

Again, I wish the people of Taiwan a happy Double Ten Day. I would like to congratulate Taiwan on the occasion of Double Ten Day, and I hope the friendship between our two nations continues to grow in the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA BENGALI ASSOCIATION

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Northern Virginia Bengali Association (NVBA), which is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. A quarter of a century ago, the first Bengali residents of Virginia felt a need to have their own organization. Distance was barring their participation in Sanskriti, Maryland, which is the oldest Bengali association in the Washington, DC area. After extensive discussion and planning, the then Virginia residents decided to form a new organization of their own and called it Northern Virginia Bengali Association, with the broad vision of nurturing and promoting Bengali and Indian culture through education, cultural, spiritual, and charitable activities. In 1990, the first community event, Saraswati Puja, was held in McLean Hall.

Bengal, India, is a crucible of art and culture. The Bengalis of Virginia, who have their roots in Bengal, expectedly, have a penchant for art, culture, music, and community life and strive to preserve their unique identity while intermingling with diverse ethos. They endeavor to strike a balance between indigenous traditions and cosmopolitan influences in their lifestyle and that of the next generation. The above values shape the foundation of NVBA's mission and are reflected in its major events.

The following are among NVBA's significant achievements. They have sustained a rapid growth of members in the community in the past few years and have accommodated their social needs. They have increased the number, scale, and quality of the social/cultural events organized around the year. They have improved community relations by engaging with community leaders and officials, keeping communication channels open for dialogue, and also giving them the opportunity to experience Bengali culture. They have held several charitable events to help fellow citizens in the community and created a wing called 'NVBA Cares' to administer such initiatives. Some of the recent activities of NVBA Cares include participating in food drives by partnering with Food for Others to help struggling families. There is also an initiative to support fellow members in severe health and financial distress until they are back on their feet again. NVBA has also participated in feeding the underprivileged in homeless shelters and helping in soup kitchens.

In 2014, The Commonwealth of Virginia awarded a commendation plaque to NVBA for sharing their unique traditions with the people of this region and their positive impact on society. NVBA's contributions were also acknowledged on the Virginia House of Delegates' floor.

From the founding fathers to the current board members, and countless volunteers,

many individuals have worked selflessly to bring NVBA to its current stature in its 25th year since inception, relying on the simple principles of social and cultural enrichment of its members and promoting the spirit of harmony and goodwill in the community.

Mr. Speaker, this is an organization which helps the citizens of Virginia's 10th Congressional District to thrive. I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Northern Virginia Bengali Association and wishing it a happy 25th anniversary. I wish this institution continued success in the future.

PAKISTAN: FRIEND OR FOE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM?

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 21, 2016, a U.S. drone strike killed the leader of the Afghan Taliban, Mullah Mansour. To no one's surprise, at the time of his death Mansour was in southwestern Pakistan. The drone strike Pakistan's longstanding support for terrorist groups. For example, Pakistan openly supported the Afghan Taliban both before and after the extremists took control of Kabul in 1996.

Islamabad's connection to terrorist groups is so close that in 2011 Admiral Mike Mullen, then chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff testified before the Senate that "the Haqqani network acts as a veritable arm of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency." The Inter-Services Intelligence Agency or the "ISI" is Pakistan's version of the CIA. The Haqqani Network is not a nice group of people. They have killed more Americans in the region than any other terrorist group.

A leaked NATO report in 2012 detailed Pakistan's ongoing relationship with the Taliban. The report described Pakistan's "manipulation of the Taliban senior leadership" and claimed that the government was aware of locations of senior Taliban leaders, including some who lived in the vicinity of the ISI headquarters in Islamabad.

The laundry list of evidence of Pakistan's support for terrorists goes on and on. We all remember where al-Qaeda's leader and America's most wanted terrorist Osama bin Laden was found: in Pakistan, of course. In response to the bin Laden raid, Pakistan put the doctor who helped us in jail and closed the U.S. military's supply route from Karachi port to Afghanistan for 7 months.

While Pakistan has been harboring and supporting terrorists with American blood on their hands, it also has been receiving billions in U.S. foreign assistance. In fact, Pakistan is one of the leading recipients of U.S. aid in the last 14 years. Congress has appropriated more than \$33 billion to Pakistan since fiscal year 2002.

