

We all know that Bashar al-Assad, the President of Syria, is a brutal dictator. But this resolution's purpose is not merely to recognize him as such. Rather, it is a call to action. Specifically, it is a call to escalate our war to overthrow the Syrian government of Assad.

For the last five years, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and others have been working hand-in-hand to overthrow the Assad government, supposedly for humanitarian reasons. But how has our war to overthrow Assad helped humanity?

Hundreds of thousands of Syrians have been killed. Millions have become homeless refugees. Much of the country's infrastructure has been destroyed. Terrorist organizations like ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and others have taken over large areas of the country and are engaging in genocide. And now, the same people who are behind this war to overthrow Assad want to escalate that war, and this resolution is an attempt to gin up public support for such an escalation.

This resolution urges the Administration to create "additional mechanisms for the protection of civilians" which is coded language for the creation of a so-called "no-fly" or "safe zone." The creation of a "no fly zone" or "safe zone" in Syria would be a major escalation of the war. Such a measure would cost billions of dollars, require tens of thousands of ground troops and a massive U.S. air presence, and it won't work. Furthermore, it will likely result in a direct confrontation between the United States and Russia. Fortunately, President Obama has thus far resisted pressure to escalate the war in this way.

The fact is that the main area in Syria where Christians, Alawites, Shiites, Druze, Yazidis and other religious minorities can practice their faith without fear of persecution is in the Syrian territories where Assad maintains control. Therefore, the overthrow of Assad would worsen the genocidal activities by ISIS, al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations against Christians, Alawites, and other Syrian religious minorities.

H. Con. Res. 121 could be used to lay the groundwork for the escalation of the present U.S. military action aimed at overthrowing the Assad government.

Previous Congresses passed Iraq and Libya resolutions, which were used for remarkably similar ends in several ways. The Iraq resolution was introduced in 1998, and it called upon the United States to "take steps necessary, including the reprogramming of funds, to ensure United States support for efforts to bring Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi officials to justice."

The Libya resolution went further, urging "the United Nations Security Council to take such further action as may be necessary to protect civilians in Libya from attack, including the possible imposition of a no-fly zone over Libyan territory." Both of those statements, while not legally binding, were a part of the public campaign that were later used to build support for U.S. military action.

Similarly, H. Con. Res. 121 urging "the Administration to establish additional mechanisms for the protection of civilians and to ensure consistent and equitable access to humanitarian aid for vulnerable populations" could be used for similar ends by a future administration.

Of course, there are many differences in the Iraq, Libya and Syria conflicts, as well as the

military action taken. But if the U.S. learned nothing else in Iraq and Libya, we should have learned that toppling ruthless dictators in the Middle East creates even more human suffering and strengthens our enemy, groups like ISIS and other terrorist organizations, in those countries.

It is undeniable that in both Iraq and Libya, humanitarian conditions today are far worse than they were before those governments were overthrown, and ISIS and other terrorist organizations are more powerful, causing even more human suffering.

If the U.S. is successful in its current effort to overthrow the Syrian government of Assad, allowing ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and other terrorist groups to take over all of Syria, including the Assad-controlled areas where Christians and other religious minorities remain protected, then the United States will be morally culpable for the genocide that will result.

This is exactly what happened when we overthrew Saddam Hussein in Iraq. It is what happened in Libya when we overthrew Muammar Gaddafi. To do the same thing over and over and expect a different outcome is insanity.

HONORING BLM UKIAH FIELD DIRECTOR RICH BURNS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative GARAMENDI and Representative HUFFMAN, rise to recognize and honor Director Rich Burns for his great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds of pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain

Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with Director Burns to further our mutual goal of preserving our nation's great open spaces, and we look forward to collaborating in the future.

MILESTONES AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following biographies.

BAKER O'BRIEN

This year's Milestones Award Recipient for the Arts category is Baker O'Brien, an established world-class glass artist and long-time supporter of the arts in Toledo, Ohio. Ms. O'Brien was the sole apprentice of legendary glass-master Dominick Labino and has been mixing, melting, blowing and casting vividly colored glass for over 30 years.

Her work is part of private collections around the world, and some of the more well-known recipients of her work include Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand, Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, Former Mayor of New York City Rudy Giuliani, Dr. C. Everett Koop, China Wildlife Conservation Association of Beijing, Beijing, China, and concert pianist André Watts.

Ms. O'Brien has also donated her work to a wide variety of local organizations for fundraising. Over nearly 30 years, she has further supported the development of the arts in the Toledo area by educating docents from the Toledo Museum of Art. These docents, who are primarily women, are on the front lines of public arts education. Ms. O'Brien passionately ensures that they have correct and accurate information to pass along to museum patrons regarding both the art and science of glass. Her lectures and demonstrations include a combination of not only the science and history of glass art, but also the Labino Studio. She has served as a guest artist for the museum on numerous occasions.

