

Robert led the University of Guam to receive a record eight years of accreditation in 2008, and resulting in another record 8 years of accreditation in 2016. During his tenure as president, enrollment at the University of Guam increased by 16 percent and graduation rates improved by 5.5 percent. Numerous undergraduate and graduate degree programs were implemented, as well as financial assistance opportunities to attend the University and for off-island travel through student exchange programs or short-term activities to expand and improve the student experience. Robert led the effort to improve financial accountability which resulted in the University being designated as a federal low-risk auditee from 2008 through 2011 and 2015 through 2017.

He guided an aggressive fundraising effort for the capital improvements campaign through the UOG Endowment Foundation which currently totals over \$3 million. Robert established the Research Corporation of the University of Guam (RCUOG) to create an efficient and effective environment to support management of its federal grants portfolio and today provides support to the 84 different grants and contract projects equating to \$12.3 million. He ensured engagement with the Guam Open Research & Education Exchange (GOREX) initiative to expand UOG's technological capabilities and outreach with the Region, Asia, Australia, Hawaii, and mainland United States.

Additionally, Robert established the President Lecture Series as a way for leaders to speak with students regarding unique or highly visible topics, and where students and the island community can dialog and grow from the experience. He reinstituted the Triton Athletics Program through the new Athletics Director to increase student recruitment. Robert also led UOG Green strategic initiatives and conducted nine annual UOG Regional Conferences on Island Sustainability to address local, regional, and global matters in areas of responsible environmental stewardship, strong economic development, and social progress and well-being.

Robert made many indelible contributions to the University of Guam and our community at large. On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate Dr. Robert A. Underwood on his vast accomplishments and service to Guam. I extend my sincere gratitude to Robert's five children, two grandchildren and his wife, former Guam Senator Nerissa Bretania Underwood for their support of Robert throughout the years. Again, I thank Robert for his leadership in moving our island forward, and I look forward to many more years of service for the people of Guam.

HONORING JOANNE ROBINSON-BOETTCHER

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2018*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true public servant, Ms. Joanne Robinson-Boettcher, an individual who through her personal and professional work has left an indelible mark on her community and the people who live in it.

Joanne was a New York City schoolteacher, a public relations specialist at General Foods,

and an independent image consultant on industrial television projects. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Peace Action New York State and is a member of the Black Women's Political Caucus of Westchester and the Yonkers branch of the NAACP. She has also served as a co-chair of Women of Westchester, a delegate to the UN for Peace Action International and has served on numerous boards, including My Sisters' Place, WESPAC, and the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall.

As if this resume wasn't impressive enough, in 1990 Joanne was named Woman of the Year for Westchester County, and has also been an honorary Grand Marshall of the Yonkers African-American Heritage Festival. She was the recipient of the Alice C. Scott Award for Dedicated Community Leadership, the Martin Luther King Drum Major Award for community activism, and the NYCLU Myron Isaacs Community Service Award.

In short, Joanne Robinson-Boettcher has done a tremendous amount of wonderful work to better our world. This year, the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall in Yonkers is honoring Joanne with their 2018 Patron Saints of Yonkers award. They have chosen a terrific honoree. Congratulations to Joanne on receiving this well-deserved honor.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CZECH AND SLOVAK REPUBLICS

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2018*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate two significant anniversaries for two of America's closest allies. One hundred years ago, Czechoslovakia was formed through the Pittsburgh Agreement following the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of World War I. Additionally, this year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of Czechoslovakia, from what many refer to as the "Velvet Revolution of 1989" or the "Gentle Revolution," peacefully becoming two democratic countries by mutual consent: the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on January 1, 1993. The Pittsburgh Agreement and the Velvet or Gentle Revolution, whichever you prefer, are monumental events for these great nations as it opened the door for democracy and prosperity for the people of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire.

During their brief history as independent, democratic nations, both the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic have formally become members of the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the United Nations, showcasing their commitment to democracy through institutional participation and military cooperation in NATO missions around the globe.

