

States and Republic of Vietnam together sacrificed so much and fought so bravely. This year is the 2nd Anniversary of the Vietnam War Memorial in Denver, and it truly represents an important and meaningful addition to our community.

I am proud to recognize the efforts put forth by these men and women in the defense of democracy in our two countries. The United States of America is stronger and more enriched because of their contributions and for this, I thank them.

I would also like to thank True Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese American Community of Colorado and Thinh Nguyen, the Chair of the Vietnamese Armed Forces Day Organizing Committee for helping to make this ceremony and special day possible.

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH 2017

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. BABBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juneteenth. On June 19 (Juneteenth), 1865, Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston Island and issued General Order Number 3 which read, “the people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.” With this action the last American slaves, nearly 250,000 Texans, were freed two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Early Juneteenth celebrations were political rallies to teach freed African Americans about their freedoms, including voting rights. Over the years Juneteenth is celebrated at a wide variety of public events, prayer services, ceremonies, family gatherings, parades, barbecues, rodeos, and sporting events. Modern Juneteenth celebrations encourage self-development and respect for all cultures.

Today, Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery. In 1979 Governor William “Bill” Clements, Jr. signed legislation declaring Juneteenth as a state holiday. By 2016 forty-five of the fifty states in the Union have followed suit recognizing Juneteenth as either a state holiday, ceremonial day, or day of observance.

Mr. Speaker I rise, with my fellow Texans, to celebrate Juneteenth in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF
MR. LAWRENCE REEDUS

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and with great respect that I congratulate Mr. Lawrence Reedus on a momentous milestone, his 80th birthday. Lawrence will be celebrating with family and friends on Friday, June 16, 2017, at the Calumet Township Multi-Purpose Center in Gary, Indiana.

Lawrence Wesley Reedus was born on June 5, 1937, in Gary, Indiana, the second

oldest of five children. As a young man, he attended Roosevelt High School, where he excelled in his athletic pursuits, lettering in both football and basketball. After graduating in 1956, Lawrence continued his educational pursuits in Indiana at Manchester College. After working various jobs, Mr. Reedus found his calling as a career fireman for the Gary Fire Department, serving the city and its residents for more than twenty years. Known for his leadership and his political interest, Lawrence was determined to obtain a union for his fellow firefighters, so it is no surprise that he would go on to become the first African American president for the Gary Firefighters Association IAFF Local 359. For his unwavering dedication to his colleagues and to the community of Gary, Lawrence Reedus is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Reedus's greatest source of pride is his amazing family. He has three beloved children and three adoring grandchildren. Lawrence now resides in Memphis, Tennessee, but we are honored by his loyal service to the people of Gary for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commanding Lawrence Reedus on this special day. His outstanding dedication to his community and fellow firefighters is truly admirable. It is my pleasure to join Lawrence's family and friends in wishing him a very happy 80th birthday.

HONORING MRS. DOLIA GONZALEZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Dolia Gonzalez, who at the age of 88, received her high school diploma.

Mrs. Gonzalez is the embodiment of hard work and selflessness. After completing the 7th grade, Dolia left school to help her mother raise her five siblings. She then became a full-time mother to her own son, Alfredo Gonzalez, who sacrificed his life for our country in the Vietnam War.

After losing Freddy in the Vietnam War, Mrs. Gonzalez continued to work at the Echo Hotel in Edinburg. Unfortunately, she eventually lost the compensation previously promised to her by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Then after being forced to leave her job at the Echo due to health concerns, she began working at her local H.E.B. in Edinburg, Texas, where she is currently employed.

On Saturday, June 3, Mrs. Gonzalez received an honorary high school diploma from McAllen High School in McAllen, Texas. Alongside Dolia were her niece, Emily Acosta, and the rest of the McAllen High School Class of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I again offer my congratulations to Mrs. Gonzalez and her family. Her perseverance, fortitude, and dedication to her family and to our country have not gone unnoticed. She has made the South Texas community a better place, and it is my honor to acknowledge her today.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE SILICON VALLEY LEADERSHIP GROUP ON ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG) as it celebrates its fortieth anniversary. Founded by David Packard in 1978, SVLG advocates on behalf of Silicon Valley businesses in the interest of expanding the economy and maintaining a high quality of life in Silicon Valley. Under the superb leadership of CEO Carl Guardino, the approximately 400 member companies constitute one in every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley.

