

Macon County Board from 1971 to 72. As Chairman, he commissioned and created the Macon County flag and seal and instituted their display in the county's courtrooms. He was a part of over twenty community organizations and committees, including the Lincoln Trails Council for Boy Scouts, Optimist Club, Elks Club, the Metro Decatur Chamber of Commerce, and the YMCA.

I am thankful for the many contributions Rex made to the Central Illinois community during his lifetime. He has made an impact on many people and will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Marilyn, and their family during this time.

THE HEARTS OF TEXAS ARE UPON US

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my neighbors in South Texas who continue to experience the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. Our hearts and prayers go out to all of those families for their lost loved ones and those who have been displaced by the storm. We stand with Texas this day and every day. I include in the RECORD this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

The Hearts of Texas are upon us
All here to so remind us
All in our hearts to so find us
All in what we do in our time this
As their faith and hope,
and compassion come into view
Reminding us what is true
All in this land of that old Red, White, and,
Blue
For in this our country tis a thee
There has and will always be
Such men and women of great faith as these
Who bond together all in their darkest times
of need
Who built The West all in this creed
While, against all odds helping this Nation
to succeed
And that's what Texas has always been
agreed
So means to me
Neighbor helping neighbor continually
Who are color blind and can not see
Brothers and Sisters reaching out a hand in
their time of need
With smiles upon the faces in what their love
begins to breed
Built on the bedrock of God, Country, and
cherished Family
Shining throughout this day across our
country tis of thee
Teaching us what we need
Catching on from sea to sea
Like The Cajun Navy who they helped in the
midst of their tragedy
Showing us that giving is better than taking
As this giant heart we call Texas has so
awakened
With another heroic chapter written in their
history
Whether, remembering The Alamo,
in times of war Texas has always battled for
victory
And that's why everything is bigger in Texas
you see
As Hearts of Texas are upon you and me
So clearly on this day for the world to see
Teach your children about them and what a
real American can be

All in their most patriotic hearts which
bleed
Red, White, and Blue
For what is true
In Texas today you're watching some of
America's real Who's Who
As TEXAS STRONG comes into view
Yea, The Hearts of Texas are upon us
To teach us all and to so remind us
About faith and courage, and how not to be
discouraged and make it through
All in this wonderful nexus that we call
Texas True Of God, Family, and Coun-
try in all they do
And yes there will be many dark days ahead
For all those who have died and bled
With homes and lives ripped apart let it be
said
But in America,
Texas Faith and their pioneer spirit has al-
ways led
With their hearts to get through the storms
Take a knee now and say a prayer for them
all so very warm
And remember all the courage and faith and
humanity which will live on
And what the human spirit can accomplish
in hearts so worn
All in their most heroic Texan hue
All in their lessons they have taught to me
and you
Bringing our Nation together,
all in this beautiful song of Texas Strong
they do
Because, on this day we understand what is
True,
as The Hearts of Texas are upon us for all to
view.

HONORING ERNEST FREDERICK SCHOWENGERDT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ernest Frederick Schowengerdt. Mr. Schowengerdt, a World War II veteran, is celebrating his 95th birthday on September 2, 2017.

In 1944, Mr. Schowengerdt joined the Navy to become a pilot and serve his country during World War II. After his discharge in 1945 he continued his passion for flying and got his pilot's and aircraft mechanic's licenses at the Lambert Field Airport in St. Louis. He also continued helping at his family farm in Chamois, Missouri, until the Missouri River's flooding took its toll in 1958. Mr. Schowengerdt continued his career as a plant engineer for the Central Electric Power Plant and later as the Director of Plant Management for Lake Ozark General Hospital where he worked with the Missouri Hospital Association and Nuclear Energy Commission in disposing of hazardous and radioactive wastes.

Mr. Schowengerdt has had many life-long interests and passions. He has been involved in music for 76 years, playing numerous band instruments. Mr. Schowengerdt was also a passionate civil servant as he served 2 terms in the Chamois city council and four years as the Osage County Republican Committeeman. He helped organize the Rural Fire Department of Chamois, was the American Legion president, and was involved in many more boards and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in wishing Mr. Ernie Schowengerdt a happy 95th

birthday, and thanking him for his lifetime of dedication to his family, community, and his country.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish the people of Taiwan and Americans celebrating Taiwan's National Day this October 10th a Happy Double Ten Day.

