

the homeless did not have access to meals every day. With the help and encouragement of Mr. David Bonnett, her school's National Junior Honor Society sponsor, and funding approval from the administrators of Saint Joseph Academy, Victoria implemented a program to feed area homeless. Volunteers from Saint Joseph Academy now prepare and distribute meals on the fifth Friday of longer months, filling a gap in services. I applaud Victoria's efforts to help those most in need.

Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for Victoria, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her for this significant service to her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes due to travel conditions leaving West Virginia. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 51.

KABUL ATTACKS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a wave of terrorist attacks have rocked the Afghan capital over the last few weeks killing over 130 people and leaving hundreds more injured. These horrific assaults in Kabul were specifically designed to demonstrate Afghanistan's vulnerability and instability. By attacking in the heart of the young Afghan democracy, terrorists are attempting to show the world that our efforts have failed and that they can murder with impunity. We must not accept this.

Terrorism is designed for this purpose, to terrorize, to kill with the intention of coercing people to form political opinions or decisions that they would otherwise not make if they were not living in fear. But a future with the Taliban and al-Qaeda returning to power in Afghanistan is to accept that terrorism works and that millions who now live free, must again be subjected to the oppression of Taliban rule. We committed ourselves to the cause of defeating terrorism in Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, and we must hold to this course.

However, after sixteen years of war, there has always been one fundamental flaw with our strategy. It has assumed that Afghanistan's neighbor, Pakistan, shared our goals. The recent attacks in Kabul present more evidence that Pakistan is not our ally in this cause. In the investigation of the attacks, the Afghan government has determined that their source was in the safe havens of Pakistan. And why should we be surprised, when it was Pakistan's intelligence service which created the Taliban and fostered a partnership with al-Qaeda decades ago?

For years, we have attempted to pursue terrorists living across the Afghan border in Pakistan, including operations that killed Osama bin Laden and dozens of other senior terrorist

leaders. But Pakistan pretends they were never there. It claims it has removed the safe havens but we know the Taliban leadership is still in places like Quetta and Peshawar—beyond the reach of U.S. and Afghan forces. We know that thousands are radicalized at Pakistani school and madrassas every year. And despite its bluster about being tough on terrorism, it frequently releases the terrorists it holds. Just last month it released a renowned militant leader who recruited thousands of fighters for the Taliban and in December freed the leader of Lashkar-e-Taiba from house arrest. These terrorists walk free, direct attacks, and incite generations of young Pakistanis and Afghans, all while the Pakistani government collects billions of dollars in U.S. aid. This can no longer stand if we are to ever bring the war in Afghanistan to an acceptable conclusion.

I applaud the President's decision to suspend security assistance to Pakistan and to publicly shame it for its role in harboring terrorism. The peace and security of South Asia should not be held hostage by the reckless policies of Pakistan. Until it can forgo its sponsorship of this extremist ideology and joins the responsible nations of the world in actively combatting groups like al-Qaeda and the Taliban, we should cease our partnership with the government of Pakistan. And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 5, 2018 I missed the following votes and was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 51, and NAY Roll Call No. 52.

HONORING MS. WILLORA "PEACHES" CRAFT EPHRAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable public servant and hometown hero, Ms. Willora "Peaches" Craft Ephram.

Ms. Ephram owned a very popular soul food restaurant in downtown Jackson, Mississippi. Peaches opened in 1961 after Ms. Ephram was able to save up enough money to own her dream restaurant. Ms. Ephram's soul food restaurant took on her nickname, "Peaches," and it served as a staple around the city of Jackson as well as the state of Mississippi. In 2007, Democratic Presidential Candidate, Barack Obama, stopped by Peaches during his campaign, where Ms. Ephram packed him an order of cobbler to go.

In 2013, Ms. Ephram stepped down from her famous restaurant due to open-heart surgery, and her son Roderick ran Peaches until its closure that same year. Last week, at 94-years-old, Ms. Ephram passed away due to pancreatic cancer.