Outside of her work creating and supporting the arts, Ms. O'Brien has a passion for animals and owns several horses and purebred dogs. This community is truly fortunate to have a local champion for the arts and art education.

KATHLEEN ZOUHARY

Kathleen M. Zouhary is this year's Milestones Awards Recipient for her work advancing women in Business. Ms. Zouhary is a lawyer by trade and became one of the first female partners in the law firm of Fuller and Henry in 1981.

Her distinguished legal career is punctuated by other firsts, such as becoming the first Vice-President and General Counsel for St. Luke's Hospital in Toledo. She also served as the Vice-President and General Counsel for Ohio Care Health System, Inc. Her wisdom and expertise assisted physicians, board members, and executives in fulfilling the mission of providing healthcare to Toledo-area residents. Ms. Zouhary currently owns her own business, Zouhary Dispute Resolution, which provides many forms of dispute resolution services to the financial and health care communities.

In addition to her professional work, Ms. Zouhary has served on the Susan G. Komen Board for many years, the Miami University Board of Trustees, and the Toledo Legal Aid

Society Board of Trustees. She has selflessly given her time and expertise to organizations which support health, education, and access to legal services. She has served as a mentor to other women and is known for her inspiring perseverance, patience, and professionalism in eliminating barriers to success for women of all walks of life. She is an active member of the Toledo Women's Bar Association, Ohio Women's Bar Association, and several other professional groups.

Her colleagues have described her approach as "grace under fire," and she is certainly an inspiration to business-women in the Toledo community. Ms. Zouhary's dedication and integrity make her an outstanding role model for Toledo women, including her two daughters Katie Marie and Alexis, who are now both successful attorneys in their own right.

JULIE RUBINI

Julie K. Rubini is the 2016 Milestones Award Recipient in the field of Education. She is the founder of Claire's Day, which is the largest Children's Book Festival and literacy awards program in the Toledo community.

Ms. Rubini is an author with published books such as "Hidden Ohio" and "Missing Millie Benson." Her work has provided children and families the opportunity to be lifelong readers.

Her daughter, Claim Lynsey Rubin, passed away suddenly in 2000 as a result of a rare heart condition. To honor her daughter's legacy, Ms. Rubini established Claire's Day in 2001. At that time, Claire's Day was a one-day free family book festival to encourage reading, storytelling, music and education. In 2011, in conjunction with her husband Brad, Claire's Day formed a board of trustees to provide oversight, governance, and long-term leadership for the organization. The organization has brought many female authors to speak at local schools.

In 2015, Claire's Day merged with Read for Literacy, and Ms. Rubini continues to serve on the Emeritus Board of Read for Literacy. She also volunteers her time to advance literacy programming in all of Northwest Ohio. She received the Jefferson Award for Community Service for this work. In addition, Ms. Rubini serves on Maumee City Council.

Ms. Rubini's work, both professionally and philanthropically, is dedicated to helping others and supporting literacy among children and families. Out of tragedy she was inspired to use her time, talent, and determination to support literacy in the Toledo area and beyond.

MAYOR PAULA HICKS-HUDSON

Paula Hicks-Hudson is the 2016 Milestones Awards Recipient for her contributions to Government in Toledo, Ohio. Throughout her 35-year career she has worked with underserved women in various governmental capacities, culminating in her recent role as the first African-American woman to serve as Mayor of Toledo.

Paula Hicks-Hudson's path to Mayor has consistently shown her dedication to the underrepresented populations of Toledo. She worked to protect the rights of young women and juveniles when serving as assistant Lucas County Prosecutor, Assistant Public Defender, and Assistant State Attorney General. From 1998 to 2002 she served as the Legislative Director of the Toledo City Council. Afterwards, she was the Director and Deputy Director of the Lucas County Board of Elections, ensuring access to the electoral process for Lucas County residents. Additionally, Mayor Hicks-Hudson worked as the chief legal counsel to the Ohio Office of Budget and Management under Governor Ted Strickland. She is most recently known for serving on the Toledo City Council for four years, prior to becoming Mayor of Toledo.

Outside of her contributions through her career, Mayor Hicks-Hudson has served as variety of organizations in support of women and minorities, including the Coalition for Quality Education, the NAACP, the Fredrick Douglass Community Center, the African-American Law Enforcement Agents, and the state and national Federations of Business and Professional Women, Inc. Her work has earned her recognition by the Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Outreach Program.

