

Co-op City is a special place, not just to me, but to the thousands of people who have had the privilege of calling it home over the years. I myself am a former Co-op City resident, and my family and I lived there for many years. I have so many fond memories from my time there; from starting a family to beginning my career in public service, I can trace so many wonderful moments and life-events back to my Co-op City days. I can also trace so many wonderful friendships back to Co-op City, many I still cherish to this day.

As fortunate as I was to have lived in Co-op City, I am just as fortunate to now represent Co-op City in the halls of Congress. I hope that my service can in some way give back to the community that has given me so much.

As a part of the Mitchell-Lama housing program, Co-op City has provided quality housing at an affordable rate to generations of New Yorkers. As we celebrate its 50th Anniversary, it's important to reflect on just how fortunate we are to have such a strong and thriving housing development in the Bronx. I'm proud to say I lived in Co-op City, and I'm just as proud to still serve Co-op City today as Congressman.

Congratulations to the Riverbay Board, the entire Co-op City community, and all the residents who have made the past 50 years in Co-op City a tremendous success

and Eusebio were torn from their children and deported to Mexico.

But over the last sixteen months, we didn't give up. We kept working to reunite Maria with her family—to bring her home.

Finally, after more than a year of work, we were able to secure an H1-B visa for Maria. And this past Sunday, I was honored and overjoyed to join Maria as she was reunited with her children.

But Maria isn't the only mother torn from her children by President Trump's immigration policies.

Also in the news this week was the story of Shaima, whose son Abdullah Hassan has been on life support at Children's Hospital Oakland, in my district.

Abdullah is two years old and suffers from a genetic brain condition. His mother Shaima, who was born in Yemen, has been barred from travelling to the United States to be with her son because of the Trump Administration's un-American Muslim ban.

Abdullah doesn't have much time left—and Shaima feared that she would not be able to say goodbye to her young son.

Mr. Speaker—is this really who we are? A country that denies mothers safe passage to be with their dying children?

No family should ever have to endure this. And in the face of such unimaginable cruelty, I am proud to say that our community stepped up. I want to thank everyone who showed up, who protested and organized and petitioned for this outcome.

Because of your advocacy, the State Department granted a visa waiver to Shaima so she can be with her son. She will be able to be with her son, to hug him and to say goodbye.

But we know that there are many other people like Maria and Shaima who remain separated from their families.

When I went down to the border earlier this year, I saw the prison-like conditions that they were keeping children in.

There were kids sleeping on concrete floor—with only thin emergency blankets to keep them warm.

And to this very day, there are hundreds of children in HHS custody. And Secretary Nielson can't tell us when they will be reunited.

Let's be clear: this isn't an immigration policy. This is a family separation policy.

Children torn from their mothers, parents deported away from their kids. And it's up to Congress to stop it.

It's past time for us to restore—justice, dignity and common sense to this immigration system.

We need to ensure kids who have lived here their entire lives—like Maria's oldest daughter—can make a life in the only country they have ever known.

We need to get this disgraceful, discriminatory travel ban off the books, so no loved one has to experience what Shaima went through.

We need to pass comprehensive immigration reform so that people like Maria and Eusebio can come out of the shadows.

Mr. Speaker—for every case like Maria's or Shaima's there are dozens more left unresolved.

Countless families have been left in limbo, unsure if or when they will ever see their loved ones again.

Not only do we owe it to these families to fix our broken immigration system—we owe it

to the country and the constitution to live up to American values.

## HONORING THE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF RYE

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 31, 2018*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, our houses of worship are often the ties that bind our communities together. In Rye, few institutions have been as successful in strengthening the neighborhood and bringing people together as the Community Synagogue of Rye, which this year is celebrating its remarkable 70th Anniversary.

One Sunday in early autumn 1948, 7-year-old Betty Wolder asked her parents if she could go to church with her friend Susan who was Christian. Her parents explained that since they were Jewish and did not belong to Susan's church, she could not attend. Betty continued to ask questions and her parents wanted to give her better answers. The Wolders contacted the few Jewish people they knew in Rye about forming a Jewish religious school, and a sponsoring group of families. The response was extraordinarily positive, and the rest is history.

A beautiful mansion—built in 1903 at 200 Forest Avenue—was purchased in June of 1950, and Rabbi Samuel H. Gordon, an experienced, widely traveled liberal Rabbi, was hired as the first spiritual leader in 1950. From there, Community Synagogue grew and flourished. The congregation is now around 500 families and over 300 students from Rye, and several communities between Greenwich and White Plains. The synagogue has an ambitious education program for both children and adults, numerous opportunities to become involved in social action, beautiful worship services, and life cycle celebrations. Their enthusiastic and active committees help make the synagogue a dynamic and caring community, and their work has grown beyond the congregation to serve the greater community.

Community Synagogue of Rye has had an amazing 70 years. Congratulations to the leadership and congregation on this occasion.

## HONORING RAY O'HANLON

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 31, 2018*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the importance of a free and open press cannot be overstated, especially in our local communities. I am very fortunate to represent a district that is covered by the Irish Echo, an outstanding local newspaper, which is led by my friend and one of this year's Ancient Order of Hibernians' honorees, Ray O'Hanlon.

As Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I have had the pleasure of working with Ray for many years on a wide variety of topics, including Irish-American issues which have always been particularly close to my heart.

