

LAVERN NORRIS GAYNOR

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Lavern Norris Gaynor a Happy 95th Birthday and to honor her for a lifetime of community service.

Mrs. Gaynor has dedicated her life to improving the well-being of her fellow citizens. The daughter of prominent Naples philanthropist Lester Norris, she learned the value of giving back in her youth and has carried on her family legacy.

Mrs. Gaynor has impacted the entire Naples community with her work, but she most cherishes the work she does for children in promoting early learning. She has been recognized as the Naples Daily News Citizen of the Year, Outstanding Philanthropist in 2015, and has twice been named the YMCA's Pre-eminent Pioneer, yet those closest to her say Mrs. Gaynor is humble and unassuming. Her work will impact our community for generations to come.

I thank Lavern for her service to the Naples community and wish her a Happy Birthday.

HONORING JOSH WEBB**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a longtime member of my staff, Josh Webb, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Josh has been on our team from the very beginning and has worked in a variety of capacities in our office, both in our Indiana and Washington, D.C. offices. He started as a field representative over six years ago, has been promoted five times, and currently serves as my District Director. In that role, he has organized hundreds of events, managed and developed our Indiana outreach strategy, handled our constituent casework services program, and has become one of my most trusted advisors.

On a personal note, Josh and I share a love of the life lessons of sports and a commitment to putting family first in our life. Josh has been my advisor, but more importantly, I consider Josh my friend. I appreciate his patience and consistent good humor as we traveled together throughout the 6th District.

I wish Josh continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family. I have no doubt Josh's biggest impact on our state and nation are yet to come. I look forward to cheering Josh on in those efforts.

H.R. 390, IRAQ AND SYRIA GENOCIDE RELIEF AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2018

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the passage of the Senate amendment

to H.R. 390, the Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act of 2017 in the House on November 27, 2018 by voice vote. The legislation has been presented to the President for his signature and I urge him to quickly sign the bill into law.

H.R. 390 is the culmination of years of work in Congress to help ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq and Syria who suffered horrific oppression at the hands of ISIS. The legislation will better channel humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery aid to genocide survivors through organizations currently working on the ground to help displaced populations return to their homes and rebuild their communities. Iraq is home to some of the oldest Christian communities in the world, yet less than 200,000 Christians remain in Iraq, down from 1.4 million in 2002.

In March of 2016, Congress took historic action when it declared that the brutal and systemic persecution of Christians, Yazidis, and other ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq and Syria by ISIS constituted genocide, one of only three times in history that Congress has made such a declaration.

Despite the powerful message Congress sent when it declared these atrocities as genocide, and appropriated hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance for these communities, U.S. aid has not reached these populations due to longstanding policies and practices of the federal government that prevent faith-based groups and other organizations from distributing foreign aid. Many of these faith-based groups are the only organizations working directly with survivors on the ground and have the expertise and knowledge of the region, its history, and culture to deliver this aid in the most effective way possible. Outdated policies in the Executive Branch should not stand in the way of the U.S. helping these suffering communities.

H.R. 390 supports entities conducting investigations into the perpetrators of these crimes to ensure they are held accountable. It is critical that evidence be collected and preserved so it can be used in court. It is also critical that our government works with foreign governments to identify and apprehend suspected perpetrators. Finally, the bill requires the U.S. government to identify and determine warning signs associated with genocide and crimes against humanity to help policymakers better respond to future campaigns against at-risk populations.

As the daughter of parents who fled religious persecution in the Middle East, I'm proud to have helped carry H.R. 390 through the Congress with the bill's sponsor in this effort to help the tens of thousands of survivors of genocide in Iraq and Syria, Congressman Chris Smith. He's been a tireless advocate on behalf of these persecuted communities and I applaud him for the work he has done to get this bill through Congress and to the President's desk.

**IN APPRECIATION OF THE
SERVICE OF JESSICA KELCH****HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to my Assistant

Staff Director, Jessica Kelch, for her six years of service on the staff of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Jessica has played an instrumental role in helping lead the Committee's extraordinary team of professional staff, managing and shepherding a variety of important, bipartisan bills through the legislative process to become law. Thanks to her impressive leadership, sharp instincts, and persistence, the Committee has enacted nearly two dozen legislative initiatives in this Congress alone, including bills to establish a new development finance corporation, combat food insecurity, and promote the role of women in peace negotiations and political processes. These have improved the lives of many worldwide.

Time and again, Jessica has proven her ability to build consensus and craft solutions to address a diverse array of difficult issues. I am particularly grateful for her candor, humor, and professionalism, but most importantly, for her dedication to serving her country, which I know she will continue to do with distinction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on Thursday, November 29, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote No. 423. I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote No. 424.

HONORING MOLLY GILLASPIE**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a longtime member of my staff, Molly Gillaspie, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Molly served as my Communications Director for more than a year in my Washington, D.C. office and continued working in Indiana as part of our team throughout the past year. Molly was responsible for all my official communications and media relations, which included writing press releases, speeches, opinion editorials and more. Molly is an outstanding member of our staff who always came to work with a smile on her face. I am truly grateful for everything she has done for our team.

On a personal note, I admire Molly's commitment to her family. Molly works very hard and delivers great results. But, you always have the sense that Molly's priorities are in the right order.

I want to thank Molly for her friendship and dedication to our work. I wish her and her husband, Adam, continued success in all that God has planned for their family. I have no doubt Molly's biggest impact on our state and nation are yet to come. I look forward to cheering Molly on in those efforts.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JUDGE TED POE OF THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS CAUCUS UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Texas public servant, fellow founder of the Victims' Rights Caucus, and dear friend Congressman Judge TED POE, who is retiring from the U.S. House of Representatives at the end of the 115th Congress.

