

As a former member of the House Armed Forces Committee, I understand well the complexity of this conflict. By creating this assessment for our intelligence and defense agencies we will provide them with the proper tools to fight ISIS and current terrorist threats. We must continue to update our intelligence as the war against ISIS goes on and forces hide, recuperate, and go underground. Some terrorist fighters have been believed to migrate to neighboring countries, others have relocated to their homes, and members of this group might even be seeking to return to Europe or the U.S. Keeping track of this terrible enemy will be of the utmost importance and H.R. 4564 will help us assess this threat and will bolster our arsenal to combat terror abroad.

#### VICTOR LOVELADY'S SPIRIT LIVES ON

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on this day, five years ago, one of my constituents—Mr. Victor Lovelady—was brutally killed at the hands of al-Qaeda-linked terrorists in Algeria. Victor was killed not just for who he was, but also for what he represented. He was killed because he was an American. Before his death, Victor displayed some of the very best qualities of the American spirit: courage, conviction, and compassion. This is the American spirit that terrorists seek to kill. But today and every day, we let Mr. Lovelady's spirit live on. I would like to take a moment to tell you his story.

Like many Americans, Victor Lovelady was a hard worker who put in long hours to provide for his family of four. As an industrial engineer and master electrician, he worked most of his life in his hometown of Nederland, Texas. Victor never had a pension plan and always had to pay his family's insurance by himself. So, when given the opportunity to work overseas for British Petroleum, Victor knew a few years of hard work would provide him with enough money to retire. He made a sacrifice for his family.

On January 9, 2013, Victor arrived in a remote area of Algeria to begin his new job at the BP Gas facility. Seven days later, Victor and several other workers were in the cantina having tea when a colleague walked in with a gunshot wound to his stomach. Al Qaeda-linked terrorists had stormed their facility and were indiscriminately killing innocent employees.

In the ultimate show of heroism, Victor disregarded the sound of gunfire and instead began cleaning and dressing his colleague's wound. Victor then hid him in a food container for his safety. Even as the sound of gunshots grew louder, Victor selflessly continued to lift the other men into the cantina's false ceiling, hiding them from the attackers. Moments later, the terrorists stormed in, captured Victor, and held him hostage. Victor's selfless and heroic actions saved four lives that day. Sadly, Victor was killed when U.S. and Algerian forces attempted to rescue the hostages.

Victor Lovelady was a true American hero. He represented the very best of America; he represented selfless courage and sacrifice. He

was there to work hard to provide an honest living for his family and when he encountered the evil of terrorism, thought first to protect others instead of himself. For his actions, I have requested that Victor be recognized with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor to recognize individuals who have made "an especially meritorious contribution" to our society. Victor undoubtedly exceeded that standard.

While we continue to mourn their loss we should, to quote General George Patton: "Thank God that such men lived."

Mr. Speaker, courage like this should be praised and remembered. We should all take a moment today to reflect on the heroism of Victor Lovelady. He was a great man and his legacy continues through his family: his wife, Maureen, his two children, Erin and Grant, and his brother, Mike. May we continue to honor the sacrifice that Victor Lovelady made as a courageous husband, father, and American. And that's just the way it is.

#### RECOGNIZING JUDGE JOHNNY ROGERS

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2018*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Judge Johnny Rogers on the occasion of his retirement as Probate Judge of Lamar County, Alabama. I am proud to recognize Judge Rogers for his many years of public service to Lamar County and to the state of Alabama. He is truly a man who embodies the American principles of hard work, dedication, and devotion to one's community.

Judge Rogers is a native of Lamar County and was educated in the Lamar County school system. After operating Rogers Auto Parts, a successful automotive business in Sulligent, Alabama, for twenty-seven years, he decided to enter public service. He was first elected as Probate Judge, which also serves as Chairman of the County Commission, in 2000, and re-elected in 2006 and again in 2012. His re-election in 2006 was the first time a Probate Judge had been re-elected in Lamar County in over 30 years.

