

SGT Rahaim will be remembered for his sacrifice and for demonstrating the qualities of a great soldier and American.

INTRODUCTION OF TAX RETURN PREPARER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced, along with my colleagues Reps. ROBERT "BOBBY" SCOTT, CAROLYN MALONEY and ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, the Tax Return Preparer Accountability Act of 2017, which would provide explicit authority for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to protect taxpayers from unscrupulous tax cheats masquerading as bona fide tax preparers.

As we near April 15th, millions of taxpayers will pay someone to help them fill out their tax returns. Many of these tax preparers are honest and trustworthy. But, unfortunately, too many of them take advantage of their customers or help their customers engage in tax fraud themselves.

In Memphis, my Congressional district, a company named Mo' Money Taxes was caught charging taxpayers deceptive and outrageous fees and cheating them out of their refunds. The company also helped some customers prepare fraudulent returns that claimed bogus deductions and cheated the public of needed tax revenue. Fortunately, the Department of Justice has shut down the tax preparer company but there are many businesses just like them cheating taxpayers and the government alike.

The IRS issued rules in 2011 regulating the tax return preparer industry by requiring them to register with the IRS and meet certain education and testing standards. However, a federal court held that the IRS did not have the authority under existing law to issue these regulations and they could not come into effect.

That's why I introduced the Tax Return Preparer Accountability Act because it's important that anyone who assists in filing federal taxes is sufficiently trained and maintain a certain level of professional conduct.

I hope that Congress will quickly act on this bill to ensure that these dishonest business practices cannot continue, and protect the pocketbooks of middle-class families.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARTHA E. POLLACK'S SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Martha E. Pollack, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan as she moves to the next chapter of her life. Ms. Pollack has led a distinguished academic career and helped the university effectively serve its students, faculty and the Ann Arbor community during her tenure with the school.

After receiving her doctorate in Information Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 1979, Ms. Pollack began her academic career with the nonprofit research organization SRI International. She then served as faculty for the University of Pittsburgh until 2000, when she joined the University of Michigan as a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering. Ms. Pollack distinguished herself through her outstanding scholarship and leadership. As a result, she was named chair of the School of Information in 2007 and Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2013. As Provost, she oversaw academic and budgetary affairs for the entire academic enterprise, which includes the 19 schools and colleges within the university, as well as libraries, museums and other institutions in the University of Michigan system.

Ms. Pollack has received numerous accolades for her work as a leader and scholar at the University of Michigan. In 2007, Ms. Pollack received the Sarah Goddard Power Award for contributing to increased recognition and involvement of women in the sciences. She was also elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Association for Computing Machinery for her pioneering research. Under her leadership, the university has made important strides in improving affordability for students and continuing to attract world-class scholars to the University of Michigan community. Her leadership and experience will be missed as she moves on to become Cornell University's president this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Martha Pollack and her years of service to the University of Michigan and Ann Arbor community. She has proven to be a capable and committed leader who has helped address the most challenging issues facing the university.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARC ARNUSCH

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Marc Arnusch on being selected as the 2016 Rising Star in Colorado Agriculture. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Mr. Arnusch has an extensive background in Colorado agriculture. After receiving a degree in Agricultural Economics, he returned home and began working the land adjacent to his father's farm. He now operates Marc Arnusch Farms, LLC which stretches across 2,400 acres in Prospect Valley. Mr. Arnusch is a member of the Colorado Corn Administrative Committee and the Colorado Farm Bureau, and has held various leadership roles within the Colorado Farm Bureau.

His attendance and participation in local forums, appearance in television commercials, and efforts on behalf of agriculture have helped make him a prominent figure in his community. He has become a powerful voice for agriculture in Colorado and I look forward to learning of his future endeavors.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes as Mr.

Arnusch pursues his future undertakings. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Marc Arnusch for his accomplishments.

