

Through Sam's passion for cars and athletics, his positivity brought joy to those around him. As a leader, Sam only wanted what was best for the community, and to make sure the people knew he was there to help those in need. For those who guard over us are our fellow brothers and sisters, who give their hearts to the communities they serve.

HON. SAM OLENS TO BE INVESTED AS THE FOURTH PRESIDENT OF KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 19, the Honorable Sam OLENS will be invested as the fourth President of Kennesaw State University in my home state of Georgia. I congratulate my friend Sam, the University, and the Kennesaw State community on this historic day. KSU, as it is known, has been at the forefront of educational opportunities for students across Georgia and has grown to be the third largest institution of higher learning in the state. With an enrollment of nearly 40,000 students, it represents one of the most geographically and culturally diverse institutions in the region and I am proud to have this school in my district, and to recognize this historic moment.

Before joining Kennesaw State, Sam served as Georgia's 53rd Attorney General, Vice President of the National Association of Attorneys General, and Chairman of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners. He received his juris doctorate from Emory University School of Law, and holds a Bachelors and Masters degree from American University in International Politics.

As Dr. OLENS and the University look to the future, I wish them continued success in their efforts on behalf of KSU students and faculty, the Kennesaw community, and the state of Georgia.

THE CRISIS IN ROHINGYA

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound concern about renewed violence in the Western Myanmar State of Rakhine and the resulting refugee and humanitarian crisis.

The growing violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State has already claimed the lives of 1,000 men, women and children who were brutally killed in recent clashes between the Myanmar military and Rohingya civilians. The military has also reportedly targeted some of the alleged survivors who sought justice and protection within Myanmar, leaving little recourse for those being victimized but to flee the country to neighboring Bangladesh.

Rohingya Muslims have long been victims of official discrimination, living as a stateless minority community under restrictive citizenship laws and constant threat of abuse and violence. The government of Myanmar must

begin taking concrete steps to stop the downward spiral of sectarian violence, which imperils the safety of upwards of a million Rohingya Muslims.

More than half a million Rohingya have fled Myanmar since major clashes occurred on August 25, 2017. Using satellite imagery, Human Rights Watch has documented more than 700 buildings in the Rohingya Muslim village of Chein Khar Li have been burned, accounting for more than 99 percent of the village. An additional 450 buildings were recently spotted smoldering in Maungdaw, the administrative capital of Maungdaw Township. This destruction suggests a coordinated effort to drive the Rohingya population out of the country.

There are divergent reports regarding who is to blame for the chaos in Western Myanmar. Refugees blame the Myanmar military while the government blames the militant Arkan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). For this reason, it is imperative that the government permit entry of a U.N. Human Rights Commission Fact Finding Mission to impartially document and assess the violence occurring in Rakhine State.

Timely and accurate information about the crisis is especially crucial in this conflict because Myanmar has cracked down on the media, using all the draconian tools at its disposal to keep criticism hidden from public view. The government has actually prosecuted scores of individuals under an egregious defamation law that has criminalized social media postings that merely express the plight of the Rohingya people. The international human rights community has criticized Myanmar's Telecommunications Law for its vagueness, its severity of punishment, and its sweeping chilling effect on freedom of expression.

The government of Myanmar should begin adopting the recommendations of the Kofi Annan Foundation Advisory Commission on Rakhine State contained in the August 2017 Final Report, which was released the day before violence in the region erupted. These recommendations include providing dignified living conditions in camps for internally displaced persons and granting national and international humanitarian groups full access to the communities of Rakhine State. The continuing censorship of the media suggests that the government does not want the world to witness the crimes that are being perpetrated in the Rakhine State.

It is my hope that Myanmar will begin taking substantial and sustained steps to prevent any further violence in Rakhine State. I urge my colleagues to join me in calling on Myanmar to take meaningful action to desegregate the Rohingya Muslim population, repeal its repressive criminal defamation law, and permit human rights observers access to monitor the situation.

