

HONORING THE LIFE OF GILBERTO
F. OLIVA, SR.

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of the premium cigar patriarch, Mr. Gilberto Oliva, founder of Oliva Cigar Co. Gilberto passed away peacefully in a hospital in South Miami on Saturday, December 16, 2017, surrounded by his family and close friends.

As a young tobacco farmer in Cuba, Gilberto built his endeavors on the blueprint of the American Dream. As an early adult, he moved from his family farm to pursue tobacco trading. The growing conflict under the Cuban dictatorship forced Mr. Oliva to flee to Nicaragua where he became a pioneer in tobacco cultivation.

While Nicaragua was his home, Gilberto's business grew all over the world, including Honduras, Mexico and the Philippines. His product quickly became known around the world for its quality. In 1995, he established his own brand of cigar, and in 2006, he launched the Oliva Serie V, which Cigar Aficionado Magazine named Cigar of the Year in 2014.

In early 2016, Mr. Oliva was honored by the Asociación Nicaragüense de Tabacaleros, the Nicaraguan Tobacco Association, with a lifetime achievement award. Yet for all his many successes, he never forgot his roots. He yearned for a free Cuba, and he instilled in his children a respect for personal responsibility and hard work.

Gilberto is succeeded by his wife Carmen, his five children—including my former colleague and friend, Florida House Representative Jose Oliva—and his fourteen grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I want to recognize the life of Gilberto F. Oliva. He was a great man, a world leader in the field of cigar manufacturing, and the patriarch of a wonderful family.

JIM CRITCHLEY'S RETIREMENT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and celebrate Fire Chief, Jim Critchley, on his retirement from the Tucson Fire Department.

Fire Chief Critchley began his Emergency Service career in 1982 with an EMT class. He worked in a few private agencies as an instructor, firefighter, EMT and security guard. He joined the Tucson Fire Department in 1988 and was promoted through the ranks first as a Paramedic, Captain, Training Captain, Operations Battalion Chief, Training Chief, Operations Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief of Training and Emergency Management and then, in 2011, became the Fire Chief.

Since 1992, Mr. Critchley has been an active representative on the State Fire Training Association and the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association. He served on the Western Fire Chiefs

Association board as State Director, Vice President and President from 2003 through 2012. He also served on the International Association of Fire Chiefs board until 2014.

Fire Chief Critchley received a MBA from the University of Arizona, a Bachelor's degree in Fire Service Management from the Arizona State University, and an AAS in Fire Science from Pima Community College. In 2008, he was selected as Chief Fire Officer of the Year by the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association. Most recently in September 2017, Jim was inducted into the Arizona Fire Service Hall of Fame. Jim is married and has three children. We would like to thank Fire Chief Jim Critchley for his service and dedication to the city of Tucson and the state of Arizona.

HONORING JACEN HAEFNER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacen Haefner. Jacen is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 264, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacen has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacen has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacen has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacen Haefner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTH
CAROLINA A&T FOOTBALL TEAM
FOR THEIR HISTORIC SEASON
AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
WIN**

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the undefeated MEAC and 2017 Celebration Bowl Champions. I'm speaking of course of the North Carolina A&T Aggie football team.

Last week, as time expired in the Celebration Bowl, the Aggies made their nation proud with a last second touchdown to secure their second Celebration Bowl victory in just three years. And with that win, the Aggies became the first MEAC team to go undefeated as they won their second HBCU national title under head coach Rod Broadway.

Mr. Speaker, 'A Champion Has Risen' indeed, and that champion, is the A&T Aggie Football Team.

Congratulations to the esteemed Dr. Harold Martin, Sr., to Coach Broadway and his team, and also to the offensive and defensive MVP's

of the game, Marquell Cartwright and Mac McCain for their performances.

I am honored to represent this historic and honored institution in Washington, and they have made me, their community, and most importantly, the 'Aggie nation' proud with their win.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring North Carolina A&T for their historic season and national championship win.

SAUDI TEXTBOOKS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is time to hold the Saudis accountable for playing the role of both arsonists and firefighters when it comes to terror. Saudi Arabia is a crucial ally in counterterrorism. Yet at the same time, their educational curriculum promotes hatred and violence towards other religions. This is the very rhetoric that breeds terrorism.

For nearly 15 years, Saudi Arabia has pledged to remove all extremist content from their school textbooks. Yet to this day textbooks include material that, for example, encourages "fighting" any infidel who refuses to submit to the supremacy of Islam. Another example comes from a textbook on Islamic culture that teaches that "Christianity in its current state is an invalid, perverted religion." A high school textbook on monotheism further calls all "infidels," as "enemies of Islam and its adherents."

And this is just a taste of the extremist content in Saudi textbooks. A tenth-grade textbook claims that Zionism spreads "drugs and sexually transmitted diseases . . . in many Islamic countries." Even more, a middle school textbook glorifies jihad, instructing students that those fighting jihad "should be given transportation, weapons, food and anything else they may need to continue their jihad." Content in Saudi textbooks is so extreme that ISIS used official Saudi textbooks for its schools in 2015 until they could publish their own materials.

