

In 2004, the Michigan Senate recognized Mr. Ratliff for courageous actions in donating a kidney to his best friend Omie Smith.

Mr. Ratliff's affinity for public service would eventually lead him back to public service. In 2006, he was named Chief of Staff for a Detroit City Council Member. A year later, he would return to his roots, becoming Inkster Police Department's Director of Emergency Management and Chief of Auxiliary Police.

In 2010, as a police officer, Mr. Ratliff was assigned to community policing. In 2014, his relentless hard work and tireless dedication to ensuring public safety while taking heed to the needs of the community led to his promotion to the rank of Sergeant. Just two years later, he would be promoted again to Commander.

In 2018, Mr. Ratliff's commitment to service and public safety would be rewarded with a promotion to Assistant Chief of Police of Inkster's Police Department.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Assistant Chief of Police William "Bill" Ratliff on his well-earned promotion and over two decades of selfless service to the people of Southeast Michigan.

THE TASTE OF FREEDOM—THE REPUBLIC OF FREDONIA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, December 21, 1826 marks the beginning of the Fredonian Rebellion. This was the result of a conflict between the Mexican government and Haden Edwards, a settler in Texas, and reflected the growing tension between Mexico and settlers in Texas. Settlers that Mexico had wanted to live in Texas.

Haden Edwards received his empresarial grant in 1825, which allowed him to settle up to 800 families in East Texas, near Nacogdoches. The land this grant included was surrounded by a mixture of Native American tribes and other settlers. From the beginning of Edwards' time in Texas, he was a controversial figure. He posted signs around Nacogdoches demanding that all landowners show evidence of their claims or forfeit their land. Some of these landowners held earlier grants from Spain and Mexico that dated back more than 100 years, but not all of these landowners possessed the necessary legal documentation.

Tensions between Edwards and Mexico escalated even more in March 1826, when Edward's son-in-law, Chichester Chaplin, won the mayoral election in Nacogdoches. The election was contested, and the political chief in San Antonio, José Antonio Saucedo, reversed the election results and ordered Chaplin to turn over his mayoral duties to his opponent, Samuel Norris.

In 1826, Mexico revoked Edwards' land grant and ordered him to leave Texas. A Mexican military commander even set out to Nacogdoches from San Antonio with 100 soldiers to enforce this resolution. Instead of leaving, Edwards vowed to recruit an army and win independence from Mexico. He was supported by the settlers he had brought to Texas. He also hastily signed a treaty with the Cherokee to strengthen his claim.

The newly minted republic only survived for about five weeks. When Mexican military forces arrived on January 31, 1827, the revolutionaries retreated back across the Sabine River to the United States. Not a single Cherokee warrior had shown up to join the revolt.

Though the Fredonian Rebellion accomplished little, it is viewed by some to be the true beginning of the Texas Revolution and eventual independence from Mexico. Citizens of Nacogdoches, inspired by the taste of freedom, would go on to welcome Sam Houston to their city and elect him to the first colonists' convention in 1833. General Sam Houston became the commander-in-chief of the Texas army. Thus, setting a course for revolution, independence, and liberty in 1836.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes Wednesday, December 19, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call No. 436 Aye; Roll Call No. 437 Aye; Roll Call No. 438 Aye; Roll Call No. 439 Aye; Roll Call No. 440 Aye; Roll Call No. 441 Aye; Roll Call No. 442 Aye; Roll Call No. 443 Aye; Roll Call No. 444 Aye; and Roll Call No. 445 Aye.

RECOGNIZING THE DALE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2018 installation of officers for the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department. DCVFD is located in Prince William County Virginia, 25 miles from our Nation's Capital. The DCVFD goes on an average of 20,000 calls per year, aiding the 75,000 constituents in Dale City, Virginia.

Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1967, the DCVFD serves as an organization of committed community members ensuring the safety of the families in Dale City. Funded strictly by the residents in Dale City, the Department has been able to significantly grow, opening up five stations in 50 years and having approximately 250 dedicated volunteers. From their bravery in action, to their presence with the youth in the community, DCVFD is readily available for the families of Dale City.