Over the past 40 years, this key partner in the Asia-Pacific has transformed itself into a high-tech, multiparty democracy which is a significant contributor to the global economy. This is chiefly due to the hard work of the 23.5 million people on Taiwan who value education, science, and progress, and whose young people are not only plugged into global cultural trends, but are also contributing to them. Taiwanese are also the third largest tourist group to Guam and a cornerstone of our island's economy.

Americans share these values, which is why we have also contributed to Taiwan's success not only through our support and friendship, but through the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances, cornerstones of our relations with Taiwan. Our security relationship is an integral element of United States engagement in the Indo-Asia-Pacific and we must continue to work cooperatively together. The people of Guam, neighbors to Taiwan, understand and appreciate the need for strengthening alliances and partnerships in the region.

Two recent events have served to remind me of the imagination and drive of our two peoples—the end of our spectacular Cassini mission to Saturn, and the successful launch this summer of Taiwan's Formosat-5—the latter being the first Taiwan's first major indigenously-developed remote sensing satellite, which will be engaged in Earth observation for the next five years. We are expanding our knowledge of our small planet, our solar system, and the universe at large. Whatever the challenges this planet is presented with in future years, I am confident that our two, talented peoples, along with likeminded societies across the globe, will be able to meet them.

This is a day to celebrate, and to be optimistic. I ask my colleagues to join me in recommitting ourselves to the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and in wishing Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

PAM O'TOOLE TRUSDALE

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent and friend Pam O'Toole Trusdale, on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of the National Association of Trailer Manufacturers (NATM). Pam is a longtime resident of my district and lifelong Kansan, attending Parsons Senior High and Washburn University. She joined

NATM in 1998 and served as its Executive Director for nearly twenty years. Her leadership has enabled NATM to grow significantly from a small group of horse and livestock trailer manufacturers into a strong voice for trailer safety.

During Pam's tenure, NATM's membership has added more than 700 trailer manufacturers and component suppliers which collectively employ more than 419,000 American workers. NATM's staff has similarly grown over the years and the Association moved in 2013, to accommodate their growth in staff, to a new headquarters in Topeka, Kansas. Recognizing the importance of engaging in the legislative and regulatory process, Pam led the development of NATM's advocacy in Washington, D.C., which brings trailer manufacturers to visit Congress and federal agencies each year. In working closely with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, she has helped facilitate education and communication about emerging issues. Pam has also worked to develop relationships with other industry groups and has helped create a strong coalition of advocates in the name of NATM's mission of improving trailer safety.

Among Pam's many accomplishments was the development of NATM's Compliance Verification Program, which brings NATM consultants to all trailer manufacturer member facilities biennially to ensure they have processes in place to build trailers in accordance with federal safety standards and industry best practices. Under Pam's leadership, NATM members voted unanimously to make this important program a requirement for membership in the Association. Beyond this program, Pam has overseen the development of additional technical resources and educational programming to help member companies continue to have the tools to comply with regulations as well as grow their own businesses.

In addition to her work at NATM, Pam is an active participant in the Topeka community. She has served on the Board of Regents at Washburn University, has been a leader with the Kansas Society of Association Executives and a member of the Stormont-Vail Foundation Advisory Board. Pam is the proud mother of three and grandmother of eight. I want to thank Pam for her tireless commitment to trailer safety, and years of service to NATM and the Topeka community. I wish her and Tom many happy years of retirement.

IRAQ AND SYRIA GENOCIDE EMERGENCY RELIEF AND ACCOUNTABILITY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I held a hearing on the need for aid to be provided for victims of religious and ethnic persecution in Iraq and Syria. In August 2014, ISIS began committing genocide against Yazidis and Christians in Iraq. Three years later, they are still not receiving the assistance they need from the United States and so their survival in their ancient homelands is in jeopardy.

Two consecutive Secretaries of State and the Congress declared ISIS was responsible

for genocide. This year, the President and Vice President declared the genocide and committed the Administration to provide relief to the surviving religious and ethnic minority communities. In the final appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2017, Congress required the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development to fund the assistance promised by the Administration.

But career staff at the State Department and USAID have ignored the law and thwarted the will of the President, the Congress and the people we represent. These bureaucrats have refused to direct assistance to religious and ethnic minority communities, even to enable them to survive genocide. This obstruction is unacceptable and I urge Secretary Tillerson and new USAID Administrator Green to put an end to it.

