

managed the daily operations in Senator HIRONO's Honolulu State Office.

Laura also served as a member of the Federal Communications Commission Consumer Advisory Committee, the Center for Women's Policy Studies, and as Chair of the Governor of California's Task Force on Broadband, Community Development, and Public/Private Partnerships. In all of these roles, she worked tirelessly to give a voice to the voiceless.

Her desire to help and uplift others remained a central focus throughout her career. Laura's friends often recount they had a very clear picture of her intelligence, her kindness, and her concern for others—as well as the steel in her spine. They also say she was one of the best listeners they have ever known. She never focused on promoting herself. Instead, she worked behind the scenes to ensure that others had a seat at the table and dedicated her life's work to helping people find their voices. Those were the battles she loved winning.

Even though Laura did not seek the spotlight, she was truly a force of nature who made a lasting impression on the lives she touched. I know that her legacy will live on through her family and friends, as well as the institutions she helped to create and shape throughout her career.

The Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus join Laura's family and friends both in mourning her loss and celebrating the historic contributions of a truly great American.

THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AT
THE BORDER

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 26, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the thousands of immigrant families who have been torn apart at our nation's border.

The United States is a country of immigrants with a proud legacy of protecting families fleeing violence and persecution. As a nation, we are a voice for human rights, which is why I was deeply disturbed when news broke that the Trump Administration was ripping innocent children from their parents as their families sought asylum in the United States. I was alarmed when I heard about President Trump's criminal prosecution of all those seeking shelter within our borders.

Last weekend, I went to the border with some of my colleagues to see for myself the impact of President Trump's "zero tolerance" policy. After seeing detention centers where children are still separated from their parents, after witnessing the immigration courts where asylum seekers are prosecuted en masse, after seeing the inhumane conditions that families are being held in at processing facilities, I can only report that this President's anti-family immigration policy is a disaster.

Mr. Speaker, there is a humanitarian crisis happening right in our own backyard.

At one detention facility, my colleagues and I met a grandmother who had brought her grandchildren to the United States, fleeing violence in her home country. They traveled across the Rio Grande by boat and she lost

one of her grandchildren on the way. When she reached our shores, she thought she would find refuge, but her remaining grandchildren were taken from her and put into a separate detention facility.

After weeks in detention, they still have not been reunited because the process this Administration has put in place only recognizes parents and their children, not grandparents, siblings or relatives as part of the family unit. She told us her story in tears. As someone who grew up close to their grandmother, I can only imagine the pain that she and her grandchildren must feel being separated—after traveling through such horrendous conditions to reach America. In our privilege, it's hard to imagine what conditions this family must have been living in to take that dangerous journey to our shores.

My colleagues and I also visited a federal courthouse in McAllen, Texas, where we observed court proceedings for detained immigrants who were seeking asylum in the United States, fleeing violence in their home countries. Instead of recognizing their right of asylum, the court processed these immigrants en masse. These immigrants also pled guilty en masse, setting them on a course to be deported back to the countries they had fled because of violence. So far, over 400 immigrant parents have been deported without their children! How will they find their way home?

We met with border patrol officers who told us that their jobs have been complicated by the actions of the Trump Administration. Mr. Speaker, we need to support the law enforcement officers who keep our country safe, but this Administration's "zero tolerance" policy has failed them, creating a logistical and human rights nightmare that they do not have the support to solve.

This is why I am an original co-sponsor of the Keeping Families Together Act and the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act, which provides standards for facilities at which aliens in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security are detained. Additionally, I have co-sponsored the Family Unit Right and Protective Act, which requires the reunification of families separated upon entry into the United States because of the "zero tolerance" immigration policy requiring criminal prosecution of all adults apprehended crossing the border illegally.

The children who have crossed our borders are looking for safety from violence. Instead, they have found cold cages, and concrete floors with aluminum blankets. For many of the families seeking asylum in the United States, crossing the border is the difference between life and death. However, when these families cross our nation's border, we are not a welcoming safe haven in a time of crisis. Instead, we are criminally prosecuting families seeking safe refuge, separating children from parents, and scattering the children across our nation.

As a country that was built by immigrants, it is disgraceful how we are treating immigrants at our own border. Therefore, I am urging my colleagues to cosponsor and support the Keeping Families Together Act and the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act. As the global leader in the fight to protect human rights, the United States can and must do better when it comes to the treatment of asylum seekers.