Ray is the editor of the New York-published Irish Echo. A native of Dublin who worked for

## FIXING THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S UN-AMERICAN IMMIGRATION POLICIES

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 31, 2018*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an elected representative, but also as a mother—a mother who is horrified and outraged by the actions taken by the Trump Administration to deliberately separate families.

Like any mother, I love my children and cannot imagine being separated from them. But because of the Trump Administration's policies, some mothers have no choice.

Just this week, I have been working to reunite two mothers in my community who were prevented from reuniting with their families.

The first story I want to share is of Maria Mendoza-Sanchez. Maria has lived with her family in the East Bay for more than two decades. She and her husband Eusebio raised four beautiful children, worked hard, and purchased a home in Oakland.

Maria went to school while raising small children and went on to become a nurse at Highland Hospital. She was beloved by her patients and her colleagues.

Maria and Eusebio tried to do the right thing. They paid their taxes and came forward to legalize their immigration status. And for years, they were on a path to citizenship.

But like many families, Maria and Eusebio's efforts did not matter to the Trump Administration.

Under President Trump's misguided enforcement priorities, Maria and Eusebio were targeted for deportation.

And last summer—after more than twenty years building a life in our community—Maria

the Irish Press newspaper group before moving to the United States in 1987, Ray has reported from three continents in a news career spanning 39 years.

In addition to his work as a reporter and editor, Ray has been a frequent contributor to U.S., Irish, and British media outlets reporting on Ireland, Irish-American affairs, and Anglo-Irish relations. He has appeared on CBS 60 minutes, ABC World News Tonight, and the Lehrer News Hour on PBS. He has also been interviewed on RTE, BBC and ITV, both television and radio.

A prolific writer, Ray's book, "The New Irish Americans" (Roberts Rinehart, 1998) was the recipient of a Washington Irving Book Award. "The South Lawn Plot," his first fiction work, was published in 2011 by Boston-based Gemma Media publishers. Ray is currently working on a new book on Irish immigration that will have a particular focus on the 1965 Immigration Reform and Nationality Act. A graduate of University College Dublin, Ray lives with his wife Lisa, a native of Danville, Illinois, in Ossining, New York. They have three grown children: Kate, Liz and Jack.

Ray O'Hanlon has accomplished a great deal over a long and distinguished career. He is most deserving of this wonderful recognition from AOH. Congratulations to Ray and I thank him for all he continues to do on behalf of our community.

---

HONORING THE YONKERS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 31, 2018*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor a civic organization in Yonkers that this year is celebrating a remarkable milestone—the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce. 2018 will mark 125 years for the Chamber, which for well over a century now has worked to improve economic development in the region while building and promoting the city of Yonkers.

The Chamber's legacy of service began, officially, on May 1, 1893 when William F. Cochran, a leading Yonkers businessman, entered the old City Court Room and rapped his gavel to officially sanction what was to become a tradition to the local business community. The Yonkers Board of Trade was born. A number of prominent citizens, fifty-two to be exact, gathered to sanction what would later become Yonkers' leading business organization.

A decade later, the Board of Trade continued to address issues of concern and helped establish a visible and viable business community. In 1903 the decision was made to form a Chamber of Commerce, and the process to make this a reality was put into place. On December 8, 1913, the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce officially became the 325th certified member of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce has served as the guardian and advocate of business, and works to foster a healthy relationship with government to establish programs designed to enhance business opportunities and attract new commercial establishments to the city. The Chamber of Commerce represents a diversified membership of retail, industry, professionals and service organizations, etc. from major corporations to "mom and pop" stores. Each member is treated with the same respect and concern, regardless of size.

Today, the mission of the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce "to serve, build and promote a progressive city" is alive and well. Congratulations to the entire Yonkers Chamber of Commerce Board, leadership, and membership on reaching this remarkable milestone.

---

HONORING THE AFYA FOUNDATION 10TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 31, 2018*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization that has done tremendous work both locally and on the global stage for 10 remarkable years now, The AFYA Foundation.

The vision for AFYA began to take shape in a tent in the Serengeti. It was 2008, and AFYA's founder, Danielle Butin, was in Tanzania. She saw a woman sitting in a tent crying, who said, "I am a highly sought-after physician from London, I took a month off from my practice to come here to volunteer and work in medical clinics. But they have nothing . . . absolutely nothing. I cannot save children from malaria because there are no meds or IV bags of fluids. People come in with infected wounds, and I have nothing to treat them with." In that moment, Danielle was compelled to take action. She returned home and immediately put her familiarity with and experience in New York City healthcare to use—cold calling hospitals and asking about materials that are discarded. In January 2008 she launched AFYA, which means "health" or "wellness" in Swahili.

Almost immediately, hospitals started donating supplies. Since they didn't have a warehouse to store the equipment and supplies, a semi-trailer sat for three weeks outside her home in Westchester County. These humble beginnings are what grew 10 years later into an organization with a staff of 14, 3,000 volunteers annually, and a 17,000 square foot warehouse in Yonkers.

Today, AFYA continues to serve those in need with the same compassion that inspired its vision ten years ago on the African savannah. As the Congressman representing Yonkers and the Ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I couldn't be prouder of the work they have done and continue to do. I want to congratulate Danielle and the entire AFYA team on ten remarkable years and thank them for all they have done to better our community and world.