Let it also be known that the Czech Republic has a local tie to Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. When applying for admission into NATO, the Czech Republic had the official documents signed at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri. Visiting diplomats from the Czech and Slovakian govern-

ments will gather again May 15–16, 2018 in Kansas City for a diplomatic luncheon and to commemorate the anniversary of the Czechoslovakian Declaration of Independence, which officially created the nation state of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in expressing our sincerest congratulations to the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic for their monumental achievements in independence and their tireless efforts in promoting democracy, not only within their borders, but throughout the world. I urge all of my colleagues and fellow citizens across the country to join me in showing our appreciation to these two great nations and their commitment to continued friendship with the United States and democracies everywhere.

HONORING OFFICER THOMAS O'DONNELL

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2018*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroism and bravery of Castle Rock Police Department Officer Thomas O'Donnell. On December 31, 2017, Officer O'Donnell responded with fellow law enforcement officers to a domestic disturbance call where he was wounded in the line of duty. On behalf of myself and the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for Officer O'Donnell's service to our community. I admire his courage and willingness to stand in harm's way so that the innocent may be protected.

Officer O'Donnell has committed his life to protecting citizens through his service in law enforcement for the past 17 years, including his work for the Castle Rock Police Department since 2008. He also serves as an Entry Team Leader on the Douglas County Regional SWAT Team.

During the incident on December 31st, Officer O'Donnell received gunshot wounds from a gunman who had barricaded himself inside an apartment complex. As Officer O'Donnell confronts his own physical and emotional healing, he will also carry the burden of knowing that one of his fellow law enforcement officers did not make it away from the incident alive. For a profession that treats each other like family, the loss of a colleague is especially painful.

We must never forget the sacrifices paid by our men and women in uniform. Our nation's law enforcers are vital to the safety of Colorado communities. On behalf of the citizens of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes and deepest gratitude to Officer O'Donnell.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus and

the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I rise to commemorate National Police Week, which runs from May 13 through May 19.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we do this.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is the nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

Dedicated on October 15, 1991, the Memorial honors federal, state and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our nation and its people.

Carved on its walls are the names of 21,541 officers who have been killed in the line of duty throughout U.S. history, dating back to the first known death in 1791.

Added to the Wall this year will be the names of the 129 police officers killed in the line of duty in 2017.

Mr. Speaker, enshrined on the Memorial Wall of Honor also are the names of 1,731 fallen peace officers from the state of Texas, the most of any state, including 115 members of the Houston Police Department who gave their lives to keep their city safe.

Mr. Speaker, today there are more than 900,000 law enforcement personnel serving the people of our country, the highest amount ever.

About 12 percent of them are female.

These brave men and women risk their lives to keep the peace and keep us safe but they are too often taken by the violence they are working to prevent.

Every year, a law enforcement officer is killed somewhere in the United States every 58 hours, and there are also 58,627 assaults against our law officers each year, resulting in 16,667 injuries.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of the 18th Congressional District of Texas in paying tribute to the 129 fallen heroes who will be joining the 21,541 gallant men and women who gave the last full measure of devotion to the communities they took an oath to protect and serve.

Among those fallen Texans are Sergeant Steve Albert Perez of the Houston Police Department whose watch ended on September 7, 2017, when he drowned answering the call of service during the severe flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey; and Assistant Chief Deputy Clinton Greenwood of Harris County Constable Office, Precinct 3, whose watch ended April 3, 2017 when he was ambushed when he arrived to work at the Baytown, Texas Courthouse.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of the 129 officers whose names will be added to the National Peace Officers Memorial Wall of Honor.

#### HOUSTON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIALIZED ON THE WALL OF HONOR

1. Timothy Scott Abernethy; End of Watch: December 7, 2008; Houston, Texas, P.D.
2. Charles H Baker; End of Watch: August 16, 1979; Houston, Texas, P.D.
3. Johnny Terrell Bamsch; End of Watch: January 30, 1975; Houston, Texas, P.D.
4. Claude R Beck; End of Watch: December 10, 1971; Houston, Texas, P.D.
5. Jack B Beets; End of Watch: March 30, 1955; Houston, Texas, P.D.
6. Troy A Blando; End of Watch: May 19, 1999; Houston, Texas, P.D.