The problem is compounded when we realize that these textbooks are not just used in the Kingdom. Saudi educational materials are exported throughout the world. This kind of indoctrination at home and abroad runs counter to Saudi Arabia's efforts in counterterrorism and our crucial cooperation with Saudi Arabia in the fight against terrorism. Saudi Arabia cannot be allowed to continue promoting textbooks that include language that is intolerant, furthers conspiracy theories, and encourages violence towards others.

That's why Representative KEATING and I, as Ranking Member and Chair of the Terrorism Subcommittee, have introduced H.R. 4549, the Saudi Educational Transparency and Reform Act. This bill will require the State Department to conduct an annual review of Saudi Arabia's textbooks. This review will show if Riyadh is fully implementing its repeated commitments to removing extremist content. It will also help the U.S. decide if we should continue issuing a waiver for Saudi Arabia as a country of particular concern for its religious freedom pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act. Terrorism has

long threatened both our own country and Saudi Arabia. The fight to combat this threat demands that we work to eliminate all sources of radicalization and incitement. A complete revision of Saudi Arabia's textbooks is a critical piece of this mission.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING KEVIN LYNCH

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend, Kevin Lynch, who, following a five-year battle with cancer, passed away this past week.

Kevin was a great Hoosier, a public servant, a tremendous leader, and a tireless advocate in advancing southeastern Indiana. He served as Dearborn County Commissioner and as the president of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments.

Kevin was a giant Reds fan and a loyal friend with a positive spirit, quick with a smile and an encouraging word.

Kevin served Lawrenceburg and Dearborn County with pride, but his most important priority was his family. He was the loving husband to Mary Jo (Joey) for 27 years and the proud father of Michael. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Lynch family and all those who knew Kevin.

Congratulations to my good friend Kevin on a tremendous life well-lived.

Godspeed.

HONORING CADE OSMONSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cade Osmonson. Cade is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 96, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cade has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Cade has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Cade has served as his troop's Senior Patrol Leader. Cade has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Cade refurbished a church in McFall, Missouri, replacing the roof of the portico, repainting the doors and windows, and power washing the outside of the church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cade Osmonson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 702, and NAY on Roll Call No. 703.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday I missed three votes. I wish to state for the record how I would have voted had I been present: Roll Call No. 685—NO, Roll Call No. 686—YES, Roll Call No. 687—YES.

HONORING LEVI PARNACOTT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Levi Parnacott. Levi is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Levi has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Levi has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Levi has served as the Senior Patrol Leader, become a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow, and earned the rank of Fire Builder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Levi has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Levi installed an entry door into the garage of Immacolata Manor in Liberty, Missouri, and also refinished the entry room by hanging new drywall, mudding, taping, sanding and then painting the room.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Levi Parnacott for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO HILDA EISEN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Hilda Eisen, who passed away last month in California at the age of 100. Hilda owned and operated Norco Ranch for many years and she will be deeply missed.

Prior to immigrating to the United States, Hilda was born and raised in the Polish village

of Izbica-Kujawska. During the Nazi occupation of Poland, Hilda was imprisoned in a ghetto before escaping to hide with Jewish Partisans in the forest. Tragically, Hilda's entire family was killed during the war. Her classmate and future husband, Harry, survived the Auschwitz concentration camp before reconnecting with Hilda. Together, they moved to America in 1948 where they would invest their savings to buy 100 chickens and start a business in California.

In the early days of the family business, Harry would ride around town on his bicycle selling eggs. In a short amount of time, the business outgrew its facility and the Eisens purchased a five-acre ranch in Norco, California to build a chicken farm. Over the years, the business would be known as Norco Ranch and grow into a major supplier of eggs to regional supermarket chains. The business had nearly 400 employees before it was sold to Land-O-Lakes in 2000. In 2012, Harry passed away at the age of 95. Before Harry's passing, the Eisens became involved with the Lodzer Organization of Southern California, a group of Holocaust survivors that supported Jewish charities locally and in Israel.

I had the distinct privilege of knowing Hilda for many years and I will deeply miss her. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the entire Eisen family, including her three daughters: Ruth Eisen, Mary Cramer, and Frances Miller. Although Hilda may be gone, her selfless dedication to our nation and the human spirit will long be remembered.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Monday, December 18. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 685 and "yea" on rollcall votes 686 and 687.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, during my medical recovery, I missed the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

November 28, 2017: Yea on Roll Call No. 638; No on Roll Call No. 639.

November 29, 2017: No on Roll Call No. 640; No on Roll Call No. 641.

November 30, 2017: Yea on Roll Call No. 642; No on Roll Call No. 643; No on Roll Call No. 644; No on Roll Call No. 645; Yea on Roll Call No. 646; Yea on Roll Call No. 647; No on Roll Call No. 648; and Yea on Roll Call No. 649.

December 1, 2017: Yea on Roll Call No. 650; No on Roll Call No. 651; Yea on Roll Call No. 652.

December 4, 2017: No on Roll Call No. 653; Yea on Roll Call No. 654.

December 5, 2017: Yea on Roll Call No. 655; Yea on Roll Call No. 656; Yea on Roll Call No. 657.