It is with great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the following Dale City Fire Department Officers:

Chief—Christopher Hool
Deputy Chief of Operations—Edgar Van Horn
Deputy Chief of Administration—James Delaverson
Deputy Chief of EMS—Barbara Brown
Assistant Chief of Training—Darrell Hudson
Assistant Chiefs—Stephen Chappell, Joseph Kerns, Michael Spencer

Captains—Eddy Dumire, Joshua Jensen, The Honorable Jeremy McPike, Marc Sherman, Sandra Sokol, Linda Wortham, Kimberly Batson

Lieutenants—Thomas Borsari, Michael Cajayon, Simon Courtman, Thomas Mazzo, Daniel Moran, Patrick Palacios, Donovan Stewart, John Van Horn

Sergeants—Philip Anthony, Robert Best II, Andrew Kelly, Robert Willis, Jabin Young, Stephanie DeFreitas, Bradley Gray, Matthew Werner

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President—Walter Grochala

Vice President—Kimberly Batson

Secretary—Ricardo Hernandez

Treasurer—Robert Best II

Directors—Victor Angry, Eddy Dumire, James Jones, Gregory Shalawyo II, Edgar Van Horn, Leslie Van Horn, Matthew Werner

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President—JoAnn Ferguson

Vice President—Dorothy Hudson

Secretary—Nicole Foster

Treasurer—Cindy Van Noppen

While a new executive board has been elected and new officers sworn in, the mission of DCVFD remains the same. Their motto, Second to None, amplifies their dedication of preparedness, safety, and strong community service. Over the past 50 years, DCVFD has educated and mentored the youth in Dale City, not only teaching fire safety education, but also strengthening community relations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleague join me in recognizing the men and women of the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department for their service to our country and steadfast commitment to their community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKY ROSEN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, on December 19th, on roll call votes 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, and 445, I was not present due to the severe illness of my brother, who sadly passed away later that evening. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on all ten roll call votes.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REBECCA MAY WOOD STRINGER HOLBERT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Rebecca May Wood Stringer Holbert.

She was born on April 6, 1929, in Decatur, Alabama. Her father relocated his dental practice in 1936 and moved his wife and six children to a former boarding home on South Jackson Street in Montgomery. In 1937, she joined Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

Her early education began at Alabama State Laboratory High School and Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia, North Carolina. She graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Montgomery. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1956 and

Master of Education, AA certification, in 1973 from Alabama State University.

As an educator, she taught at North Highland School, Prattville Intermediate School and Autauga County Training School System. She later taught at Central Alabama OIC under the leadership of Mrs. Consuella Harper.

As an active member of Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, she was a member of the Young Matrons under the pastorate of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., the sanctuary choir, The Red Circle, a Sunday School teacher, The April Club and Vacation Bible School for over 50 years.

She was involved in Les Voguettes and ISTAP (I Support the Athletic Program) at Alabama State University.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Rebecca May Wood Stringer Holbert.

THE THREAT OF TERRORISM IS STILL VERY PRESENT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the long war on terrorism is not over. From North Africa to Southeast Asia, radical jihadism fights on from the shadows, waiting for us to grow complacent once again. We have claimed victory and lowered our guard too many times before only to have terrorist groups grow resurgent and deadly again. The scourge of violent Islamism is a multigeneration challenge as the battle against communism was decades ago. While we have had many successes, the threat remains and must be confronted.

Looking at where extremism still lives today we see many familiar battlefields. In the Philippines, a ISIS affiliate was handed a major defeat last year at the city of Marawi. But remnants of this group live on, recruiting and scheming in the jungle. Only by denying them an opportunity to regroup and gain ground again can we prevent them from attracting new supporters and new momentum.

Moving to Pakistan, we still find a state that claims to be an American ally but allows terrorist leaders to operate freely in the open. For too long we have provided billions of dollars to the Pakistani government as they betrayed us. The Taliban, al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and other violent groups continue to find safe haven in Pakistan. They have injected their violent ideology into mainstream Pakistani politics, causing minorities to be routinely persecuted through despotic blasphemy laws. Pakistan's partnership with terrorism has led to continued violence within its neighbors India and Afghanistan. If Pakistan had truly been our ally, the Taliban would never had a place to run to after our intervention in Afghanistan. Yet, more than 17 years later, the Taliban is resurgent, retaking Afghan districts that we had long ago secured through American blood and treasure. We must not abandon this fight, but instead find a solution that ensures that al-Qaeda is never able to return and that the Taliban lay down their weapons and respect Afghanistan's young democracy.

Nonetheless, Pakistan is not the only terrorist sponsoring state fueling instability in the region. Iran is also playing its part in arming and assisting terrorists fighting our forces in

Afghanistan and across the Middle East. After signing the nuclear deal with the Obama administration, the Mullahs in Iran received billions of dollars in sanctions relief that was diverted directly to their legion of terrorist proxies. Now the Middle East is engulfed in chaos as Iran's militias march against our allies. Proxies like Hezbollah, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba, Kataib Hezbollah, the Houthis, and others are operating with impunity, massacring thousands in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. They have targeted Americans in Iraq and Syria and have plans to attack our friends in Israel. This gathering storm will lead to inevitable conflict if we do nothing.

