

must be memorialized to share with future generations.

When I think of the strength that Gold Star Families exhibit, I immediately think of Ray and Leesa Philippon and their family. Their son, Lance Corporal Lawrence R. Philippon tragically lost his life on May 8th, 2005, on Mother's Day and Leesa and Ray's anniversary.

Lance Corporal Philippon committed to fighting for his country shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He was a part of the Washington D.C. Color Guard, and bravely gave up his position to join the 3rd Battalion Second Marines as an infantryman. They were deployed to Al Qaim, Iraq. Lance Corporal Philippon was killed in action when he was only 22 years old.

The Philippon family has taken their grief and found strength. They have founded the Lance Corporal Lawrence R. Philippon Memorial Fund, which presents awards to local high school students and has funded 200 cleft palate surgeries through Operation Smile.

They have made it their mission to share their son's story, and help other families to remember their sons and daughters who were lost too soon in war. They recently helped organize the visit of the Global War on Terror Wall of Remembrance to their hometown, West Hartford, CT, to help families heal.

I would also like to recognize another Gold Star Mother, Mary Kight. Mary Kight is the President of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. She lost her son Michael while he was deployed to Vietnam in 1967. He had been a helicopter pilot and was killed in a helicopter accident, three months after being deployed.

Mary struggled with coming to terms with Michael's death. The anti-Vietnam War movement made her feel like Michael had lost his life for nothing. She didn't join the Gold Star Mothers for decades, but she has now found comfort in them.

Gold Star Families like the Philippons and the Kights deserve to have their loved ones' stories told, to memorialize their sons and daughters, but also to help their families heal.

On October 25th, a memorial will be revealed that is dedicated to Gold Star Mothers at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. This statue of a Gold Star Mother is joining the Fallen Star Memorial there.

In addition to honoring our Gold Star Families with physical memorials, we should also honor their words and stories.

I strongly support the Gold Star Families Voices Act. This bill will give the Gold Star Families the important opportunity to share their memories of our fallen. These service members have given the ultimate sacrifice, and we owe them the opportunity to have their voices heard, even though they can no longer tell their own stories.

I want to thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH for his hard work on this bill, to honor those who have fallen.

I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues in the Senate to quickly pass this bill so it can be sent to the President's desk.

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday will mark the 15th year since that day our nation faced the greatest loss of life on U.S. soil from a terrorist attack.

The years that have passed since that day have not dimmed my memory or diminished my resolve to see an end to terrorism not only in the United States, but around the world.

As a Member of Congress and a senior Member of the Committees on Homeland Security and the Judiciary, both of which deal with national security issues, I have long been committed and engaged in efforts to develop policies that anticipate and respond to new and emerging challenges to the security of our nation and the peace and safety of the world.

I will never forget September 11, 2001 when 2,977 men, women and children were murdered by 19 hijackers who took commercial aircraft and used them as missiles.

I stood on the East Front steps of the Capitol on September 11, 2001, along with 150 members of the House of Representatives and sang "God Bless America."

I visited the site of the World Trade Center Towers in the aftermath of the attacks and grieved over the deaths of so many of our men, women, and children.

I want to thank and commend the work of our first responder community on that day and every day since September 11 for their efforts to protect their communities and our nation from acts of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001 will always be remembered as a day of tragedy and heroism, heartbreak and courage, and shared loss.

But the loss remains especially painful to those whose loved ones died or were injured by the criminal acts of terrorists on that fateful day.

They remain in our thoughts and prayers and they have our sympathies.

Mr. Speaker, this past July the Judiciary Committee, upon which I sit, held a hearing on S. 2040, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," at which the bill's supporters offered powerful and compelling testimony in favor of insuring that 9/11 families have access to their day in court against the parties directly and vicariously liable for the injuries they suffered.

The "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," amends the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976 to create a new exception to the Act's general grant of foreign sovereign immunity.

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigation, I am committed to doing all that I can to ensure that they receive their day in court.

I am sensitive, however, to the concerns raised by the Administration regarding unintended consequences that may result if the bill is passed in its current form.

In particular, the Administration, allied nations, and others point out that enactment of S. 2040 in its current form may lead to retaliation

by other countries against the United States.

Additionally, the Administration raises the legitimate concern that if enacted in its current form, S. 2040 may hamper cooperation from other nations because they may become more reluctant to share sensitive intelligence out of fear that such information may be disclosed in litigation.

I am confident, however, that these legitimate concerns can be addressed and resolved as the legislation makes its way through the legislative process and I look forward to working with the Administration and the bill's sponsors and supporters to craft acceptable legislation that can be presented to the President for signature.

I thank the House and Senate sponsors of this important legislation, my colleagues Congressmen PETER KING and JERROLD NADLER of New York, and Senators JOHN CORNYN of Texas and CHARLES SCHUMER of New York, for their tireless efforts on behalf of fairness and justice for the 9/11 families.

TRIBUTE TO EARLHAM LION'S CLUB

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Earlham Lion's Club for being honored as the 2016 Citizens of the Year at the Earlham Freedom Fest.

Earlham Lion's Club was chartered on June 1, 2009 and have since faithfully served their community. They provide eyesight screenings and collect used eye glasses for use on missions in developing countries. Earlham Lion's club members have provided a free community Thanksgiving dinner and provide school supplies for children in need along with a number of other programs.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating the Earlham Lion's Club for being selected as the 2016 Citizens of the Year. It is an honor to represent them in the United States House of Representatives and I wish them all nothing but continued success.

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2016

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Campus Fire Safety Month during the month of September.

