

In addition to these tremendous professional accomplishments, Fred was a family man and pursued many activities outside of the office. He enjoyed biking, hiking, running, photography, reading, art, music, traveling and spending time with his family, friends and many pets. Fred and his wife of 35 years, Rita Barreras, had two children, Michael Victor Langille (Shelly George) and Heather Marie Coffey and have a grandson, Dylan Michael Langille.

On August 6, 2015, Fred passed away in his home after a brave fight against prostate and bladder cancer. He was 73.

Mr. Speaker, I join family, friends and all those who have felt Fred's warm embrace in celebrating the wonderful life he lived. We will continue fighting to eradicate these terrible diseases that take our loved ones away with all the strength we have.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 11, 2016*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 23, I was present on the floor, but the vote closed before I was able to cast a vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

#### RECOGNIZING MR. GORDON SNYDER FOR BEING NAMED THE 2015 NATIONAL MUSIC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

##### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 11, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gordon Snyder for being named by Music and Arts the 2015 National Music Educator of the Year. Music and Arts is a national retail chain dedicated to providing musicians with the instruments and products they need to enhance their musical talents.

Mr. Snyder currently serves as Director of Instrumental Music at A.L. Brown High School, located in Kannapolis, North Carolina. He was nominated for the award by fellow educators, and had several students write letters of recommendation on his behalf. This is a testament to the respect Mr. Snyder has earned from both his peers and his students, and I am extremely grateful for his commitment to ensuring our community's students receive a high-quality education.

Although the National Music Educator of the Year award has been given for several years by Music and Arts, Mr. Snyder is the first recipient from the state of North Carolina. This is a particularly impressive accomplishment, as this year nearly 2,000 educators were nominated for this award. The winner of this award was selected for their ingenuity in their academic programs, and was also judged on the educator's impact in the community and their band's performance. Our community is fortunate to have Mr. Snyder dedicate his time and talents to educating our students.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Mr. Snyder for being named the

2015 National Music Educator of the Year and wish him well as he continues to make a positive difference in the lives of his students.

#### CELEBRATING LESTER WOLFF'S 97TH BIRTHDAY

##### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 11, 2016*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life, legacy, and the work of our esteemed former colleague, Congressman Lester Lionel Wolff, who is an exceptional father, husband, lawmaker, war hero and dear friend to many of us. Lester is not only an inspiration to future political leaders and public servants, but also an embodiment of diligence, persistence and success.

It is well known to those who know Lester that he will never stop working to make our country better. Lester, who has recently turned 97, is still working hard as chairman of the International Trade and Development Agency and The International Information Agency and frequently travels to Washington, DC from New York City to visit congressional offices.

Lester was born on January 4, 1919 and is a life-long New Yorker. Married to the late Blanche Silver, he has two loving children, Bruce, a prominent Washington lawyer, and Diane, an Adjunct Professor at the State University. He has four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Elected to the United States Congress in 1964, Lester served 16 years before retiring. It was an honor enough to work with him on a number of bills throughout the years. His service as Chairman of Foreign Policy Planning, Chairman of Asian Pacific Affairs, Chairman of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control and Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Middle East subcommittee will not be forgotten.

One of his notable bills was the Foreign Assistance Act of 1969, which restored the initiative for direct peace talks between Israel and the Arab States. He also led the congressional delegation to meet with Deng Xiaoping, Father of Modern China. The Deng-Wolff conversation was credited by the Department of State for its particular importance in the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the United States. He is the author of the Taiwan Relations Act signed into law on April 10, 1979. This landmark law has undoubtedly helped the United States maintain and enhance its ties with Taiwan for more than three decades. Thanks to Lester, Taiwan is the United States' 10th largest trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's largest foreign investor. Anyone who works with Lester is well aware of his prudence and expertise in foreign policy.

Despite his retirement, he and I went on a trip to Taiwan to speak to government officials on U.S.-Taiwan relations and attend the Democratic Pacific Assembly—The Common Future of the Pacific in the 21st Century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Lester Wolff—the man who keeps on inspiring us with his wisdom and long-serving dedication to strengthening our country. I am pleased to see the fruits of his labor in Congress and as a public servant.

SENSELESS CHRISTMASTIME  
KILLINGS BY BOKO HARAM AND  
THE NEED FOR THE WORLD'S  
RECOMMITMENT TO RECOVERING  
THE CHIBOK GIRLS

##### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 11, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the Christmas 2015 break, 50 people were murdered and 114 others wounded in the northeastern Nigerian cities of Maiduguri and Madagali, Borno State, which is the birthplace of Boko Haram.