One of the ways we have given Pakistan money over the years is by reimbursing them for efforts they take to fight terrorists. But a GAO study from 2008 found that the Department of Defense could not verify the validity of Pakistan's claims. The GAO study concluded that some reimbursed costs were potentially duplicative or not based on actual activity. In 2010, Special Representative for Afghanistan

and Pakistan Ambassador Richard Holbrook said that roughly 40 percent of Pakistan's reimbursement requests were rejected.

Each year we say that Pakistan is at the crossroads and needs to decide whether it is going to fight terrorists or fight on our side. In fact, just two months ago the State Department's Ambassador Richard Olson, used this very line. But the United States has been using this line for the last 15 years. Enough is enough. Pakistan is playing us. They are trying to have it both ways. They want our money and they keep supporting terrorists who target Americans.

I invited Ambassador Olson to come testify before us and explain himself, but he refused. Instead, the State Department said this was a "particularly sensitive time in our relationship with Pakistan". In other words, he was afraid Pakistan would come away looking bad. Well that might be just because Pakistan is bad.

Now we have put conditions on aid to Pakistan before, requiring them to really go after terrorists if they want our money. But those conditions have always had a waiver attached to them and every year, the President has exercised that waiver. In other words, we paid Pakistan even though it did not go after terrorist groups. Well, for the first time last year, we did not include a waiver on \$300 million of money for Pakistan. And guess what? Pakistan did not get the money because it had not gone after the terrorist groups. Even when there are hundreds of millions of dollars on the line, Pakistan refuses to go after terrorist groups.

The reality is that Pakistan has chosen sides. And it isn't ours. It is time to change our policy towards Pakistan. We do not need to pay Pakistan to betray us. They will do it for free.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE McLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MPAARTFEST

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the McLean Project for the Arts in Loudoun County for the 10th anniversary of their MPAartfest. Established in 1962, the McLean Project for the Arts has worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for local and regional artists to showcase their work, to foster appreciation of contemporary art, and to offer instruction and teaching in the visual arts in many communities. The MPAartfest is an annual celebration in the form of an outdoor gallery experience highlighting the work of 52 artists from the area, as well as offering many other interactive activities that expose eventgoers to the arts.

Some of this year's exhibits will include the Children's ArtWalk, an open-air gallery of elementary school children's artwork, and the Hands-On Art Studio, which gives artists of all levels the opportunity to further develop their passion. Additionally, this year's MPAartfest will host a new branch of exciting activities in their STEAM Center. This innovative program combines STEM and the Arts for those interested in architecture, robotics, and math.

The hard work done by the men and women of the McLean Project for the Arts in organizing and putting on this event has helped ensure an excellent opportunity for many of my constituents to escape from life's many stresses by providing them with a time to unwind and enjoy the visual arts in their community. This event in McLean Central Park will be filled with great food, live music and many remarkable and interesting works of art.

I am proud to have such an excellent group in my District, which is one that has been servicing local and regional communities for over 50 years. The McLean Project for the Arts has been such a positive force in teaching young people about the visual arts and in instructing them in how to become artists themselves. I would like to applaud this organization's dedication to the cultural enrichment of our future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join in recognizing the 10th anniversary of the MPAartfest in Loudoun County, Virginia. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

#### HONORING MS. BEA MCPHERSON

##### HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Bea McPherson for her service to the United States of America during World War II as a Cartographer for the Army Map Service.

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, America's Greatest Generation answered the call to combat the Axis Powers in the European and Pacific Theaters. As personnel were reassigned to all fronts, the Army Map Service found itself in need of more patriots.

Upon graduating from Kent State University, Ms. McPherson selflessly joined the Army Map Service, where she was assigned to Montgomery County, Maryland. As a Cartographer, Ms. McPherson created maps used in preparation for military operations throughout Fiume, Italy and the famed Battle of the Bulge. During her service, Ms. McPherson also served as a recruiter, returning to Ohio to recruit other females into the Army Mapping Service.

Nicknamed the "Military Mapping Maidens," Ms. McPherson and other female cartographers played a vital role in defense of America and our allies abroad. Shortly after the Allies declared victory over Nazi Germany and Japan, Ms. McPherson resigned from the Army Mapping Service.

On October 4, 2016, Ms. McPherson will be inducted into the Geospatial Intelligence Hall of Fame for making significant and transformative contributions to the Army Mapping Service.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to represent Ms. Bea McPherson in the United States Congress. She established a patriotic example for all Americans to emulate and I am humbled to stand before this body to recognize Ms. McPherson's service to our great nation.

#### HONORING THE 80TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF SAM AND EVA JONES

##### HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 80th Wedding Anniversary of Sam and Eva Jones of Marion, Illinois.