In addition to these roles Mayor Hicks-Hudson has also volunteered her time to the YWCA in support of empowering women. She has maintained the highest levels of service in leadership and truly improved the quality of life for all those in our community, especially women and children.

DR. PAM OATIS, MD

Dr. Pamela Oatis is this year's Milestones Award Recipient in the Sciences category, but her contributions to this area go far beyond scientific endeavors. Dr. Oatis has been a pediatrician, primary and palliative care provider for Toledo-area patients for the past 30 years.

Dr. Oatis's contributions to this area have achieved significant recognition outside of the YWCA. She was selected by the American Chapter of Pediatrics as the 2011 Outstanding Physician of the Year for the entire state of Ohio. She also developed the CATCH program, which ensures community access to child health, and provides oversight to the Healthy Tomorrow program.

She is involved in the development of medical ethics and has also led several hundred workshops, groups and classes for women's health on a national and international level. Dr. Oatis also devotes her time to teaching and providing regional leadership for Re-evaluation Counseling—a community peer listening program. In addition to this work, she was the initiating physician champion for the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children and is a certified instructor of Building Emotional Understanding from the international Hand in Hand Parenting.

Dr. Oatis, like her mother, Ruth, has been a lifelong advocate for women. She works tirelessly to advance and empower women of all ages to take charge of their health. For recreation, she competes in Olympic distance triathlons and has competed on a national and international level.

DR. CELIA WILLIAMSON

Celia Williamson, Ph.D. is the 2016 Milestones Awards recipient in the field of Social Services. Dr. Williamson received her B.A. in Social Work from the University of Toledo, and went on to earn a Masters Degree in the field from Case Western Reserve University as well as her Ph.D from Indiana University. She has used this training to devote the past 20 years toward responding to social injustice, particularly the abuses of women who are victims of human trafficking.

Dr. Williamson founded the first anti-trafficking program in Ohio in 1993, long before the human trafficking conversation came to the forefront. As a social worker, Dr. Williamson founded the Second Chance program, now known as RISE, in Lucas County. RISE continues to work with women and girls who were victims of the human trafficking industry. Her academic work includes 9 completed studies, 17 articles, and 2 edited books on sex trafficking. Her work was recognized via federal funding from 2002 through 2012 to conduct research in this area. In fact, she has been awarded research grants totaling over \$1 million to assist vulnerable women and trafficked youth.

As an activist and community organizer, Dr. Williamson founded the International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference, and chairs the Research and Anal-

ysis Subcommittee for the Ohio Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission. Her devotion to helping the most vulnerable women in our community is undeniable, as she was instrumental in securing an FBI task force in Lucas County to address the issue of rescuing children from Toledo's sex trade. Dr. Williamson also devotes her time to teaching interns who are interested in addressing the issue of human trafficking, and she has been a lifelong educator on oppression and social justice.

Dr. Williamson has received much recognition for her work in social services, and truly embodies the YWCA's mission. Her work to address the issue of "modern slavery" through human trafficking has cemented her status as an inspiration to women in Toledo and throughout the country.

ADRIENNE GREEN

This year's Milestones Award recipient for Volunteerism is Adrienne Green. Ms. Green was selected for her outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in raising awareness about the importance of volunteerism in the Toledo community.

Although Ms. Green is not originally from Toledo, she is deeply passionate about the impact volunteers play in improving the lives of Toledo-area residents, especially women in need, and has consistently demonstrated her commitment by serving in a variety of volunteer leadership roles. For example, Ms. Green has had an active role in the ProMedica Toledo Hospital board, the Women's Initiative of the United Way, Read for Literacy, Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity, Toledo Chapter of the Links, Zonta Club Toledo I, International, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Many of these endeavors overlap with the mission of the YWCA by providing services and opportunities for women, especially those with limited resources. In addition to this work, Ms. Green works as a project manager at Owens Corning. She has consistently been willing to take on difficult tasks to support the community when others may be reluctant to do so. Her friends and colleagues have described her as "always helping someone, without hesitation." In 2015, she served on the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio Women of Distinction Committee, which selects exceptional women honorees leading the way for future female leaders.

Ms. Green is a role model for women everywhere, proving that one can combine both professional and philanthropic goals to help her community. She is truly a leader by example and has generously invested her time and resources to support volunteer efforts in Toledo and beyond.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RUTH REVELS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 21, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ruth Revels who passed away on March 14, 2016, at the age of 79. Throughout her life, Mrs. Revels was an unwavering advocate for the Lumbee Tribe and American Indians in the state of North Carolina, and she will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. I send my prayers and sincerest condolences to Mrs. Revels' family and the entire Lumbee Tribe during this difficult time.

Mrs. Revels was born in Robeson County, North Carolina during the 1940's, a period that