7. James Charles Boswell; End of Watch: December 9, 1989; Houston, Texas, P.D.
8. C E Branon; End of Watch: March 20, 1959; Houston, Texas, P.D.
9. John M Cain; End of Watch: August 3, 1911; Houston, Texas, P.D.
10. Richard H Calhoun; End of Watch: October 10, 1975; Houston, Texas, Police Department
11. Dionicio M Camacho; End of Watch: October 23, 2009; Harris County, Texas, S.O.
12. Henry Canales; End of Watch: June 23, 2009; Houston, Texas, P.D.
13. Frank Manuel Cantu Jr; End of Watch: March 25, 2004; Houston, Texas, P.D.
14. E C Chavez; End of Watch: September 17, 1925; Houston, Texas, P.D.
15. Charles Roy Clark; End of Watch: April 3, 2003; Houston, Texas, P.D.
16. Charles Robert Coates II; End of Watch: February 23, 1983; Houston, Texas, P.D.
17. Pete Corrales; End of Watch: January 25, 1925; Houston, Texas, P.D.
18. Rufus E Daniels; End of Watch: August 23, 1917; Houston, Texas, P.D.
19. Johnnie Davidson; End of Watch: February 19, 1921; Houston, Texas, P.D.
20. Worth Davis; End of Watch: June 17, 1928; Houston, Texas, P.D.
21. Keith Alan Dees; End of Watch: March 7, 2002; Houston, Texas, P.D.
22. Reuben Becerra Deleon Jr; End of Watch: October 26, 2005; Houston, Texas, P.D.
23. William Edwin Deleon; End of Watch: March 29, 1982; Houston, Texas, P.D.
24. Floyd T Deloach Jr; End of Watch: June 30, 1965; Houston, Texas, P.D.
25. George D Edwards; End of Watch: June 30, 1939; Houston, Texas, P.D.
26. Dawn Suzanne Erickson; End of Watch: December 24, 1995; Houston, Texas, P.D.
27. J C Etheridge; End of Watch: August 23, 1924; Houston, Texas, P.D.
28. James E Fenn; End of Watch: March 14, 1891; Houston, Texas, P.D.
29. E D Fitzgerald; End of Watch: September 30, 1930; Houston, Texas, P.D.
30. C Edward Foley; End of Watch: March 10, 1860; Houston, Texas, P.D.
31. Joseph Robert Free; End of Watch: October 18, 1912; Houston, Texas, P.D.
32. Guy P Gaddis; End of Watch: January 31, 1994; Houston, Texas, P.D.
33. James T Gambill; End of Watch: December 1, 1936; Houston, Texas, P.D.
34. Florentino M Garcia Jr; End of Watch: November 10, 1989; Houston, Texas, P.D.
35. Ben Eddie Gerhart; End of Watch: June 26, 1968; Houston, Texas, P.D.
36. G Q Gonzalez; End of Watch: February 28, 1960; Houston, Texas, P.D.
37. Charles R Gougenheim; End of Watch: April 30, 1955; Houston, Texas, P.D.
38. Carl Greene; End of Watch: March 14, 1928; Houston, Texas, P.D.
39. Leon Griggs; End of Watch: January 31, 1970; Houston, Texas, P.D.
40. Maria Michelle Groves; End of Watch: April 10, 1987; Houston, Texas, P.D.
41. Gary Allen Gryder; End of Watch: June 29, 2008; Houston, Texas, P.D.
42. Antonio Guzman Jr; End of Watch: January 9, 1973; Houston, Texas, P.D.
43. Howard B Hammond; End of Watch: August 18, 1946; Houston, Texas, P.D.
44. James Donald Harris; End of Watch: July 13, 1982; Houston, Texas, P.D.
45. David Michael Healy; End of Watch: November 12, 1994; Houston, Texas, P.D.
46. Timothy A Hearn; End of Watch: June 8, 1978; Houston, Texas, P.D.
47. Oscar Hope; End of Watch: June 22, 1929; Houston, Texas, P.D.
48. Elston M Howard; End of Watch: July 20, 1988; Houston, Texas, P.D.
49. David Huerta; End of Watch: September 19, 1973; Houston, Texas, P.D.
50. James Bruce Irby; End of Watch: June 27, 1990; Houston, Texas, P.D.

