

Orthodox Church and the Holy Synod of Bishops in Skopje, Macedonia. Shortly thereafter, in 1965, the first Divine Liturgy was delivered to St. George's church by Archbishop Dositej Stojković in Macedonian. The visit by Archbishop Dositej was a success, resulting in the consecration of a permanent church on July 1, 1968.

St. George's rapidly expanded in the 1970's and by the end of the decade there was a need for a new church to accommodate more members. A new church hall was constructed and occupied by St. George's in 1981. On September 15, 1985, the new church was consecrated by the Metropolitan Kiril. After further successes and a growing parish, St. George's underwent its final renovation to date in the 1990's. This renovation included an expansion of the church hall and the installment of a beautiful stain glass window collection. These efforts were led by Father Branko Postolovski, who continues to lead St. George's today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the House to join me in honoring the history and contributions of St. George's Macedonian Orthodox Church. It is my hope that St. George's continues to thrive and serve the Syracuse area for many more years to come.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
BENJAMIN F. ADAMS III

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Benjamin F. Adams III. He is an exemplary leader who has served our nation for forty years in military service.

General Adams received his commission through the ROTC program at the University of Mississippi in 1978. He completed flight school in 1980 and spent 15 years on active duty with the United States Army. He has commanded at the company, battalion, and brigade levels. Active duty assignments included the United States Army Aviation Center, Fort Rucker, Alabama; the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Army Reserve Personnel Center, Saint Louis, Missouri; and the Combined Forces Land Component Command, Kuwait and Baghdad, Iraq. He served as a military technician in the Kentucky National Guard as the Commonwealth of Kentucky's State Army Aviation Officer; J1 and Army Chief of Staff from September 1999 to November 2012.

General Adams' most recent service has been as Commander, Land Component Command, Kentucky Army National Guard. In this position, he served as an assistant and advisor to the Adjutant General of Kentucky. He was responsible for manning, training, and equipping a force of over 8,500 Army and Air Guardsmen.

Following a career of forty years of service, General Adams is retiring from Army service. He will continue to serve as the Kentucky Department of Veteran's Affairs Commissioner. His service there is valuable to all of Kentucky's many veterans.

It is my honor today to recognize this extraordinary patriot, Brigadier General Benjamin

F. Adams, as he retires from Army service. His service and his leadership are greatly appreciated.

TACKLING FENTANYL: THE CHINA
CONNECTION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we held a hearing at the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, which I chair.

Chinese-made fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is killing Americans—more than 29,000 in 2017 alone. We must hold the Chinese government accountable.

Kirsten D. Madison, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs testified that China is “a primary source of illicit synthetic drugs coming to the United States.”

Paul E. Knierim, Deputy Chief of Operations at the Office of Global Enforcement for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), stated in his testimony that “China is one of the world's top producers of the precursor chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine and fentanyl, as well as the chemicals used to process heroin and cocaine.”

Ocean County, New Jersey Prosecutor Joseph Coronato, has called the China-made fentanyl sent into the United States a “synthetic storm” that is “devastating.”

He noted thankfully that local law enforcement is doing something about it—like his program that allows drug abusers to voluntarily turn themselves in at a police station—more than 800 since 2017—without being prosecuted. A program that has almost certainly reduced deaths.

Still, Prosecutor Coronato noted that based on his medical examiner toxicology analysis, in 2014, 10 percent of overdose deaths had fentanyl in their systems. Shockingly, in 2018, fentanyl-related deaths have jumped to 80 percent or more.

He also told the committee that “synthetics will become the predominate type of illegal drugs abused within the next 5 years” and that “in many instances” it is being sold “right over the internet.”

I asked both the State Department and DEA what the U.S. is doing to hold China accountable for fentanyl in the U.S. Are we using existing tools to hold bad actors in China accountable? We have tools, such as the Global Magnitsky Act, which targets corrupt officials and human rights abusers.

Recently the House passed comprehensive legislation to address the opioid crisis including the Synthetics and Overdose Prevention Act. The bill requires the U.S. Postal Service (as private carriers like UPS and Fed-Ex are currently required to do) to obtain advance electronic data (AED)—detailed info on the shipper and addressee and other data-empowering Customs and Border Protection to target fentanyl and other illegal drug shipments.

