

strategic partnership with Taiwan. As our tenth largest trading partner and a critical geopolitical counterbalance to Chinese expansionism, Taiwan deserves the full attention of our government.

On January 4, 2018, China's civil aviation authority unilaterally announced that it would activate four air routes along its southeast coast near Taiwan, consisting of the M503 route and three east-west extension routes. These new air routes endanger aviation safety and threaten the delicate cross-strait status quo between China and Taiwan. China's newly declared air routes also violate International Civil Aviation Organization regulations and international norms. This unilateral action risks stoking instability in an already tense region and demonstrates China's bullying behavior towards its smaller neighbors.

Our relationship with Taiwan is crucial for preserving Taipei's independence and maintaining the beacon of liberty in East Asia. We are Taiwan's largest foreign investor and third largest trading partner. Over the years, the United States has provided Taiwan with billions of dollars in defense equipment to deter repeated Chinese aggression. Let us not forget that China is not a free society and has for decades aspired to subjugate Taiwan to its communist rule.

If we do not challenge Chinese unilateral action at each juncture, Beijing's influence, military power, and economic might are sure to dominate the region—dimming the prospect of freedom for millions. Our allies in the region and our strategic interests are threatened by China's campaign of expansion. Right now, Taiwan and the greater region look to the United States to check the aggressive, communist regime in China. China's incursion on Taiwanese air routes echoes its seizure of international waters in the South China Sea as well as its territorial disputes with our Indian and Japanese allies.

The United States should act to restore consultations between Chinese and Taiwanese authorities regarding aviation routes. We should target a rollback of China's aviation routes to the status quo and allow Taiwan to negotiate for an agreement on this controversial airspace. Small and subtle incursions on Taiwan by China should not be mistaken as insignificant. They represent a larger Chinese strategy to intimidate neighbors and bend international order towards its will. We must stand firm with our allies and block Beijing's efforts to dominate the region. And that's just the way it is.

COST ESTIMATE ON H.R. 4555, THE  
DHS INTERAGENCY COUNTER-  
TERRORISM TASK FORCE ACT OF  
2017

**HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2018*

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, the following cost estimate for H.R. 4555, the DHS Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act of 2017, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office was not made available to the Committee at the time of filing of the legislative report.

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
*Washington, DC, January 26, 2018.*

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,  
*Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4555, the DHS Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act of 2017.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL, *Director.*

Enclosure.

H.R. 4555—DHS INTERAGENCY  
COUNTERTERRORISM TASK FORCE ACT OF 2017  
As passed by the House of Representatives  
on January 9, 2018

H.R. 4555 would authorize Customs and Border Protection in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to assign personnel to participate in overseas interagency task forces to combat the threat of terrorism. DHS is currently carrying out activities similar to those that would be authorized by the act; thus, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4555 would not significantly affect spending by DHS.

Enacting H.R. 4555 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4555 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 4555 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

USS "PUEBLO" 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2018*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the capture of the USS *Pueblo* by North Korea so I rise today in honor of her crew members and their unwavering courage.

The USS *Pueblo* is an intelligence ship named after the city of Pueblo, located in Colorado's Third Congressional District. On January 23, 1968 she was attacked and captured by North Korean forces while sailing in international waters during the Cold War. The unlawful seizure of the USS *Pueblo* resulted in the imprisonment and torture of 82 of her crew members. Tragically, one crew member died during the seizure of the ship.

For 11 months, the crew was subjected to brutal torture at the hands of their North Korean captors. In recent years, survivors have recounted being forced to walk around the floor on their knees, holding chairs over their heads for long periods of time, being slapped, punched and hit with gun butts, and having firearms held to their heads with threats of death if they did not reveal classified information.

While the United States government was eventually able to negotiate the freedom of the crew members, unfortunately, the USS *Pueblo*

was never released by North Korea and remains in their possession. It sits in the Potong River in Pyongyang where it serves as propaganda for the North Korean government. The state of Colorado, Pueblo County, and Pueblo have all passed resolutions and proclamations requesting the return of the ship, but to no avail. I too would like to see our ship returned home.

