

The many dedicated board members, directors, volunteers, and staff over the years have made it an exceptional organization of critical importance to our state. I would like to thank current Executive Director Tod Story for his leadership and tireless work on behalf of the ACLU and people of Nevada.

I would also like to recognize the 50th anniversary celebration honorees: Jan Jones Blackhurst, Paula Francis, Colin Seale, Sheila Leslie, and Richard Siegel. Thank you for being champions of democracy and for your years of service to Nevada promoting justice, free speech, individual rights, and progressive leadership.

Congratulations on 50 years of great work. Thank you for your contributions to our community, and here's to 50 more years defending the rights and liberties of Nevadans. Count on me to be your friend and advocate in Washington.

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HONORING MS. NETTIE JACKSON  
UPON HER RETIREMENT

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**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Nettie Jackson who has dedicated her life to helping folks live healthier lives. Ms. Jackson is retiring today after 25 years of service at the American Heart Association.

Her list of accomplishments is long, including 12 years of participation in my annual health fair. She has been involved in key legislation in Georgia including the Georgia Smoke Free Act and the Automated Defibrillator Public Access Law. She's been involved in lowering the instances and causes of strokes by bringing in National Ambassadors for the Organization for the Power to End Stroke Cause Initiative, facilitating the AHA/ASA First Power Awards in Atlanta, and leading receptions to bring Power to End Stroke Ambassadors together from all over the Southeast United States. She helped coordinate the "Straight From The Heart: Sister To Sister Conference", and Walking for Wellness hosted at Spelman College among other conferences and workshops for healthcare professionals.

She has been recognized for her outstanding work with several awards including: NAACP State Conference Woman of Distinction, Concerned Black Clergy Community Service Award, Morehouse School of Medicine Inaugural Torch Awards, Georgia Ethnic Health Network Advocacy Award, Georgia Secretary of State Outstanding Citizen Award and the American Heart Association's Rome Betts Award which is the National Staff of Excellence Award. She will be missed by the many people whose lives she has touched, but her retirement is certainly well earned.

I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Nettie Jackson for her many great works and to wish her a wonderful retirement.

HONORING MAYOR RAMSAY

**HON. CARLOS CURBELO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of one of Monroe County's most respected and decent public servants. Richard "Dick" Ramsay, a former Marathon mayor and city councilman, small-business owner and airplane pilot, passed away on June 2nd at the age of 74.

A true visionary that worked tirelessly to better his community, Mayor Ramsay played a pivotal role in the incorporation of Marathon, FL. He possessed a genuine passion for the Florida Keys, passion that was reflected in his dedication to public service.

When Dick moved to Marathon, he purchased Surfside gas station near the Vaca Cut Bridge. Upon retirement is when Dick decided to become active with municipal issues.

Dick's contributions to Marathon are both significant and extensive. He served three two-year terms on the City Counsel and expressed great interest in issues concerning Marathon Florida Keys International Airport. One of his many successful projects was the newly installed U.S. Customs and Border Protection Facility, which now allows international flights to clear U.S. Customs in Marathon for the first time in decades.

Beloved by his family, his friends, and his community, Dick Ramsay will be dearly missed by all. I am honored to have been able to call him my friend. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Ramsay family and the Florida Keys for the loss of such an active and caring member of the community.

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CELEBRATING LGBT PRIDE MONTH

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**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the continued struggle for LGBT equality as we celebrate National LGBT Pride Month this month.

I am, and will continue to be, an ally of the LGBT community in its fight for a more equal and just future. LGBT rights are human rights and our diversity of identities and experiences makes us a stronger and more dynamic nation.

I remember just 20 years ago standing in the House chamber voicing my strong opposition to and voting against the Defense of Marriage Act. A lot has changed since that vote, and marriage equality is now the law of the land.

