

too-often unseaworthy boats bound for Europe. The prevalence of Eritreans among refugees has been overshadowed by refugees from the Middle East, especially Syria. The United Kingdom, one of the prime destinations for Eritrean refugees, apparently wanted to slow down the flow of Eritreans into the country. Earlier this year, the UK reduced the percentage of Eritrean asylum claims from 95 percent to 28 percent.

Directly addressing the root causes of the flight of Eritreans seems a better policy than trying to determine the final destination of Eritreans who feel forced to leave home. That means an enhanced level of communication between Eritrea's government and the international community. There have been quiet contacts between Eritrea's government, the U.S. Government, and civil society. A hearing I convened yesterday examined how such contacts have developed.

Can the United States form a relationship with a government it has under sanction?

Does the dire situation in which Eritrea's people live require an alteration of U.S. policy?

What would a change in policy mean for the international effort to hold Eritrea's government responsible for blatant human rights violations?

These and other questions must be answered before there is any policy adjustment toward Eritrea.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to a very special POW/MIA memorial dedication ceremony taking place in my home town of Lakeland, Florida.

As flags are raised across America this week in honor of National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we must stand united as a nation remembering and honoring those captured and those who have gone missing while serving our great country, as well as their loved ones. Today, as in every day, we shall live by the POW/MIA flag's creed: You Are Not Forgotten.

No other country has devoted as much energy and as many resources to account for its missing or captured like the United States of America. Our debt to American prisoners of war, those missing in action, and the families of these brave soldiers can never truly be repaid.

America's service members are the backbone of the freedom and prosperity this country has been blessed with for more than two hundred years. The sacrifices made by these courageous and selfless men and women in uniform, on behalf of perfect strangers, embodies the American spirit of patriotism.

Few among us will ever understand the pain and fear associated with knowing a loved one is captured or missing in a warzone across the globe. We as a nation must join together to honor those who have sacrificed so greatly today, and every day. Without their sacrifices, we would not be able to enjoy the liberties we are blessed with today. Let us never take for

granted their selfless protection of our great nation and its people.

May God continue to watch over our valiant soldiers, and return them safely home, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

PRESIDENT OBAMA ENDANGERS U.S. CITIZENS BY CLOSING GITMO

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, sitting in Guantanamo Bay are cold-blooded, calculating terrorists that have either already killed Americans or had planned to do so. The high-security prisoners that remain at GITMO committed some of the most repulsive crimes known to all of us.

Despite this fact, this Administration—since literally day one—has promised to close GITMO all together and release these terrorists back into the world. Mr. Speaker, why would we do that?

Many of the terrorists we have released have re-entered the battlefield. The Administration even admitted earlier this year that at least 12 former detainees were implicated in attacks overseas against Americans and our allies—and those are just the ones we know of. So why would we continue to let terrorists go?

Mr. Speaker, I have been to GITMO. Most Americans would be surprised to know it's actually nicer than most facilities we have here in the states. GITMO has soccer fields, volleyball courts, table tennis, you name it.

It also has new medical facilities and new dental facilities. When I visited GITMO, I ate the same meal the prisoners did, and the food was good.

But the Administration is more concerned with the President's legacy than global safety and the potential victims of these prisoners' attacks. I do not think the White House has its priorities straight.

That's why I'm happy to support Congresswoman WALORSKI's efforts to prohibit the transfer of any detainees from GITMO. Transferring detainees from Guantanamo endangers American citizens, and it endangers our national security. Put simply, it is a bad idea.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF LTC CHARLES S. KETTLES

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a recent Medal of Honor recipient, LTC Charles S. Kettles. LTC Kettles will be honored at the Fort Wolters Historical Park's Medal of Honor Day in Mineral Wells, Texas on September 17, 2016. This ceremony recognizes the lives of individuals who were stationed at Fort Wolters at some point in their career and received our nation's highest military commendation.

