

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE MARVIN JOHNSON JR.'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. TED BUDD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2018*

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Major General George Marvin Johnson Jr. on his one hundredth birthday.

General Johnson had a long and distinguished military career that started when he first joined the Army Air Corps in 1941 to when he retired in 1975 as a United States Air Force Major General. He selflessly served during World War II in the European Theater of Operations as an operations officer and troop carrier squadron commander, and participated in seven major campaigns. General Johnson has also served as a commander of the Oklahoma City Air Materiel Area, Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma and was chief of staff of the Air Force Logistics Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

General Johnson's military distinctions and awards are many. They include the Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, and the French Croix de Guerre. He was also awarded a command pilot rating with over 6,000 flying hours.

It is with the utmost gratitude that I thank General Johnson for his service and congratulate him on celebrating this birthday of one hundred years. He has served our country with distinction and honor, and can be proud of his contributions towards protecting our citizens and strengthening the safety of our country. May his one hundredth year be filled with blessings.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Major General George Marvin Johnson Jr. for his service to our great nation and for celebrating his one hundredth birthday.

**NO ASSISTANCE FOR ASSAD ACT**

**HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2018*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since 2011, Bashar Al-Assad purposely and systemically destroyed Syrian communities in order to crush political opponents and retain absolute dictatorial power, with the help of his Russian and Iranian backers. Starting as peaceful protests, the people of Syria demanded basic freedoms from the Syrian government. Of course, this was met with a harsh crackdown, prolonged conflict, and today, a humanitarian crisis. As co-chair of the Friends of a Free, Stable and Democratic Syria Caucus, I believe we in Congress must do all we can to ensure that the welfare of the Syrian people remains the top priority of our involvement in the region, and condition any engagement with the Assad regime as such.

My heart goes out to every Syrian that has to monitor the skies to see what aerial attacks

will be coming that day; to every child that has been robbed of their innocence—forced to leave their home and live in constant fear, denied a basic education—and to every family member left wondering if their relatives will live to see the next day. We've all seen the images in Syria. They're hard to stomach. Yet, the attacks persist. The violence and ruthlessness persist. Assad and his supporters in Russia and Iran are responsible for all of this pain and suffering.

H.R. 4681, the No Assistance for Assad Act, would ensure that American assistance for reconstruction in Syria should be available in areas controlled by Assad only if the regime stops its indiscriminate use of weapons, ends attacks on civilians and civilian facilities, releases political prisoners, allows human rights organizations access to prisons, and removes senior officials complicit in human-rights abuses. If the Assad regime, Russia, and Iran continue to break Syria, this legislation makes clear they must own the responsibility for rebuilding it. U.S. policy must not allow the regime in Damascus control American dollars that are meant to rebuild the country.

I was proud to introduce this critical legislation with Ranking Member ENGEL, Chairman ROYCE, and my fellow caucus co-chair, ADAM KINZINGER. I thank them for their hard work on this legislation and urge passage of this timely, important legislation.

**FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2018*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my common sense amendment that will protect consumers by creating the position of the Aviation Consumer Advocate at the FAA. More than nine million flights take off and land in the United States every year. In my home state of Oregon, nearly 20 million people passed through the Portland International Airport last year, and that number will continue to grow.

Unfortunately, many passengers have experienced inconveniences such as lost luggage and delayed flights that result in missed connections. Some passengers have experienced much worse, including being forcibly removed from flights when seats are oversold, or sitting on a tarmac for hours.

With more than two and a half million people flying U.S. skies every day, it is critical that they have somewhere to turn if things go wrong. They deserve to be treated with dignity and to have a reliable advocate who is on their side.

My simple amendment would enhance the FAA's existing Aviation Consumer Protection Division by creating the position of the Aviation Consumer Advocate.

This will provide travelers a dedicated person at the FAA to help navigate the Aviation Consumer Protection Division and try to resolve problems that arise with airlines.

In addition to helping travelers, the Aviation Consumer Advocate would provide the FAA with recommendations on how best to enforce consumer protection rules and improve the flying experience.

The Aviation Consumer Advocate would also evaluate the FAA's response to complaints, and provide a report to Congress about the volume and frequency of complaints, as well as recommendations on how Congress can take action to bolster consumer protections for fliers.

This is a common sense amendment to protect all our constituents.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in strengthening consumer protections and supporting the millions of Americans who fly every day.

**TRIBUTE TO ANNABELL AND  
LAVERNE BROWN**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Annabell and Laverne Brown of Mount Ayr, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on March 12, 2018.

Annabell and Laverne's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

**FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018**

SPEECH OF

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2018*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. This bill would shore up long-term funding for critical FAA programs and authorize additional disaster program funding for areas like Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, which are still struggling to bounce back after the 2017 hurricane season.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of a recently adopted amendment, which will help ensure the safety of the national airspace by prohibiting individuals from operating unmanned aircraft systems that are equipped or armed with a dangerous weapon.

In July of 2015, lawmakers and the public began to express concerns over the weaponization of drone technology after a college student built a drone capable of firing live ammunition from a mounted .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun. More recently, at least one state legislature has proposed legislation to allow the use of weaponized drones by local and national law enforcement, which is something that concerns me greatly.

