EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OBJECTING TO UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2334

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for House Resolution 11, ''Objecting to United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2334 as an obstacle to Israeli-Palestinian peace,'' because I believe the UN resolution was not objective, but rather one-sided by placing the blame solely on Israel as the obstacle to peace.

For years, I have strongly advocated for direct peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine because I firmly believe peace can be achieved only if Israel and Palestine negotiate directly in good faith and on fair terms. I remain hopeful this will happen.

While I deeply oppose the continued building of settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, I believe the United Nations Security Council Resolution does more harm than good. Here's why:

First, Resolution 2334 passed by the UNSC does nothing to advance peace. Instead it bolsters Israel's enemies and pushes the two state solution to peace further out of reach by forcing nations to choose between supporting Israel or Palestine.

Second, while I agree the settlements serve as one of many obstacles to peace, the UNSC resolution singles out the settlements and ignores Palestinian violence, the role of Hamas and its refusal to recognize Israel as the Jewish state. These are essential and critical issues that must be addressed to achieve lasting peace.

This omission is unacceptable. My vote on Resolution 11 illustrates this belief and my strong desire for fairness and peace between Israelis and Palestinians which will enable Israel to protect its security and its existence as a Jewish and democratic state. This can only be achieved by a two state solution.

HONORING GARY GIACOMINI

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Gary Giacomini, who passed away on December 2, 2016, after a lifetime of service to his community.

Born in San Francisco in 1939, Mr. Giacomini spent most of his life as a resident of Marin County. He attended St. Mary's College in Moraga, and earned his law degree at San Francisco Hasting College of Law in 1965 as an honor student. A stalwart, civic-minded community member, Mr. Giacomini occupied many roles over the course of his highly productive professional and political career. Renowned for his bedrock strength, and sometimes cantankerous demeanor, he was always straight-forward and clear about his principles and convictions.

Political from a young age, Mr. Giacomini was student body president of Marin Catholic High School. He won a seat on the Lagunitas School Board in 1968, and was elected to represent Marin's 4th District on the Board of Supervisors in 1972, where he served until 1996. Upon his retirement from the Board of Supervisors, he was the longest-serving county supervisor in the history of California. In addition, he was a member of 25 other state and regional boards and commissions, including 10 years on the California Coastal Commission and 20 years on the Golden Gate Bridge District. In 2007, Marin Magazine named him one of the 13 most influential people in county history.

Chief among his many exceptional accomplishments for Marin's residents and environment, Mr. Giacomini led the movement to preserve West Marin open space, protect the environment, and preserve the county's historic ranchlands. In appreciation for his enduring resolve and track record protecting these lands, in 2001 a 1,500-acre open space preserve in the San Geronimo area was named for Giacomini. He was dubbed as one of the heroic group of Rebels with a Cause for his work to save a vast stretch of Marin's coastline for parks and farms. He also instigated, with his colleagues, public ownership of the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way from Marin to Eureka in the 1980s, paving the way to Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit's future use of the tracks, where service is expected to begin this year.

In 1985, Mr. Giacomini coordinated a strenuous battle to ensure the Buck Trust, bequeathed to Marin for its needs and programs by Ross philanthropist Beryl Buck, was not dispersed outside Marin. This culminated in the formation of the Marin Community Foundation in 1986. After leaving public service in 1996, Mr. Giacomini went on to serve two terms on the board of the Marin Community Foundation, including time as Chairman of the Board.

Over the years, Mr. Giacomini developed a well-earned reputation, as noted by the Marin Independent Journal, for his ability to promote common ground between the interests of Marin's diverse agricultural community and preservationists. He is survived by his wife, Linda; two sons, Andrew and Antony; a sister, Roberta Powers; and five grandchildren. He has left an indelible mark not just on his family and the community of Marin, but on children and families far and wide.

A formidable force whose presence will be greatly missed, it is my honor, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the breadth and depth of Mr. Giacomini's legacy of commitment and his many victories for the people and places of Marin. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and honor his memory.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2017

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on January 5, 2017, during the vote on roll call 11, on H. Res. 11, I inserted my voting card believing that my YEA vote had been recorded. It was my intention to vote YES on H. Res. 11.