During his term in office, Judge Rogers committed himself to working hard for the citizens of Lamar County, conducting the Probate Judge's office and the County Commission in an effective, efficient and courteous manner and striving to improve the quality of life for all citizens of Lamar County. He created the "Existing Manufacturing Program" to help retain Lamar County's manufacturing jobs by offering incentives and abatements to local businesses. He also worked tirelessly with the local economic development authority on industrial expansions by Nacco Material Handling, Weyerhaeuser, and Steel Dust Recycling, resulting in a capital investment of over \$250 million and the addition of hundreds of jobs.

Another goal of Judge Rogers was to expand the availability of county water. Since he took office he has secured \$2.4 million in Community Development Block Grant funds to provide county water to 282 homes and constructed over 51 miles of new waterlines.

Judge Rogers is highly respected by the people of Lamar County for his honesty and

dedication. He is also one of the friendliest people you could ever meet, and I am proud to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Judge Johnny Rogers on his many accomplishments and for his enduring impact on his community, his state, and nation. I join his family, friends and colleagues in wishing him God's richest blessings in his retirement.

#### 100TH BIRTHDAY OF NATHAN DRAYER

**HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2018*

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of World War II veteran, Dr. Nathan Drayer.

Nathan Drayer was born on January 8, 1918, in Brooklyn, New York. It was in Brooklyn where Nathan met his future wife, Sylvia. After marriage, they went on to raise their four outstanding children, Carol, Barry, Gerald, and Dennis. When the call to serve came, however, Dr. Drayer immediately answered. As a licensed optometrist with a degree from Columbia University, he was made a U.S. Army medic, serving stateside during World War II. After the war ended, Dr. Drayer opened his own optometry practice in Brooklyn. He treated patients for over 40 years until he retired in 1990.

Residing in Island Shores for the past four years, Nathan has loved spending time with friends and fellow residents. Moreover, he treasures every moment he spends with his loving children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. He is very popular at Island Shores, with a great sense of humor and an ingenious wit.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dr. Nathan Drayer a happy 100th birthday. I cannot thank him enough for his contributions to his country. When the war broke out, he stepped up when he was needed most in order to vanquish the evil of fascism. He is a shining example of a true American hero. I am immensely proud to represent him in Congress. I hope he has the happiest of birthdays, and I thank him for his service.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. GLORIA MARGIE BROWN

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2018*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Gloria Margie Brown, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, who passed away on January 4, 2018, at the age of 82.

Mrs. Brown was the first child born of three children to the late Mr. Edward Davis, Sr. and Mrs. Maude B. Davis, in Lobdell, Louisiana. She was reared in a Christian home, where both the Catholic and Baptist faiths were taught, although the family mostly attended St. Paul Catholic Church in Brusly, Louisiana.

Mrs. Brown's childhood education began at St. Monica School, where she met her lifelong

friend Bessie. Upon graduating the eighth grade she matriculated to Walter L. Cohen High School. She was in the second graduating class and one of the first majorettes. She was proud of her school and regularly participated in many of their functions.

As a teenager, Mrs. Brown was honored with the title of Miss Lincoln Beach. She enjoyed helping others and served as the monitor at the "baby pool" at Lemn Park Playground for more than 19 years.

Mrs. Brown married Mr. Eric Brown and together they raised three children—Melvin, Rhonda, and Margie. She supported her children in all of their life adventures, from the church house, ball parks, and dance recitals.

We cannot match the sacrifices made by Mrs. Brown, but surely we can try to match her sense of service. We cannot match her courage, but we can strive to match her devotion.

Mrs. Brown's survivors include her children, Melvin, Rhonda, and Margie; grandchildren AJ, Hass, and Maddi; one great grandson A'Jay; her sister Elaine (Jack), her brother Ed, sister-in-law Valentine and two god children Karen Lynn and Tommy. She was preceded in death by her husband Eric, parents Edward and Maude, grandson Melvin John Eric, sister-in-law Annie and nine brothers and sisters-in-law.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mrs. Gloria Margie Brown—a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, and daughter.

#### COUNTER TERRORIST NETWORK ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2018*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4578—Counter Terrorist Network Act. This legislation will allow the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to enhance border security operations that will interrupt and dismantle transnational criminal and foreign terrorist networks that threaten the security of our country. The purpose of this bill is to ensure the CBP has the authority necessary to prevent terrorists from exploiting legitimate avenues of traveling to and entering the United States.