This amendment addresses these concerns by explicitly prohibiting the operation of a weaponized drone in the national airspace and by imposing a penalty of up to \$25,000 for each violation.

I am pleased to have worked with Rep. BURGESS on this common-sense, bi-partisan amendment and applaud my colleagues for adopting. I urge all Members to support the underlying bill.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2018*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call votes held on April 27, 2018, I was inescapably detained handling important matters related to my district and the State of Alabama. If I had been present, I would have voted NO on the amendment proposed by Rep. MCCLINTOCK (112), NO on the amendment proposed by Rep. DUNCAN (114), YES on the Democratic motion to recommit, YES on final passage of H.R. 4, and NO on the motion to table H. Res. 856.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MARTY ANN ROGUSKY REGULA

### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2018*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Mary Ann Rogusky Regula who died at her family's farm in Navarre, Ohio on April 5, 2018.

Mary Regula was born in Girard, Ohio on November 29, 1926 to the late Mr. and Mrs. Rogusky. In 1949, Mary graduated from Mount Union College and it is there where she met her future husband Ralph Regula. She was an active member of the community, serving as an educator, historian, and aide in her husband's Congressional office as he represented the 16th Congressional District of Ohio.

In 1994, Mary began laying the foundation for a museum devoted to the first ladies. She told the Washington Post that it wasn't until the 1970s that we decided women had any part in this nation's history. She wanted to help close history's gaping hole by honoring the accomplishments of women. In 1998, former first lady Rosalynn Carter cut the ribbon at the formal opening of the National First Ladies' Library in Canton, Ohio. Mary hoped the museum would serve as a way to document the lives of first ladies and as a resource for scholars and students. The museum was designated a historic site in 2000, expanding to include an education and research center

that has now grown to partner with Ohio schools to provide educational programming about these important figures in American history.

She is dearly missed by her three children Richard Regula (Sherry), David Regula (Jaqueline), and Martha Regula and her four grandchildren, Thomas, Garrett, Olivia and Marissa. She was preceded in death by her parents and her loving husband.

Mary was a wonderful woman, and I am grateful to have had both her and Ralph as friends. She was a valued member of the community and her legacy leaves a lasting impact. I extend my sincerest condolences to all of her family and friends.

#### TRIBUTE TO RUTH AND JIM BRAND

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ruth and Jim Brand of Mount Ayr, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated on March 3, 2018.

Ruth and Jim's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this meaningful occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued happiness.

#### CONGRATULATING MR. GEORGE VITELLO ON HIS UPCOMING RE- TIREMENT

### HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2018*

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. George Vitello on his upcoming retirement from the United States House of Representatives. George began working in the Office of Visitor Services in March 2011 before moving to the Office of the Sergeant at Arms in June 2012.

From his first day on the job, George developed a reputation as a reliable, skilled, and friendly asset to the entire House community. George first served as a Visitor Assistant, then moved to the Sergeant at Arms and the House Appointments Desks where he became a wonderful resource—and a good friend—to every single one of his colleagues.

George assists every Member, staff person, and visitor the very same way—with an abundance of patience and a calm and pleasant attitude. He is a familiar face to both Members and staff alike, never too busy to say 'hello,' and always taking the time to ask how you are doing. George genuinely cares about every person he meets, and it shows in his work.

Working with the Sergeant at Arms, George demonstrated great initiative developing the form now used to track the monthly official business visitor counts for the Appointments Desks, as well as providing training to new interns and staff on the protocols for official business visitor badge use. Throughout his years with the House, George has been a true team player and someone who always volunteered for additional assignments, projects, and events.

George spent time as the VP/General Manager at Sea World in Florida prior to his employment with the House and always shared his passion for all creatures, great and small.

George Vitello has been a remarkable asset to the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, and he will be greatly missed by the entire House community. I am grateful for his service to the United States House of Representatives and wish him and his wife Joyce the very best in his retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2018*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for Roll Call vote 156 on Thursday, April 26, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay.

#### BILL KELLY AND THE TEXAS RAIDERS

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at the height of World War II, Bill Kelly worked as an airplane mechanic. Stationed in the Marshall Islands, he and his team were responsible for the maintenance and repair of B-29 bombers that stopped over on their way to Japan and back. He and his brothers-in-arms often stayed up all night preparing the planes for the next leg of their journey, on occasion even replacing whole one-ton engines overnight.

Although he is currently 93, aviation has been, I quote, "second nature" to Bill for most of his life. This is why the tribute one group arranged for him was so special.

Recently, the Gulf Coast Wing of the Commemorative Air Force made Bill the guest of honor at their fly-in in Lakewood, Florida. To honor his service, Bill was given the opportunity to fly in a World War II-era B-17 bomber, the "Texas Raiders," maintained by the group. Bill enjoyed his 20-minute flight and said that it brought back several good memories of his time in the service.

Mr. Speaker, as veterans of this war continue to grow older and fewer in number, it is important that we not let their sacrifice be forgotten. The members of the "Greatest Generation" made a unique contribution to the American nation, having not only endured the hardships of the Great Depression but also answered the call to defend our country after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.