HONORING MAE BETH PALONE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mae Beth Palone on her well-earned retirement from the Independent Bankers Association of Texas, after twenty-two years of dedicated service.

After graduating from the University of Texas with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Palone's distinguished career began at the Texas Capitol in 1975 working for Representative Elmer Martin. She then faithfully served Representative Walter Grubbs, Representative Jimmy Mankins, Representative Foster Whaley and even assisted a newly elected Representative Rick Perry before he had his own staff, finishing her Capitol career in the service of Representative Robert Earley.

Nearly twenty years later, she joined the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) serving as IBAT's Government Relations Officer where she continued to cultivate her exemplary relationships with her legislative peers and promote the cause of community bankers in Texas. Palone's journalism degree was put to great use as the author of the script for IBAT's Annual Convention and other key IBAT events and communications. Palone was promoted to Vice President in 2000. She took the reins of the IBAT Leadership Division in 2004, the most treasured experience of her IBAT career, growing membership to over 590 and implementing a regional governance structure as she mentored the future leaders of the Texas community banking industry.

Despite her busy professional life, Ms. Palone also found time to give back to her community as a CASA volunteer as well as serving on the board of directors of her homeowners association. Palone is perhaps best known for her undying loyalty to her Texas Longhorns, attending every home football game and supporting them regardless of their ranking.

Palone's dedication, professionalism, and commitment to excellence have greatly benefited those who depend upon the Texas community banking industry. She has earned the respect and admiration of her peers.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the tireless efforts that Mae Beth Palone has made to the people of the great state of Texas and Texas community bankers. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mae Beth Palone on her many years of loyal service.

RECOGNITION OF EDGAR JACOME GUZMAN SELECTION AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edgar Jacome Guzman, a student in San Ysidro, California, for his selection to represent the State of California as a Delegate at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. The event will be held at the Tsongas Center at University of Massachusetts Lowell in Lowell, MA, from June 29, 2017 to July 1, 2017.

The Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders is an honors-only program designed to motivate and direct the top students in our country who aspire to be scientists, engineers, and technologists and encourage them to stay true to their dream. All delegates are nominated by their teachers or the National Academy of Future Scientists based on proven academic excellence and a demonstrated desire to enter the scientific or technology professions.

I want to congratulate Edgar Jacome Guzman in his success and leadership in the scientific field.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIER ARMY STAFF SERGEANT (SSG) NICHOLAS J. OLIVIER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Nicholas J. Olivier who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on February 23, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SSG Olivier's final mission was to conduct a foot patrol in Baghdad, Iraq in order to find terrorist elements reported to be operating in the area. While on the patrol, enemy forces initiated a complex ambush with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire that resulted in the mortal wounding of SSG Olivier and the injury of several of his fellow soldiers.

SSG Olivier was described as a leader who made it a top priority to get the men under his command back home to their families and loved ones once their tour was complete.

SSG Olivier, of Jackson, MS, was assigned to B Company, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, V Corps, Pineville, LA. He was the 15th member of the 256th from Louisiana to lose his life in Iraq.

SSG Olivier is survived by his parents, William and Linda Olivier and his wife, Angelle. In a statement issued by the National Guard, Angelle Olivier said her husband was committed to Operation Iraqi Freedom III and his country because he felt it was necessary to ensure America's freedom and to fight to abolish terrorism.

SSG Olivier gave his life to protect the freedoms we all enjoy. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.

THE EVOLVING THREAT OF TERRORISM AND EFFECTIVE COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the House Armed Services Committee held a full committee hearing on The Evolving Threat of Terrorism and Effective Counterterrorism Strategies. The hearing featured three witnesses, Professor Bruce Hoffman, Mr. Brian Jenkins, and Ambassador Michael Sheehan, all of whom are well-known counterterrorism subject matter experts.