We must continue to provide our law enforcement and security agencies with the appropriate resources to protect our great nation from terrorist networks. The CBP's primary mission is to keep the United States borders and ports safe against all threats domestic and foreign. The CBP mainly deals with transnational criminal organizations, smugglers and human traffickers, and terrorist networks. All of these groups pose significant threats to our national security and the safety of the American people. The CBP's border security mission uniquely situates this agency to combat terrorist threats that begin far from our homeland. Despite all the work performed by the CBP, the agency doesn't have explicit legal authorization to combat threats or to assign their personnel to other U.S. agencies both domestically and internationally to support their mission. This bill seeks to provide such explicit authorization.

As a former member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have always voted to support our law enforcement and our security agencies. This legislation will help provide the CBP with the proper authorization to collect intelligence on foreign terrorist threats before they reach the border. This will help ensure the safety of our homeland and the security of our border. I support H.R. 4578 and I urge my fellow members to lend their support as well.

#### TO COMMEMORATE ST. JOSEPH'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TREY GOWDY**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2018*

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation to congratulate St. Joseph's Catholic School on twenty-five years of educating and preparing future leaders of South Carolina.

Whereas, St. Joseph's opened its doors in a small rented home to thirteen students in August of 1993 with the belief that God would provide. Today, that belief has paid dividends as St. Joseph's enrolls nearly seven hundred students and has been nationally recognized by the Catholic High School Honor Roll as a "School of Excellence."

Whereas, St. Joseph's commitment to providing students with the knowledge and skills to be successful in life is clear from the contributions of their alumni to our community. St. Joseph's alumni are serving our community in all professions from education and business to medical research, and many donate their time and gifts to serve as leaders in churches across the Upstate. Be it

*Resolved*, That I, TREY GOWDY, do congratulate the staff, students, and alumni of St. Joseph's Catholic School on this milestone and look forward to their continued contributions to our community and the Fourth Congressional District of South Carolina.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2018*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on January 10, 2018 for an obligation at the White House. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

YES on Roll Call No. 10.

#### THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. FRANCIS ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2018*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the important and strategic relationship between the United States and Kazakhstan. I was in Kazakhstan in 1992 as the nation was being reborn.

Since declaring its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, Kazakhstan has reached toward the West to build strong relationships, particularly with the United States. They have been allies in the region and have become a destination for American business investment. The United States was the first country to recognize Kazakhstan's independence and our friendship has grown ever since.

Kazakhstan works with us on issues like nuclear non-proliferation and counterterrorism. It exerts significant influence in Central Asia and has supported peace and stability around the world.

In 2015, after a protracted negotiation and having made material concessions, Kazakhstan was admitted into the World Trade Organization (WTO). However, since 1994, shortly after separation from the USSR, the United States has granted yearly normal trade relation status to Kazakhstan, due to its compliance with Jackson-Vanik, which requires non-market economy nations to improve human rights before allowing trade. However, the United States has not yet granted permanent normal trade relation status, which requires congressional action.

The United States has important economic interests in Kazakhstan and increased bilateral trade would strengthen our relationship. Therefore, we need congressional action to normalize trade with Kazakhstan.

#### COUNTERTERRORISM INFORMATION SHARING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2018*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4569—Counterterrorism Information Sharing Improvement Act of 2017.

This legislation will require the coordination of counterterrorism information sharing to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has access to biographic and biometric data collected by the U.S. Government on individuals associated with a terrorist organization for counterterrorism purposes.

I believe counterterrorism information sharing between the U.S. Government and the DHS will be an essential asset to the United States. Lack of interagency cooperation prevents critical details from being shared in time sensitive situations, leading to avoidable errors and potentially fatal consequences. In the past few years, ISIS has suffered significant defeats in Iraq and Syria. In the wake of these losses, ISIS fighters have dispersed into surrounding states, Europe, and even the United States. The changing landscape where we meet this enemy necessitates information sharing between law-enforcement agencies. Though we first made contact with members of ISIS on a foreign battlefield, this threat is pervasive and dynamic.

H.R. 4569 will allow the Department of Defense to share intelligence with the DHS, should members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria attempt to enter the United States. The DHS will be able to utilize this intelligence for frontline screening, vetting, and protecting Americans on domestic soil.