

Headquarters. Colonel French advises on the training and organization of 40,000 United States Air Force Security Forces who protect our national security every day.

Colonel French was commissioned through the University of Connecticut Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, where he was a distinguished graduate. He has commanded an Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron in Oman and the International Military Police at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel French has had a remarkable record of success in the Air Force—but don't take my word for it. He has received the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, as well as the Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device and two oak leaf clusters.

Closer to home, Colonel French has played a key role at Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Foiese Business School—where he manages an \$8,000,000 budget and operations for the 40 faculty and staff assigned to the school. He also serves as an adjunct teaching professor.

Mr. Speaker, in every city and town across America, there are people who know that public service is more than just a career—it is a calling. People who see problems and want to fix them; people who know that through hard work, they can truly make a difference for their country. Throughout his life, it's clear that Colonel French is one of those people—and for that we are grateful.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I offer my most sincere thanks to Colonel French for his service to our nation, and a very heartfelt congratulations on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING FORMER AMBASSADOR THANDEKA LUTHULI GCABASHE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an inspiring activist, dedicated servant for mankind, and former South African Ambassador to the Caribbean, Thandeka (Thandi) Luthuli Gcabashe. Ambassador Gcabashe will be in Albany, Georgia this week and it is my honor and pleasure to welcome her to the Second Congressional District of Georgia where she will be visiting her friend of longstanding, Dougherty County Commissioner, Gloria Gaines.

Thandeka, also known as Thandi, is one of two daughters born to Chief Albert Luthuli and Nokukhanya Bhengu. Chief Luthuli was Nelson Mandela's predecessor in the African National Congress where he served as President from 1952–1967. He was also the second black man to win the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent approach to fighting South Africa's Apartheid.

Throughout her life, Ambassador Gcabashe continued to uphold her father's dedication to peace and human rights through her work in South Africa and the United States of America. While in South Africa, she coordinated

South Africa's Peace Education Program and lectured to civic, cultural, and educational institutions on the pressing issues surrounding Apartheid. In 1970, shortly after the death of her father, she fled South Africa with her husband and four children, and they settled in Atlanta, Georgia with the help of the American Embassy and the late activist, Mrs. Coretta Scott-King. While in the U.S., she continued to condemn the Apartheid and played a pivotal role in coordinating the American response. She returned to South Africa in 1996, following the end of Apartheid. She went on to join South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs in 1998 and in 1999 was appointed Ambassador to Venezuela, Latin America, and the West Indies (the Caribbean).

Former Ambassador Gcabashe's work has earned her numerous awards and accolades such as the ONI Award from the International Black Women's Congress, the Civil Liberation Award from the Civil Liberties Union of Georgia, and an honorary Doctorate from Haverford College.

Nelson Mandela said, "A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination." Ambassador Gcabashe undoubtedly possesses this combination and the evidence is noted in her distinguished service to her country, devotion to her work, and the compassion she has shown for the people of the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing former South African Ambassador, Thandeka (Thandi) Luthuli Gcabashe. The Second Congressional District of Georgia welcomes this outstanding woman and applauds her dedication and service to the betterment of mankind.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE UNIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in condemning the President's cruel and inhumane family separation policy and its failure to reunite children with their families.

Over two months ago, the Attorney General of the United States announced this administration's inhumane and cruel child separation policy.

This policy was the function of hasty political considerations and incomplete calculations of the ramifications of what such an abhorrent policy would do to the children implicated, the parents who brought them to our country in the hopes of a better life, a nation that has watched in horror, and a global community aghast at the measures being taken pursuant to this "zero tolerance" policy.

I have returned from my second trip to the Southern border in as many months.

I was there to conduct effective oversight to reexamine whether families are being reunited and to determine what due process is available to these individuals in the United States Courts and where these individuals can seek corrective action for that which confronts them.

When I visited the border last month and the federal detention facilities that housed parents and children quarantined from one another, what I witnessed was horrific and unforgettable.

One baby, 9-month-old Roger, had been taken from his 19-year-old sister after she was prosecuted for crossing the border illegally.

Their mother is dead, and they were coming here to find family.

Little Leah, just one year old, was taken from a grandmother and a sister.

The pain was no less visceral when speaking with mothers wondering where their children have gone.

In South Texas I met Gabby, from Honduras, who had a 45 day-old baby taken from her, and while housed at the facility had not yet been treated or given medical attention.

To be sure, these children are not alone.

To date, thousands of children remain separated from their parents.

In fact, once this administration realized that the optics of this child separation policy were not favorable, the administration attempted to disperse the quarantined children to faraway corners from where they were separated—South Texas—and away from their parents.

Indeed, one of the locations proposed to house these children was a shelter in my congressional district—the 18th District of Texas—ironically, on Emancipation Avenue.

The goodness and decency of the residents of my district, gleaned from their opposition to this policy, was immediately and abundantly clear.

