

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on July 26, 2017, I missed ten recorded votes on the House floor due to family commitments. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call 416, NO on Roll Call 417, NO on Roll Call 418, NO on Roll Call 419, NO on Roll Call 420, NO on Roll Call 421, NO on Roll Call 422, NO on Roll Call 423, NO on Roll Call 424, and YEA on Roll Call 425.

JOHN MILLER RETIRES FROM THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of John Miller, who retired from his position as the U.S. Forest Service Public Affairs Officer for the San Bernardino National Forest on July 31, 2017.

My office has had the pleasure of working with John over the past four and a half years. On numerous occasions, John demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond to serve my constituents and forest visitors. He has repeatedly shown his dedication to the Forest Service's mission and has been instrumental in balancing multiple and sometimes competing uses of the most heavily urbanized forest in the nation.

In addition to his work as a Public Affairs Officer, John was the Public Information Officer for a Federal Interagency Management Team, and served on the U.S. Forest Service Honor Guard. John is a true professional in every sense of the word, and I wish him the best of luck as he embarks on a new chapter in his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for Roll Call votes 416 and 417 on July 26, 2017, and Roll Call votes 426 through 433 on July 27, 2017. Had I been present, my votes would have been the following: Aye on Roll Call votes 430, 431, 432, 433, and Nay on Roll call votes 416, 417, 426, 427, 428, and 429.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF U.S. ARMY SERGEANT JONATHON MICHAEL HUNTER

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of U.S. Army Ser-

geant Jonathon Michael Hunter, who was killed in the line of duty on Wednesday, August 2, 2017, in Afghanistan.

Jonathon graduated from Columbus East High School in 2011 and went on to study music at Indiana State University on an ROTC scholarship. After a year at Indiana State, Jonathon returned home to work and decided to follow his family's military tradition by joining the U.S. Army on April 8, 2014. Jonathon was in the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and was deployed to Afghanistan on July 1, 2017. He earned his Expert Infantryman Badge and was recently promoted to sergeant.

Jonathon is survived by his wife, Whitney Michelle Hunter, and parents, Mark Hunter, Kimberly Thompson and step-father Brian Thompson, to whom I extend my deepest sympathies.

On behalf of all Hoosiers, I thank Sergeant Hunter for his service and sacrifice to our nation. He represented his community, state, and country, with honor and dignity. We continue to pray for his family, friends, and all who knew Jonathon. Our hearts are with you. His service and sacrifice will always be remembered.

HONORING SHEILA REINHOLD AND RICHARD SACKS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two individuals who have become pillars of the Riverdale community. As active members Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale, Sheila Reinhold and Richard Sacks have helped CSAIR grow by leaps and bounds for over 20 years. It's no wonder why CSAIR has chosen to honor them with the Hazon Award at this year's Spring Gala.

Sheila and Richard moved to Riverdale in 1991 with their children Eli, Rachel and Deborah. They took different paths to CSAIR involvement. Sheila grew up in Manhattan in a Modern Orthodox home with Holocaust survivor parents from Belgium. A natural violinist, at age 15 she went to Los Angeles to study with world-famous violinist Jascha Heifetz, with whom she worked—and had all her Seders—for five years while living with a non-Jewish host family. She then moved to Cambridge and was a Resident Musician at Harvard, where she had the opportunities to reimmerse herself in Judaism, and where she met Richard whose Jewish trajectory had been rather different.

Richard grew up in Albany in a secular family, never had a bar mitzvah ceremony, and never attended a Shabbat service from the age of 14 through graduate school—even when he and Sheila were dating, though he used to walk her to Shabbat services. They were married in 1977, and moved to NYC in 1978 when Richard finished his PhD and began teaching at Columbia, where he specializes in ancient myth and literature. He also regularly teaches Columbia's core great books course for first-year students, and it was this course that gave him his first experience of the joys of teaching biblical texts. Couple that

with Sheila and all three children loving both CSAIR and talking Torah, and Richard's fate was sealed.