TRIBUTE TO KAYE FRANCES WILLIAMS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Kaye Frances Williams, formerly of Selma, Alabama—a childhood friend, outstanding lawyer, devoted wife, doting aunt, amazing sister, loving daughter and special friend to many.

Born on January 4, 1962, Kaye was the eldest daughter of the late Martha and Fred D. Williams, Jr. and the sister to my childhood best friend Kimberly Joyce Williams, whom I affectionately called ''Kimmie Jo''.

Every childhood memory I have includes the Williams family. I can still see that house in Lakewood and I will never forget that home telephone number. I am so grateful for the love and support I received from the Williams family. I spent so much time with them that I even called their parents Uncle Fred and T-Mart. I can still smell the aroma of their mother's homemade fried chicken—Colonel Sanders had nothing on T-Mart's chicken.

Kaye grew up a true ''Southern Belle'' from the most affluent African American family in the historic town of Selma, Alabama. The Williams were the epitome of black high society in Selma. The Williams family owned Black Selma—they were the premier florist, owning Fred's Flower and Gift Shop as well as JH Williams Funeral Home. They were the top educators, entrepreneurs, doctors and philanthropists. The Williams family had it ''goin on''. They even summered at Cape May—when black folks in Selma didn't even know Jersey had a shore.

Deprived of female siblings myself, Kim was my sister/BFF and Kaye was ''our big sister''. Kaye had it all—she was beautiful, smart, fun and talented—Kaye was the girl we all wanted to be.

Kaye Frances Williams was a trailblazer. She blazed the trail that so many of us in Selma aspired to follow. I set my own goals by the achievements of Kaye Williams. I wanted to be a debater because Kaye was the first black debater at Selma High School. I wanted to be in student government because Kaye was the first black President of the Selma

High Student Council. I wanted to be the valedictorian because Kaye graduated top of the Class of 1979 at Selma High and then attended Goucher College and Georgetown Law School. I wanted to be a securities lawyer because Kaye was a top lawyer at the Securities Exchange Commission. Like so many others, I spent my life trying to live up to Kaye's exceptionalism.

I will never forget the summer of 1984 when Kim and I, as college students, lived in Kaye's apartment and worked in Washington, DC while Kaye was a summer associate in a Los Angeles law firm. What a summer—Kim and I knew we were truly grown—living in DC in our big sister's apartment with a car. Being a responsible elder, Kaye left us a list of ''Dos & Don'ts'' which we promptly ignored. What precious memories Kim and I made that summer—all because of Kaye. Those were the days.

Kaye emanated a bright light that blazed a path that will shine on in the lives of the many people she impacted. She was beloved by her family and she was the ''Best Aunt ever'' to Kim's children—McKenzie and Madison. Kaye met every challenge in life with the same fierce determination and indomitable spirit that helped her succeed in every endeavor she undertook. She graciously assumed the mantle of the matriarch of the Williams family when her parents died and she was the devoted caregiver to her loving husband Earl.

On December 7, 2016, that bright light dimmed far too soon. Kaye Williams had many more miles to go before she slept. Although Kaye will be missed by us all, let us find comfort in the fact that she will forever live in the hearts of so many people she nurtured, influenced, and affected. Kaye would not want us to mourn her but rather she would want us to celebrate the extraordinary life she led and be inspired by the example she set.

I know that I would not be Alabama's first black Congresswoman had Kaye Frances Williams not been my ''Big Sister''. My gratitude is immeasurable and I will seek to repay that debt by ensuring that the path she blazed in Selma, Alabama shall never be extinguished but will continue to light the way for the next generation of brilliant, beautiful and talented African American women.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and accomplishments of Kaye Frances Williams.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JACOB BENNETT MIZNER

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Jacob Bennett Mizner for his service to my office and California's Central Valley.

Mr. Mizner was born on July 16, 1994 in Tulare, California to Kevin and Sharon Mizner. After graduating from Tulare Western High School in Tulare, California in 2012, Mr. Mizner graduated from Fresno Pacific University in Fresno, California in 2016. While attending Fresno Pacific University, Mr. Mizner, a lover of music, was involved in Fresno Pacific Concert Choir.