Citizens organized throughout our community to make their opposition to this plan known loud and clear.

Congressional action must reflect the passionate activism of our fellow Americans.

Upon returning to the Congress, together with my colleagues on the House Judiciary Committee, and its Ranking Member JERRY NADLER, we introduced H.R. 6135, "Keep Families Together Act."

This bill promotes family unity by prioritizing keeping families together.

It would prohibit the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") from separating children from their parents except in extraordinary circumstances.

The bill requires an independent child welfare agent official to review any such separation and return the child if no harm to the child is present.

Thereafter I wrote to the President and was joined by 57 of my colleagues, asking him to end this policy, but also additionally to: Order the immediate cessation of the zero-tolerance policy for criminal illegal entry;

Reinstate the highly successful family case management program, which avoids the cascading ills associated with the President's child separation policy, while accounting for the law enforcement concerns at the heart of border enforcement;

Conduct a census of all accompanied immigrant children as well as a count of all unaccompanied immigrant or refugee children housed at facilities unknown to Congress;

Restore eligibility for asylum status for those fleeing gang violence or domestic violence;

And prohibit federal agencies from assisting any State from terminating the parental rights of any person whose child was removed.

To date, the President has not responded to this letter.

Indeed, it appears as if the President's lack of response to the letter I led is indicative of the administration's overall tact towards legitimate inquiries for oversight, like that which is prescribed by Article I of the Constitution.

Despite the fact that a federal judge ordered the reunification of children under age 5 by a date certain, last week the Department of Homeland Security indicated that only about 50 percent of these children were reunited by the date prescribed by the court, and that at least 2,551 of all of children remain separated from their parents.

The lack of empathy and compassion symbolized by both the policy and the failure to reunite these children with their parents is wrong, but sadly consistent with other instances where the administration lacked compassion towards those seeking asylum.

Notably, last month also brought news that the administration plans to foreclose the ability of asylum seekers to cite gang violence or domestic violence as an acceptable reason to seek asylum.

While this policy shocks the conscience, it is of no surprise that it would emanate from an administration which boasts as its Attorney General a stalwart opponent of immigration and a Chief of Staff who, while he was DHS Secretary, believed that separation of children from their parents was an effective means of deterring immigration writ large.

The ad hoc procedures the government has created to respond to the judicial decree to unite these families offer further proof that it never intended for families to be brought back together.

It is unconscionable that there had been no plan for the orderly reunification of these children with their families.

As we face the July 26 deadline for the Federal Government to reunite the thousands of innocent separated children, we must stand fast in continuing to demand justice.

Yesterday, the Trump administration told the court that it had reunited or "appropriately discharged" 1,187 of the 2,551 children ages five and older who were forcibly separated from their parents.

The administration has also reunited 58 out of 103 children who are under the age of five and whose reunions were required by the first deadline, July 10.

The administration identified 1,634 class members who are eligible for reunification and are in various stages of the process.

However, in the same federal court filing, the Trump administration has claimed that the separated children of 917 parents are either not eligible, or "not yet known to be eligible," for reunification.

For parents whose eligibility the government is challenging based on a prohibitive criminal history or unfitness finding, more information is clearly needed.

As the ACLU have argued in court—the government's word alone on this determination is not sufficient, which is why they have asked the court to order the government to provide details about the nature of the charge, conviction, or warrant for each parent.

As of July 20, the Trump administration reported that it had 37 children in government custody who have "not yet been matched" to a parent from whom they were taken.

Additionally, when asked in court, the administration was not able to provide a count of the number of parents who were released from ICE custody and whose locations are still unknown.

This is the all-important question: where are the parents whom the government has already deported?

For the separated children under five years old, there were an estimated 12 parents who had already been deported by the time of the court's June 26 order requiring reunion.

In a status update on the ongoing court-ordered family reunifications filed Monday, the government said 463 parents of separated children aged five and older are indicated as no longer in the U.S. according to their files.

These cases are apparently "under review."

As a mother, I am devastated and disappointed that the administration represented what they did not know and could not do.

They did not know the true number of the children separated, they could not reunite these children, and there is still no plan for their reunification.

It is beyond comprehension that a governing body in this nation could create a humanitarian crisis and be so uninformed as to abdicate its responsibility to rectify the situation.

Beyond any future government measures that reunite the separated families, Human Rights Watch reports that making any of these families truly whole, including by addressing the trauma our government callously inflicted on them, will take much longer.

Is this review from a leading human rights body truly reflective of our nation, which just a half-century ago declared never to "witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world?"

Did the President plan to make orphans of thousands of children who came here with loving parents?

These are question that should haunt this country for years.

Under no circumstance can we allow the barbaric separation of families to continue.

This policy is one of the most un-American policies implemented under the Trump Administration in our name.