Sam and Eva Jones were married on September 27, 1936. They are lifelong residents of Southern Illinois and have remained active members of their community.

The proud parents of two sons and the grandparents of three, Sam and Eva farmed and raised livestock in Williamson County, where Sam served as President of the county fair board. Additionally, Sam worked in mining and for power companies for over 30 years, while Eva worked with local youth in the county school district. Sam and Eva are also recognized for their talent in square dancing, participating in dances at county fairs, community gatherings, and national events for more than 60 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing a Happy 80th Wedding Anniversary to Sam and Eva Jones and thank them for their contributions and service to Southern Illinois.

#### IN MEMORY OF MRS. DARLENE E. WEIR

##### HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the life of Mrs. Darlene E. Weir, of Leesburg, Virginia. On September 7, 2016, Mrs. Weir passed away at home surrounded by her loving husband of 57 years, Charles, and with her children, beloved grandchildren, and her great-granddaughter.

Mrs. Weir was born May 4, 1933, in Eugene, Oregon and was the daughter of the late Oscar M. Briggs and Essie Elizabeth Cruzan Briggs. She was known for her love of children and her dedication to teaching primary grade students in Fairfax County public schools for 26 years. Coming from a family of educators, I understand the importance of Americans like Mrs. Weir who help shape the future of our nation. Mrs. Weir made a great impact in her community that will not soon be forgotten.

Once Mrs. Weir retired from teaching, she traveled around the globe with her husband visiting all seven continents. Mrs. Weir understood the importance of civic engagement and was active in grassroots politics. Both inside and outside her career, Mrs. Weir worked with conviction to preserve our country for future generations.

Mrs. Weir will be sincerely missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing her both on a personal and a professional level. I know that she has impacted many lives over the years, and we are all grateful for having known her. She is survived by her husband, Charles J. Weir, her four children, daughters, Sue Ellen Jones, and Maureen Kay Wood; her sons, Gregory Allen Weir and Jeffrey Charles

Weir; and eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Through them, I'm sure, her values and legacy will be assured.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of Mrs. Darlene E. Weir. May she rest in peace, and her family be comforted.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF EUGENE "GENE" GISCOMBE

##### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor to join The Village of Harlem and New York City in paying tribute to our beloved friend, Eugene Giscombe, known affectionately by many as "Gene" and the "Mayor of 125th Street," who made his transition to his Lord and Savior on Sunday, July 10, 2016. In 1982, he founded Giscombe Realty Group, LLC one of Harlem's leading commercial real estate management, consulting, leasing, development and brokerage firms. The company was a major player in the Harlem Renaissance that helped to reverse years of decline and turn the area into one of Manhattan's most popular places to live, work, play and raise a family.

Gene Giscombe began his real estate career as a sales agent at Webb & Booker, rising to become head of sales and representing major banks, such as Manufacturers Hanover Corporation, and managing office buildings such as the C.A.V. Building at 55 West 125th Street, where former president Bill Clinton maintains an office. Inspired by his grandfather Lawrence Giscombe, a successful builder-owner in Harlem in the 1930s and 1940s, Eugene Giscombe became a beloved community leader as he grew his own company to serve a wide range of clients, including property owners, developers, financial institutions, not-for-profits, pension funds and government agencies looking to buy, lease or manage space in Harlem and New York City. Giscombe Realty Group's headquarters, for over 35 years, was located in one of Harlem's most iconic office buildings, the 12-story Lee Building at 1825 Park Avenue on East 125th Street, adjacent to the Metro North train station in East Harlem.

Over the years, Giscombe Realty Group's acquisitions, developments, re-locations and management ventures on the legendary 125th Street corridor included Chase Manhattan Bank, Fourth Federal Savings and Loan, New York State Supreme Court, Bechtel Infrastructure, Beth Israel Medical Center, the Harlem Commonwealth Council, New York College of Podiatric Medicine, and The Jewish Theological Seminary, to name a few. Gene's associates nicknamed him the "Mayor of 125th Street", celebrating him for his many successful ventures including the biggest retail sale in Harlem's history—the sale of 16 retail buildings along West 125th and 126th Street Corridor on Frederick Douglass Boulevard for \$50 million in 2007. He was also the recipient of the Business Person of the Year award from the Harlem Business Alliance, Inc. presented by Mr. Walter Edwards.

Gene Giscombe was a former chairman of the 125th Street Business Improvement District, Community Board 10 and The Greater