Mr. Mizner has been a Field Representative in Kings and Tulare County, California from June 1, 2016 to January 5, 2017. As Field Representative, Mr. Mizner was known for his friendly, optimistic personality throughout both counties. He is a hard, dedicated worker who was highly respected by his peers and was able to create and foster connections with constituents, business leaders, and public officials, all of which are integral skills of congressional staffers.

Outside of work, Mr. Mizner enjoys music; he is an avid saxophone player and enjoys singing in choir, as well. Mr. Mizner is a member of California Baptist University Choir and Orchestra.

Mr. Mizner's time with my office came to a close on January 5, 2017 when he left to pursue an eleven-month mission trip with The World Race to serve needy groups in eleven countries in Central America, Asia, and Africa. Knowing Mr. Mizner, his character, and his work ethic, I have no doubt that he will achieve many great things in his future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Mr. Jacob Mizner for his public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing him well as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

INTRODUCING THE JUSTICE FOR YAZIDIS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Justice for Yazidis Act, legislation that will expand mental health, physical therapy, and other health services to religious minority groups that have suffered the greatest persecution under the Islamic State (IS). These programs, though modest, are greatly needed and will help victims of genocide begin the long process of healing. In addition, this legislation establishes a P2 Processing system for Iraqi and Syrian religious minority groups, allowing these groups and individuals to apply directly to the United States for refugee status without compromising the rigorous vetting standards already in place.

The crimes committed by IS are horrifying and brutal. Countless articles have been published detailing the unimaginable abuse that groups like the Yazidis have endured. Apart from the mass killings, the beheadings and torture, IS created a system of organized kidnapping, rape, forced marriage, and sexual slavery primarily targeted against girls from religious and ethnic minority groups. It's not hidden: they sell captives in the open, like cattle at market, where militants come and go as they please to select slaves as young as nine years old. Once sold, girls and women are traded among fighters for months at a time. Fighters believe they are entitled—and obligated—to enslave, rape, and forcibly convert these girls. They even published a pamphlet in December 2014 on how to treat female slaves.

Thousands of women remain enslaved. For those who have escaped or been rescued, the road to recovery in war-torn Syria and Iraq is daunting. The United States, through the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided services and goods for these groups, but the need continues to grow on a daily basis.

Human Rights Watch recently documented the severity of the need for trained trauma specialists, explaining that ''doctors need to be better trained in examining women who have been victims of sexual assault . . . otherwise, the exams could be harmful and humiliating for women and girls, and make them feel like they have no control over their bodies—which is what they felt when they were abducted by ISIS.'' By dedicating specific resources dedicated to providing access to trauma-informed counseling, the United States can play a significant role in rehabilitating these traumatized and often suicidal survivors of IS.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this body will expeditiously pass this measure. Doing so will reaffirm America's commitment to those around the world suffering from great injustice.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO RETIRING SHERIFF MICK EPPERLY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Mick Epperly of Barry County, Missouri, who is retiring after 28 years of service in law enforcement.

Sheriff Epperly took his first oath as Sheriff of Barry County on January 1, 1997. Now, 20 years later, he has become the longest serving sheriff in Barry County's history.

During his career, Sheriff Epperly has come to be known as the ''working sheriff.'' On the job, Sheriff Epperly has consistently been an active sheriff arriving first on the scene for search and rescue missions, going into work at all hours, even on weekends and holidays, regularly going on patrols with his officers and working every homicide case that the Sheriff's Office has been involved in during his tenure.

I am honored to recognize Sheriff Epperly's years of service and hard work on the job for the people of Barry County. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District I ask all of my colleagues to join me in wishing Sheriff Epperly the best in retirement and thanking him for 28 years of work in law enforcement.

IN MEMORY OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERVISOR JOHN BENOIT

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Riverside County Supervisor John Benoit, who passed away on December 26, 2016 at the age of 64. John was a lifelong public servant, having spent 31 years in law enforcement prior to his first foray into elected office in 1999 as a board member for the Desert Sands Unified School District.

In 2002, John was elected to the California State Assembly, where I had the pleasure of