

IN HONOR OF MR. RODNEY JONES

## HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 25, 2016*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Sanger Police Officer, Mr. Rodney Jones who tragically passed away on June 17, 2016.

Mr. Jones was born in Lompoc, California to Lela and Richard Ira Jones. After attending local schools in Clovis, California, Mr. Jones completed his education in 1978.

After being introduced to the law enforcement profession by his brother-in-law, Mr. Jones went on to receive his Peace Officer Basic Training (POST) certification from the College of the Sequoias in 1996. That same year, he began his career with the Sanger Police Department as a patrolman. Mr. Jones would go on to serve the department diligently in many roles, including Detective, Drug Recognition Expert, and Field Training Officer. The Sanger Police Department is left better off because of his service.

In his personal time, Mr. Jones enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren. As an outdoor enthusiast, Mr. Jones was passionate about off-road vehicles, hunting, fishing, and camping, and he loved to share those experiences with family and friends. Additionally, Mr. Jones was a founder and Vice-President of the Sanger Badlands Posse Jeep Club, comprised of fellow police officers, the group would organize rock crawling trips.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and achievements of Mr. Rodney Jones. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

## WOMEN LEADERS URGE ACTION ON GUN VIOLENCE

## HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 25, 2016*

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter from prominent women leaders from around the country, which urges Congress to take action on gun violence by implementing universal background checks.

WOMEN'S COALITION FOR COMMON SENSE

JULY 14, 2016.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: We are a coalition of women leaders from business, law enforcement, government, domestic violence prevention, women's advocacy, journalism, entertainment and public health. Like Americans all across our country, we are outraged by the mass killing in Orlando and other recent tragic events. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the victims and their families. But sadly, these recent tragedies are only the latest horrific events in our national gun violence crisis that claimed 33,000 lives last year. This crisis is destroying families and our communities.

That's why we have come together to demand that you do more to keep guns out of the wrong hands, protect the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans, and

save lives. We are not alone. Americans—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—agree that we need stronger laws to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. It is time for lawmakers like you to listen to your constituents, the very people you were elected to serve.

You can start to address our gun violence crisis by acting to close the loopholes in our laws that allow domestic abusers and felons to buy a gun without a criminal background check. Unlike federally licensed gun dealers, unlicensed sellers are not required to conduct background checks on gun purchases, often with devastating consequences for women and families.

Strengthening our laws and closing these dangerous loopholes would save lives. In states with background checks on all handgun sales, 46% fewer women are murdered with a gun by their intimate partners.

As we continue to mourn the losses from gun violence everywhere, we urge you to give voice to the concerns of your constituents and honor the memory of the 33,000 Americans killed by gun violence every year and enact real, meaningful, and responsible solutions that can help prevent gun tragedies, and make our communities safer places to live.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords, Former Congresswoman (2007-2012)\*

The Honorable Madeleine K. Albright, Former United States Secretary of State\*

Gail Becker, President of Strategic Partnerships and Global Integration and Chair of the Global Women's Network, Edelman\*

Connie Britton, Actress and Activist\*

Melanie L. Campbell, Convener, Black Women's Roundtable; President and CEO, NCBCP\*

Dr. Brittney Cooper, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Africana Studies, Rutgers University\*

Kim Gandy, President and CEO, National Network to End Domestic Violence\*

Ruth Glenn, Executive Director, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence\*

Chief Jané Harteau, Chief of Police, City of Minneapolis\*

The Honorable Carla Hills, Former United States Trade Representative\*

Nanxi Liu, Founder and CEO, Enplug Technologies

Dyllan McGee, Founder and Executive Producer, MAKERS\*

Barbara Bailey Parker, Mother of Alison Parker and Gun Violence Prevention Advocate\*

Dr. Lynn Pasquerella, President, Association of American Colleges and Universities\*

Jennifer Pinckney, Gun Violence Survivor; Wife of the Late South Carolina State Senator Clementa Pinckney; Founder of The Honorable Reverend Clementa Pinckney Foundation\*

Andrea Pino, Co-Founder and Director of Policy and Support, End Rape on Campus\*

Katie Ray-Jones, CEO, The National Domestic Violence Hotline\*

Dr. Debora Spar, President, Barnard College\*

Neera Tanden, President, Center for American Progress\*

Robyn Thomas, Executive Director, Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence\*

The Honorable Ann Veneman, Former United States Secretary of Agriculture\*

Shannon Watts, Founder, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America\*

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman, Former Governor of New Jersey\*

Silvestre Acedillo, Founder and Creative Director, VENU TEC

The Honorable Lashrecse D. Aird, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates

Leah Gunn Barrett, Executive Director, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence

Allie Bones, CEO, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV)