This policy must galvanize the country to act.

Americans from all walks of life must band together to say with one voice: not in my name.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to denounce the President's unjustified assault on our nation's thousands of dedicated federal employees.

In his inaugural address, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed a call to duty—"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Millions from all corners of our nation throughout our history—in peace and in war, in prosperity and in hardship—have answered this call with their full measure of dedication. They are our public servants.

They showed up to serve and to lead.

They work long hours ensuring that our government has the greatest wealth of knowledge and expertise to best address the needs of our citizens.

They risk lives at the front lines of disaster zones so that no American is left in distress.

They lead the way while making sure nobody falls behind.

By any stretch of the imagination, these men and women should be celebrated as heroes for their altruistic dedication to service.

But the President, far short of ensuring that these federal employees have the best environment for which to carry out their commitment to serving their nation, has gone great lengths to attack these servants as part of a faux "swamp."

As a candidate, Trump falsely told voters that the federal bureaucracy was awash in "waste, fraud and abuse."

By abusing his power to issue executive orders, the President ordered to roll back civil-service protections that federal employees have enjoyed for a generation, making it easier to fire poor performers, curtailing time employees can be paid for union work, and directing agencies to negotiate tougher union contracts.

The orders require agencies to negotiate union contracts in less than a year.

They direct managers to move more aggressively to discharge employees involved in even minor misconduct, limiting to one month a last-chance grace period for improvement that now can last up to 120 days.

The orders also require agencies to begin charging unions for space in federal buildings they now use for free.

And, the orders limit federal employees to spending no more than a quarter of their workday on "official time"—paid time to do union business, a benefit Congress approved for federal unions in 1978, when the House and Senate overwhelmingly passed the Civil Service Reform Act.

According to the Civil Service Reform Act, the U.S. government allows employees to "organize, bargain collectively, and participate through labor organizations of their own choosing in decisions which affect them."

The rationale is that such participation promotes the public interest, contributes to the effective conduct of public business, and enables the amicable settlement of disputes between employees and employers.

Section 7131 of that bill provides federal employees with "official time" to engage in representational activities, discussions of grievances, dispute resolution, labor relations training, labor-management relations, and new department initiatives, among other things.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission implemented the legislation by adopting rules that "require managers and supervisors to allow complainants who are employees 'a reasonable amount of official time, when in official duty status, to prepare their EEO complaint and to respond to agency and EEOC requests for information.'"

In one fell swoop, Trump cut the federal union representatives of their time assisting colleagues with filing grievances, addressing sexual harassment claims, and resolving workplace problems.

For a president who has been the object of numerous grievance complaints and sexual harassment claims, the hypocrisy of limiting time to pursue such claims is shocking.

As a sign of the concerted war on federal employees, there also have been several other efforts to limit unions.

This year, for example, the U.S. Department of Education eliminated official time as part of its new labor contract.

Organizations representing these federal employees have argued this contract is completely unfair.

In this spirit I would like to commend the efforts of one such organization, the American Federation of Government Employees, or AFGE.

As the largest union for government employees, they have risen to the occasion to provide federal employees with the passionate defense that they deserve.

AFGE has challenged the executive order on official time as a violation of the right to freedom of association guaranteed by the First Amendment.

I was proud to have joined the amicus curiae brief in support of AFSCME's position in the case of Janus v. AFSCME, which supported and defended the need for unions and collective bargaining.

Eighty years ago the American labor movement was little more than a group of dreamers, and look at it now.

From coast to coast, in factories, stores, warehouse and business establishments of all kinds, industrial democracy is at work.

Employees, represented by free and democratic trade unions of their own choosing, participate actively in determining their wages, hours and working conditions.

Their living standards are the highest in the world.

Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups.

They have raised wages, shortened hours and provided supplemental benefits.

Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor.

But their work goes beyond their own jobs, and even beyond our borders.

Our unions have fought for aid to education, for better housing, for development of our national resources, and for saving the family-sized farms.

They have spoken, not for narrow self-interest, but for the public interest and for the people.

Unions are as important as they ever were—because corporations are just as dedicated to their bottom line, regardless of the consequences for workers.

David Cox Sr., President of the AFGE, understood that "Federal employees understand what is needed to improve the internal workings of their agencies far better than private consultants.

"Federal workers and their representatives should play an important role in the development of organizational changes involving federal agencies and the services they provide."

"Neglecting to seek input from employee representatives in the development of government-wide reorganization plans is counterproductive to any genuine effort to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of government."

AFGE General Counsel David Borer astutely remarked that "These executive orders are clearly at odds with what Congress has mandated by law," and that "These directives from the White House display a shocking lack of respect for the Constitution and represent a serious overreach of the president's executive powers."

Indeed, these executive orders are not merely an affront to the blood and sweat of America's public servants—as great as that may be.