There is no question that terrorism is a serious problem that requires holistic solutions, and there is no doubt that countering terrorism at home and abroad at times requires using hard power. This is a point that we can all agree. However, I am concerned that we have spent the overwhelming portion of our federal resources and national attention on the security dimensions of terrorism since 9/11 while largely ignoring the intangible elements, such as those requiring soft power solutions. This approach has led our government to adopt policies which only exacerbate the problem of terrorism rather than solve it.

President Trump's recent Executive Orders (EOs), in particular the Muslim ban and the virulent language being promulgated by senior officials, will only bolster the narrative which terrorist groups such as the Islamic State (IS) seek to spread, i.e. the West is at war with Islam. In his testimony in front of the House Committee on Homeland Security, Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly called the EO barring individuals from seven majority-Muslim countries from entering the United States a "temporary pause." While I will not question the sincerity of this remark, the vast majority of counter-terrorism experts, including Michael Leiter, the former Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, agree that at best the EO completely "misses the point." At worst, the EO is "stupid," and "counter-productive," according to Patrick Skinner, a former CIA counterterrorism case officer.

As Skinner and other counterterrorism experts note, we currently rely upon local partners in Syria, Libya, and Iraq with whom we work side by side to expel IS terrorists from Mosul and Al Bab and other areas. With the Immigration EO, we are effectively telling our partners now that we won't need them and will abandon those who have sacrificed greatly for our cause. This is false. We do need them. It is also worrying that this EO supports the hateful West vs. Muslim World narrative terrorists are trying to propagate. As Jessica Stern, a counterterrorism expert, recently reported, "jihadis are already celebrating Trump's executive order as a 'blessed ban.'" Let me repeat that: terrorists are celebrating Trump's Immigration Executive Order.

It does not stop there. Late last month Reuters reported that the administration is moving away from using the neutral term, Countering

Violent Extremism (or CVE), to Countering Islamic Extremism. Reuters further reported that the administration is focusing the work of a CVE Task Force on programs solely tackling radical Islamic groups, although the evidence clearly shows that since right-wing extremists have killed more people in the United States than Islamic Extremists. The world is following these developments, and terrorist leaders are using them to rally supporters and garner recruits.

In late January 2017, the New York Times provided evidence of a leaked draft of an EO that would have revived C.I.A. prisons, also known as black sites, where terrorism suspects were detained and tortured following the 9/11 attacks. The draft EO was reminiscent of the immediate years following 9/11, when torture was condoned by some of the highest levels of our government. Torture did not work back then and it does not work now. Simply put, torture makes us less safe. In early January 2017, a group of 176 retired flag officers from all branches of the United States military signed a letter to then President-elect Trump calling torture "unnecessary" and "counter-productive because it undermines our national security." A few days ago the New York Times reported that although the idea of black sites seemed to have been dropped, the Trump Administration was finalizing a new EO draft that would bring future IS detainees to the wartime prison at Guantanamo Bay.

In the years following the 9/11 attacks, Americans were forced to confront our policies of torture, black sites, the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, and the wartime prison at Guantanamo Bay Cuba. These policies not only left a stain on our conscience and America's moral standing, but they also led to the radicalization of countless of individuals. It is well known that Abu Bakr al Baghdadi, the leader of IS, spent significant time at American detention centers in Iraq, including Abu Ghraib and Camp Bucca. It was there that he and other future leaders of IS first met. Former prison commanders, analysts, and soldiers all reported that these prison sites "provided a unique setting for both prisoner radicalization and inmate collaboration—and was formative in the development of today's most potent jihadist force."

Mr. Speaker, it is plain to see the means this administration will use to counter terrorism will only lead to further radicalization, the birth of more terrorist groups, and increasingly strained relations with the Muslim world. I hope that we in Congress do everything we can to ensure that our counter terrorism policies live up to our values, and that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past.

RECOGNIZING MR. BILL MARKHAM

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Markham on being inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Throughout his life, Mr. Markham has contributed to the agricultural industry. His dedication to educating the youth in Colorado about