

The magnificents who upon this Nation relies
Am so sorry but they're not coming home to-night
Amen

JACOB KEESE HOLLAND

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Jacob Holland as a member of the United States Air Force Academy Class of 2017.

Jacob will graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Biology on May 24, 2017, and he will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

His career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Jacob's unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation.

The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

South Mississippi is proud of Jacob and his accomplishments. We look forward to him continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Air Force officer.

As Jacob embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may always recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment graduating from a program as prestigious as the Air Force Academy.

I would like to send Jacob my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Monday, May 22, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 1862 and H.R. 1842.

TOM CLARK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Clark for his leadership, vision and lasting impact on Denver and Colorado as the CEO of the Metro Economic Development Corporation and Executive Vice President of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

With more than 30 years of economic development experience at the state, regional, county and city level, Tom's unique perspective and wealth of knowledge is unparalleled. Tom's career spans four decades from Direc-

tor of Commercial and Industrial Development for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, through positions with the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Denver Corporation, the Boulder Chamber of Commerce, the Jefferson Economic Council, and the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Tom was the founder and first president of the Metro Denver Network, the Metro Denver region's first economic development program, for which he received the Arthur D. Little Award for Excellence in Economic Development. In 2012, Tom was recognized as the Denver Post's Business Person of the Year as well as awarded the Denver Business Journal's Power Book Award for Economic Development and Government. He has also been recognized as one of the nation's top economic development professionals by the Council on Urban Economic Development.

I extend my deepest appreciation for Tom and his dedication to our great state, and wish him the best of luck in retirement and future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CLIFTON
THOMAS WALKER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor the life of Mr. Clifton Thomas Walker, who passed away on April 25, 2017, at the age of 95. Throughout his life, Mr. Walker was a respected leader in our community and an exemplary husband, father, and grandfather. His dedicated service, with the U.S. Marine Corps, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, and Lovettsville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, helped keep the people of Virginia's Tenth District safe for over 50 years, and he will always be remembered.

Mr. Walker, originally from Bullock, North Carolina, joined the Marine Corps in December of 1941 just three days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. During his 20 years in the Marine Corps, he was stationed around the world, serving in Northern Ireland, Guam, Okinawa, Washington, DC, and Lebanon. Additionally, he was a decorated member of the Marine Corps Pistol Team, receiving bronze, silver, and gold medals, and he achieved the rank of Distinguished Pistol Shot in record time.

In May of 1959, Mr. Walker married his wife, Elaine, and they began building their home on South Berlin Pike in Lovettsville, Virginia, where they lived since Mr. Walker's retirement from the Marine Corps in 1961. Mr. Walker went on to work for DECO Electronics in Leesburg, the Painter Lumber Company in Lovettsville, and finally the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, where he served for thirteen years as the manager of the Department's Office of Property and Evidence.

During that time, Mr. Walker also served his community in various capacities. He was previously a member of the Lovettsville Town Council, the Lovettsville Planning Commission, and the Lovettsville Lions Club. He also volunteered for 35 years, starting in 1966, as a member of the Lovettsville Rescue Squad, which chartered as the Lovettsville District Vol-

unteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc. In recognition of his honorable service, he received the second Rescueman of the Year Award in 1971 and the Most Dedicated Member of the Year Award in 1980. Through his long and impressive career Mr. Walker became one of the most well respected members of the entire fire Company, and the memory of his dedication to service will always be present as a true inspiration to our local community.

Mr. Walker leaves behind a selfless legacy and career of service and will be greatly missed by the countless lives he has touched. He is survived by his wife, Elaine, and three daughters, Debbie, Linda and Carol, his grandson, Brandon, and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of, and bidding farewell to, Clifton Thomas Walker. May he rest in peace, and his family be comforted.

RECOGNIZING THE 99TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 99th anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan, and to extend my best wishes to all Azerbaijanis as they celebrate Republic Day. May 28th marks the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, when the people of Azerbaijan first gained their independence from the Russian Empire in 1918. Although Azerbaijan's independence was ended by Soviet forces in 1920, it is noteworthy that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was the world's first secular parliamentary democratic republic in a predominantly Muslim nation—earning diplomatic recognition from the United States during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson. We also recall, with admiration, that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan granted universal suffrage to its citizens in 1918, making it the first Muslim country to give women the right to vote.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan restored its independence on October 18, 1991, when its Parliament adopted the Constitution Act on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

For the people of Azerbaijan, these last two decades of independence have not been without challenges. At the top of the list would be the ongoing conflict with Armenia. Although a cease fire was signed in 1994 more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory—including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts—remains under Armenian occupation and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis remain refugees unable to return to their home villages. In 1993, the U.N. Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding complete, unconditional and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. I am happy that Azerbaijan is committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict with Armenia, and I support a swift and peaceful resolution to this conflict as well.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. As an active member of

NATO's Partnership for Peace program, Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States in countering terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and narcotics trafficking. Azerbaijani troops serve shoulder to shoulder with U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan, as they previously did in Kosovo and Iraq. In support of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights as well as regularly providing landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Azerbaijan also plays an important role in the Northern Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan, by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities.