THANKING PAULINE M. BROWN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that a talented constituent Pauline M. Brown of Barnwell, South Carolina, has written an inspiring book entitled *A Touch of Heaven*. Beginning with love letters to her husband serving in Vietnam in 1968, she has continued writing, composing more than five hundred poems. I include in the RECORD the following poem from her book, *A Friendly Hello* (pg. 36):

A FRIENDLY HELLO

Always believe in the simplest things—
Sunshine and flowers, flags blowing in the
wind,
The music of children, rain on a tin roof,
Afternoons spent with a cherished friend.
A friendly hello can make all the difference
In anyone's fragile state of mind.
Say "I miss you," "I love you,"
"God bless you, my friend,"
And the saddest of spirits will be realigned.
A friendly hello can dry the tears of heart-
ache.
A little encouragement can rescue a lost
cause.
Remember a friend who brought you back
from despair,
And do the same for someone else, just be-
cause.

IN HONOR OF VICKY RUDY

HON. KEVIN BRADY
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor and recognize Vicky Rudy for her tireless service and unrelenting commitment to the residents, businesses, and families of the Eighth Congressional District of Texas.

A graduate of Arkansas State University, Vicky began her career in city government over twenty years ago, serving as the first city administrator for the City of Montgomery and, subsequently, the City of Rollingwood, Texas.

In March of 2010, Vicky was named the City Manager of Oak Ridge North—a position she has held for eight years. Under Vicky's leadership and supervision, this vibrant, tightly knit community has flourished and prospered, experiencing tremendous growth throughout the past decade.

During her tenure as City Manager, Vicky spearheaded numerous projects to the benefit of the area—including important efforts to fully rehabilitate the city's residential sewer system and water plant. She also helped spur economic growth in the region by championing the development and growth of businesses across the city, almost doubling the occupancy of the retail sector in Oak Ridge North.

One of the most respected city managers in Texas, Vicky has enacted positive change throughout her community. She has dedicated the entirety of her career to positively affecting those around her, and as each resident of Oak Ridge North would attest, she has certainly succeeded.

After nearly two decades in public service, Vicky will begin her hard-earned and well-deserved retirement in August. She plans to

spend quality time with family members, including her nine month old grandson, Ryan Rudy. While Vicky's career as a public servant has come to an end, the incredible impact she has made on her community will be felt for years to come.

I am proud to join her daughter, Lydia, her son, Garman, her colleagues, and her friends in thanking Vicky for her years of public service and wishing her the best as she begins her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL EDWARD DUNN

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, a constituent and good friend of mine, Paul Edward Dunn, was one of the most well respected lawyers across the entire state of Tennessee for over four decades.

He was one of the kindest, most honest, fair-minded men I have ever had the privilege to know, and I was deeply saddened to learn he passed away on Saturday.

When he wasn't serving our own community as a lawyer, as a member of various state bar associations, or as a special General Sessions judge, he was serving our Nation in the United States Marine Corps as a tank commander during the Korean War and later in the reserves.

Paul would have been married to his sweet wife Martha for sixty years on August third this year. Their devotion and love for each other was known well by many.

Paul and Martha had five wonderful children, but one in particular, Laura, holds a special place in my heart from years ago.

The first time I ran for Congress in 1988, Laura, who was in eighth grade at the time, came to help us every day after she got out of school, and even on the weekends.

I don't think many people worked for me as hard as she did. It seems like Laura's perseverance, work ethic, and soft heart were inspired by her dad, who possessed the same attributes.

Paul and Martha suffered a painful loss when Laura left this world at the young age of 22 due to her battle with lymphoma cancer. Now, we have the hope, through faith in God, that they have been reunited in Heaven.

Laura was such a wonderful, sweet, young woman full of enthusiasm for others.

While I am saddened by the loss of Paul, and the loss he and Martha experienced with Laura's passing, I certainly appreciate the kindness they showed me through the years.

While Tennessee mourns the loss of a great man, we remember the positive impact Paul made on our community, state, and our Nation.