Today, we honor the life of Ms. Willora "Peaches" Craft Ephram and her family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE "OUR THREE WINNERS" ENDOWMENT FUND

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and legacy of Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha, and Razan Abu-Salha, whose lives were taken in a violent hate crime three years ago at their home in Chapel Hill.

Deah was a 23-year-old student in the School of Dentistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and had recently married Yusor, who was set to enroll in the School of Dentistry in the fall of 2015. Yusor's sister, Razan, was a 19-year-old student of architecture at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Diligent in their studies, these promising young adults also demonstrated a strong commitment to community service, consistent with the tenets of their Muslim faith. Deah organized food drives and provided free dental supplies to local homeless and underserved communities. Razan utilized her artistic talent through selling portraits reflecting pacifism and tolerance, using proceeds to provide medical and humanitarian aid for children in the Middle East. Yusor, a leader in N.C. State's Muslim Student Association, traveled abroad to provide care for, and share the stories of, refugees displaced by war. In the months leading up to that devastating day, Deah, Yusor, and Razan were fundraising for the Project Refugee Smiles Dental Relief Mission to provide dental care to refugees from war-torn Syria.

These three exemplary lives were extinguished on February 10, 2015 by the acts of an anti-Muslim extremist who had long menaced the neighborhood and maintained an arsenal of lethal weapons. This appalling act of violence devastated our community and served as a harsh reminder of the bigotry and hatred that too many still face.

In the wake of the tragedy, classmates, friends, and family members came together to turn their grief into action by establishing the Our Three Winners Endowment Fund, a foundation to honor and continue the humanitarian efforts of Deah, Yusor, and Razan. The Foundation has provided grants to the annual Project Refugee Smiles Dental Relief Mission and scholarships for students who demonstrate values of academic excellence and community service.

Prejudice and violence against Muslim Americans and other religious, ethnic, or racial minorities has no place in American society, yet many of our fellow citizens continue to experience harassment and discrimination every day. On February 10 of each year, the anniversary of the senseless hate crime that took the lives of Deah, Yusor, and Razan, the people of Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and other communities touched by their lives come together to commemorate their humanitarian legacy and rededicate ourselves to building bridges of understanding, acceptance, and community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKY ROSEN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, on February 5th, on roll call votes 51 and 52, I was not present due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on roll call vote 51 and “nay” on roll call vote 52.

HONORING BRUCE MOUNT, SR.

HON. VAL BUTLER DEMINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mayor Bruce Mount, Sr. of the

Historic Town of Eatonville, who passed away on Monday, January 29, 2018.

As we honor the life of Bruce Mount, Sr., we celebrate in particular the outstanding work he accomplished in the Town of Eatonville.

We all know Mayor Mount loved God, his family, and the citizens of Eatonville, Florida. Mayor Mount consistently put people first, believing that his service to humankind was an expression of his service to God.

Mayor Mount's accomplishments made a real difference in the lives of Eatonville's residents, and gained him much-deserved local, state and national recognition.

He believed in empowering the Town of Eatonville through economic development and housing rehabilitation. We are all proud of the Eatonville “Rebuilding Together” project, which restored dozens of unsafe homes for low-income families.

Under Mayor Mount's leadership, four million dollars was awarded for Phase II of the Kennedy Boulevard Streetscape project. This iconic Gateway was designed as a powerful

symbol of the residents' compassion and determination through the years.

Mayor Mount was a public servant who loved children and invested in their well-being and future opportunities by leading the effort to bring the Boys & Girls Club and community gym to the Town of Eatonville.

Mayor Mount put people first, evidenced by his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of his constituents. He expanded access to diabetes treatment for senior citizens, and was a founder of the Historic Black Towns and Settlements Alliance. Mayor Mount worked to keep residents and business owners safe by securing much-needed equipment for Eatonville's first responders.

Mayor Bruce Mount, Sr. will be missed, but his positive contributions to Central Florida, the nation, and especially the Town of Eatonville will never leave us. He will always serve as an inspiration.