On May 15, 1967, Charles was serving as the Flight Commander of the 176th Aviation Company in the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, American Division near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. On that day, an airborne infantry unit came under heavy enemy fire and suffered casualties. Charles immediately volunteered to lead a flight of six UH-1D helicopters to carry reinforcements to the embattled force and evacuate his wounded brothers. Upon arriving at the landing zone, Charles and his crew faced a savage barrage of enemy fire that inflicted heavy damage to their fleet. Despite all of this, Charles refused to depart until all helicopters were loaded to capacity. With his aircraft severely damaged and leaking fuel, Charles skillfully guided his helicopter back to base.

Later that day, the Infantry Battalion Commander requested immediate, emergency extraction of the remaining 40 soldiers that were stranded after their helicopter was downed by enemy fire. Again, Charles volunteered to lead a flight of six evacuation helicopters to return back to the deadly landing zone, making this his third trip that day. During the extraction, Charles was told that all personnel were accounted for and he, along with his team and Army gunships, left the battlefield.

Shortly after departing, Charles was informed that eight troops had been unable to reach the evacuation helicopters due to being pinned down by intense heavy fire. With complete disregard for his safety, Charles passed the lead to another helicopter and reversed course back to the landing zone. Without any artillery and tactical support, enemy forces concentrated all firepower on Charles' helicopter. His aircraft was immediately damaged by a mortar round that shattered his front windshields and the body of the helicopter was riddled with small arms and machine gun bullets. Despite these circumstances, Charles was able to buy enough time to allow the remaining eight soldiers to board the helicopter. Once in the air, Charles was able to safely guide his severely mangled aircraft back to the base.

Without LTC Kettles' heroic deeds that day, the dozens of soldiers he had saved would not have come home to their loved ones. His selfless acts of valor exemplified the values of honor and service that makes our nation's military the finest in the world. It is with great pleasure and honor that I am able to share his story with all of my colleagues in the House.

HONORING SHELLEY KESSLER, RETIRED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER, SAN MATEO COUNTY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of an outstanding woman leader in San Mateo County, Ms. Shelley Kessler. She is leaving her position as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council, a position that she has held—and honored through her exemplary leadership—for twenty years. I am honored to call Shelley a trusted friend.

She is a remarkable leader in public policy. She is a person who is willing to listen and to

compromise, but she is also capable of holding the line when she seeks justice for those whom she services. No one would ever accuse Shelley Kessler of being a shrinking violet. However, she also seeks progress on behalf of the working men and women of San Mateo County without seeking credit for herself. In short, she is a forceful, thoughtful advocate for fair wages, safe working conditions, and for long-term public policies that benefit all San Mateo County workers.

Shelley has two bachelor's degrees from Sonoma State University and spent a year in law school. She was a trailblazer in the auto manufacturing workforce as she was hired by General Motors in 1977 during a time when the company was under a consent decree requiring it to hire more women. She worked as a spot welder on an assembly line and eventually was elected to a full-time position in the United Auto Workers. She later moved to Westinghouse Electric, working as a mechanic on turbines, generators and marine ordinance. While she was working at Westinghouse, she was also elected to leadership positions in Machinists Union Local 565.

Fortune shined on San Mateo County when Shelley applied for a job at our local labor council. She led a strong and responsive team and built relationships with elected officials at all levels of government. Her intellect, thorough understanding of issues and willingness to negotiate are legendary.

For example, San Francisco International Airport is one of the largest employers in San Mateo County. The 45,000 workers throughout this giant complex have Shelley and her partners at the labor council to thank for the outstanding working conditions that the airport director has informed me contribute to security throughout the facility. Instead of having an ever-rotating list of tens of thousands of persons with access to these critical facilities, people who enter the labor force at the airport—whether through the airport itself or various vendors—are assured a living wage and decent benefits. This directly contributes to a stable workforce that treasures the airport and honors its need for security.

Shelley also led the way in establishing PALCARE for airport workers and the surrounding community, an innovative child care center that allows working families with unusual work hours to have a safe place for childcare. She is also a leading advocate for affordable housing and affordable health care. She donates her time to the American Heart Association and to KQED, our local public television and radio affiliate, and she has preserved and strengthened the UC Berkeley Labor Center.

