossible. Many citizens with disabilities are physically unable to vote due to long lines, inadequate parking, no curb cuts, steep ramps, and large crowds. In 2012, 30 percent of voters with disabilities had difficulty voting, and more than 5,000,000 voters waited for more than an hour to cast a vote. Polling stations in rural jurisdictions tend to have higher costs per voter, smaller staffs, and limited resources. Additionally, transportation to the polls is often a difficult barrier for rural voters. Despite these impediments, many of these voters are not permitted to vote by mail in many states. Fortunately, a handful of states are addressing this problem, and three states currently hold elections entirely by mail. It's time to bring this policy to scale in all federal elections.

The benefits of voting by mail are numerous and well-documented. Voting by mail gives voters more time to consider their choices, which is especially important due to the expanded use of the initiative and referendum process in many states. Voting by mail is cost-effective. As shown in Oregon and Colorado, the cost of conducting vote by mail elections is generally one-third to one-half less than conducting polling place elections. Allowing all voters the option to vote by mail can reduce waiting times for those voters who choose to vote at the polls. Vote by mail also typically increases turnout in all elections, but can be particularly effective in increasing voter participation in special elections and primary elections.

The Vote By Mail Act of 2016 legislation would require states to mail ballots to all registered voters in federal elections, eliminating barriers to the ballot—saving states and local governments money and saving voters time and stress across the country.

Another crucial component of a modern voting system is making it easy, affordable, and accessible to register to vote, further multiplying the positive voter participation effects of a vote by mail system. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia introduced automatic voter registration legislation in 2015, and Oregon and California now automatically register their citizens to vote when they apply for a driver's license. Automatic, permanent voter registration has the potential to increase participation, protect election integrity, and reduce registration costs. This legislation would follow the Oregon example, register millions of eligible voters at little cost, and widely increase participation in American democracy.

There is no better time to seamlessly expand voter registration and provide more options for Americans to vote, and the stakes have never been higher.

ONE YEAR OF THE DANGEROUS IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, the President announced the

framework of the dangerous Iran nuclear deal. In the past year, Iran continues to grow more hostile, threatening American families and our allies in the Middle East, especially Israel by testing intercontinental ballistic missiles. What's more, Iran has ordered its military to produce ICBMs that are capable of reaching more targets—Europe and even the United States. And they hatefully chant "Death to America, Death to Israel".

We should not make it easier for a rogue state to threaten American families and our allies by ignoring reality and offering more concessions to a regime which oppresses their great people. I appreciate that House Republicans have done everything we can to exercise oversight over the implementation of the dangerous agreement. This week, we passed legislation that would prevent the U.S. from purchasing heavy water from Iran and would deny the despots access to the dollar. We also passed the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, which holds Iran accountable for their ballistic missile violations and their human rights abuses against their citizens.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING IDAHO POWER'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Idaho Power on its 100 year anniversary.

For 100 years, Idaho Power has provided the electricity that fuels the economy, powers lives and makes southern Idaho and eastern Oregon more comfortable places to live.

Founded August 1, 1916, when five companies merged, Idaho Power initially served 18,000 customers. Today, the company has approximately 2,000 dedicated employees who serve over 520,000 customers in a 24,000-square-mile area. Idaho Power is one of a few investor-owned electric utilities with a primarily hydroelectric generating base.

One hundred years ago, Idaho Power relied solely on power produced by nine hydroelectric plants along the Snake River to meet customers' energy needs. Today, the company's generation resource mix comes from 17 hydroelectric power plants, three natural gas-fired plants and three jointly-owned coal-fired plants. The newest addition, Langley Gulch, is a natural gas-fired plant that began production in July 2012. Idaho Power also purchases renewable energy such as wind, solar and geothermal from independent power producers.

From fish conservation efforts to raptor protection to watershed management, Idaho Power has a rich legacy of caring for the land and rivers in its service area. The company also operates and maintains over 50 recreational facilities along the Snake River, providing outdoor activities to visitors from around the world.

Idaho Power supports the communities it serves through employee volunteerism, corporate donations and community sponsorships. The company also enables the success

of students through scholarships and educational programs.

As Idaho Power begins its next 100 years, it will continue balancing the needs of shareholders, customers and its workforce while protecting the natural resources of Idaho and Oregon.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and praise the countless contributions of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). NOBLE was founded in 1976 during to address ways to reduce crime in low-income areas. NOBLE's mission of ensuring equity in the administration of justice in the provision of public service to all communities is aligned with the work that we undertake here in the Congress of the United States.

NOBLE prides itself on being the conscience of law enforcement as they are committed to Justice by Action. The organization has nearly 60 chapters and represents over 3,000 members worldwide that represent chief executive officers and command-level law enforcement officials from federal, state, county, municipal law enforcement agencies and criminal justice practitioners.