I first became involved in the issue of campus fire safety following a tragic fire at Seton Hall University, in which three students were killed. Since that time, we have made many strides, including the passage of the Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act, which will ensure that prospective students and their families are provided with the fire safety records, information and statistics of colleges and universities.

Last academic year, there were no college-related fire deaths anywhere in the U.S. for

the first time since 2000—an incredible drop from when 20 people were killed in 2006–2007. This progress can be attributed to the commendable efforts of fire departments, schools, and communities coming together to address this serious problem.

According to the United States Fire Administration, 94 percent of college-related fire deaths happen in off-campus housing, where most students live. Through greater awareness and education, both students and parents are able to make informed decisions on choosing fire-safe housing that includes smoke alarms and two ways out. Students are more aware of how their actions can avoid having a fire happen in the first place and what to do if one does occur. This not only helps save their lives, but also the lives of their roommates and the fire fighters who are responding.

By teaching college students about fire safety, we are teaching them not only how to be fire-safe during their time in college, but also for the rest of their lives. By creating a fire-safe generation now, we can make society safer for the future and reduce the tragic impact of fire. In the U.S. approximately 3,000 people die in fires every year.

It is my sincere hope that college campuses in New Jersey and across the nation will participate in Campus Fire Safety Month activities throughout September. We must do all that we can to keep our nation's students safe and informed. This is also why I introduced the Campus Fire Safety Education Act, to provide universities with grants they can use to develop or implement campus fire safety education strategies. We must do everything in our power to ensure the safety and security of our children when they leave for college.

I want to commend all of those who are working to make our campuses and communities better places to live, because fire safety is everyone's fight. Fire safety on campus today means a fire safe nation for tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS OF YUMA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2016

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and achievements of the students of Yuma High School.

In memory of Eliza Routt and her tireless commitment to public service, Colorado and Secretary of State Wayne Williams have created the Eliza Prickell Routt Award. This award recognizes high school students who register 85 percent or more of their senior class to vote and commends the outstanding dedication of students who are participating in civic engagement.

This year, the recipient of the Eliza Prickell Routt Award is Yuma High School. This student body has shown their commitment to strengthen our democracy and improve our ability to govern. The efforts made by these high school students are significant, and we should applaud them as their accomplishment will better our nation for future generations.

It is truly inspiring to see the next generation, represented by these students, striving

for a better future. Yuma High School, and these young men and women, embody the values that make America exceptional. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations in this achievement and their acceptance of the Eliza Prickell Routt Award.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Yuma High School and its students for their commitment to democracy and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 491, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 660, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives to support the territorial integrity of Georgia, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY WEDEMEYER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Judy Wedemeyer for receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the Casey Service Club.

Ms. Wedemeyer was recognized at the Casey Fun Day celebration on July 9, 2016. Judy Wedemeyer and Nita Fagan currently serve as co-presidents of the Casey Service Club and are active members of the Casey Historical Society. They have given many hours to researching and writing the "Memories of Casey" column for The Adair News and are responsible for spearheading the Hearts of Gold Fundraiser campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Judy Wedemeyer for her service to Casey and congratulate her on this award. It is an honor to represent her in the United States House of Representatives and I wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE McLANEY FAMILY AS THE 2016 OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the McLaney Family of Laurel Hill for being selected as the 2016 Okaloosa County, Florida, Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

Although Joel McLaney was previously an electrician by trade, farming has been a part

of the McLaney family for three generations. When Joel transitioned into farming full time, he purchased 83 acres of land from his grandfather who was involved in the poultry industry. For many years, Joel raised poultry in five chicken houses, and today on 300 acres, the McLaneys raise cattle and grow a variety of crops, including: cotton, peanuts, and hay.

Joel and his wife Gena of 25 years have two children, Josh, who is a senior at the University of West Florida, and Kaylyn, a senior at Laurel Hill High School, within whom they have instilled the value of hard work and to whom they plan to pass on the farm to continue the McLaney family farming tradition.

Aside from their time on the farm, Joel is a bus driver and Gena is a teacher. The McLaneys are also active members of Auburn Pentecostal Church and the Farm Bureau.

Mr. Speaker, the Okaloosa County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year Award is a true reflection of the McLaneys' tireless work and their dedication to family and farming. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the McLaney family for being outstanding in their field. My wife Vicki and I extend our best wishes for their continued success.

CONGRATULATING DAVE ALI FILS-AIMÉ AND BASKETBALL TO UPLIFT THE YOUTH (BUY)

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2016

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Dave Ali Fils-Aimé on the third anniversary and success of Basketball to Uplift the Youth (BUY). Using basketball as a tool, BUY provides year-round mentorship for school-aged boys and girls in Haiti. The program combines basketball and education to encourage teamwork, promote healthy lifestyles, build leadership skills, and promote the value of service.

Fils-Aimé, a graduate of Yale University and Harvard University, left Haiti for the United States at the age of twelve. As a former participant of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, a drop-out prevention and mentoring program I started nearly 25 years ago in South Florida, Fils-Aimé is a walking embodiment of what it means to be a role model. Using his experience with 5000 Role Models and his passion for Haiti's youth, he created Basketball to Uplift the Youth in July 2013.

Since its inception, BUY has engaged youth from some of Port-au-Prince's most disadvantaged neighborhoods. The program works to mold young, well-rounded individuals in Haiti. There are also plans to expand the program by establishing a scholarship fund. Fils-Aimé's leadership and commitment to excellence have allowed the program to flourish in its three years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Dave Ali Fils-Aimé for his success and commitment to serving Haiti's youth, and the achievements of Basketball to Uplift the Youth.