

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.

As a former member of the Armed Services Committee I understand the obstacles facing our fight to eliminate terrorism worldwide. H.R. 4569 will remove at least one of these obstacles by promoting interagency cooperation. ISIS is not a traditional enemy and it is critical our security and intelligence agencies support one another. I support H.R. 4569 and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL  
EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM DIS-  
ABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF 2018**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2018, which will help provide financial relief for federal employees who have a short-term injury or disability, become pregnant, or develop a pregnancy-related illness. This bill will offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees will be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums, and will be able to receive disability insurance benefits for up to one year, which would replace a portion of their lost income due to a non-work related injury or illness or pregnancy. These benefits will be particularly beneficial to ensure that our federal employees, who do not yet enjoy paid maternity leave, are able to utilize the 12 weeks of unpaid maternity leave permitted by federal law while continuing to pay their bills, buy groceries and make their mortgage, car and other loan payments without having to deplete their retirement or other savings accounts. Too many federal employees do not take advantage of federal unpaid maternity leave because they have no way to replace the lost income.

I decided to investigate how we could provide short-term disability insurance for federal employees after learning that many of them already buy short-term disability insurance as individuals in the private market at high individual rates. Although federal employees have good health insurance, federal health benefits do not replace lost income if employees are unable to work. Moreover, while federal employees may have available sick or annual leave days, they may not have enough such days to pay the bills if they have to be out of work for an extended period. Although there are long-term disability options for federal employees who become permanently disabled, federal employees do not qualify for such benefits until they have worked for the federal government for at least 18 months. My bill does no more than put federal employees in the same position as their private-sector counterparts, who often have access to disability insurance through an employer at group rates. This bill will not allow participating insurance companies to exclude persons based on pre-existing conditions. Because of the federal government's purchasing power, this bill will provide these benefits at a more competitive rate than is available if an employee sought such insurance as an individual, as many do.

According to the Social Security Administration, a 20-year-old worker has a one-in-four chance of becoming disabled by retirement

age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents, but by injuries or illnesses, such as back injuries or cancer, according to the Council for Disability Awareness. There is every reason to allow our federal employees to take advantage of the federal government's group rates to obtain the most reasonable price if they choose to purchase short-term disability coverage on their own at no cost to the federal government.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF CONCEPCION "CONNIE" B.  
DUENAS**

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2018*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Concepcion "Connie" B. Duenas. Connie was a proud daughter of Guam and faithful public servant. She served as a Guam Mayor of the village of Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon from 2001 to 2005, and as the Vice Mayor of the village from 1998 to 2000. Connie was born on December 29, 1933 and passed away on January 4, 2018 at the age of 84.

Connie was the daughter of Juan Guerrero Balijadia and Anuncia Quitugua Reyes. She was married to Juan S.A. Duenas and together had four children. Connie was a member of Guam's greatest generation who survived the occupation of Guam during World War II.

Connie graduated from George Washington High School in 1954 and attended the Guam Territorial College and the University of Guam. She joined the Guam Police Department in 1956 and advanced to the rank of sergeant in 1971. Connie was the first female in the Guam police Department to achieve this rank. Connie worked in different capacities while at the Guam Police Department as an administrative and record specialist, and did field work in traffic control, vice squad and juvenile delinquency. She retired at the rank of lieutenant in 1978.

Connie was also very involved in the local community and volunteered her time with many organizations. She was a founding member and served as president for Victims Advocate Reaching Out, an organization which assists victims of crimes such as rape, abuse, and other traumatic experiences. She served as the treasurer for Guma Mami, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to people with disabilities. She served as the president of the parent teacher associations of various schools in the village of Tamuning. Connie additionally served the parish of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Tamuning faithfully for many years as a leader in the church and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teacher.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Concepcion "Connie" B. Duenas and I join the people of Guam in celebrating her life. She was a dedicated public servant who worked to improve our village of Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon, and the broader community during her tenure. Her involvement in village events and service in public safety were testaments of her

leadership and commitment to the people she served. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, loved ones and friends.

I extend my condolences to her husband Juan and their children Kathy, Eleanor, Yvonne and John and their numerous grandchildren and family members. She will be deeply missed, and her memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

**GLOBAL AVIATION SYSTEM  
SECURITY REFORM 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. 4559.

H.R. 4559, the Global Aviation System Security Reform Act of 2017, aims to conduct a global aviation security review to improve global aviation security standards. H.R. 4559 directs the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to comprehensively review challenges facing the global aviation system and review aviation security implementation. This legislation encourages cooperation between multiple agencies of the Federal Government, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the TSA to ensure proper coordination and outreach both within and outside of the United States government.

The DHS and the TSA have expressed concerns about threats to inbound civil aviation. To manage these threats, key aspects of H.R. 4559 would work to improve the security at last point of departure airports overseas and more generally improve security at airports across the world. We must establish global aviation security standards to create safer skies across the world.

Additionally, as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure committee, ensuring the safety of transportation mechanisms has been of paramount importance to me, and as a member of the subcommittee on Aviation, I am particularly concerned with this issue. Georgia is home to the busiest airport in the world; 55 million passengers annually travel through Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International airport. I will do everything I can to protect passengers in Georgia, the United States, and the world. I wholeheartedly support H.R. 4559 and urge my fellow members to do the same.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF  
BRIGADIER GENERAL ANNA HAYS**

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2018*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Allentown native Anna Mae Hays, the first woman in the history of the U.S. Armed Forces to be awarded the rank of a general. After a life spent serving in the army and contributing to the Allentown community, Anna passed away in Washington on January 6 at the age of 97.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y. in 1920, Brigadier General (BG) Hays moved to what is now