At CSAIR, their shared passion has been the quiet mitzvah of helping with shiva needs and logistics. They both have served on various committees as well. Sheila frequently plays violin at CSAIR's Yom Hashoah observance, and she has brought her performing career to CSAIR as founder and music director of Intimate Voices. Richard served a term as CSAIR's Treasurer and loves giving divrei Torah. CSAIR is fortunate to have two such devoted members. Congratulations to them on this great honor.

THE CONSTITUTION TRUMPS THE PRESIDENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2017, with his right hand placed on the historic Lincoln Bible, Donald Trump uttered the most important sentence of his life: "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

These 35 words—spoken verbatim by every U.S. President at their inauguration—have achieved a hallowed status in our nation's collective memory and psyche.

These 35 words have immense symbolic meaning, but they also possess real power.

They are enshrined in Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution, the blueprint for our democratic system of government and the founding document upon which our society is built.

They bind their speaker in an oath to uphold the Chief Office of the Executive Branch of the United States.

These 35 words state, in the starkest of terms, the two fundamental duties of the President: to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed" and to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution.

Before January 20, 2017, every President, from George Washington to Barack Obama, had served in elected office or the military, held a government position, or been a member of the bar prior to entering the Oval Office.

Before January 20, 2017, Donald Trump had never been elected to public office, nor served in the military, nor held a position in the government, nor been admitted to practice law before the bar.

This is noteworthy because it means that in his 70 years of living, Donald Trump had never taken a public oath to uphold the Constitution before January 20, 2017.

During his campaign, Trump often touted his lack of political experience as a strength.

Since January 20, however, it has become increasingly obvious that Trump's career as a real estate mogul, television personality, and owner of the Miss Universe beauty pageant has left him wholly unequipped to grasp the full weight, scope, meaning of—and the obligations he assumed in taking—the Presidential Oath of Office.

It is the solemn duty of the President to exercise his authority consistent with the Constitution and in a manner that supports and strengthens the rule of law.

The Constitution imposes on the Congress the responsibility to hold the Chief Executive accountable if he abuses his powers.

Such is the genius of the Framers who created the system of separated powers and checks and balances that are the hallmark of our Constitution.

Congress, especially the House of Representatives, is the political branch of the government closest to the people; therefore, if the President is called upon to answer for abuses of power, he answers to the Congress acting on behalf of the American people.

As a senior member of Congress and the House Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security, I am ever mindful of my responsibility to preserve and protect the pillars of our democracy.

I answer to my constituents directly and indirectly to all Americans, and my public actions are constrained by my fidelity to the rule of law.

Donald Trump, unfortunately, has yet to grasp this fact or accept these democratic constraints.

This President has repeatedly acted out his selfish desire to discredit or eliminate an official investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 Presidential election—as evidenced by his firing of former FBI Director James Comey and his contemplated dismissal of Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

These actions illustrate a fundamental misunderstanding of, and brazen disregard for, the rule of law, checks and balances, and separation of powers that define our democracy.

If Donald Trump fires Special Counsel Mueller, he will set into motion a sequence of events eerily reminiscent of one of the darkest chapters in our nation's history—the Watergate scandal of 1974.

In particular, Donald Trump will be reenacting the Saturday Night Massacre, when Richard Nixon's order to fire special prosecutor Archibald Cox led to the resignations of Attorney General Elliott Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William French Smith.

The public reaction and congressional response to the Saturday Night Massacre was swift: numerous resolutions of impeachment were quickly introduced in Congress, and just nine months later, the House Judiciary Committee approved articles of impeachment charging Nixon with obstruction of justice.

As the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, it is my job to take a proactive stance on presidential abuses of power that violate the Constitution and threaten our democracy.

I am not alone in my grave concern about this President's attempts to circumvent the investigation into the tacit or active involvement of his campaign in activities of entities allied with the Russian Government to influence the outcome of the 2016 presidential election.

