

But sadly, the presidential leadership we have taken for granted has been absent since January 20, 2017 and is nowhere to be seen in the aftermath of domestic terror attack that occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 12, 2017.

That act of domestic terrorism claimed the life of Heather Heyer, a 32-year old paralegal who was killed for standing up to the hatred she saw marching on her hometown.

Let us be clear: The President is wrong; “many sides” were not to blame for what took place in Charlottesville.

There were the neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klansmen, and white supremacists chanting blood-curdling slogans steeped in racism and anti-Semitism, and then there was everyone else. “Many sides” did not ram a vehicle at high speed into a crowd of innocent people, killing Heather Heyer and injuring 20 other persons; but a domestic terrorist and white supremacist did.

Mr. Speaker, the neo-Nazis and white supremacists came to Charlottesville to advocate hate, division, and racial superiority.

They were met by persons of goodwill who gathered to affirm racial unity and the equality of all persons ordained by the Creator.

One group idolized the most evil war criminal in human history; the other shared and is committed to making real the dream of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It is absolutely shameful that anyone—and especially the President of the United States—would try to draw a moral equivalence between the two groups.

If there was even a shred of hope or optimism that perhaps this President would recognize and temper the animus that has been unleashed since he announced his candidacy, that hope vanished in the wake of the unhinged press conference he held Tuesday, August 15, at Trump Tower in New York City.

Before that date, never before in history had a President of the United States, the nation that led the alliance that defeated Nazism and fascism in the greatest conflict in world history, ever publicly defended or tried to normalize neo-Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, or white supremacists.

Civil action in support of racial justice is worthy of praise, and civil action in support of white supremacy is worthy of nothing but condemnation.

I urge all Members, especially those of the Party of Lincoln, to join me in repudiating the President's suggestion that there is a moral equivalence between neo-Nazis and Klansmen advocating racial separation and white supremacy and protesters opposing that evil, racist ideology.

If the President cannot recognize this difference, then it is time for a new President.

RECOGNIZING JOHN MORRIS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Supervisory Special Agent John “Jack” Morris, a Unit Chief with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), who has proudly served the people of the

United States in federal law enforcement for over twenty-nine years.

On August 8, 1988, after graduating from The New York State University College at Oneonta, Jack began a 29-year career with the legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service, and later HSI. As a Special Agent in New York City from 1988 until 2004, Jack earned the New York Law Enforcement Investigator of the Year Award in 2001 and the U.S. Attorney's Director's Award in 2002. In 2004, Jack was promoted to the position of Supervisory Special Agent in Newark, New Jersey, where he worked with distinction until accepting a position in 2010 at HSI Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Since moving to Washington, Jack has served in various HSI positions, including Program Manager, Section Chief, Special Assistant to the Director, and Chief of the Public Safety Unit. He was also a Congressional Detailee in my office where he worked on a variety of issues, including Immigration, Homeland Security, border issues, and constituent requests.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize and honor Jack Morris for his many years of service to the United States of America.

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH MESA LAB

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, in the foothills of the beautiful Boulder Flatirons stands a building that has been a beacon of exemplary research, groundbreaking discoveries, and an icon of the American spirit of research. I speak of course of the National Center for Atmospheric Research Mesa Lab, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2017.

The breathtaking design was crafted by I.M. Pei, the legendary Chinese-American architect. Pei's previous work in the urban jungle is apparent in the looming concrete 5 story towers that comprise the Mesa Lab. The bush-hammering technique that is used throughout the building offers a roughness to the exterior while the pinkish aggregate mined in Lyons, CO helps the complex blend into the surrounding Flatirons.

The NCAR Mesa Lab is home to 330 world-class scientists. These pioneers work every day to fulfill the vision of NCAR's founder, Walter Orr Roberts. Blazing new trails in human understanding, atmospheric science, climate change research, solar astronomy and much more, the scientists at NCAR are an interwoven part of the Boulder community.