Bryce Pardo of the RAND Corporation testified that the potency of fentanyl has sharply increased the number of opioid overdoses

... and that the drug overdose crisis now surpasses major public health epidemics of prior generations, including the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Every single Congressional district in America has felt the scourge of the opioid epidemic. Don Holman, who was in the audience yesterday, lost his son, Garrett, to an overdose of synthetic fentanyl. Don's written testimony submitted to the committee, reports that the package came straight from China. His son ordered it online, not knowing of the poisonous effects fentanyl has.

Last week, I spoke at the Mercer County, International Overdose Awareness Day sponsored by Prosecutor Angelo Onofri and Robbinsville Mayor David Fried. Personal testimonies offered by survivors and recovering abusers were deeply moving.

Trenton Police Chief Pedro Medina spoke of the loss of his son, Petey, and assured the audience that there is a “God who can help all of you.”

Advocate Mark Manning, who lost his son Christopher, spoke of his ongoing pain but urged all to work together to help the vulnerable.

And Adrienne Petta recounted the horrors of her addiction and the impact on her family—she is now a recovery specialist.

For the record, Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher Gramiccioni's Opioids Diversion Program, steers certain low-level non-violent offenders to treatment rather than traditional criminal prosecution, and Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo Onofri's Community Addiction Recovery Effort (CARE) program which emphasizes treatment-first interventions for opioid addicts.

We must look at this as a disease. Go after those who are marketing and selling fentanyl and offer programs and assistance to those who need help.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF DAVID AND
CAROL WITHERINGTON

HON. ERIC A. “RICK” CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th wedding anniversary of David and Carol Witherington. When they met, Chicagoan Carol Leonard was 17. Tennessean David Witherington was on leave, and visiting Carol's hometown of Melrose Park, Illinois. Following David's honorable discharge, they eloped and married on September 7, 1968, in Clinton, Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Witherington worked in the plastics industry, and their careers took them across the United States, along the way adopting two sons. In 1985 the family sold their house, moved to Colorado, and started their own successful plastics company—the BroCom Corporation. Today, the Witheringtons live in beautiful Mountain Home, Arkansas, and are celebrating 50 years of marriage.

HONORING THE CALISTOGA
SPEEDWAY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Calistoga Speedway in Calistoga, California for being a long-standing place for our community to gather together and enjoy racing.

Calistoga Speedway is an important institution in our community. It is the home of a half mile dirt track loop, one of only several left in the United States. In 1937, the racetrack transitioned from hosting horse racing to car racing and since then has made a great impact in Calistoga and our surrounding community.

In the middle of the 20th century, Louie Vermeil and others founded the Northern Auto Racing Club (NARC), now called the Golden State Challenge Series. The Calistoga Speedway was NARC's home for 25 years. Currently, drivers from associations including the Bay Cities Roadster Racing Association, the American Racing Association and the Golden State Challenge Series make a point to race at the classic racetrack at the Calistoga Speedway. Additionally, the Calistoga Speedway has been an incredible venue for local racers, including Rico Abreu, to develop their passions for racing and begin their careers.

Numerous generations of racers and race fans have spent time at the Calistoga Speedway. During the two-day races, Calistogans and out-of-town race enthusiasts fill the RV park at the Napa County Fairgrounds and pack the seats at the racetrack. The crowds that the Calistoga Speedway draw also strengthen our local economy. Visitors eat at our restaurants, shop at our stores and stay at our hotels. Other facets of our community, in addition to local businesses, benefit from the Calistoga Speedway. Profits from the Wildcat Boosters' snack bar at the racetrack fund sports and music programs in our community, which Calistoga children may not have access to otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, the Calistoga Speedway is an important pillar of our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor it here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF KINGS
COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Kings County Farm Bureau on being honored as the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce 2018 Agriculture Supporter of the Year.

Kings County Farm Bureau has become a foundational institution in California's Central Valley. Celebrating one-hundred years of operation, an incredible achievement in and of itself, Kings County Farm Bureau acts as the sole agriculture advocacy organization for Kings County, California.