I applaud the work NOBLE undertakes. Of particular note is the specific focus on serving more than 60,000 youth through its major program components including Mentoring, Education, Leadership Development, and Safety.

Law enforcement officers have a unique place and role in our society. Charged with keeping order and maintaining the peace, at times, the balance between personal rights and the duty of law enforcement officers is called into question. But, I cannot imagine a society without the presence of our esteemed law enforcement officers who protect and serve every day.

Every day, our law enforcement officers place their lives at risk to protect others. As they celebrate 40 years of service, we honor them for their public service, a selfless commitment to our communities, their tireless efforts to ensure our safety, and their unique role in the maintenance of the rule of law in our nation.

WELLES DECLARATION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the Welles Declaration, a diplomatic statement that helped shape U.S. policy in Europe for more than 50 years.

In the summer of 1940, the Soviet Union in an effort to expand its oppressive regime invaded the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. This was part of the Molotov-Rib-

bentrop Pact the Soviets signed with Nazi Germany. After the Red Army overran the Baltics the Soviets imprisoned the nations' political leaders and oversaw rigged elections. The new puppet governments immediately petitioned to join the Soviet Union. Any voices of opposition were suppressed and more than 100,000 citizens were deported from the Baltic States to Soviet camps.

In light of these horrific events Secretary of State Sumner Welles issued a statement condemning the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, as well as refusing to recognize the annexation of the Soviet Republics on July 23, 1940. The Baltic States maintained independent diplomatic missions, including here in Washington, DC. Every American President from 1940 through the independence of the Baltics in 1990 and 1991 supported the principles set forth in the Welles Declaration.

The principles of the Welles Declaration still hold true today. We must stand against Russia's aggression toward its neighbors, including our NATO allies in the Baltics, and their occupation of areas of Ukraine. I commend America's stand against Soviet aggression during the Cold War and hope we will stand strongly for freedom today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded for the following Roll Call vote on July 12, 2016 and would like to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Roll call Number 409: NO.

GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, the Majority shouldn't be rushing to leave town. We should be acting to combat the gun violence epidemic that's tearing apart our country. Guns have devastated communities all across the country, whether it's a place of worship, a hospital, or even an elementary school. What were once sanctuaries have all too often become shooting galleries.

We all watched just days ago as a peaceful protest in the wonderful city of Dallas turned deadly as a gunman ambushed and murdered police officers in the deadliest attack on law enforcement in the U.S. since 9/11. No community should have to go through such horror.

This is another tragic reminder of the dangers posed by easy access to weapons designed to kill. It should forever refute one of the most pervasive talking points from the gun lobby, that the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. Law enforcement across the country make sacrifices every single day to keep us safe. But even an entire police force cannot prevent the tragedy caused by a madman determined to use a weapon of war in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the sad reality is that 91 people are killed by a gun every single day in America. Since Sandy Hook, there have been close to a thousand mass shootings. This has left our nation in a state of perpetual mourning with the constant fear that when our loved ones leave the house, we may never see them again.

But despite this, the Majority has bowed to the pressure of the gun lobby again and again and failed to take up any meaningful reforms to combat gun violence. During the sit-in, we made a commitment to the American people that despite the Majority's inaction, we would keep fighting. The public remains united in demanding action. We're asking for votes on two bills that make good sense, one of which may have helped prevent the tragedy in Dallas. People must be astounded to hear that someone on the terrorist watch list cannot fly but still buy a gun. But instead of taking up these bills, the Majority is running for the exits to begin a nearly two month recess. It's shameful.

HONORING MR. DAVID GRABILL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of David Grabill, who passed away on June 9, 2016, after 74 remarkable years.

Mr. Grabill led a long and successful career in law and social justice advocacy, and worked hard to ensure that disadvantaged members of our community had access to top notch legal representation. He completed his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Yale University, before earning his Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

Over the course of a diverse and illustrious career, Mr. Grabill earned admission to the bar for the District of Columbia, Indiana, California, West Virginia, and the Ogallala Sioux Tribe. In these different jurisdictions, Mr. Grabill worked to ensure that our country's promise of equal justice under the law was not just an ideal, but a reality. He regularly represented victims of housing discrimination in both federal and state courts, and also represented Native American tribes and interests in Escondido, California.

Many of Mr. Grabill's cases led to major policy changes to better support the interests of disadvantaged groups. While working in West Virginia, Mr. Grabill successfully led the lawsuit that overturned West Virginia's unconstitutional ban on abortion, allowing the state's first women's health center to open and provide safe and legal abortion services. The case Sonoma County Housing Now v. City of Healdsburg, settled in 1989, resulted in zoning for 500 new apartments and updated policies to encourage affordable housing development. Thanks to Mr. Grabill's work on another case, the City of Santa Rosa agreed to plan for 3000 additional affordable housing units and to build the 80-bed Samuel Jones homeless shelter.

Mr. Grabill co-founded the Sonoma County Housing Advocacy Group, which fights for more local affordable housing development