On behalf of my constituents I offer gratitude to have this facility and everything it stands for be a part of our family and acknowledge that though the research they have produced yields global benefit, we recognize that those benefits are only a small payment on the debt we owe for having such a fantastic asset as part of our home.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD & LIBBY HILL, AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, this is a love story. In 1965 a young man from Texas—his name was Howard—graduated from the Air Force Academy. While he was in pilot training at Eglin Air Force Base near Niceville, Florida, he won the heart of a girl named Elizabeth. And, as happens in many love stories, Howard and Libby became Lieutenant and Mrs. Hill on August 15, 1967. Fifty years ago.

Howard said he and Libby had “fourteen beautiful days together.” And then, called by his country, he was flying combat missions over Vietnam. Within two months, his bravery, valor and achievement in battle had earned him the first of two Silver Stars he would be awarded. But four months and one day after their marriage, Howard was shot down and became a prisoner of war in the infamous Hanoi Hilton.

Lots of marriages have stress. Lots of love stories have drama. But the young marriage of Howard and Libby Hill was tested in a way few of us will ever experience—by torture and cruelty for Howard, never knowing and always fearing the worst for Libby, and by lonely waiting for five years for them both. But theirs was a love that only grew stronger under pressure—love for each other and love for their country. During Howard's time as a POW, Libby even helped other POW wives and organized support for POW/MIA families.

If the World War II generation was the greatest generation, Howard and Libby Hill and the Vietnam soldiers and their families were the toughest generation. Vietnam veterans were too often unappreciated, often shunned, sometimes spat upon by the country they gave themselves to defend. But nothing could break Howard and Libby Hill's devotion to America and to each other.

When Howard was free and home, he and Libby made a commitment to stay in the Air Force, to continue to serve their country. They stayed in uniform for 18 more years. They reared three exceptional children—their daughter BethAnn and their sons John and David.

And when they retired from active service in 1990 after his singular service as the Principal Advisor to the Secretary of Defense on POW/MIA issues, Howard was a colonel with a chestful of proof that he is one of America's best: two Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Legion of Merit, eight Air Medals, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, the Defense Superior Service Medal and many more.

They came home to my hometown of Niceville, Florida. They served their community like they served their country. From nothing, Howard started a youth soccer program. Every year he recruits 200 volunteers, organizes and manages 100 teams, gives thousands of kids a chance to compete and grow, and Howard and Libby make sure that many, many boys and girls who have no money, no family support always have uniforms and shoes and a ride home. Today, our town calls our youth soccer fields “The Hill,” officially named the Howard Hill Community Soccer Complex in honor of a hero of our country and a hero of our community.

In fourteen years of serving as a county-wide elected member of our School Board, never once in any campaign material did Howard Hill ever brag about his military service, his and Libby's sacrifices. But we knew.

Libby volunteered to help with everything, including founding and leading the Silver Sands Republican Women. When I asked the community leaders who had meant the most to me in my growing up to serve on the Academy Selection Board to choose the best young women and young men to be appointed to our military academies, I chose Libby Hill, a mentor and model to a generation of young people.

Mr. Speaker, I told you this is a love story. Two young people who love their country and gave themselves to it for their whole lives. A woman and a man who love each other and have given themselves to their children and to their community and to each other for fifty years.

Happy anniversary, Howard and Libby. We love you.

RECOGNIZING THE KILMARNOCK
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
FOR HOSTING THE 82ND
KILMARNOCK VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT CARNIVAL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department and their efforts in the community in hosting the Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department Carnival.

This year marks the 82 year anniversary of what some Virginians recognize as the longest continually operating summer carnival in the state. For generations, the Carnival has represented the premier event of the summer in the Northern Neck for children of all ages. Whether it is riding "Big Eli" or enjoying some of the famous hot dogs, this community jewel provides for many throughout the Northern Neck a chance to come together and celebrate time with family and friends.

I want to thank the Kilmarnock Fire Department for their tireless work in keeping this event running since 1935. I also, would like to thank the over 200 volunteers it takes each night to run the Carnival.

CELEBRATING THE 82ND AIR-
BORNE DIVISION ON NATIONAL
AIRBORNE DAY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the airborne forces as they celebrate National Airborne Day.