In 1989, the United States government finally recognized the crew members' sacrifice and granted them Prisoner of War Medals. However, the public didn't truly become aware of the gruesome torture that the crew endured until 2012, when the National Security Agency released a classified report detailing the abuse and the loss of intelligence documents.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely thankful for the service of the crew members of the USS *Pueblo*. In the face of great adversity they survived brutal conditions, starvation, and torture, both physical and psychological. On behalf of Colorado's Third Congressional District I would like to express my deepest gratitude for their bravery. It is my great privilege to honor them and remember their sacrifice here today.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT  
OF POLICE CHIEF JOHN D.  
MANDARINO

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2018*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Monessen Police Chief John D. "Mando" Mandarino on his recent retirement from the Monessen Police Department in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

Chief Mandarino first joined the City of Monessen as a police officer in May, 1990. From that point on, John became a decorated officer within the local force and the State because of his leadership in helping combat the ongoing opioid crisis that his community and Pennsylvania faces. His dedication propelled him through the ranks, eventually he became Chief of the Department in June of 2013.

In 2003, Mandarino was presented with the Outstanding Police Performance Award from the Pennsylvania Narcotics Officers Association and an accommodation from the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office for his work investigating and arresting three illegal drug dealers within the City. As his career continued, Mandarino became vital in arrests in both the City of Monessen and Westmoreland County. Not only is John respected amongst his peers on the force, he is also a respected member of the community where his heroism to the people of Monessen will never be forgotten.

Today I am honored to recognize John Mandarino for his exceptional law enforcement career and his many accomplishments. His impact on the community has been too great to put into words, and he has represented Western Pennsylvania and Westmoreland County with great distinction. May God continue to bless Chief Mandarino, his wife Kelly and son Gianni, and may he continue to bless all the men and women in the law enforcement community.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF STEPHEN MICHAEL BISTARKEY, SR.

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Stephen Michael Bistarkey, Sr. who passed away on January 7, 2018. He was 45 years old.

Stephen was born in Youngstown, Ohio on November 10, 1972 to Andrew E. and Darlene S. (Anderson) Bistarkey. He was a 1991 graduate of Howland High School and attended the Apostolic Bible Church. He worked in the Trumbull County maintenance department.

Stephen was known for being an avid fan of the Ohio State Buckeyes, the Cleveland Indians, and the Oakland Raiders. In his free time, he enjoyed camping and fishing. Above all, he cherished his time with his son Stephen.

He is survived by a son, Stephen Michael Bistarkey, Jr. of Niles, Ohio; mother Darlene S. (Frank) Fuda of Niles; two brothers, Andrew E. (Connie) Bistarkey, Jr. of Niles and Kenneth J. Bistarkey of Niles; stepsister, Tonya (Donald) Swauger of Mineral Ridge; two stepbrothers, Frank "Buddy" (fiancée Mandy) Fuda of Rowlett, Texas and Tony (Devon) Fuda of Niles and several nieces and nephews.

I extend my deepest condolences to Stephen's family and friends. I know he is deeply missed by his son and all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

FORT BEND COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office for receiving the Texas Fire Marshals Association's (TxFMA) Achievement of Excellence Award and a Letter of Appreciation from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

The Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office was recognized for their performance excellence in fire prevention. This achievement award is the only formal recognition for performance excellence of organizations given by the TxFMA. In addition, the Letter of Appreciation identifies the Fire Marshal's staff for their leadership as a TCOLE agency. Our community is safer because of the dedication of the first responders in the Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office. We thank them for their service and their sacrifice.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second District of Texas, congratulations again to the Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office for earning this distinction. I thank them for their commitment to keeping our community safe.

