

In Shelby County, Tennessee, there were 123 children who did not make it to their first birthday in 2016. In the United States, our infant mortality rate is comparable to countries like Bosnia, Chile, and Cuba, and a recent study found that a child is 76 percent more likely to die before their first birthday in America than in 19 other wealthy nations, including Australia, Canada, France, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

More concerning is the racial and ethnic infant mortality disparities that continue to exist. In 2015, the rates for infant mortality were over double for black infants compared to white ones.

This is unacceptable. That's why I am introducing the NEWBORN Act.

If enacted, the NEWBORN Act would create infant mortality-focused pilot programs in the highest-risk areas of the country.

The pilot programs would focus on addressing one or more of the top five reasons for infant mortality: birth defects, preterm birth and low birth weight, sudden infant death syndrome, maternal pregnancy complications, and injuries to the infant.

The NEWBORN Act would specifically encourage the development of community-specific practices to promote pre-natal care and community outreach and education.

The current infant mortality rates are tragic, but good practices can improve health and save lives.

I urge my colleagues to help pass this bill.

SEPARATION OF CHILDREN

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the awful situation that has transpired over immigration in our country. When President Trump asked Congress to come to a legislative solution over DREAMers in our country, it should never have come to a point where our country no longer treats immigrants with compassion and respect. Families and children should have never come in the cross fire of politics, and our nation should have never witnessed a humanitarian crisis on our own land.

President Trump, since the beginning of his term, has issued a number of executive orders on immigration, refugees, and border security. These actions include President Trump's border wall, extreme deportation policies against undocumented immigrants, three bans on refugees and travelers from predominately Muslim countries, and a rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). President Trump has created fear and uncertainty for many that legally reside in our country, including thousands of legal immigrants in our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas. Congress has offered several bipartisan legislative solutions, including the DREAM Act and the USA Act, but it is the President who refuses to work with Congress until all of his unreasonable demands are met.

Today, our chamber is left with only two choices: H.R. 4760 and H.R. 6136. These bills are not only bad policy, but they also only make matters worse. The so-called Securing America's Future Act, H.R. 4760 offers no

path to citizenship for Dreamers, removes protections for all unaccompanied minors, and harms our communities. This bill absolutely fails to help fix actual immigration problems in our country and instead pushes the propaganda that immigrants are criminals and a burden to our society. This is false. The 29th District of Texas is home to one of the largest immigrant populations in the country. I have seen with my own eyes how they bring innovation, entrepreneurship, and hard work that have been an integral part of making Houston a world-class city.

The Border Security and Immigration Reform Act, H.R. 6136 is being sold as a compromise, but this is a sham. This bill limits the eligibility criteria for DACA, cutting off most Dreamers and many DACA recipients. For those that will be eligible, this legislation does not guarantee citizenship, as the participants will be pitted against each other in a point system to obtain permanent residence. The administration must stop treating Dreamers as pawns—their lives are not ours to play with. The Border Security and Immigration Reform Act will also fund an expensive and arbitrary border wall. Even worse, the problems this legislation seeks to solve, such as family separation, are exacerbated. It will eliminate requirements for children in confinement that ensures they are safe, sanitary, and appropriate for children.

In a few months, the President has led our country into a manufactured humanitarian crisis. We have mistreated children and family members as they come to our borders seeking asylum. President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" policy is inhumane, cruel and un-American. President Trump's Executive Order on June 20th creates a dangerous situation for the future requiring children to be detained for prolonged periods, resulting in dangers for their health and mental well-being, and there is no solution for over 2,000 children that have already been separated from their parents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Congress to think about the children and families' lives that we are destroying. Many will still not be able to reunite—a travesty that I am sad to say is because of our President. The separation of families has never been an option for any other administration and it is unthinkable that it is a choice today. We must come together to address how to create an immigration system that is humane and honors our nation's history and traditions. We are America and we must start acting like it.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LUDLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ludlow United Methodist Church of Ludlow, Illinois, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

Ludlow United Methodist Church was founded in 1868 by the Rev. M.L. Kurle and soon thereafter joined the Flagg Circuit. Initially, services were held in nearby schoolhouses. The first church building was dedicated on September 4, 1871. Throughout the years,

various additions and remodeling projects took place as the congregation expanded. Currently, the church building is accompanied by an auditorium and parsonage.

With an extensive background in missionary work and community engagement, Ludlow United Methodist has impacted many lives for over a century and a half. This historic church proudly maintains its legacy of service to its congregants and neighbors, and I hope that it continues that legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ludlow United Methodist Church for this important milestone, and I wish it and its Pastor, Reverend Fred Sistler, the very best as they celebrate the church's 150th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE 2017–2018 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOMINEES FOR THE PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2017–2018 Prince William County Public Schools nominees for the Principal of the Year Award.

Principals who meet the criteria for the award are those who effectively manage, demonstrate, and encourage creativity and innovation, foster cooperation between the school and community by maintaining an open dialogue with students, parents, faculty, and staff, and exemplify commitment to providing a quality education for all students to learn and develop. The selected winner will be named the Prince William County Principal of the Year.

As the second largest school division in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Prince William County Public Schools educates 90,000 students in ninety-eight schools, including sixty elementary schools, sixteen middle schools, twelve high schools, one Governor's school, three special education schools, one nontraditional school, two traditional schools, two special site schools, and one K–8 school.

I extend my personal congratulations to the following 2017–2018 Prince William County nominees for Principal of the Year Award:

Andrew Buchheit, T. Clay Wood Elementary School

Robert Eichorn, New Directions (Independence Nontraditional School)

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the nominees for 2017–2018 Principal of the Year Award in Prince William County, and in thanking them for their dedication and leadership to the students, teachers, and faculty to ensure a bright future for all who pass through the doors of their schools. Their continued service is truly commendable and worthy of the highest praise. I thank them for ensuring our Prince William County students are provided a world-class education in a vibrant learning community.