51. Bobby L James; End of Watch: June 26, 1968; Houston, Texas, P.D.
52. John C James; End of Watch: December 12, 1901; Houston, Texas, P.D.
53. Rodney Joseph Johnson; End of Watch: September 21, 2006; Houston, Texas, P.D.
54. Ed Jones; End of Watch: September 13, 1929; Houston, Texas, P.D.
55. P P Jones; End of Watch: January 30, 1927; Houston, Texas, P.D.
56. Frank L Kellogg; End of Watch: November 30, 1955; Houston, Texas, P.D.
57. S A Buster Kent; End of Watch: January 12, 1954; Houston, Texas, P.D.
58. James F Kilty; End of Watch: April 8, 1976; Houston, Texas, P.D.
59. Kent Dean Kincaid; End of Watch: May 23, 1998; Houston, Texas, P.D.
60. Louis R Kuba; End of Watch: May 17, 1967; Houston, Texas, P.D.
61. J D Landry; End of Watch: December 3, 1930; Houston, Texas, P.D.
62. Robert Wayne Lee; End of Watch: January 31, 1971; Houston, Texas, P.D.
63. Fred Maddox Jr; End of Watch: February 24, 1954; Houston, Texas, P.D.
64. Eydelmen Mani; End of Watch: May 19, 2010; Houston, Texas, P.D.
65. A P Marshall; End of Watch: November 8, 1937; Houston, Texas, P.D.
66. Charles R McDaniel; End of Watch: August 4, 1963; Houston, Texas, P.D.
67. E G Meinke; End of Watch: August 23, 1917; Houston, Texas, P.D.
68. Harry Mereness; End of Watch: October 18, 1933; Houston, Texas, P.D.
69. Noel R Miller; End of Watch: June 6, 1958; Houston, Texas, P.D.
70. Kenneth L Moody; End of Watch: November 26, 1969; Houston, Texas, P.D.
71. Horace Moody; End of Watch: August 23, 1917; Houston, Texas, P.D.
72. William Moss; End of Watch: September 12, 1983; Houston Airport Police, Texas.
73. Dave Murdock; End of Watch: June 27, 1921; Houston, Texas, P.D.
74. William E Murphy; End of Watch: April 1, 1910; Houston, Texas, P.D.
75. David Franklin Noel; End of Watch: June 17, 1972; Houston, Texas, P.D.
76. M E Palmer; End of Watch: March 24, 1938; Houston, Texas, P.D.
77. Isaac Parson; End of Watch: May 24, 1914; Houston, Texas, P.D.
78. Ross Patton; End of Watch: August 23, 1917; Houston, Texas, P.D.
79. Stephen Albert Perez; End of Watch: August 27, 2017; Houston, Texas, P.D.
80. W B Phares; End of Watch: September 30, 1930; Houston, Texas, P.D.
81. Herbert N Planer; End of Watch: February 18, 1965; Houston, Texas, P.D.
82. Ira Raney; End of Watch: August 23, 1917; Houston, Texas, P.D.
83. Winston J Rawlings; End of Watch: March 29, 1982; Houston, Texas, P.D.
84. Jerry Lawrence Riley; End of Watch: June 18, 1974; Houston, Texas, P.D.
85. John Charles Risley; End of Watch: October 23, 2000; Harris County, Texas, S.O.
86. Sandra Ann Robbins; End of Watch: March 17, 1991; South Houston, Texas, P.D.
87. George G Rojas; End of Watch: January 28, 1976; Houston, Texas, P.D.
88. Michael P Roman; End of Watch: January 6, 1994; Houston, Texas, P.D.
89. John Anthony Salvaggio; End of Watch: November 25, 1990; Houston, Texas, P.D.
90. Louis L Sander; End of Watch: January 21, 1967; Houston, Texas, P.D.
91. Jeffery Scott Sanford; End of Watch: September 14, 1991; Harris County, Texas, S.O.
92. Kathleen C Schaefer; End of Watch: August 18, 1982; Houston, Texas, P.D.
93. Robert Schulte; End of Watch: August 25, 1956; Houston, Texas, P.D.
94. Daryl Wayne Shirley; End of Watch: April 28, 1982; Houston, Texas, P.D.