Today also marks 633 days since 276 Chibok girls were kidnapped from their dormitories in the middle of night.

Violence on the citizens of the world in sacred places such as our homes, places of worship, educational institutions and recreational venues is unacceptable and detestable.

To keep the Chibok girls on our minds, all of us here in Congress have worn red every Wednesday to signal the urgency of rescuing, recovering and reintegrating these young women back into the arms of their parents. Sadly, while we grapple with the sore of the kidnapping of the Chibok girls, with horror, we watched on the news, violence wreaked by Boko Haram during the holidays.

As we all know, Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for the massacres.

I have met with the Nigerian President and was part of a delegation to Nigeria to engage local leaders, activists, businesses and families of victims of Boko Haram on strategies for recovering and reintegrating the Chibok girls and many others who have been kidnapped or suffered violence. These senseless killings and kidnappings by Boko Haram must stop.

The Chibok girls are not throwaways and the world cannot and should not forget them. Those who lost their lives during the Christmastime massacres have families and loved ones whose hearts have been broken because of the pain and anguish they must now feel.

We must continue to press on in our concerted efforts to assure victims that Boko Haram will be combatted and assure our Chibok daughters that we still care and that we are committed to bringing them back home and will work to protect them and reintegrate them back into our community with open arms.

As founder and Co-Chair of the Caucus on Nigeria and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, the rescue, return and reintegration of the kidnapped Chibok girls continue to be my top priority.

I believe that with our commitment, just as the Aboke girls were recovered after being kidnapped in Northern Uganda by the Lord's Resistance Army, the Chibok girls will be rescued, returned home and reintegrated back into the human family.

I am committed to the protection of the Nigerian people and it is my view that the people of Nigeria and others in the Lake Chad Basin in Africa should be afforded the protection they deserve and the opportunity to live their lives free of terrorism and fear.

This is why I introduced H. Res. 528, legislation that enjoyed bipartisan support of my

colleagues including Representatives CHU of California, LEE of California, DOLD of Illinois, HAHN of California, KELLY of Illinois, FUDGE of Ohio, WATSON-COLEMAN of New Jersey, SEWELL of Alabama, BROWN of Florida, THOMPSON of Mississippi and my good friend Ms. WILSON of Florida.

My resolution seeks to create a Victims of Terror Protection Fund for the protection of the Chibok girls when they return home as well as provision of much needed support for them and other displaced refugees, migrants and the victims of Boko Haram's terror such as those of the Christmastime 2015 massacres.

All persons of the world from Syria to Nigeria to Colombia and everywhere in between possess the inalienable fundamental human right to freedom of movement and full realization of their human potential without fear of violence upon their person.

Last month, in our celebrations of the United Nations Human Rights Day, the global community rededicated itself to the key International Covenants on Human Rights: the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Covenants that serve as the bedrock of the International Bill of Rights: protecting the right of all human beings.

Indeed, we must continue to fight for the freedoms of our neighbors whether those for whom we fight are out of sight such as the murdered and wounded in northeastern Nigeria or the kidnapped Chibok teenage girls or educated medical doctors fleeing violent extremism in Syria.

The bottom line is that our obligations in the human family must revolve around and be grounded in our conviction and commitment to the rights to freedom of movement, freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and the freedom from fear or terrorism, among others. We must remain steadfast in guaranteeing these fundamental freedoms and protect the human rights of all to achieve peace and prosperity in our world.

Mr. Speaker, those murdered and wounded during the Christmastime massacres included a lot of youth. When they were kidnapped, the Chibok youth were 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 year olds who are now turning 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18—living out the formative years of their lives in captivity in the claws of thugs.

Our silence is a waste of time and this is why we must keep speaking, keep tweeting, keep seeking to recover our daughters and denouncing the atrocious actions of Boko Haram.

This cannot be the fate or the end of the story of the lives of the victims of Boko Haram. We must not and cannot forget Blessing Abana, Deborah Abari, Rebecca Mallum, Naomi Luka, Esther Markus, Zara Ishaku, Ruth Joshua, Grace Paul, Rebecca Luka and the others. To the families of the Christmastime massacre, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

To the Chibok girls, notwithstanding your captivity, let me assure you that your spirits, souls and bodies are sacred to us, no matter what attacks the enemies of peace may have perpetrated upon you. Like your sister from Pakistan, Malala, who was shot in the head for seeking her education and who continues to fight for your recovery, your best days are ahead because we know that when your girls thrive our world thrives.