Dr. Alice Chen, Executive Director, Doctors for America

Cameka Crawford, Chief Communications Officer, The National Domestic Violence Hotline

Andrea Cuvelier

Donna Dees-Thomases, Founder, Million Mom March

Marium Durrani, Public Policy Attorney, National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEVDV)

Dr. Regina Edwards, CEO, Arizona YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix

Judy Fisher, Moms Demand Action

Ilana Flemming, Manager of Advocacy Initiatives, Jewish Women International (JWI)

The Honorable Kate Gallego, Vice Mayor, City of Phoenix

Janet Gilmore

Shira Goodman, Executive Director, CeaseFire Pennsylvania

Rachel Graber, Public Policy Manager, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)

Lanae Erickson Hatalsky, Vice President for Social Policy and Politics, Third Way

The Honorable Debra Heffernan, Representative, Delaware House of Representatives

Kathleen Higgins, Officer, Compliance Test Design/Analytics Specialist, Bank of America

Joani Horchler, Maryland Moms Demand Action

Carolyn Jenkins, Organizing for Action

Helene Keeley, Speaker Pro-Tempore, Delaware House of Representatives

Lieutenant General Claudia Kennedy, USA (Ret.)

Nancy Kennedy

Babe King, Organizer, YELLOW TAPE PROJECT to Stop Gun Violence

Suzanne Koepplinger, Former Executive Director, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

Captain Gail Kulisch, USCG (Ret.)

Ronald Legrand, Vice President, Public Policy, National Network to End Domestic Violence

Dr. Barbara Levy, Vice President, Health Policy, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Gail Levyveld

Shelly Livingston, C Street Democrats

The Honorable Valerie Longhurst, Representative, Delaware House of Representatives

Jennifer Lynch, Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety

Natalie Marra

Heather Martens, Executive Director, Protect Minnesota

Martha Strawn Morris, Director, The Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services

Nonna Noto, Jubilee Jobs

Chelsea Parsons, Vice President, Guns and Crime Policy, Center for American Progress

The Honorable Karen Peterson, Senator, Delaware State Senate

Jody Rabhan, Director, Washington Office, National Council of Jewish Women

Jane Randel, Co-Founder, Karp Randel

Beth Reilly, Faith Advocate and Organizer

Patricia Reuss, Policy Advisor, National Organization for Women

Carol Robles-Román, President and CEO, Legal Momentum

The Honorable Katherine Rogers, New Hampshire House of Representatives

The Honorable Diane Rosenbaum, Senate Majority Leader, Oregon State Senate

Deborah Rosenbloom, Vice President of Programs and New Initiatives, Jewish Women International (JWI)

Arlene Schler  
 Jessica Scoratow, Georgetown Against  
 Gun Violence  
 Rabbi Susan Shankman, Washington He-  
 brew Congregation  
 Katie Simon, Policy Organizing Manager,  
 Brady Campaign  
 Dianne Snyder  
 The Honorable Liane Sorenson, Board  
 Chair, Delaware Coalition Against Gun Vi-  
 olence  
 Winnie Stachelberg, Executive Vice Presi-  
 dent, External Affairs, Center for American  
 Progress  
 Kiersten Stewart, Policy Director, Futures  
 Without Violence  
 Susan Stoltenberg, Executive Director,  
 YWCA of Greater Portland  
 Diane Tattersall, Last Chance Animal Res-  
 cue  
 Sarah Trumble, Senior Policy Counsel,  
 Third Way  
 The Honorable Nancy Tyra-Lukens,  
 Mayor, City of Eden Prairie, Minnesota  
 Roberta Valente, Chief Officer for Govern-  
 ment Affairs, The National Domestic Vi-  
 olence Hotline  
 Kristin Wald, Start Out Fresh Intervention  
 Advocates  
 Lori Weinstein, CEO, Jewish Women Inter-  
 national (JWI)  
 Melissa Youssef, Legal Aid, Institute of  
 Policy Research  
 \*Advisory Committee Members

HONORING WILLIAM BYRON  
 RUMFORD

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 25, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of an outstanding member of the East Bay community the Honorable William Byron Rumford.

He was born in Courtland, Arizona in 1915. As a child, he shined shoes, sold newspapers, and graduated from George Washington Carver High School in Phoenix in 1926. After finishing his studies at Sacramento Junior College in 1931, he earned his pharmacy degree at the University of California, San Francisco. After he graduated, he took a number of exams for employment and was discriminated against at every turn. He fought his way through by appealing his oral examination, ultimately becoming a member of the California Board of Pharmacy.

Mr. Rumford worked in the Bay Area as an assistant pharmacist and as a venereal disease investigator for the state. In 1942, he co-invested in a pharmacy on Sacramento Street in Berkeley, which he later purchased and renamed Rumford's Pharmacy (now known as the Rumford Clinic). Later, served as the director of the Oakland chapter of the Red Cross, president of the East Bay Health Association, and was on the region's Democratic Central Committee.