95. Richard Snow; End of Watch: March 17, 1982; Houston, Texas, P.D.
96. Bruno David Soboleski; End of Watch: April 12, 1991; Houston, Texas, P.D.
97. Jerry Leon Spruill; End of Watch: October 27, 1972; Houston, Texas, P.D.
98. R H Sullivan; End of Watch: March 9, 1935; Houston, Texas, P.D.
99. John W Suttle; End of Watch: August 3, 1959; Houston, Texas, P.D.
100. Cuong Huy Trinh; End of Watch: April 6, 1997; Houston, Texas, P.D.
101. Alberto Vasquez; End of Watch: May 22, 2001; Houston, Texas, P.D.
102. James T Walker; End of Watch: March 8, 1963; Houston, Texas, P.D.
103. Victor R Wells III; End of Watch: October 2, 1980; Houston, Texas, P.D.
104. R O Wells; End of Watch: July 30, 1927; Houston, Texas, P.D.
105. Albert Charles Wilkins; End of Watch: January 6, 1978; Harris County, Texas, C.O.
106. Kevin Scott Will; End of Watch: May 29, 2011; Houston, Texas, P.D.
107. Henry Williams; End of Watch: February 8, 1886; Houston, Texas, P.D.
108. William C Williams Jr; End of Watch: April 16, 1930; Harris County, Texas, S.O.
109. Edd Williams; End of Watch: January 12, 1974; Harris County, Texas, S.O.
110. James Franklin Willis; End of Watch: July 1, 1964; Houston, Texas, P.D.
111. Marvin Alton Winter; End of Watch: December 4, 1937; Harris County, Texas, C.O., Pct. 4.
112. Andrew Winzer; End of Watch: February 18, 1988; Houston, Texas, P.D.
113. Jeter Young; End of Watch: June 19, 1921; Houston, Texas, P.D.
114. Herman Youngst; End of Watch: December 12, 1901; Houston, Texas, P.D.
115. Joe A Zamarron; End of Watch: April 18, 1981; Houston, Texas, P.D.

## NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF  
**HON. DINA TITUS**  
OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2018*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3053) to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, and for other purposes.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Office of the Governor of Nevada in support of House Amendment No. 3.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,  
*May 9, 2018.*

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, As the House of Representatives prepares to vote on the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2018, H.R. 3053, I write as I have done previously, to reiterate the firm and consistent position of the State of Nevada on the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository.

My position, and that of the State of Nevada, remains identical to my previous letters to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Environment, in May 2015, January 2016, April 2016, and April 2017: the State of Nevada opposes the project based on scientific, technical, and legal merits. And as I have reminded members of this body on previous occasions, under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982, only the Governor is empowered to consult with the Federal government on

matters related to the siting of a nuclear waste repository.

In the past thirteen months as H.R. 3053 moved through subcommittee and committee, Members of Nevada's congressional delegation have communicated our specific concerns about the provisions of the bill. The full committee responded by eliminating the unwise and likely unconstitutional proposals to usurp Nevada's jurisdiction over water resources and air quality. Nonetheless, our primary objection remains the fundamentally flawed adherence to the 1987 NWPA amendments that unfairly and without scientific justification singled out Nevada as the only state where a proposed nuclear waste repository is being considered. The bill continues the truncation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) licensing proceeding in ways that would limit Nevada's ability to protect public health and safety and the environment.