Azerbaijan has emerged as a key player for enhancing global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline are the main arteries delivering Caspian Sea energy resources to global markets, and completion of the Southern Gas Corridor—which will run from the Caspian Sea through Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, and Albania into Italy—will increase the energy security of key American allies by increasing the amount of natural gas from the Caspian Sea to European markets.

Notably, Azerbaijan also provides roughly 40 percent of Israel's oil consumption. What may be more surprising to some is that Azerbaijan—a predominantly Muslim country—enjoys friendly ties with Israel beyond oil sales. Jews have resided in Azerbaijan for 2,500 years without persecution and today, the Jewish community in Azerbaijan numbers over 12,000. Azerbaijan is also home to Christian communities and has been praised for its religious tolerance by the European Parliament.

As co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan on the monumental occasion of Republic Day in their national history. May the partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan progress and continue to benefit both of our nations.

AUNT BETTY'S 95TH

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Betty Helms, a World War II Navy Veteran who turns 95 today. Betty's life has been full of hard work and accomplishments as she was in the first group of enlisted women allowed in the U.S. Navy. Her tenacity to overcome adversity and eliminate barriers truly shows her character and life's work. Continuing with her lifelong theme of removing roadblocks to pursue her goals, she went on to earn an accounting degree from the University of Missouri in 1950. She later started her own consulting business and did not retire until age 85.

I am honored to share my gratitude and respect for this accomplished Missourian. Her dedication, determination and service are an inspiration to us all. I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Betty for her years of service and wishing her the happiest of birthdays.

INTRODUCTION OF INDONESIAN FAMILY REFUGEE PROTECTION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation with my colleague, Rep. FRANK PALLONE, Jr., which would simply allow Christian Indonesian citizens who arrived in the United States between January 1, 1997 and November 30, 2002 fleeing religious persecution, the opportunity to reopen their claims for asylum within two years of the bill's enactment. The bill would only apply to individuals who were denied asylum solely for missing filing deadline which closes one year after arrival.

Beginning in 1997, when extreme violence and destruction of churches in Indonesia was at its height, many Indonesian Christians were driven from their homes. These individuals came to the United States, seeking refuge from persecution for their religious beliefs, but were either unable to file before the one-year deadline or were unaware any deadline existed. They deserve the opportunity to have their claims heard.

The United States has a long history of taking in refugees fleeing persecution and providing a process to fairly consider their claims. This bill does not automatically grant asylum, but merely removes a procedural barrier to their claims being considered. These individuals seeking asylum deserve a second chance to avoid the persecution they have fled and remain united with their families.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING SAMUEL KEITH TOLIVER, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Samuel Keith Toliver, Sr.

Mr. Toliver serves the Mound Bayou community as a consummate professional and champion of organizations that are committed to innovation, change, and providing solutions.

Mr. Toliver has successfully sustained a 30 plus year career as a school teacher and is a respected and well-known name amongst the Mound Bayou community. He founded and funded the Boy Scout Troop 302 to help young men develop the skills and knowledge that will help them meet the challenges of the twenty first century. Many of his troops have been recognized by the former President of the United States of America, William Clinton, for earning the highest ranking of Eagle Scout and have went on to achieve the highest rankings in the military. He is also a retired U.S. Army veteran; he served in the Vietnam War. After retirement he went on to serve as Commander of the American Legion; ensuring and helping veterans to receive severance by taking them to various centers and appointments for health issues. He also became a

local farmer and a member of the Black Farmers Association, which allows many of the local community to pick from his various harvests to feed their families.

He continuously uses various formats to serve and inspire others throughout his home state of Mississippi. This includes spearheading countless charity events, and encouraging others to demonstrate acts of service. Samuel K. Toliver, Sr. is a powerful voice in the community and will continue to blaze trails for the advancement of people of color in professional settings.

For the past 23 years, Mr. Toliver has been serving as a constable. He continues to serve his community in Mound Bayou, and at 71 years old, he shows no signs of slowing down.

Mr. Samuel Keith Toliver, Sr., and former wife Lois Gant Toliver, are the devoted parents of two sons: Samuel Keith, Jr and Steven, and two daughters: Kesha and Karmaletta.

Mr. Toliver is also a dedicated member of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Mound Bayou, MS, where he serves as a Pastor.

The past 50 years are saturated with the footprints of Toliver's positive influences in his service to his church, community, and family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Samuel Keith Toliver for his tireless service to his community of country.

WILLIAM CORONA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud William Corona for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

William Corona is a student at Arvada K-8 School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by William Corona is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to William Corona for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HELPING ENSURE THAT ALL VETERANS GET THE CARE THEY HAVE EARNED

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong support for the significant package of the veteran's bills that we considered in the House both yesterday and today.