MEDICAL ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to recognize Medical Advocacy and Outreach (MAO) for 30 years of dedicated service to the rural and underserved

communities of Alabama. MAO, formerly known as Medical AIDS Outreach and Montgomery AIDS Outreach, is a private, non-profit, Rural Health and Wellness Organization and Community Based AIDS Service Organization in Montgomery, Alabama. It was founded in 1987 by a group of volunteers who were both directly and indirectly affected by HIV/AIDS.

In 1994, after being awarded Ryan White Care Act Part C funds, MAO transitioned from a volunteer education and service organization to a full-time, health care facility. Because of the hard work of many working together on the local, state and federal level over the years, MAO now operates the largest HIV-specific health care facility by geographic area within the state of Alabama, the Copeland Care Clinic. I am inspired by the small group of volunteers, many who are still involved and supportive today, who have been responsible for the growth of this organization over the past 30 years. Today, MAO provides education services to members of the community and medical and social services to those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and Diabetes. MAO and the Copeland Clinic currently provide services to over 1600 patients who live in Montgomery and 28 surrounding counties in Southeast Alabama.

In addition, MAO provides an array of comprehensive services and care for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, including: medication assistance, pharmacist consultations, housing services, an on-site food pantry, mental health counseling/case management, patient education, prevention education, free HIV and Hepatitis C testing, PrEP and interpretation services for Spanish-speaking individuals and the hearing impaired. Through their Telehealth Resource Center, they assist other providers with the integration of telemedicine technology into patient-centered environments in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, New York, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

In addition to providing direct health care services, MAO educates the public about HIV/AIDS and related illnesses and how to prevent transmission of infection. To this end, the organization has made significant progress in educating the public on the reality that a person living with HIV who has an undetectable viral load cannot transmit the virus to their partners. This is why the staff at MAO also works so hard to ensure that individuals living with HIV receive regular treatment. As a matter of fact, MAO has a new initiative called "Zero by 2020." The targeted goal is to have no new HIV diagnoses in Lowndes County, Alabama in the year 2020. I truly believe this can be done if we support organizations like MAO that provide free testing and educate citizens on the importance of getting regular health screenings.

MAO has two full service health and wellness clinics in Montgomery and Dothan where specialty care and related primary and dental care is provided to individuals living with HIV, Hepatitis C, and Diabetes. In addition to these full service facilities, MAO operates 10 rural telemedicine sites throughout Alabama in the following locations: Marengo County; Lowndes County; Dallas County; Perry County; Barbour County; Escambia County; Conecuh County; Covington County, Henry County; and Pike County. As the Member of Congress that represents the Black Belt, I am honored to be able to work with

MAO and other partners in their work to provide health care services to rural populations through telemedicine.

The services that MAO provides have grown to include a licensed professional counselor, mental health counselling and assessments, including for substance abuse and addiction, social services, and maternal and infant services. MAO collaborates with three area substance abuse treatment centers to provide prevention education to recovering addicts. MAO also houses the Alabama AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC), a continuing education program serving healthcare providers and professionals statewide.

The board, staff, and community partners with MAO work every day to fulfill their vision, which is to eradicate HIV/AIDS and other diseases that impact our most vulnerable neighbors. The progress this organization has made in 30 years demonstrates what can be accomplished when dedicated and committed individuals work together for substantive change. I am proud to be the Member of Congress that represents MAO. The reality is that all individuals living with HIV/AIDS and related illnesses deserve to live a healthy life filled with dignity and respect. Thanks to MAO, countless lives have been touched and saved by their work.

KEITH SWERDFEGER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Keith Swerdfeger of Pueblo, Colorado, who has been honored with the Lifetime Business Achievement Award from the Colorado State University—Pueblo.