Mr. Rumford went on to lead an impactful and significant political career, and ultimately became the first African American legislator from Northern California. Inspired by the disparities he witnessed in his pharmaceutical career, he joined the Berkeley Emergency Housing Committee in 1942 and the Berkeley Rent Board in 1944. In addition, he worked with the unofficial Berkeley Interracial Committee which was intended to ease tensions between the

Black community of Berkeley and White southerners who were moving in. He was also a member of the Appomattox Club, which was one of the first African American political organizations in the country; there was little hope for an African American candidate at that time, so the organization supported White candidates who they believed were right on political issues affecting the African American community.

Mr. Rumford did not seek to become a professional politician; instead, he was a neighborhood pharmacist who was passionate about addressing the biggest issues impacting his community. Eventually, Mr. Rumford ran for election in the California Assembly and won in 1949. At first he represented mostly African American areas of Oakland and a portion of South Berkeley. In 1960, however, the district was enlarged to include more of Berkeley and Albany. As an Assembly member, Mr. Rumford produced several effective pieces of legislation. In 1949, he worked tirelessly to pass The Bill to End Discrimination in the National Guard, which lessened racial discrimination in the National Guard. He also introduced legislation early in his Assembly tenure pertaining to fair trade, small businesses, child polio immunizations, atomic energy conversion, and environmental pollution.

Today, Mr. Rumford is best remembered for three pieces of legislation: the California Fair Employment Practices Act of 1959, which lessened the impact of race on hiring decisions; the Good Samaritan Act of 1959, which garnered national attention as the first law in the country to protect professionals in emergency situations; and the law that bore his name: the Rumford Fair Housing Act of 1963, which failed to survive a referendum challenge, but was upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. This act served as California's main enforcement authority against race-based housing discrimination, by way of housing covenants, until the passage of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1968.

His tremendous legacy paved the way for civil rights legislation nationally, and has been beautifully honored by the William Byron Rumford Memorial Project. This project is led by a diverse group of community members who see the rapid changing of South Berkeley's demographics as a ripe time to honor his leadership, activism, and community, while preserving the neighborhood's history.

On a personal note, William was a trailblazer. Had it not been for him, I never would have been elected to the CA legislature. I owe him a debt of gratitude and I will be forever grateful.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes the legacy of the Honorable William Byron Rumford. His contributions have truly impacted countless lives through the East Bay area and the country. I join all of Mr. Rumford's loved ones and the community members involved in the William Byron Rumford Memorial Project in celebrating his incredible life and legacy.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ASSO-  
 CIATION OF BLACK MILITARY  
 WOMEN

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 25, 2016*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization that has served our veteran community with great distinction for 40 years, the National Association of Black Military Women.

The NABMW is an association of women located throughout the country who are veterans or current members of the United States Armed Forces. The group was founded in July of 1976, when a group of 21 women who served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and Women's Army Corps (WAC) during World War II, Korean and Vietnam wars got together at Lucille Brown's house in Hampton, Virginia. At this chartered meeting, the group decided to locate and invite other former service women to a first reunion that was held in 1978 in Dallas, Texas.

Ever since, Biennial Reunions have continued to be held all through the country, where members discuss many of the issues facing the veteran community of black military women. The NABMW mission, "To seek out, record, maintain and tell the history and heritage of African-American Military Women who served and are serving in the United States Armed Forces" is as strong and power today on the organization's 40th anniversary as it was on the very first.

This year, NABMW is holding their biennial conference from August 10-14. I want to congratulate the entire organization on the occasion and thank them for their service.

IN RECOGNITION OF TYLER  
 WEGMEYER BEING NAMED VIR-  
 GINIA'S 2016 FARMER OF THE  
 YEAR

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 25, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tyler Wegmeyer of Wegmeyer Farms in Loudoun County for being named the 2016 Farmer of the Year by the Virginia Cooperative Extension. This important milestone highlights the diversity and success of the agriculture industry in both Loudoun County and the Commonwealth as a whole.

Mr. Wegmeyer has lived in Loudoun with his wife, Harriet, for nearly 17 years. Their farm spans over 250 acres at four separate locations and employs over 80 people. Mr. Wegmeyer has a long career in agriculture both firsthand as a farmer and additionally as a policymaker.

The Wegmeyer family strongly believes in being good stewards of the land and caring for the environment. Their involvement in the community has been important to the growth of agro tourism and educating more people about how food is grown. It is the leaders like Mr. and Mrs. Wegmeyer who through their active engagement will continue to shape the agricultural sector of the United States as well as