El Paso, Texas—on August 16, 1940, the Army conducted their first test platoon jump. The idea of dropping paratroopers in combat zones behind enemy lines was first conceived by Brigadier General William Mitchell. With his

guidance and leadership the first combat jump was conducted by members of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment in 1942 during WWII in North Africa. Since this successful drop, our airborne forces have become a critical component of our military.

Our airborne forces have dropped into the most intense combat the world has ever seen. Some of their most notable engagements have been the D-Day invasion at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge, the invasion of Southern France. Without the invention of the airborne, our armed forces would have been at a disadvantage during many of our major conflicts.

The 82nd Airborne Division is headquartered right here in North Carolina at Fort Bragg. The Division was incorporated in the National Army on August 5, 1917, to support the entry of the United States into World War I. The 82nd Airborne Division was nicknamed the "All American Division" as a result of the spirit and diverse group of soldiers from all across the United States. The 82nd Airborne was the first division to be designated as an Airborne Division.

Part of the XVIII Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne Division is the Nation's Global Response Force and can mobilize, load, and land anywhere in the world in less than 36 hours to perform combat operations, assist United States allies, and provide humanitarian aid. The 82nd Airborne has participated in nearly every major United States conflict around the world since its inception. Some of the most notable engagements have been the Battle of Lorraine in World War I, Operation Overlord in Normandy, France in World War II, responding to the Tet Offensive during the Vietnam War, liberating Kuwait as one of the first units to engage in Operation Desert Storm, and supporting relief efforts after the devastating Hurricane Katrina.

The continued success of our airborne forces has allowed the United States to become the global fighting force it is today. Our men and women in uniform represent the best our nation has to offer and I am proud to represent a district that has a strong military presence and is home to some of the bravest patriots in the country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the soldiers of our airborne forces for their service and commitment to protecting the United States.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LAPD
DETECTIVE SHA'QUANA HALL-
POUNDERS

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the accomplishments and service of Los Angeles Police Department Detective Sha'Quana Hall-Pounders.

One of the few Black women to reach the rank of Chief Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Sha'Quana Hall-Pounders delivered security and threat assessment briefings to senior Pentagon officials. As a law-enforcement officer, then-Special Agent Hall-Pounders served to protect senior White House officials

at important events in our nation's capital and abroad. On returning to Los Angeles after her military service, Ms. Hall-Pounders joined the Los Angeles Police Department, where she has served on the LAPD Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Residing in the Baldwin Vista neighborhood of my district, Ms. Hall-Pounders has sought out opportunities to make a difference in the lives of her fellow Angelenos. She has assisted senior citizens and first time voters with both registration and voter education. Along with her daughter, she regularly hosts tennis clinics for young men and women in the Crenshaw District. The pair also organize educational and recreational excursions for underserved and special-needs youth in Watts, aiming to help them see a world beyond the borders of their own neighborhoods.

I appreciate her service to our country and to the communities of the 37th Congressional District of California, and I wish her continued success in her career as an LAPD officer and a leader in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CRAIG
WRIGHT, RECIPIENT OF THE
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 2016 Emergency Medical Services Provider of the Year, Craig Wright.

Mr. Wright currently works at the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay Fire Department, where he exhibits his heroism and humility on a daily basis. His individual actions have had positive and substantial impacts on the residents of Kings Bay.

Mr. Wright attributes his success to the unity experienced among him and his co-workers in the fire department, stating that nothing he "did individually can't be contributed to the whole team." The resulting feeling of family between the Kings Bay fire fighters yielded a Fire Department of the Year award, for the fifth year in a row. Again, Mr. Wright and all of the fire fighters emphasized their camaraderie and loyalty as the keys to their success.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Craig Wright for his service to the Kings Bay Fire Department and to his fellow fire fighters. His commitment has strengthened the community and all of its members.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE T.
FARRELL

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of our 18th District community, Mr. George T. Farrell, who has been working diligently to engage minority voices in the electoral process through education, communication and active involvement in community events.