

At a period when classical theater was seldom performed in the area, ANW's first production was Hamlet. Initially performing in a small theater in a former Masonic Temple in Glendale and funded by the founders, ANW flourished for nearly twenty years, garnering praise for its artistic excellence. After an effective capital campaign, ANW built a permanent home in east Pasadena, California in 2011.

A Noise Within performs in a rotating repertory manner to general and student audiences, reaching an audience of around thirty-five thousand people each season with one hundred-fifty shows of seven timeless classic plays, and has the distinction of being the only year-round classical repertory theater in Southern California. Dedicated to making great classic literature come to life for our youth, with its Our Classics Live! Education Program, ANW serves 16,000 students every season, with some level of subsidy for each student participant.

I ask all Members to join Congresswoman Chu and me in recognizing A Noise Within upon their twenty-fifth anniversary, and for their outstanding service and significant contributions to the arts in the greater Pasadena area.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTRALITY OF THE U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONSHIP TO THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, as Major General Ahmed Hassan Mohammed Asseri made clear in a recent op-ed, the relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia is central to the fight against terror. Together our two countries are responding to the serious threat from "Da'esh" (ISIS) and other terrorist groups, Iran's continued support of terrorism, and the violent messages of religious extremism emanating from some quarters of the Middle East.

Gen. Asseri's support for intelligence-sharing is a clear recognition that countering these threats goes beyond the battlefield. We are appreciative of Saudi efforts to block the flow of funding to terrorists, weakening their capacity to perpetrate atrocities against innocents around the world. We note with enthusiasm efforts by Saudi Arabia to counter the messages of violent extremism that draw vulnerable young people into the grasp of these terrible groups and applaud efforts to address the challenge of rehabilitating convicted terrorists.

We are hopeful that the Saudi-led Islamic Coalition Against Terrorism will play an increasingly important role in both the fight against ISIS and efforts to push back against Iran's destabilizing activities in the region. Nowhere is this more relevant than in Yemen, where Saudi Arabia has suffered both military and civilian casualties. It is imperative to push Iranian influence out of Yemen, expedite humanitarian assistance to Yemenis suffering through this conflict, and develop a coherent, long-term political framework through which the country can move forward.

The United States values Saudi Arabia as a partner, and we are committed to working together in the fight against terror.

I include in the RECORD the recent editorial by General Asseri.

[From FoxNews.com, March 26, 2017]

MY COUNTRY SUPPORTS AMERICA'S TOUGH STANCE AGAINST ISIS, TERROR, AND IRAN
(By Ahmed Hassan Mohammed Asseri)

Published March 26, 2017 (FoxNews.com)
Leaders from 68 countries gathered in Washington for a meeting of the Global Coalition to Counter Daesh (ISIL) hosted by President Trump's administration this past week.

Saudi Arabia welcomes the new administration's attention to the Middle East and its support for America's friends who are fighting back against transnational terrorists such as Daesh and pushing back against Iranian interference in countries such as Yemen.

As Americans would say, "You've got our back." And America's support is indispensable as we stand together against a host of threats to regional stability.

While meeting with Saudi Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman—an architect of our country's economic, social, and governmental reforms—at the White House recently, President Trump enthusiastically endorsed the modernization drive that will make our country an even more valuable strategic partner. Similarly, our government welcomes the United States' long-standing support of the Saudi defense forces.

The new administration is also toughminded about the Iranian threat to regional stability, which was magnified by the recent nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers, including the United States.

Defense Secretary James Mattis and CIA director Mike Pompeo each describe Iran as the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, while Vice President Mike Pence has called the nuclear agreement "a terrible deal."

Saudi Arabia is prepared to work with the United States and its allies to restrain Iranian conduct, just as we have helped to stabilize the Arabian Gulf and its energy supplies since World War II. While the US-Saudi partnership is time-tested, reaffirming this relationship is a matter of strategy, not sentiment. Since the Global Coalition's founding three years ago, Saudi Arabia has been an active partner from Day One, including sending fighter jets to the Incirlik airbase in southern Turkey to join the US-led air campaign against Daesh in Syria.

On the financial front, Saudi Arabia works closely with the United States to cut off funding for Daesh and Al Qaeda. Through real-time information-sharing, we cooperate with the United States to shut down the flow of funds from western banks to Middle Eastern extremists.