So let me assure you that you remain in our prayers and thoughts. To President Buhari of Nigeria, you have our support and you have my support in all your efforts to destroy and dismantle Boko Haram. To the people of Nigeria, we are counting on you to keep holding on, keep your faith strong and be assured that you are on the right side of history and that the arc of the moral universe always tips on the right side of justice.

Today, let me offer that it is important to denounce the actions of Boko Haram and recommit ourselves to the protection of the Nigerian people and the recovery of the Chibok girls.

#### HONORING DEBORAH SELIGMAN

##### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 11, 2016*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a native New Mexican and dear friend, Deborah "Deb" Seligman.

Deb can trace her New Mexican roots back to the 1800s when her ancestors owned a number of trading posts in New Mexico long before it became a state. Deb attended college at the Washington University of St. Louis and returned home to the University of New Mexico to study law—graduating in 1978. Today, she is a sole practicing attorney and represents banks and small businesses. In 2011, the New Mexico Business Weekly included her in the "Best of the Bar"—a list of the top attorneys in the state. She was recognized for her excellence in business and corporate law.

Deb is an exemplary citizen and has volunteered her time on numerous boards and charities. She is a board member of the local Casa Angelica (a home for children and young adults with developmental disabilities), the Jewish Community Center of Greater Albuquerque and the Jewish Historical Society. Deb is also the Commissioner and Chairwoman of the Village of Los Ranchos Planning and Zoning Commission. Furthermore, she is extremely generous in her donations to animal charities, including the Save the Manatees Club.

Above all, I want to honor Deb for her latest feat, running in the Chicago marathon this past year. Deb took up running about 6 years ago and has run in numerous marathons since, including the New York City, San Francisco and Phoenix races. Deb runs with Albuquerque Fit, which recently awarded her for her tremendous improvement since joining the group. In the Chicago marathon, after extensive training and a refusal to quit, Deb achieved a personal best of four hours and fifty-five minutes.

Deb and her husband, Judge Robert Mawe met in 1986 and were married three years later in 1989. Together, they are active in their community and the Democratic Party in New Mexico.

Deb is one of the most determined and generous people I have met. Nothing can stop her. I am confident that she will continue to be a leader in our community and I look forward to hearing about her continued successes in the future. Congratulations Deb.

#### NEW YORK TIMES ADDRESSES THE RACIAL WEALTH GAP

##### HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 11, 2016*

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

[From the New York Times, December 31, 2015]

#### DEBT AND THE RACIAL WEALTH GAP

(By Paul Kiel)

IF you are black, you're far more likely to see your electricity cut, more likely to be sued over a debt, and more likely to land in jail because of a parking ticket.

It is not unreasonable to attribute these perils to discrimination. But there's no question that the main reason small financial problems can have such a disproportionate effect on black families is that, for largely historical reasons rooted in racism, they have far smaller financial reserves to fall back on than white families.

The most recent federal survey in 2013 put the difference in net worth between the typical white and black family at \$131,000. That's a big number, but here's an even more troubling statistic: About one-quarter of African-American families had less than \$5 in reserve. Low-income whites had about \$375.

Any setback, from a medical emergency to the unexpected loss of hours at work, can be devastating. It means that harsh punishments for the failure to pay small debts harm black families inordinately. Sometimes, the consequence is jail. Other times, electricity is cut, or wages garnished.

The modern roots of the racial wealth gap can be traced back to the post-World War II housing boom, when federal agencies blocked loans to black Americans, locking them out of the greatest wealth accumulation this country has ever experienced. More recently, the bursting of the housing bubble and subsequent recession slammed minorities. In 2013, the median wealth of white households was 13 times the median wealth of black households, the widest gap since 1989.

Earlier this year, my colleague Annie Waldman and I took a close look at debt-collection lawsuits in three major American cities. We expected to see a pattern driven by income, with collectors and credit card lenders suing people most often in lower-income areas.

But income was just half the story. Even accounting for income, the rate of court judgments from these lawsuits was twice as high in mostly black communities as it was in mostly white ones. In some neighborhoods in Newark and St. Louis, we found more than one judgment for every four residents over a five-year period. Many were families who, knocked off their feet by medical bills or job loss or other problems, had simply been unable to recover.

When debts turn into court judgments, plaintiffs gain the power to collect by cleaning out bank accounts and seizing wages. Federal and state laws generally don't protect anyone but the poorest debtors, and because judgments are valid for a decade or more, the threat of garnishment can linger for years. The paycheck from that new job may suddenly be slashed and savings may disappear.

Sometimes the consequence of not having the money to pay a bill is immediate: The power goes out. In a 2009 national survey of lower-income households by the federal Energy Information Administration, 9 percent