AFGE has also challenged the President's executive orders on the grounds that they exceed the president's authority under the U.S. Constitution by violating the separation of powers and exceeding current law.

The president has used our federal employees not only to frame them as a scapegoat for our nation's problems, but also to subvert Congress' place as an equal branch of government—an attack on our system of checks and balances befitting of a banana republic.

This constitutional crisis should concern us all.

This attack on our federal employees disrupts the effectiveness of our government, labor rights across the nation for all professions, and the integrity of our very system of government.

I urge all of my colleagues to reflect the dedication that these federal employees have shown in serving our nation, and work to resist the arbitrary, despotic attacks that the President has levied against them.

RECOGNIZING MONTANA'S WINNERS IN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL FINALS RODEO

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six young Montanans who are among the best in the sport of rodeo.

The National High School Finals Rodeo concluded last weekend in Rock Springs, Wyoming. The competition featured nearly 1,500 of the top contenders from across the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Australia.

Montana was well represented, and six competitors from Big Sky country earned a coveted Top-Ten Buckle.

Alaina Griffel of Columbus placed eighth in breakaway roping. Shai McDonald of Gardiner finished eighth in barrel racing. Meghan McGinley from Bozeman placed tenth in goat tying. Jhet Murphy and Luke Murphy from Helena finished eighth in team roping. Morgan Rising of Wibaux placed seventh in bull riding.

Rodeo is a time-honored sport in Montana and part of our way of life. Montana's young rodeo athletes work hard to compete at the highest level. I congratulate these young Montanans for their excellence at the National High School Finals Rodeo and for being among the best in the world.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY TEAM

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the 31 young men and women from the Northern Mariana Islands who performed so admirably at the International Thespian Society Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska last week. Marianas team members earned Superior Medals and even perfect scores at the event.

Winners of Superior Medals were Jonathan and Lars Wolf of Dan Dan Middle School, Louise Li and Julia Malate of Marianas High School, Elizabeth Rose Jones of Kagman High School and the members of Marianas High School's glee club, "Rythym N' Harmony": Miguel Aninon, Roland Balajadia, Angela Barbo, Eden Conner, Jefferson Cunanan, Donna Galvez, Lesly Ibarra, Leonard Manuel, James Reyes, Charley Sablan, Clarisse Torio,

and Rinisa Torres. The Wolf brothers performed a duet acting piece, Jones performed a solo musical theatre piece, Rythym N' Harmony won two medals for group musical performance while Li and Malate won their medals in non-performance categories, Li for theatre marketing and Malate for costume design.

Li and Malate also received perfect scores for their performances, with Rythym N' Harmony scoring perfectly twice.

The rest of the team performed superbly as well, most receiving ratings of "excellent" for their work. From Dan Dan Middle School is Juliet Inocencio, from Hopwood Junior High School is Edgardo and Vladimir Palma, from Francisco M. Sablan Middle School is Christine Munar, from Grace Christian Academy is Su Min (Melody) Woo and from Marianas High School is Rouxiang (John) Lu, Kaye Ann Obando, Michaela Gatdula, Anjenette Cubangbang, Casey Huliganga, Lance Elayda, Chloe Salvosa, Deirdre Rosete, Kasandra "Myka" Villegas and Kelvin Wolf.

Most of these students had to compete throughout the school year to earn a spot on the team roster. But our senior thespians were chosen to participate in an invitation-only Chapter Select Showcase. Their stage production of "The Internet is Distract—OH LOOK, A KITTEN" by Ian McWethy was an effort that included collaboration from several different schools. Kagman High School Coach Joy Jones directed. The Marianas High School Art Club painted backdrops. And public relations and technical support were the work of the Senior Art Club under the direction of Marianas High School Coach Jonel Alepuyo with the participation of all senior performers. The team took home a recognition trophy.

In addition to the ratings and medals, the festival was an opportunity for some of our rising seniors to showcase their talents for colleges in hopes for recruitment. Rouxiang (John) Lu and Su Min (Melody) Woo both got at least 20 call backs and Kelvin Wolf and Clarisse Torrio got at least 10 call backs each.

Of course, these young, aspiring entertainers could not have been so successful without the team of faculty coaches who helped them hone their skills. Coaching the junior thespians were Kristine Wolf of Dan Dan Middle School and Harold Easton of Marianas High School. Coaching the junior thespians were Karen Alla and Jonel Jones of Marianas High School and Joy Jones of Kagman High School. I thank them all.

In addition to their own performances the Marianas team participated in daily workshops, saw performances by fellow thespians from around the country, and got the chance to meet and mingle with fellow members of the International Thespian Society, the honor society for middle and high school theatre students that hosts this festival each year. It is truly an enriching and educational experience.

Please join me in congratulating the Marianas Team for their outstanding performances at the 2018 International Thespian Festival.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF DR. BURTON RICHTER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary American, a