Kings County Farm Bureau not only acts as an advocate, but also leads the way on nu-

merous community service initiatives. Included is an emphasis on students and young adults in Kings County. One such initiative is their annual Farm Day, where they strive to educate students on agriculture-related topics and allow them to interact with industry professionals. Every third-grader in Kings County is given this opportunity at no cost to the schools. Additionally, Kings County Farm Bureau awards thousands of dollars in college scholarships to graduating high school seniors each year.

Kings County Farm Bureau exists as a direct reflection of their stated mission: "To provide education, promotion and representation of agriculture." They educate the community, students, and adults alike, on the importance of agriculture for Kings County and the Central Valley as a whole. Through their initiatives, they directly inspire the next generation of agricultural leaders. They promote the industry by connecting the consumer to the farmer, providing a platform for both to communicate and learn from each other. Finally, they represent the agriculture industry through their policy advocacy on the local, state, and federal levels of government. Kings County Farm Bureau has consistently demonstrated their commitment to protect, preserve, and enhance agriculture throughout Kings County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Kings County Farm Bureau on their dedicated service to the Central Valley and on being honored as the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce 2018 Agriculture Supporter of the Year.

STANDING UP FOR THE PEOPLE
OF IRAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Iranian people are still in the streets calling for the end of the regime. Despite continued violence by the regime's thugs, they persist in their cries for freedom. Across Iran, in more than 80 cities, thousands of Iranians are saying they have had enough with the corruption and repression of the mullahs. The free world cannot ignore their calls. America, the beacon of liberty, must stand with the Iranian people as they confront their oppressors.

For more than two decades, protests in Iran have grown more and more frequent as the promises of the Islamic revolution have proven false. The clerics and IRGC thugs have hoarded Iran's wealth to enrich themselves and support terrorism across the Middle East. The people of Iran know that their nation should be prosperous. They know their country is blessed with abundant resources, a proud history, and population of talented and hardworking people—they should not be struggling to get by. But they know it is the mullahs—not sanctions from the U.S. or the existence of the state of Israel—that starve them and keep them poor. The Iranian people are not fools who believe the hollow rhetoric of the regime.

Even before President Trump rightly chose to abandon the Iran deal, the Iranian people saw no benefit from sanctions relief. The se-

cret shipments of cash from the Obama administration, the flood of foreign investment, the unfreezing of Iranian foreign assets, none of it reached the average Iranian. And so in late 2017 and into this year, the Iranian people bravely came to the streets again to demand that the regime fall. They shouted "death to the regime" and "down with the mullahs." And the regime responded, as it has so many times before, with brutality, killing 25 and arresting more than 4,000. But the Iranian people remain undaunted and have not yielded.

The boldness of the protesters who initially took to the streets over the economic hardships quickly inspired others to come forward. Women threw their required headscarves to the ground in public squares, religious minorities spoke-out about their persecution, workers went on strike, and secularists stormed clerical seminaries. Their motives represented a wide-range of grievance against the regime, but they were unified in message: this illegitimate regime must end. These protests continue to expand as Iranians see their futures diminish under the Supreme Leader and his band of terrorists.

There has been an awakening in Iran and we must support it. It is not through bombs or guns that Iran will become free. It will be through the enduring courage and actions of everyday Iranians standing up to the regime thugs. They are demanding change now and, in growing numbers, putting fear into the hearts of the mullahs and their stooges. We can encourage and amplify their heroism. America has the resources and innovative tools to broadcast Iranians' messages of hope. Through our technological edge, the U.S. can help Iranians communicate and provide whatever assistance is requested. We can also ensure that the brutality of the regime is seen by all and that the theocrats become more isolated and punished because of it.

America will never turn its back on people yearning to be free. Whether in Iran or anywhere else. We have learned throughout history that ruthless despots that rule far from our shores still present a threat to us and our ideals. If we stand silently as they savagely crush dissent within their own country, their ambitions will eventually turn to opponents beyond their borders. The regime in Tehran has already demonstrated this intent by spreading terror throughout the region. Therefore we must remain committed to the cause of freedom throughout the globe. The terrorists who rule Iran today will meet justice, and we will help the Iranian people deliver it. And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, due to tropical storm Gordon, which impacted my district on 9/4/18, I was en route back to Washington and unable to vote on the following roll call votes on 9/6/18.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 386; YEA on Roll Call No. 387; NAY on Roll Call No. 388; NAY on Roll Call No. 389; and NAY on Roll Call No. 390.