TRIBUTE TO MARY K. SHELL

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the late Mary Katherine Shell, a community leader from Bakersfield, California. Mary served as the Mayor of Bakersfield from 1981 to 1985, and later as a member of the Kern County Board of Supervisors from 1985 to 1997. A trailblazing force in Kern County, Mary K. Shell passed away last week at the age of 91.

Born in Bakersfield, Mary graduated from East Bakersfield High School before attending Bakersfield College. Her future in public service was forged at a young age during conversations with her father, who encouraged her as a child to read the newspaper, be civic-minded, and to involve herself in the issues that impacted her community. A keen reader of the news, it was no coincidence that Mary found herself working for the Bakersfield Californian during World War II, covering home-front war stories and Kern County's rapidly growing agricultural industry.

With much of the Californian's workforce serving overseas in the war, Mary balanced an incredible workload, often finding herself immersed in Bakersfield's policy-making discussions, learning and covering topics that would mold her into a city leader herself. Outside of her writing, Mary continued to push herself in other fields, working as a secretary for Skyway Associates at the old La Cresta Airfield and even receiving her pilot's license. She would further her career in journalism working for the Bakersfield News Bulletin in 1965, first as a reporter, and later as editor until 1969. In 1972, she was awarded the Excellence in Reporting Award from the California Trial Lawyers Association for her work at Capitol News Service, and in 1975 was awarded the California Taxpayers Reporting Award for articles published in the Los Angeles Herald.

While she loved politics, Mary never once viewed herself as a politician. It took the gentle encouragement of her loving husband, Joe Shell, to inspire her to run to be Bakersfield's mayor in 1979. Mary won in a competitive field of candidates to become Bakersfield's first female mayor in 1980. Upon her election, Shell immediately set out to improve the quality of life of Bakersfield, launching the still-active Beautiful Bakersfield Committee to inspire pride in the Bakersfield community. She commissioned the creation of a city flag, helped establish the annual city prayer breakfast, established one of the first Vietnam War memorials in Bakersfield, and brought back the annual downtown Christmas Parade, which is still a fixture of the Bakersfield Christmas season.

After serving a full term as Bakersfield mayor, Shell successfully ran in 1984 to represent Kern County's 5th Supervisorial District. She dedicated her three terms as a county supervisor to reducing government overregulation and advocating for policies that minimized the waste of taxpayers' money. Mary established herself in the boardroom as a consensus-builder, garnering support from both sides of the political spectrum for her straight talk and her relentless love for the community

she represented. Above all else, Mary never stopped acting as a one of our city's staunchest advocates, remaining just as civically engaged outside of politics as she was as an elected official.

Mary K. Shell was, and will always be, a community icon in Bakersfield. A renaissance woman of her era, she defined to generations of Kern County residents what it meant to be a public servant—someone who listened to the needs of her constituents and acted tirelessly, fearlessly, yet graciously, to address the needs of our communities. Over her life, Mary inspired many, and I am confident that she leaves behind a legacy that will inspire countless others to public service. I extend my deepest condolences to her children, her grandchildren, and a community that will miss her dearly. It could be said that Mary K. Shell "did it all" in her life, and I am inclined to agree. Bakersfield will not soon forget her.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TLC PROPERTIES ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of TLC Properties.

TLC Properties was founded in 1988 in Springfield, Missouri, by Sam and Carol Coryell, and to this day, remains a family owned and operated business. Priding themselves on this fact, Mr. and Mrs. Coryell's three sons, Sam Jr., Daniel and David, play an important role in the company and its successes. The Coryell's business brilliance and persistence has allowed TLC Properties to grow from just one rental house in eastern Springfield, to more than 3,000 apartments across 20 different communities.

TLC Properties' strong apartment networks have enabled the company to address its clients' various needs and residential concerns.

This company was founded on principles of strong character, service, teamwork, excellence, humility and gratitude. I believe that the company's track record has demonstrated that these values have consistently been upheld. TLC Properties motto is, "do unto others as you would have others do unto you." Whether it's at the corporate level or the property level, TLC strives to uphold this motto by offering the best product at the best price.

I must commemorate TLC Properties for its three decades of quality housing, and encourage others from our beautiful 7th District of Missouri to live by TLC Properties' values.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOB COX'S HEROIC ACTIONS ON CAPITOL HILL

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions of Bob Cox on Capitol Hill earlier this year. While on vacation with his family in our nation's cap-

ital, Bob, a constituent of New York's 27th District, aided a Capitol Hill employee that abruptly collapsed. If not for his quick thinking, the outcome could have been much worse for the employee.

Due to his heroism, Bob will receive the Life Saving Award from a representative of the U.S. Capitol Police. This honor rightfully acknowledges Bob's exemplary act at our nation's capital earlier this year. The selfless medical service that he provided is truly commendable. As a registered nurse and trained EMT, he has undoubtedly played a part in making our community a better place to live and raise a family.

Again, congratulations to Bob on his recent recognition by the U.S. Capitol Police, and I thank him for all he has done.

RECOGNIZING THE 2018 FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 40th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will present ninety-one awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories, including the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze and Silver Medal of Valor.

Seven members of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office are being honored this year for their exceptional service.

It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

Bronze Medal of Valor:
Second Lieutenant Georgi Hovhannisyan
Sergeant Brandon Pitts
Private First Class Andrew Foxwell
Correctional Health Nurse Deborah Kurylo
Certificate of Valor:
First Lieutenant Jonathan Ortiz
Master Deputy Sheriff Jeffery Waple
Private First Class Laurence Kim

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2018 Valor Award Recipients, and thank all of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.