Keith Swerdfeger was born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado, and has had a lifelong passion to start a business and make a contribution to his hometown. In 1968, Keith realized his dream of becoming a business owner, opening Swerdfeger Construction, Inc. with his wife Sharon. This was the beginning of a very successful business venture. Today, Swerdfeger Construction, Inc. is a vital part of Pueblo's economy as well as in Southern Colorado and six other states, employing 500 people. Keith readily gives all of the credit to his employees for his company's success, while continuing to strive to create more jobs and opportunities.

Keith is passionate about investing in the Pueblo community and firmly believes that part of his company's success has come as the result of the work he, his family and employees have done to give back. Keith has been very active with the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation, Pueblo County United Way, the Colorado Contractors, the Distribution Contractor Association, the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce and other civic and industry associations. Keith represented Colorado House of Representatives District 47 from 2011 to 2013 where he served on the Economic and Business Development Committee, the Finance Committee and the Local Government Committee. He was a strong advocate for his District and the community of Pueblo—and worked diligently to bring jobs and economic opportunities to the people of southern Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, Keith Swerdfeger has been a long-time business leader and tireless civic volunteer for his hometown of Pueblo, Colorado. I'm fortunate to consider him a dear friend. When we tell younger generations of Puebloans that the keys to a successful life are dedication and a strong work ethic, we can point to Keith as an example. Pueblo is grateful to have Keith Swerdfeger as one of its sons.

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Soto amendment, Soto number 11 to Division H, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018, increased funding to the Housing for the Elderly Program by \$2,500,000. It did so by shifting \$2,500,000 from the Policy Development and Research, Research and Technology account within HUD.

I support increased funding for the Housing for the Elderly Program and thank Chairman DIAZ-BALART and my colleagues for their support of my amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ALABAMA OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARM FAMILY FOR 2017

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the Alabama Outstanding Young Farm Family for 2017, the Lovvorn Family.

The Lovvorn's, Eric, Carrly, Chole (2) and Landon (3 months), live in near Ranburne, Alabama, and have a four-house poultry farm and cattle. They also grow hay and are co-owners of LHT Trucking, a poultry house clean-out business.

Eric grew up around poultry farming and by the age of 12 had decided chicken houses wouldn't be in his future. That changed when he bought his first poultry farm in Cleburne County at the age of 20. Eric and Carrly met in 2008 at a University of Georgia football game and were married in 2011. Carrly works at Georgia Power Company.

The Lovvorns love farming and want their children to know how important farming is. Eric serves as the Cleburne County Young Farmers chairman and participated in the Agricultural Leaders for Alabama program.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Alabama Outstanding Young Farm Family for 2017: Eric, Carrly, Chole and Landon Lovvorn.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 558, and YEA on Roll Call No. 559.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, TAMAQUA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trinity United Church of Christ, Tamaqua which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. For a century and a half, Trinity has served as a place of worship and community for the residents of Tamaqua, from the early German settlers of the region to modern congregants from diverse backgrounds.

In 1835, Trinity's parent church, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Church, was founded by the German population of Tamaqua. In 1867, twelve men and their families left the congregation of St. John's to form Trinity Church under the guidance of Reverend Levi K. Derr. One of the original twelve, Daniel Shepp donated land to build the church at the corner of Lafayette and Washington Streets. In September 1868, Reverend I.E. Graeff became the first full-time pastor, serving until March 1873.

In 1961, the present church was dedicated and, over the following decades, improvements were made to the building and grounds. The church's distinctive exterior is marked by the Trinity chime, a landmark in Tamaqua. Additionally, Trinity is unique in that it is one of the very few churches that have its own hymn. In 1942, Rev. Dr. Henry A. W. Shaeffer wrote the words, and Mrs. Gertrude Wagner wrote the music to the signature piece.

Today, Trinity, under the leadership of Pastor Darry Kensinger, celebrates a diverse, vibrant congregation dedicated to serving Tamaqua and the surrounding community in the tradition of the United Church of Christ, known for being open minded, inclusive, and welcoming.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes Tuesday, October 10, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on roll call votes 558 and 559.