SUPPORTING H.R. 4269—THE PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on a major loophole in

our tax code that favors private schools at the expense of public schools. I have introduced H.R. 4269, The Public Funds for Public Schools Act which would close this loophole that allows the wealthy to profit off their "donations" to private school voucher organizations. In 18 states, laws have been passed allowing wealthy donors to claim tax credits for donations that go to private, often unaccredited, schools.

In these states, tax credits are awarded to taxpayers who donate to private school voucher organizations. At least eleven states offer a dollar-for-dollar credit, which allows wealthy donors to donate to Scholarship Granting Organizations without losing any money because the state ends up bearing the full cost of the donation. When combined with a federal charitable tax deduction, the dollar-for-dollar state credit ends up resulting in a taxpayer-funded profit for the so-called "donor."

Wealthy donors reap the benefits while our public-school children are left with substandard resources in some of the most impoverished areas of the country. This is a major loophole in our tax code. Not only are states reimbursing the wealthy rather than investing in public education, but federal dollars are being given to the wealthy at the blatant expense of public school children and educators. To be clear, the American taxpayer bears the cost of this lucrative tax shelter, and the American public is left with less funding for our public schools.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud product of public schools. After the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, small private all white academies started to pop up in many Southern states, including one in my hometown. Selma High School, where I graduated, provided me with a quality education. I was on the renowned Selma High School debate team and we won competitions across the state.

Over the decades, many "concerned" white parents have taken their kids out of public schools, sending them to the private academy across town. This process has led to re-segregation of schools in many parts of the South. After years of losing revenue to private schools, my old high school is deemed as "failing" today by the state of Alabama. Moreover, there aren't enough resources to provide debate and other extracurricular activities to the children.

State laws like the one providing a dollar-for-dollar tax credit to private academies have further exacerbated these trends. Until this year, the academies in my state didn't even have to be accredited to qualify for the voucher program.

Thirty-five states provided less overall state funding per student in the 2014 school year than before the recession in 2008. When the Republican tax bill was signed into law last year, deductions for state and local tax payments were capped at \$10,000, leaving some wealthier taxpayers looking for new and creative ways to reduce their tax liability. In response, more state legislatures are considering laws to pass this lucrative taxpayer-funded loophole.

H.R. 4269, The Public Funds for Public Schools Act, would remove this loophole by reducing the double deductions benefit on these donations, saving money that could be reinvested in public schools that are struggling to provide adequate resources for their students.

We have a responsibility to our children and their future to do the right thing. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor H.R. 4269.

IN RECOGNITION OF SARA CATALÁN'S PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my heartfelt gratitude to my Deputy Chief of Staff, Sara Catalán for her 15 years of service to the people of my congressional district in Southern California.

Constituent Service is the heart of any successful Congressional office. Members of Congress are pulled in many different directions, and spend many weeks back in Washington, D.C. participating in committee activities and voting on the House floor. We must, therefore, rely heavily on a strong deputy to put together and manage a local staff that prioritizes the needs of our constituents. Sara has been an outstanding Deputy Chief of Staff and District Director, and I am indebted to her for her faithful service, good work, and perseverance. I have relied daily on her invaluable insights and sound judgment, Sara has been vital to my outreach and proactive engagement with the diverse communities of the district, ensuring that everyone is heard.

Constituents have often thanked me for the attention and assistance they received from my district staff, and I know I could have not done this outstanding work without Sara. Thanks to her, my district staff has always been hard-working and dedicated.

Sara's passion for public policy is evident to all who know her and who have worked with her. Over the years, her skills and insights have been invaluable when it came to the many issues affecting my district, and the greater public. She has been particularly engaged in my efforts to promote women's economic empowerment and protect and support victims of human trafficking. Under her leadership, my office has chaired a Human Trafficking Advisory Council, bringing together key players in law enforcement, nonprofits engaged in prevention and victim support, and victims' rights groups. I am proud of this work and the programs that came out of this Task Force, and I am proud of the work that Sara put into making it a success.

Over the course of the last 15 years, Sara has been an outstanding employee. She has also become a trusted friend. I have always relied upon her counsel and appreciate her forthrightness and her integrity. As she leaves my office and begins the next phase of her career working for a member of the California State Senate, I know she will continue to serve the people of California well.

I thank Sara for her service to the 39th Congressional District of California, and for her friendship.