

The closing of space for faith based organizations and other civil society organizations is a worrying trend in a number of Sub-Saharan African countries. Humanitarian aid workers, journalists, priests and political candidates (and their families), have been increasingly targeted and threatened by governments in Sub-Saharan Africa.

If we look north of the DRC, we can see that in South Sudan, a country I visited twice since its independence, we see humanitarian organizations are harassed by government forces. Last year, humanitarian organizations reported over 700 cases of humanitarian access incidents. The environment for humanitarian operations grows increasingly difficult and dangerous as the geographic scope of humanitarian need continues to expand. South Sudan currently have over 1.7 million IDPs.

There is also growing concern throughout the region on the closing of independent and objective media sources. Most recently, Burundi suspended Voice of America and BBC earlier this week for a period of six months, according to the announcement made at a press conference by the Conseil Nationale de la Communication (CNC). The CNC claims that this suspension is in response to "biased reporting." This suspension comes two weeks before a referendum allowing Burundi's president to serve into the 2030s, in apparent violation of constitutional term limits. VOA's local correspondent told US Embassy Bujumbura that the decision was a complete surprise and we will hear more from VOA's Africa Director as one of our witnesses today.

All of the witnesses today bring us an on-the-ground perspective of the closing space for non-governmental organizations, though they will provide a snapshot of conditions in several countries, their testimony's will provide evidence of the growing regional trend of incursions against civic space. My hope is that this hearing will inform our view of possible U.S. policy responses to better protect fundamental civil and political rights in Sub-Saharan Africa, which includes using sanctions, greater support for faith-based actor via USAID, and support media independence, specifically Voice of America—Africa (VOA).

INTRODUCTION OF THE RECOVER ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Reducing the Effects of the Cyberattack on OPM Victims Emergency Response Act of 2018 (the RECOVER Act), which would require the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make permanent the free identity protection coverage that Congress required OPM to provide for 10 years to individuals whose Social Security Numbers were potentially compromised during the OPM data breaches. In 2015, OPM reported that the personally identifiable information of as many as 25.7 million current, former and prospective federal employees and contractors was stolen in two data breaches. I appreciate that Representative C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER is co-sponsoring this bill.

After OPM announced that it would offer identity protection coverage of limited duration

and value, Senator BEN CARDIN and I introduced the RECOVER Act in July 2015, which would have provided affected individuals lifetime protection and at least \$5 million in identity theft insurance. Congress subsequently included a version of our bill in an enacted appropriations bill, but limited the duration of the protection. Under current law, OPM is only required to provide identity protection coverage through fiscal year 2026. Under the bill we are introducing today, OPM would be required to provide the coverage for the remainder of the life of affected individuals.

The current coverage is inadequate, particularly considering that there is no limit to when the thieves (or those they have shared the stolen data with) may exploit the data. Therefore, there should be no limit to the duration of the coverage provided to affected individuals. This bill would give current, former and prospective federal employees and contractors who were affected both some peace of mind and protection. OPM failed to protect these people. It follows that the government must do the right thing to make up for its mistake.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 2018 WEST POINT LEADERSHIP ETHICS AND DIVERSITY IN STEM WORKSHOP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the West Point Leadership Ethics and Diversity in STEM (LEADS) Program, and to congratulate the students who have participated in the 2018 LEADS Workshop.

The LEADS program began in 2011 and was designed to engage students in the 6th through 10th grades to help prepare them for the challenging academic courses required for acceptance into top tier schools like West Point, focusing primarily on underserved and minority school populations. While a focus on STEM education has been a top priority in many schools, the West Point LEADS program adds another very important dimension—the role that ethics plays in effective leadership. In addition to robotics and coding workshops, students in the LEADS program also participate in activities to explore and begin their journeys to become not only educated leaders, but also ethical leaders.