Despite that progress, LGBT individuals are still marginalized and discriminated against every day. And so our fight for equality continues. A couple weeks ago, I visited Highland Park, in my district, the 6th District of New Jersey, where the Board of Education unanimously voted for a policy ensuring transgender rights. The new policy—one of the strongest and most inclusive policies in the country—protects transgender students' privacy and allows all students to access school bathrooms, locker rooms, and programs based

on their affirmed gender. I am proud to represent such an inclusive and accepting community.

So as we in Congress work to pass critical legislation—such as the Equality Act, which would include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes in much of our civil rights legislation—to promote a more equal society, I will continue to recognize the voices and people in the towns and cities I represent, who fight hard every day to build more open and accepting neighborhoods and communities.

I stand with the LGBT community in New Jersey—and across the country—in celebrating diversity and equality and in reaffirming the commitment to secure a future free of irrational fear, prejudice, and discrimination.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably detained on June 8th, and I was not present for Roll call number 276. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 7, I missed Roll Call Votes 269 through 272 due to my necessary attendance in my district attending to representational duties. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On Roll Call 269, I would have voted yes. (H. Con. Res. 129—Expressing support for the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to reaffirm its commitment to through a financial commitment to address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims)

On Roll Call 270, I would have voted yes. (H.R. 4906—To amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify the eligibility of employees of a land management agency in a time-limited appointment to compete for a permanent appointment at any Federal agency, and for other purposes (Rep. CONNOLLY—Oversight and Government Reform))

On Roll Call 271, I would have voted yes. (H.R. 4904—Making Electronic Government Accountable By Yielding Tangible Efficiencies Act of 2016 (Rep. CARTWRIGHT—Oversight and Government Reform))

On Roll Call 272, I would have voted yes. (H.R. 1815—Eastern Nevada Land Implementation Improvement Act (Rep. HARDY—Natural Resources))

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, 2016, while I was in an office meeting, the legislative signal bells in my office malfunctioned due to a loose electrical connection, and neither I nor my staff accompanying me knew that a vote had been called. The Architect of the Capitol's Electrical Engineering Branch later repaired the signal bells.

If present, I would have voted "no" on H. Res. 735.

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**CONCERNS ABOUT TURKISH CIVIL SOCIETY****HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of concern for the welfare of

one of our most important NATO allies; the Republic of Turkey. I need not remind this House that Turkey is an indispensable ally in the fight against ISIL, and the effort to restore stability in the Middle East. Nor do I need to remind the members of this body that Turkey bears a burden of biblical proportions as it struggles to safely host almost three million refugees while simultaneously defending against an unprecedented wave of terror attacks. The geopolitical vicissitudes in Turkey's vicinity present the most serious challenge to Turkish territorial integrity since the founding of the Republic.

However, history has consistently shown that great civilizations do not fall to outside forces unless they are rife with internal turmoil. Under its current leadership, Turkey has regrettably embarked in a troubling direction. Once considered the shining example of a vibrant democracy with the potential to mediate between the Middle East and West, crack-downs on civil society under President Erdogan have forced many of us to reassess the nature of our countries' partnership. Repressive policies against political opposition, journalists, and women rights advocates constitute just a few of these concerns. Questionable use of antiterrorism laws to molest finan-

cial institutions, corporations, and academics associated with political opposition such as the Gulen movement raise concerns about Turkey's continued commitment to democratic principles. In a robust republic, civic organizations such as the Gulen movement cannot and should not be designated as terrorist organizations without evidence for the sake of political expediency.

There can be no doubt about America's continued commitment to defend our NATO allies; nor can we forget the substantial military buildup in Armenia, where Putin has deployed advanced fighter aircraft and attack helicopters just 25 miles from the Turkish border. This is the same NATO border that Russian military aircraft have regularly violated, culminating in the downing of a Russian bomber by Turkish defense forces. However, we must not forget the prerequisite requirements to be a member of the NATO alliance; that each member of the alliance be "determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law." It is my hope that President Erdogan's administration will remember this commitment to democratic principles even in the face of regional instability.