With each passing day, the Special Counsel, journalists, Members of Congress in both Chambers and on both sides of the aisle, and ordinary Americans are coming closer to connecting all the dots.

For this reason, I have introduced H. Res. 474, a resolution condemning any action by

this President to remove Special Counsel Mueller, impede his investigation, or pardon any person for offenses against the United States arising out of Russia's meddling in the 2016 Presidential Election.

U.S. Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM has stated his intention to introduce legislation in the Senate making the firing of a Special Counsel appointed to investigate a president or his staff subject to judicial review.

The message to the President is clear and unmistakable: if he takes any action to hinder the Special Counsel's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, he will provoke a bipartisan backlash and be met with a proportionate congressional response to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2017, Donald Trump took an oath—the first of his life—to preserve and protect the Constitution and to take care that our nation's laws are faithfully executed.

We, the American people, must all do our part to hold him to his word.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on July 28, 2017, I missed three recorded votes on the House floor due to family commitments. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 436, YEA on Roll Call 437, and YEA on Roll Call 438.

HONORING ERICA AND EPHRAIM EDELMAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Conservative Synagogue Aduveth Israel of Riverdale is fortunate to have two members, Ephraim and Erica Edelman, who have displayed a deep commitment and passion to the CSAIR community. It is no wonder why they are being honored with the Chai Award at this year's Spring Gala.

Ephraim and Erica came to Judaism in different ways, and to CSAIR almost accidentally. As a youth, Erica led junior services, spent summers at Camp Ramah and worked in the synagogue's Hebrew School. After attending public schools, Erica felt a need for more Jewish education, and therefore, she enrolled in List College where she received a degree in Tanach from JTS and a degree in Religion from Columbia University, followed by her Masters in Education from Hofstra University. Ephraim also went to Camp Ramah and spent Shabbat at shul surrounded by a small posse of friends, reading Torah and contributing to the service from the time he was ten years old. He went to Binghamton University and found his way into the Business School and received an MBA from Columbia University. Indeed, Camp Ramah brought Erica and Ephraim together. The two met on staff at

Ramah while Erica was in college and Ephraim had already graduated. They married and moved to Riverdale in 2002, where they joined CSAIR.

The Edelmanns' involvement in CSAIR, substantial from the start, has grown over the years. Ephraim served on the Ritual Committee and often volunteered to leyn or serve as shomer; Erica led the Young Family Children's Program, creating and illustrating one of her proudest accomplishments, the "Siddur," which is still used today. Erica teaches Kindergarten at SAR Academy, where their three children, Avishai 13, Nadiv, 11, and Shefa, 8, attend. Ephraim joined the Board of Trustees, the Finance Committee, and has served as CSAIR Treasurer for the last four years.

Few have done more or been more committed to CSAIR over the years than Erica and Ephraim. They are most deserving of this wonderful honor.

FRANK ROBINSON RETIRES AS APPLE VALLEY TOWN MANAGER

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary career of Apple Valley Town Manager Frank Robinson, who officially retired from his position on July 30, 2017.

Since his hiring by the Town of Apple Valley, California in 2008, Frank worked diligently to make Apple Valley's motto of "A Better Way of Life" a reality for the citizens he served. During his tenure, a number of crucial Town projects were completed, including a state-of-the-art animal shelter, Development Services Building, and the installation of renewable energy sources to power municipal buildings. Perhaps Frank's most important accomplishment, however, was construction of the Yucca Loma Bridge, which will significantly ease traffic congestion throughout the Victor Valley.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Frank for allowing my district office staff to work out of the Apple Valley Town Hall for the past four years. He has been a gracious host and I cannot thank him enough. While Frank's leadership and vision will be missed, perhaps the greatest loss will be his penchant for always having the perfect joke ready to go. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to wish Frank and his wife, Lisa, the happiest of retirements as they enter this new chapter of their lives.

RECOGNIZING TROY FERGUSON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Troy Ferguson, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, a caring and compassionate servant to the people of Oregon's 2nd District, a leader amongst Team Walden, and a man that I am honored to call a friend.