Students from forty-five schools are participating in the 2018 LEADS program. I congratulate each of these students and am honored to recognize the following schools who have provided them with this opportunity:

BASIS DC; Bishop O'Connell High School, Colonial Forge High School, DC International School, Deer Park Middle Magnet School, Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School, Episcopal High School, Fairview Elementary School, Forest Park High School, Fort Foote Elementary School, Friendship Collegiate Academy, Frost Middle School, Georgetown Visitation Prep School, Great Explorations School, Hayfield Secondary School, HH Poole Middle School, Imagine Foundation at Morningside, Irving Middle School, Lake Brad-dock Secondary School, Lake Ridge Middle School, Langley High School, Lauren Hill Ele-

mentary School, Mark Twain Middle School, Mount Vernon High School, North Stafford High School, Oakcrest School, Oxon Hill High School, Patriot High School, Paul VI High School, Phillipsburg Middle School, Pinnacle Academy, Potomac Middle School, Rippon Middle School, Rodney Thompson Middle School, Samuel Ogle Middle School, Sidwell Friends School, South County High School, South County Middle School, St. Stephen & St. Agnes School, Suitland High School, Temple Baptist School, West Springfield High School, Westlake High School, and Williamsburg Middle School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the schools and students who are participating in the 2018 West Point LEADS Program. I thank the West Point Society of DC, the MITRE Corporation, and the Rotary Club of Springfield, for their support of this vital program. I also would like to recognize Ms. Pat Walker Locke, who in 1980 became the first African American woman to graduate from West Point, for her critical role in creating and promoting the LEADS program, as well as for her decades of commitment to the growth and development of our future leaders. She has received numerous national awards and accolades in recognition of her efforts. Her support of all students, but primarily those in underrepresented communities, has improved the lives of countless children and is truly worthy of our highest praise.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT RUSSELL BERKHEIMER, U.S. ARMY, ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Russell Berkheimer, a native of Thomasville, PA, on his upcoming retirement after more than 20 years of service to the United States of America.

Master Sergeant Berkheimer currently serves as the Technical Director of the Joint Communications Integration Element, where he provides daily guidance on technical issues facing the entire command, while leading research and development projects to meet capability gaps. He entered the United States Army in 1998, and served in numerous assignments, to include Central America in support of counter-narcotics and humanitarian missions, as well as Afghanistan and Iraq during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, respectively.

His numerous commendations and awards, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal and others, are a testament to his steadfast courage, personal integrity, tireless work ethic and impeccable character. His enduring legacy of service to our Nation truly is exceptional and sets a standard for all to follow.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate my fellow brother-in-arms, Master Sergeant Russell Berkheimer, upon his retirement

and for his tireless service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE COURAGE OF
MR. OSVALDO GHIO AND HIS
FAMILY TO HELP RESCUE LT.
WARREN ADERHOLT

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, we have often heard stories of American soldiers and airmen in World War II being rescued by heroic men and women throughout Europe. Today I rise to honor just such a man and his family.

On April 9, 1945, 2nd Lieutenant Warren Aderholt, a cousin on my father's side, crashed his P-51 Mustang approximately 30 miles behind enemy lines in northern Italy near the town of Sarzana. The area was occupied by German forces and the local civilians had been warned not to assist the Allied forces. They were told that if they disobeyed this directive they risked being shot. Nevertheless, at great personal risk to himself and his family, Mr. Osvaldo Ghio rescued Lieutenant Aderholt. Mr. Ghio and his family gave Lt. Aderholt food and clothes and hid him in a secret hideout that he had constructed for just this purpose. The hideout looked like a large stack of concrete blocks, but inside was a place for Aderholt to hide.

Also, U.S. documents show that Mr. Ghio would personally remove mines from around the airport that the Germans had placed there. He would go through these mine fields at night so as not to be seen and would then give the mines to the Italian Partisans in their fight against the enemy. Had Mr. Ghio not removed these mines when Lt. Aderholt bellied his plane into the airport, he would have surely hit one as his plane skid in a crash landing.

Once the news that an American pilot had crash landed nearby, the Germans lined up the local citizens, including the Ghio family, and interrogated them. One family even had their home burned by the Germans. However, the Ghios continued to hide Lt. Aderholt until the coast was clear. Once the German troops left the area they led Lt. Aderholt to safety by hiking miles through the mountains to the front where American troops were advancing.

Members of Lt. Warren Aderholt's family will be traveling to Sarzana, Italy this month to meet the surviving daughter of Mr. Ghio, Rosalba. I would also like to recognize the painstaking research of Claudio Mischi, an aeronautical archaeologist, who did extensive research on what exactly happened in April of 1945 at this location. Mr. Mischi has done this painstaking research out of his extreme gratitude to the United States and the Allies that liberated his country. It should also be noted that Claudio Mischi is writing a biography on Lt. Aderholt's career as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the courage of the Ghio family and their sacrifice to help rescue Lt. Warren Aderholt back on April 9, 1945, as well as all those who offered acts of kindness and assistance to the United States Military during World War II.