To ensure that charitable contributions don't subsidize terrorism, we prohibit Saudi mosques and aid organizations from transferring money outside our country.

We have also taken strong steps to stop unauthorized shipments of military equipment from leaving Saudi Arabia and to prevent people from crossing our borders to join Daesh in Iraq or Syria.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia is mobilizing the Muslim world against the extremist threat to our religion. Under Saudi leadership, the 41-nation Islamic Coalition is equipping our countries to fight violent extremists by training our security forces and sharing information and intelligence.

Last March, in the largest joint military exercise ever in the Middle East, some 350,000 soldiers, 20,000 tanks and 2,500 warplanes from 20 countries joined together in "war games" in the Saudi desert to jointly train our security forces for operations against non-state armed groups.

Turning from the battlefields to the battle of ideas, the Islamic Coalition is encouraging educators and scholars as well as religious and political leaders to raise their voices against those who preach violence. Moreover, Saudi Arabia has created a center which operates 24/7 to analyze social media to identify and track terrorist efforts to recruit and activate new followers.

But non-state armed groups and radical preachers aren't the only threats. By conducting ballistic missile tests last month and meddling in Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the Sinai Peninsula and even the Gulf States, Iran is imperiling the stability of our region. Even more disturbingly, Iran is sharing ballistic missile technology with the extremist Houthi militia in Yemen and similar groups in other countries, thereby imperiling the security of the entire region.

In Yemen, which shares a 1,100-mile border with Saudi Arabia, Iran is supporting and arming the Houthi militia, modeled on the terrorist Hezbollah movement that has destabilized Lebanon. While making Yemen ungovernable, the Houthis are attacking Saudi Arabia, having fired more than 40,000 mortars, rockets and other projectiles at our towns, killing at least 375 civilians, closing more than 500 schools and displacing 24 villages and over 17,000 people.

In January, three Houthi suicide boats rammed a Saudi frigate off the western coast, killing two crew members and injuring three others.

Responding to this threat, Saudi Arabia leads a coalition of 12 countries fighting to reinstate Yemen's legitimate, internationally recognized government and restore peace and security to the country.

To be sure, Saudi Arabia prefers to promote stability through peaceful means, as we do by providing much-needed diplomatic and economic support to strategic allies such as Egypt and Jordan. But aggression, active destabilization and acts of terrorism, including Iran's infringements in Yemen, demand a military response.

From the Cold War through the War on Terror, the U.S. has helped Saudi Arabia strengthen our defenses through joint military training exercise and ballistic defensive weapons sales, making our country the largest customer of U.S. military equipment.

Today, we're working with the United States and its allies to defeat Daesh, Al Qaeda and Iranian-sponsored extremism and expansionism.

We stand shoulder-to-shoulder for a secure and stable Middle East in a peaceful and prosperous world.

(Major General Ahmed Hassan Mohammad Asseri is an adviser to Saudi Arabia's Defense Minister.)

CONDEMNING NORTH KOREA'S DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIPLE INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 92, condemning North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missile and nuclear weapons program.

I am pleased to cosponsor this resolution, which reaffirms the U.S. commitment to security on the Korean Peninsula.

It is undeniable that North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs have accelerated in recent years. In 2016 alone, the regime conducted two nuclear tests and more than 20 missile tests.

In its most recent test, North Korea simultaneously launched four intermediate-range ballistic missiles toward the Sea of Japan, three of which landed within Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

In response to the threat emanating from Pyongyang, the United States and South Korea made a joint decision to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system to protect South Korean security and alliance military forces.

Once deployment is completed, THAAD will provide upgraded ballistic missile defense capabilities on the Korean Peninsula.

This resolution urges China to cease its attempts to block THAAD and calls upon Beijing to pressure the North Korean regime to dismantle its weapons programs.

Importantly, H. Res. 92 calls on the United States to both enforce sanctions on North Korea and to undertake a rigorous diplomatic effort to urge the global community to fully enforce international sanctions on North Korea.

The Korean Peninsula remains one of the most dangerous flashpoints on the globe.

Navigating this complex web of regional stakeholders will require patient and committed U.S. leadership to avert the ever-present potential of conflict.

I ask that my colleagues support this resolution, which demonstrates our commitment to halting the regime's destabilizing provocations.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOODLAND HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Woodland High School.