I chaired my first hearing on atrocities against religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq or Syria in September of 2013. The hearing today was the 10th I have chaired focused in whole or in part on their plight. Last September I introduced bipartisan legislation, co-authored by my good friend ANNA ESHOO, explicitly authorizing the State Department and USAID to identify the needs of these communities and fund entities, including faith-based entities, effectively providing them with aid on-the-ground. Even though the U.S. already has the authority to provide such assistance, we were aware some in the bureaucracy inaccurately claimed they lacked the authority and so we wanted to remove this excuse. It was also important to have a detailed authorization as the foundation for forth-going appropriations. This bill would also set an important precedent for how the U.S. should respond to future crises in which religious and ethnic minorities are targeted for atrocity crimes.

Partially informed by my trip to Erbil last December to meet first-hand with genocide survivors, we reintroduced this legislation as H.R. 390 almost immediately after the start of the new Congress, with even stronger support from both sides of the aisle and many Yazidi, Christian, accountability and human rights groups and leaders. The House passed it unanimously in early June and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed it unanimously on September 19. There has been no subsequent action in the Senate. The appropriations bill for fiscal year 2017 has expired and the situation on-the-ground is deteriorating for these endangered communities. I respectfully ask the Senate to immediately pass H.R. 390.

This hearing explored the urgent crisis for Christian and Yazidi genocide survivors, especially in Iraq, what the Administration can do now to enable them to survive, and what the consequences will be for these communities and our national security if we fail to act. We heard from several of our witnesses, helping these communities survive and return to their homes will reduce threats from Iran. It will also deny ISIS a major propaganda victory and recruiting tool.

I should note the State Department and USAID were invited to testify. They were unavailable.

Our first witness was known to many of you, my dear friend for many years, the former Representative for the 10th district of Virginia, Frank Wolf. He is testified today as the Distinguished Senior Fellow at 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative and he visited Northern Iraq this

August. In his written statement, Congressman Wolf warns "if bold action is not taken by the end of the year, I believe a tipping point will be reached and we will see the end of Christianity in Iraq." About the Yazidis, he reports although "Sinjar has been liberated from ISIS since the fall of 2015 . . . it is currently controlled by multiple different militia groups . . . few families have been able to return and few aid groups work in the area."

Congressman Wolf also raised the alarm about Iraq-backed militias filling the post-ISIS liberation vacuum as part of Tehran's "goal of creating a land-bridge from Iran [to] allow Iran to move fighters, weapons and supplies to aid Hezbollah and other terrorist groups" and offered several concrete policy recommendations the Administration and Congress should heed.

Our second witness was Shireen, a Yazidi survivor of ISIS enslavement. She wrote in her statement for the record this "captivity under ISIS . . . was like hell. They performed an abdominal surgery on me . . . and I am suffering from the effects of it . . . They committed all kinds of atrocious crimes against us including mass killing, sexual enslavement, and forced conversion."

Shireen also wrote "19 members of my family and my relatives are missing. They may be killed or still in captivity but we don't know anything about them . . . We are still waiting for action and the liberation of thousands of Yazidis from ISIS captivity." She warns that "Yazidis, Christians and other religious minorities, especially the non-Muslim minorities, cannot survive in Syria and Iraq under the current conditions. Without serious action from you and the world governments, many of these people will continue to flee their ancient homelands of Syria and Iraq."

Our third witness was Lauren Ashburn, Managing Editor and Anchor of EWTV News Nightly. She travelled to Northern Iraq earlier this year and has continued to report on the crisis. Her story-telling and video, rooted in more than 20 years as a journalist, has helped tell the stories of heroism, indomitable faith, and survival. As she reported in her written testimony for the hearing "Christians in Iraq are on the brink of extinction . . . The United States is the only nation in the world that can provide concrete aid to rebuild the community that I saw in shambles."

Our fourth and final witness was Stephen Rasche, Legal Counsel and Director of IDP Resettlement Programs for the Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil, and Legal Counsel and Chief Coordinator for the Nineveh Reconstruction Committee. Mr. Rasche testified before a hearing I chaired of the Helsinki Committee last September, and he reported in his written testimony today, "I regret to say that we have still yet to receive any form of meaningful aid from the U.S. Government . . . While we have found the political appointees much more willing to help us since January, the fact is that even after the better part of a year, they have been unable to move the bureaucracy to take meaningful action."

The Obama Administration channeled all U.S. funding for stabilization in Iraq through the Funding Facility for Stabilization, administered by the UN Development Program, and the current Administration has continued this policy. Mr. Rasche testified in his written statement "While status reports from UNDP work in