RECOGNIZING THE 2017 MVLE
ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2017 MVLE Annual Award Recipients.

For 46 years, MVLE has provided employment opportunities and support services to individuals with disabilities, and thereby created an environment which has allowed its clients to live in dignity and as independently as possible. MVLE has achieved this success by partnering with local businesses, as well as with government agencies and other not-for-profit organizations. MVLE, its staff, and dedicated volunteers and supporters can be proud that they are making a positive difference in someone's life every day.

Each year, MVLE honors individual participants as well as business and community partners, who support MVLE's mission. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the 2017 award recipients:

The President's Award is being presented to individuals who have shown outstanding progress toward gaining independence and self-sufficiency through participation in employment and community services. The 2017 President's Award recipients are Ivana Ardinoto, Willie Anne Belleh, Brittany Davis, and Jeremy Dustin.

The Chairman's Award is being presented to an outstanding business partner who has demonstrated excellence in hiring practices, creating supportive work environments, and supporting the mission of MVLE. The 2017 Chairman's Award recipient is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Office of Headquarter Operations.

MVLE also presents four Community Awards for Government, Employment Partner, Advocacy, and Social Responsibility.

The Government Champion Award is being presented to state Delegate Mark Sickles. MVLE presents this award to an outstanding partner who is committed to creating meaningful employment opportunities by building partnerships across government and business sectors.

The Employment Partner Award is being presented to Parkway Express. MVLE presents this award to an outstanding partner who is committed to creating meaningful community employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and military veterans.

The Advocacy Champion Award is being presented to Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay. MVLE presents this award to an outstanding partner who advocates for community integration by fostering partnerships across sectors to create futures one person at a time.

The Social Responsibility Award is being presented to First Virginia Community Bank. MVLE presents this award to an outstanding partner who supports MVLE through contributions and volunteer work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending MVLE for its success in helping individuals with disabilities achieve independence and in congratulating the 2017 MVLE Annual Award recipients. The efforts of

MVLE, its supporters, community partners, and clients are an inspiration to all and are worthy of our highest praise.

SPORTS FOR ALL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's that time of year again, ballparks are back in swing. You will be hard pressed not to find a little league game being played just about any day of the week. Most kids know the thrill of lacing up their cleats, wearing a uniform, and being part of a team. My community desired that ALL kids have this chance. I am proud to announce that the Second District of Texas has a new ballpark in town—Insperity Adaptive Sports Complex.

Too often children with disabilities are forced to watch from the bench or sidelines. Playgrounds and sports fields are neither wheelchair nor walker friendly. Humble Independent School District and the YMCA partnered to provide children with disabilities and special needs a unique barrier free environment to play and participate in team sports. The facility exists because of companies like Insperity and folks like Joe Cleary, Mark Koenig, and Dr. Guy Sconzo; along with the executive directors, board members, private donors, and volunteers, who devoted countless hours and money to improving the lives of children with disabilities.

Insperity Adaptive Sports Complex is located near Summerwood between Groves Elementary and West Lake Middle School. It sits on 5 acres. It features two YMCA Miracle League fields. Both fields are wheelchair accessible with a synthetic surface that allows children of all abilities to take the field. The team dugouts accommodate wheelchairs and other special needs such as walkers. Kids of all abilities can now be a part of a team. They proudly wear their uniform and round the bases just like their friends. And they have fans. It is joy to witness parents getting to watch their disabled child be a part of a team for the very first time.

The new adaptive sports facility also has an innovative playground with ramps, special swings, and sensory stations. It even has a basketball court with modified basketball hoops. It feels like any other ball park with concessions and a pavilion. It is important for those with disabilities to stay active. Adaptive sports and recreational programs bring health, wellness and social benefits to the special needs child. It is challenging but also healing.

The unique partnership, between the school district and the YMCA, allows students in the district to use the facility during the school day and the YMCA uses the facility in the evenings and weekends. The community is welcome to enjoy the open playground outside of school times. A win win for the Lake Houston area.

So this weekend, grab your sunscreen, and head out to our newest park in town. Be ready to cheer on some remarkable Texans, who are happy to finally be a part of a team.

And that's just the way it is.