The Leadership Group has built mightily upon David Packard's legacy by playing a key role in many critical undertakings, including: the establishment of a permanent U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Silicon Valley; establishing the Housing Trust Fund to create affordable housing; creating new employment opportunities for women; and advocating for comprehensive immigration reform. SVLG has been the unquestioned leader in the development of transportation improvements, including securing funding for the electrification of Caltrain to replace diesel trains with high-performance electric-powered trains; several successful efforts to expand BART to San Jose; and the enhancement of expressways, local roads, transit and highways to provide safer and more efficient commutes for Silicon Valley employees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in expressing our collective gratitude to the premier organization of Silicon Valley for its extraordinary contributions to the economic health and quality of life in Silicon Valley. We offer our congratulations on the occasion of its four decades of accomplishments which have made our region the economic engine of our nation's economy and have strengthened our country in countless ways.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORT GEORGE G. MEADE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fort George G. Meade. For a century, Fort Meade has been an integral part of both our national security system as well as the Maryland community.

First constructed to house troops shipping off to fight in World War I, Camp Meade—as it was then known—was named for Civil War hero Major General George Gordon Meade, whose victory at the Battle of Gettysburg halted the Confederacy's invasion of the Union and turned the tide of the war. Over the course of World War I, more than 400,000 service members left from Camp Meade to fight in the war.

During the interwar period, Fort Meade housed the Army Tank School as well as the

Experimental Motorized Forces. During World War II, approximately 3.5 million soldiers trained at Fort Meade, which was also used to house Italian and German prisoners of war.

After WWII, the Fort reverted to peacetime activities. The Fort's importance grew when the Second U.S. Army moved to Fort Meade, and again when the First U.S. Army merged with the Second and moved to Fort Meade. In 1953, the Fort became the first to deploy the Nike I antiaircraft missile system. Later renamed the Nike Ajax, the Nike I was the world's first surface-to-air missile defense system and was designed to protect the capital region from Soviet bombers.

The Cold War period initiated a shift at the base to a greater intelligence focus. Fort Meade has been vital to the intelligence mission of the United States since the 1950s, when it became the headquarters for the National Security Agency (NSA). The Fort's mission expanded in 1995 when the Defense Information School moved there. Since that time the School has expanded to include both the Defense Visual Information School and the Defense Photography School. More recently US Cyber Command was moved to Fort Meade. Today, six cyber headquarters are housed at Fort Meade, making it the epicenter of our 21st century defense.

The 2005 BRAC ushered in some of the most significant growth in the history of the Fort. The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), which provides complete information technology services to the Department of Defense, moved its headquarters to Fort Meade, bringing 4,300 workers to a new 1.1 million-square-foot headquarters. The Defense Media Activity and Defense Adjudication Activities also relocated to the base, bringing a combined total of over 1,300 positions employees with them. The continued growth of Fort Meade during a time of downsizing and shrinking budgets speaks to its efficacy and its essential mission.

The NSA presence at Fort Meade makes the base one of the most important to the security of our nation. The work done by thousands of Marylanders at the Fort every day is crucial for maintaining day to day IT stability for all Americans and disrupting terrorist networks and plans. In addition to its vital impact on our nation's intelligence mission, Fort Meade has sent many active duty service members abroad. Collectively, around 2,700 personnel from 42 units were deployed from the base during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

I also want to emphasize the enormous impact Fort George G. Meade has on the economy of our state. Fort Meade employs over 56,000 personnel across 119 agencies and has a supported population of over 145,000, providing a significant boost to the local economy. Fort George G. Meade is the largest employer in Maryland, the fifth-largest employment center in the state, and has the third-largest workforce of any U.S. Army installation.

In the past 100 years, Fort Meade has made a profound impact on Maryland, the United States, and the world. I am confident that legacy will continue over the next 100 years and beyond, and once again congratulate Fort George G. Meade and all who have served there on this momentous anniversary.

AFRICA'S CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FAMINES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the Bible, in the Book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 3, Verse 2, tells us that: "There is a time to plant and a time to harvest." That ancient prescription has allowed multitudes to be fed over the millennia, but now ruthless men seeking power have disrupted this cycle, causing man-made famine where none should exist in African countries from South Sudan to Nigeria to Somalia.