Meanwhile ISIS has gone underground. While we have destroyed the so-called caliphate that inspired dozens of attacks in the U.S. and Europe, the deadly terror group has reverted to its insurgent roots. When President Obama foolishly withdrew our troops from Iraq in 2011, there were no more than 700 fighters remaining in ISIS's predecessor. The State Department even reduced the bounty for ISIS's eventual leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, believing the group was a shell of its former self. But those assumptions proved wrong. Without U.S. forces to stop their advance and local societies plagued with Iranian-backed sectarianism, ISIS rose from the ashes to dominate an area the size of Britain. ISIS still has thousands of fighters dispersed throughout Iraq and Syria. We must not repeat Obama's mistake. A committed strategy to ensure ISIS's enduring defeat is required moving forward. We must send a signal to friends and adversaries alike that America is not turning its back on the region again.

No ally knows the persistent struggle against terrorism more than Israel. Today, terrorists from Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, and ISIS in Sinai are seeking Israel's destruction. Just recently Israel discover attack tunnels crossing from Lebanon into its territory which Hezbollah had built for the sole purpose of causing murder and mayhem in the Jewish State. America continues to stand firmly with Israel, providing the needed aid to keep our shared enemies at bay. But as instability continues throughout the region, Iran and other extremists will plot and recruit to wage war on our Israeli friends. Our duty as allies requires us to be vigilant in addressing these emerging threats before they become major obstacles for peace.

Lastly, looking at North Africa and the Sahel new challenges have risen. Where there were once only about 100 al-Qaeda-linked terrorists, there is now a multitude of extremist networks with as many as 10,000 fighters. Groups like Boko Haram, al-Shabab, ISIS, and Ansar al-Sharia have sowed chaos in places like Nigeria, Libya, Tunisia, and Somalia, preventing poor nations from reaching their full potential. These fragile states need a steady ally to help build their capabilities and lead a joint campaign to seek out and destroy the transnational terrorist threat in the region. Rather than pour endless taxpayer dollars into development efforts that are undone by local extremists, we need to formulate a strategy that addresses the lasting security vacuum terrorists have exploited.

The violent ideology that has motivated thousands to wage a life or death struggle against the United States and its allies is not gone. This ideology has long been present, but it

was not until the September 11th attacks that we woke up to its lethal ability and reach. Since then we have learned that this cancerous radical belief is adaptive and will not be defeated in one decisive battle. This is a long war we have no choice but to fight. We must also adapt our thinking and find committed partners who we can stand with us in this global struggle.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING CARLOS TORRES

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my fellow lawmakers: who is protecting those that protected this nation?

Carlos Torres, an Army veteran who served during the Vietnam War, passed away on Sunday, December 9, 2018, at the age of 64. However, Mr. Torres did not leave this Earth in the home he served. Instead, he left us having been isolated by a country that failed to provide him his due citizenship after military service.

Mr. Torres, an immigrant from Mexico, joined the U.S. Army with the promise and hope of becoming an American citizen following his service. However, once he completed his service, he was denied, he was ignored, and he was left unprotected by a system that abandoned so many others. Distraught by this lack of care and naturalization progress, Mr. Torres—like so many others—turned to other means of catharsis.

He was caught with marijuana. He was charged. He was deported. He was sent back to Mexico, making less than a dollar a day. Without VA benefits. Without his family. Without hope.

On Thursday, December 13, 2018, he returned to the United States, but this time, he returned in death.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress, my fellow Americans, we failed Carlos Torres and so many like him. We cannot continue to desert these American patriots. The time for retribution is now.

Last year, I introduced H.R. 3429, the Repatriate Our Patriots Act, a bill that would create a pathway to citizenship for deported veterans who held a clean record prior to service. Time is running out. The lives of these men and women depend on our immediate actions. We must pass this bill. We must make amends. We must do so now for the thousands of deported veterans, for their families, for Carlos Torres.

COMMENDING MARIA LOURDES BENITEZ

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Maria Lourdes Benitez for her service to my office and the 21st Congressional District of California over the past year.

Maria Benitez was born on November 23, 1966 in Los Angeles and was raised in Escondido, California. After graduating from Orange