Since 2005, Congressman POE has served with distinction as a Member of Congress, providing excellent and compassionate service to his constituents in the 2nd Congressional District of Texas and the American people. For more than a decade, I have had the privilege of serving with him on the Victims' Rights Caucus, which has given a voice to crime victims, survivors, and the professionals who assist them. As a founder and co-chair of the caucus, Congressman POE played a crucial role in enhancing Federal programs that support national, Federal, Tribal, state, and local victims' services, including the Victims of Crime Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Victims of Child Abuse Act. Over the years, he has distinguished himself as a national bipartisan leader in the fight to combat human trafficking and support victims and survivors, sponsoring enacted legislation such as the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. In addition to the Victims' Rights Caucus, I also had the pleasure of serving with Congressman POE on the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue to strengthen and enhance the level of political discourse between American and European lawmakers.

Prior to working in Congress, Representative POE served in the United States Air Force Reserves, taught both high school and college courses, and received his law degree from the University of Houston. He first made his mark in the public eye during his eight years as an undefeated criminal prosecutor for Harris County and later became one of the youngest judges ever appointed in Texas. During his 22-year tenure on the bench, it became clear that he would play a prominent role in the victims' rights movement. Congressman POE handed out innovative, unorthodox, and appropriate punishments intended to continually remind criminals of their offenses. As a judge, he became an example for others who served in the Texas judiciary for the way he treated victims of crime with dignity, fairness, and respect.

TED is admired by his peers and loved by his constituents—a reflection of a life spent in service to the United States, its people, and its ideals. During his time in Congress, he gave a voice to victims of crime, including human trafficking, and championed legislation to improve our criminal justice system. His remarkable impact on both his community and colleagues will not be forgotten. We will honor his great legacy in the U.S. House of Representatives and beyond, by continuing to build upon this commitment to his country. I would like to congratulate Congressman Judge TED POE on his extraordinary career and extend my gratitude for his noteworthy contributions to our na-

tion. While Congressman Judge TED POE will be missed in these halls, I wish him a blessed future in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING SUPERVISOR SIMÓN SALINAS

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize retiring Monterey County Supervisor Simón Salinas for his distinguished career serving the people of the central coast of California. His dedication to education has bettered many young lives, and his commitment to public service has immeasurably improved the lives of his constituents.

Supervisor Salinas began his career as a sixth-grade teacher and later became a professor at Hartnell College. During this time, he developed a passion for educating Monterey County's youth and expanding opportunity for young learners. Supervisor Salinas' first foray into politics came with his involvement in local activism organizing for proportional representation of California's Latino community in local governing bodies. Until this effort, local governing bodies in Monterey County used "at large" elections, where elected officials were chosen by the total population that the governing body represented, rather than by individual districts that more accurately represented the diverse communities within an area. In the City of Salinas, despite its large Mexican-American population, a Latino candidate had never been elected to the City Council. Supervisor Salinas became a leader in this movement, eventually running for an open seat on the Salinas City Council. In 1989, Supervisor Salinas became the first Mexican-American ever elected to the Salinas City Council.

In 1993, Supervisor Salinas was elected to represent District One on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and served as the body's chair, the first Mexican-American to serve on the Board in 100 years. In 2000, he was elected as the representative for California's 28th Assembly District. During his tenure as Assemblymember, Supervisor Salinas worked on many important issues such as healthcare, agriculture, and affordable housing. His signature achievement during his time in the state legislature came during his service as Chair of the Assembly of Local Government Committee. During this time, Supervisor Salinas introduced and successfully passed AB 1234, a bill requiring local elected officials to attend mandatory ethics training and abide by strict requirements for expense reimbursement policies, thus creating a comprehensive policy to protect taxpayer funds from local corruption. Monterey County welcomed Supervisor Salinas back to the Board of Supervisors in 2007, where he was elected to represent District Three. Recently, he has expanded affordable housing, healthcare, and economic opportunity to the residents of the Salinas Valley.

I am immensely grateful for Supervisor Simón Salinas's distinguished service to the people of the central coast of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Supervisor Simón Salinas on

his distinguished career in public service, and in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, due to my attendance at an event off the Capitol Hill campus, I was unable to make roll call votes No. 423 through 425. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: No. 423, NO on agreeing to the Resolution; No. 424, YES on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass; and No. 425, YES on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended.

HONORING FANNIE LOU HAMER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical activist, Fannie Lou Hamer.

She was born as Fannie Lou Townsend on October 6, 1917, to sharecroppers Lou Ella and James Lee Townsend, east of the Mississippi Delta in Montgomery County, Mississippi. She first joined her family to work in the cotton fields at age six.

In the early 1940s she married Perry "Pap" Hamer, and adopted two daughters, girls whose own families were unable to care for them.

She worked alongside her husband at the W.D. Marlow's plantation near Ruleville, in Sunflower County. Hamer's ability to read and write earned her the job of timekeeper, a less physically demanding and more prestigious job within the sharecropping system.

In the summer of 1962, Hamer made a life-changing decision to attend a protest meeting where she encountered civil rights activists and became active in helping with the voter registration efforts for African Americans.

Hamer dedicated her life to the fight for civil rights, working for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). The organization was driven by mostly African American students who indulged in acts of civil disobedience—combatting racial segregation and injustice in the South.

During her activist career, Hamer was threatened, arrested, and shot at. In jail, Hamer and several of the activists were beaten by other African American inmates, whom received orders from the police to use black-jack weapons. Despite the long term damage done to her body, none of these things deterred her from her work.

Hamer loved to sing spirituals. "This Little Light of Mine" and "Go Tell It on the Mountain," became one of the defining features of her activism.

Hamer's also known for her famous quote, "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired."

In 1964, Hamer helped found the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, which was established in opposition to the state's all-