Woodland School was organized in 1917. It was the first consolidated school in Randolph County. It formed when Lamar, Cross Line, and New Site consolidated to form the school.

The original school building consisted of a hall and five classrooms. Ten grades were taught there until 1928.

The school will be celebrating the centennial with a ceremony on April 27, 2017. During the celebration, a time capsule will be sealed to be opened in 2042. Each grade will participate by contributing something for the time capsule.

Woodland High School is beloved by its community, and many of its teachers are alumni who have returned to give back to the community that built them up.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Woodland's 100th Anniversary and in wishing them many more.

IN RECOGNITION OF POLICE CHIEF KEVIN SANZENBACHER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Police Chief Kevin Sanzenbacher of the City of Winchester which is located in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia, and, as he nears retirement, ask that our colleagues join me in thanking him for his extraordinary service to the Winchester community and to our nation. After spending most of his career in various public safety positions in Maryland, Kevin Sanzenbacher became the Chief of Police of the City of Winchester in November of 2008, and in eight remarkable years, he has led the department to a new level of public service and professionalism.

As a strong advocate of community policing, Chief Sanzenbacher set the example for his officers by constantly being a part of the community, extending himself beyond what would be expected of a police chief by taking on responsible roles in charitable organizations such as the United Way and participating in community meetings to learn from average citizens how they and the police could work together to make their neighborhoods more safe. As a proactive leader, Chief Sanzenbacher also implemented a Teen Night at the Youth Development Center and a Teen Citizen's Academy to develop a closer bond between law enforcement and young people and give them a good place to spend some time each week. He also responded to society's challenge of dealing with the mentally ill, by assigning officers to the City's award-winning Community Response Team that has developed personal relationships of trust with the mentally ill citizens of the city.

In response to the devastating impact of the heroin epidemic, Chief Sanzenbacher organized a variety of informational meetings about the epidemic, including one that I requested, and played a leading role in establishing the Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Abuse Coalition and the Drug Court that has followed. He also took action to establish a partnership with the local chapter of the NAACP to deal with a police incident that divided the community and to develop greater long-term harmony among various racial groups.

As a champion of greater professionalism for his officers, Chief Sanzenbacher led the effort to attain accreditation by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice in 2009 and to be reaccredited in 2013; he took the lead in forming the first Winchester Police Department Honor Guard in 2014; he implemented a standardized fitness testing program for all sworn officers through which all were declared "fit for duty"; he managed to obtain a grant for the purchase of body-worn cameras and he created defensive tactics training and fitness rooms for the employees of the Department. In 2009, Chief Sanzenbacher, Jim Wilkins, Jr. and other community leaders started the Winchester/Frederick County Law Enforcement Foundation in order to provide funding for National Night Out, Kids and Cops Camp, law enforcement training and scholarships for worthy students.

Chief Sanzenbacher is the first to acknowledge that his many accomplishments were the

result of efforts of his entire team of capable, energetic professionals, yet, despite his self-effacing humility, there is no doubt that it took his special quality of leadership to accomplish these things. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in honoring and thanking Police Chief Kevin Sanzenbacher for his extraordinary contributions to the City of Winchester and to our nation, and in wishing him and his wife, Estelle, great success and happiness in the next chapter of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO JILL AND LARRY HAMMITT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jill and Larry Hammitt of Minden, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were married on January 28, 1967 in Missouri Valley, Iowa.

Jill and Larry's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th Anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

CONGRATULATING KATHLEEN THOMAS BENAVENTE ON RECEIVING THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S 2017 HOME-BASED BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Kathleen Thomas Benavente on her selection as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2017 Home-Based Business Champion of the Year Award for Guam. This award honors individuals who have experienced the rewards and difficulties of owning a home-based business and have worked voluntarily to improve the climate for other home-based businesses.

Kathleen is the Founder and President of The Occasion-Event Coordination and Decorating Co. Kathleen started the business as a side job to supplement her family's household expenses ten years ago and it grew into a fulltime success. Kathleen has since created over 200 events for people from all walks of life. Kathleen has always been known to have talent for organizing creative and successful events and was encouraged by friends and family to charge for her services. Kathleen and her family made substantial sacrifices and worked as the first employees to get the business going and they began to grow from word