She has served as Vice President of the California Labor Federation, and was once selected as "Woman Labor Leader of the Year" by the federation. She has also been inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame. She gets her greatest joy from her husband Dennis, a retired firefighter who discovered that being with Shelley was a step up from the energy needed to extinguish a massive blaze. The man is as cool as Shelley is hot.

Mr. Speaker, San Mateo County has had many leading citizens over the decades, including such historical figures as the founder of the Bank of America or the CEOs of giant

social media sites. Thankfully, we also have had a thoughtful, honorable advocate for working women and men: Shelley Kessler. We are losing a leader but gaining an adventurous retiree. It's doubtful that the county will ever be the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 505, on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 I was delayed on my way to the U.S. House of Representatives floor and missed the first vote of the series—Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 863. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE IRON MEN HEALTH FAIR

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Iron Men Health Fair being held on Saturday, September 17, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Central Georgia Technical College in Macon, Georgia. Hosted by Macon-Bibb County, the Macon Chapter of the Georgia Prostate Cancer Coalition, and their partners, the Iron Men Health Fair is the manifestation of Middle Georgia's mission to improve health and wellness for men. Throughout the duration of the fair, the men of Middle Georgia will have access to a plethora of health and wellness resources, including screenings for glucose, hypertension, cholesterol, vision, hearing, body mass index, HIV, and prostate cancer.

In recognition of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, the Iron Men Health Fair will help in the fight to defeat prostate cancer—the second leading cause of cancer death among men in the United States. Prostate cancer is a complex disease that can take several forms. Some forms of this cancer are non-life-threatening, but other forms can be extremely aggressive and lethal. These subtypes of prostate cancer take more than 29,000 lives each year. In Georgia alone, 5,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year and approximately 1,000 of those men will die from the disease. For African-American men, prostate cancer is 1.6 times more common and 2.4 times more deadly than for Caucasian men.

Although prostate cancer has been a story of heartbreak and tragedy for so many, it can also be one of great hope. If diagnosed early, men with prostate cancer have a 100 percent survival rate five years out. And at ten years after diagnosis, 98 percent of men who were diagnosed early remain alive and have the opportunity to lead healthy, happy lives for years to come.

This year, President Barack Obama has again declared September to be National

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. This month is meant to be a time dedicated to being aware, staying informed, and making proactive decisions in the fight against this all-too-common disease. According to the Prostate Cancer Foundation, early detection is the key to defeating this disease, especially for men over the age of 40. The Iron Men Health Fair embodies that mission. No cancer, especially prostate cancer, should be considered as a death sentence. With early detection, prostate cancer can be a curable and treatable disease. Getting tested regularly for prostate cancer and taking one's health seriously should not be taboo for any man. Every American deserves the chance to lead a happy, healthy life.

During the month of September, we want to honor the lives we have lost to prostate cancer, highlight how far we have come, and redouble our efforts in beating prostate cancer once and for all through continued awareness and breakthrough research. The Iron Men Health Fair collaborators' commitment to ending prostate cancer is a worthwhile one as they had over 300 men attend and participate in the fair last year. The fair may very well play an important role in saving the lives of many men this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Iron Men Health Fair, Macon-Bibb County, the Macon Chapter of the Georgia Prostate Cancer Coalition, and their partners for their commitment to promoting prostate cancer awareness as well as the general health and wellbeing for the men of Middle Georgia.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as their families, who continue to grieve their loss.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Friday, September 16, is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, at present there are more than 82,000 Americans missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars and other conflicts.

In fact, from Pinellas County, Florida alone, there are five Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War: Christos Bogiages of Clearwater, Jack DeCaire of St. Petersburg, Carl Laker of Clearwater, Dennis Neal of Tarpon Springs, and Jan Nelson of Clearwater.

As a nation, let us never forget those who were left behind, and let us continue to pursue every available effort to bring home all of our men and women who have served this great country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering those who have not yet returned from the battlefield, and let us, as a nation, always recognize their great sacrifice.