Yucca Mountain is an unsuitable site for a high-level nuclear waste repository because of its geology and hydrology. Fractured rock above and below the repository tunnels would allow highly corrosive oxidizing groundwater to transport dangerous radioactive material from the waste packages into the water table, where they would be transported to an aquifer from which water is used for a variety of purposes. In 2009, the NRC licensing boards admitted 218 Nevada contentions, supported by over one thousand pages of documentation that challenged the safety and environmental impacts of the DOE license application. If the NRC process is restarted, Nevada will fully adjudicate these contentions through trial-like hearings and cross-examination of expert witnesses. Nevada intends to prevail in this process, which could take five years and \$2 billion to complete, and which will inevitably be followed by years of litigation.

H.R. 3053 continues to ignore the primary recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, a consent-based siting process for a repository, and again singles out Nevada as the nation's only repository. As I have stated before, if the Congress had embraced such a process when my predecessor, Governor Kenny Guinn, vetoed the selection of Yucca Mountain 16 years ago, we would today be closer to a long-term solution for managing the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. As a nation, we should be able to do better than simply repeating this failed exercise, wasting billions of ratepayer and taxpayer dollars, trying once again to force an unsafe site on an unwilling State.

Sincere regards,

BRIAN SANDOVAL,  
Governor.

BERNADA BAKER AND PAUL WALL

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, what do a university teacher and a star hip-hop artist have in common? They both care deeply for a young girl named Bella.

Giving back to others comes naturally to Bernada Baker. As a faculty member at Texas Southern University, she shapes and molds her students, encouraging them to think "outside the box" not only about their academic work but also about their professional and personal lives. She is the founder of the Princess Within, a foundation dedicated to empowering

young women and giving them the tools necessary to believe in themselves and achieve success as professionals, students, and friends.

But her latest act of generosity tops all of her previous charity.

The devastation of Hurricane Harvey rendered Bella, an innocent infant, and her father homeless after the terrible storm swept away the car that had been serving as their living space. Desperate for help, her father put out a plea on social media for aid in caring for his young daughter.

Baker happened to see his post and volunteered to help babysit the infant. She reached out to some of her friends and managed to raise a modest sum of money to purchase some clothes and crib for her. She was, as she said, "just trying to help."

Baker eventually took Bella into her home as her father began to search for employment. As the days passed by, Baker grew to love the young girl and eventually found that she wanted to adopt her to be her own daughter. Bella's father agreed—it was in his daughter's best interest for her to be under Baker's care and thus consented to transfer his parental rights.

The adoption process is long and expensive, and Baker found it difficult to raise the money required to officially bring Bella into her family.

Cue Paul Slayton, better known by his stage name Paul Wall as one of the most renowned hip-hop artists to come out of Houston. He heard about Baker and Bella, and he thought back to the kindness shown to him by his stepfather growing up, who decided to adopt him after his biological father rejected him. Thus, he decided to come to Baker and Bella's aid.

In conjunction with Cricket Wireless's foundation, Cricket Cares, he surprised Baker with several gifts for Bella and a check for \$5,000 to help her pay to complete the adoption process.

Mr. Speaker, the largesse of Bernada Baker and Paul Wall is an exceptional demonstration of the Golden Rule, and their kindness and love for Bella help make America the great country that it is today.

And that is just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF PASTOR KENT  
MATTOX AND HIS STAFF SERVICE  
TO THE FREEDOM RIDER  
CELEBRATION

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2018*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Pastor Kent and Beverly Mattox and his staff at Word Alive International Outreach church in Calhoun County during the Freedom Riders celebration in Anniston on May 5, 2018.

Word Alive International Outreach was founded in December of 2000. Pastor Kent and his staff went above and beyond measure to help make the celebration a huge success. Their hospitality and service to the community was amazing. It is great people like them that make the difference in servitude.