REMEMBERING "APOLLO 1," "CHALLENGER" AND "COLUMBIA"

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, "Sometimes when we reach for the stars we fall short," as President Reagan said. This time of year is difficult for the space community as we remember the 17 courageous astronauts lost to tragic incidents.

On January 27, 1967, Virgil Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee were performing tests of the *Apollo 1* spacecraft at Cape Canaveral when a fire broke out. Desperate efforts to rescue them were too late.

On January 28, 1986, a crew of seven lifted off aboard the space shuttle *Challenger*. Michael Smith, Dick Scobee, Judith Resnik, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Gregory Jarvis and teacher Christa McAuliffe. Seventy-three seconds after liftoff, all were lost when the *Challenger* exploded.

On February 1, 2003, Pilot William McCool and Commander Rick Husband guided the space shuttle *Columbia* back into earth's atmosphere along with crewmembers Michael Anderson, Laurel Clark, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla and Ilan Ramon. The shuttle broke up during reentry, taking the lives of all on board.

Let us remember these 17 brave pioneers "who made the ultimate sacrifice so others could reach for the stars."

HONORING TEMPLE SINAI IN SANDY SPRINGS

**HON. KAREN C. HANDEL**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2018

Mrs. HANDEL. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Temple Sinai in Sandy Springs, Georgia.

For 50 years now, Temple Sinai has served the reform Jewish community in Atlanta, Georgia.

In February of 1968, thirty people sat in on a meeting to discuss the formation of a Reform Jewish congregation in Atlanta. One month later, 145 families signed on as chapter members.

Today, 50 years since that first meeting, over 1,300 Georgians proudly call Temple Sinai home.

Senior Rabbi Ron Segal has been a member of the clergy at Temple Sinai since July 1996. As a board member of the Atlanta chapter of the American Jewish Committee and as an advisory board member of the William Breman Jewish Home, Rabbi Segal has shown a commitment to our city that extends well beyond the perimeter of Temple Sinai.

Mr. Speaker, Temple Sinai will have served our community for a full half century this February, and they continue to go above and beyond in their service to their neighbors.

From offering educational opportunities to serving as a center of Jewish life in Atlanta, I want to wish Temple Sinai 50 more years of continued success as a pillar of the Jewish community in Atlanta.

COMMEMORATING THE 2018 NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2018

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize all of the Catholic schools and parishes in the 18th District of Illinois and across the nation that will be participating in National Catholic Schools Week. This week, over seven thousand Catholic schools will host more than two million students to celebrate this year's theme: "Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) has proven extraordinary leadership and development with 99 percent of all students graduating high school and 85.7 percent go on to higher education. The NCEA's legacy of success is a testament to the quality education and guidance through faith that each student receives during their time at Catholic schools.

As a graduate of St. Anne Grade School in East Moline, Illinois and Spalding Catholic High School in Peoria, Illinois, it is my privilege to be an original co-sponsor of legislation that recognizes and supports National Catholic Schools Week. The education and religious values that these institutions instill serve as a strong foundation for a fulfilling relationship with God and inform our daily lives with lessons of faith.

I am thankful every day for the experiences and lessons that I have gained through my Catholic upbringing, and I am grateful that my three sons also attend Catholic schools that will prepare them to learn, serve, lead, and succeed like so many other children across the nation.

While we reflect this week on the impact that our schools have had on our spiritual growth, let us also recognize the contributions that the National Catholic Educational Association continually provides for our communities. Once again, I am pleased to commemorate National Catholic Schools Week and I look forward to many more years of continued success and celebration.

IN RECOGNITION OF WEAVE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2018

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Women Escaping a Violent Environment (WEAVE) as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary. As the community gathers to honor this organization, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this nonprofit for its long history of service to the Sacramento region and beyond.

In 1978, WEAVE opened its first shelter to provide services and resources to survivors of domestic violence. It soon expanded its services to help sexual assault and human trafficking survivors through legal assistance, emergency shelters, crisis intervention, community prevention education programs, and a 24-hour support and information line. In its 40