Potential famine conditions in Africa and Yemen have been called the worst since World War II, even worse than the catastrophic 2011 famine in East Africa. What makes this round of potential famine even more tragic is how preventable it is. For example, South Sudan contains the most arable land in what was once a united Sudan. Aside from oil reserves, agriculture was seen as the key to South Sudan's future success. Now, areas such as the Equatoria provinces, South Sudan's breadbasket, are engulfed in conflict with citizens fleeing the country in the thousands daily.

There are more than 4.8 million displaced South Sudanese—1.8 million refugees in neighboring countries and at least 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). South Sudan is experiencing heightened levels of food insecurity with as high as 27 percent of the population in some areas facing famine. Despite the government's contention that people are merely being frightened by rumors of conflict, South Sudan has quickly surpassed Eritrea to become the world's fastest emptying country.

Another country seeing a major exodus due to conflict is Somalia. There are an estimated 881,000 Somali refugees, and the anticipated scale of population displacement from Somalia due to pervasive conflict and the threat of starvation will increase refugee flows throughout the region and into Europe. In Somalia, nearly 6.2 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance, and more than 2.9 million people are facing crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity, including nearly a million children under the age of five.

Nigeria is yet another country close to experiencing famine due to conflict. There are 14 million people in northeast Nigeria who are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 8 million children, and almost 6 million people are also facing severe food insecurity. Almost 9 million Nigerians are projected to suffer from food insecurity by August 2017, including more than 3 million people living in the northeast state of Borno.

We focus on the part Boko Haram has played in creating chaos and near famine in Nigeria, and quite rightly so. More than 30,000 lives have been lost in violence related to Nigeria's Boko Haram insurgency, but there is a developing threat that could widen the likelihood of food insecurity there. Attacks by Fulani extremists on farmers in Nigeria's Middle Belt are increasing in intensity and could further exacerbate hunger in the region.

The El Niño-La Niña weather cycles have caused drought as well as flooding in parts of

Africa in recent years. The possibility of drought currently threatens famine in countries ranging from Angola to Sudan to Mozambique to Madagascar. Nevertheless, it is conflict that poses an even greater threat of famine in countries such as the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Mali and could cause or exacerbate famine should fighting disrupt planting-harvesting cycles and markets where locally produced food can be purchased.

Ranking Member BASS and I just returned from a mission to South Sudan and Uganda. Humanitarian aid officials repeatedly told us that no matter how much aid is provided, it will not be enough to meet the ever-expanding need. Although we need to do more, no amount of assistance will do the job unless the conflict in South Sudan is definitively ended. Currently, there is not enough food to keep pace with the growing flow of refugees from South Sudan, and rations have been cut at times by half.

There has been a cease-fire declared in South Sudan, but many observers believe that is due more to the rainy season preventing large movements of troops and heavy equipment than a genuine determination to end the conflict. This week, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development has convened a conference aimed at bringing the South Sudan conflict to an end. After numerous efforts to reach a lasting cease-fire, one can only hope the realization of the immensity of this crisis will lead the warring parties to actually seek a lasting peace.

The hearing I held today was intended to make the appeal both for continued humanitarian aid from our government and others in the international community, but also for a more robust international effort to end conflict in the countries where people are scattered in the millions and desperate levels of hunger are rampant. We must contend with the vagaries of weather, but we shouldn't have to see people suffer for the ambitions of those without mercy seeking power at any cost.

THE OCCASION OF BARBARA GRIJALVA'S RETIREMENT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and celebrate Barbara Grijalva on her retirement from KOLD News 13, Tucson.

Barbara has been a fixture of our community from her first time on screen in 1983. Born and raised in Tucson, and a graduate of the University of Arizona, Barbara is a unique, homegrown personality. For 34 years, Barbara worked tirelessly to provide Tucson and Southern Arizona with the most relevant and updated news, both local and national, and is considered a living legend by her coworkers and viewers. During her time on KOLD News 13, Barbara was flexible in her reporting, working as both an anchor and a reporter in the field; in times of need, Barbara could always be counted on by her team to get the job done. Above all, Barbara Grijalva is a trusted professional whose reporting is always defined by the facts. In these times, the loss of a journalist of Barbara's caliber is significant.