

RECOGNIZING TOM CAULFIELD

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Tom Caulfield, the Founder and Director/President of Veteran Community Initiatives, for his commitment to our region's veterans.

A U.S. Army Vietnam veteran, Mr. Caulfield has dedicated his life to serving others. As founder of Veteran Community Initiatives, he and his team have touched the lives of thousands of veterans in our region. Since its inception in 1993, Veteran Community Initiatives has helped nearly 9,000 veterans and their family members in the PA Laurel Highlands and the Southern Alleghenies.

In addition to his work with VCI, Mr. Caulfield is active with many veteran service organizations, including his current work on the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center's Veterans Advisory Council, the former Defense Veterans Brain Injury Center—Johnstown as Board Chairman, the Penn Highlands Community College/John P. Murtha Scholarship Committee as Chairman, and the Cambria County Business and Education Consortia.

By caring and advocating for Pennsylvania veterans, Mr. Caulfield has established an indelible legacy. It is my privilege to recognize this community leader for his lifelong dedication to our nation and to his fellow veterans.

HONORING DEPUTY CHIEF TERRY CLANTON AND HIS 36-YEAR CAREER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Police Chief Terry Clanton on his 36 years of service to our community with the Kannapolis Police Department, located in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District.

Over the last 36 years, Terry has made countless contributions to our area. He started his career in 1984 as a patrol officer for the Kannapolis Police Department and retires today as the Deputy Police Chief. His strong character and leadership enabled him to advance within the Kannapolis Police Department, culminating as Deputy Police Chief.

Growing up in Cabarrus and Rowan Counties, Terry knew he wanted to give back to his community through law enforcement. Rising through the ranks of patrol, investigations, staff services, and support services, his outsized contributions to the Kannapolis Police Department have been profound and unmatched. Terry helped guide his office through the transition that followed the incorporation of the City of Kannapolis and saw the number of police officers rise from 48 to over 100. Described by colleagues as dedicated, loyal, and a true professional, his legacy of service will be felt for years to come.

Terry will continue his career in law enforcement as the Director of Law Enforcement Training at Guilford Technical Community Col-

lege, where he will train our next generation of leaders. I know I speak for everyone in the community when I say we are truly grateful for his unwavering service and cannot thank him enough. I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation and wish him success in his future endeavors.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Terry Clanton on his 36 years of service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF COMMANDER SAMMY L. VICKERS

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and remember the life of one of Northwest Florida's most notable citizens, Commander Sammy L. Vickers, who passed away on March 29, 2018. Commander Vickers was born in 1946, in Corpus Christi, TX, and lived a lifetime full of impressive and dedicated service to our nation.

Commander Vickers served heroically in the United States Navy for 22 years. As a P-3C Orion pilot during the tumultuous years of the Cold War, Commander Vickers patrolled the waters of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans hunting Russian submarines. His dedication to duty helped ensure the safety of millions of grateful Americans.

Commander Vickers was later assigned to VP-6 in Hawaii and VP-5 in Jacksonville, Florida. He also served aboard the USS *Eisenhower*, CVN 69. Commander Vickers' service in the United States military culminated as the Executive Officer at Whiting Field in Florida, where he eventually retired.

However, Commander Vickers' life of service did not conclude with his retirement from the United States Navy. In 1995, Commander Vickers served the Santa Rosa community as the Executive Director of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce.

Following his time with the Santa Rosa Chamber, Commander Vickers devoted his time to leading the Pace High School Navy JROTC unit. He served as unit commander for 18 years, leading Pace High School to top national honors in 2003.

Even during his time as the unit leader of the Pace High School Navy JROTC, Commander Vickers continued to selflessly devote himself to our community as he partnered with several other community organizations. Commander Vickers consistently dedicated his time to the service of others.

Commander Vickers was revered and loved by all who knew him. To honor his extraordinary legacy, the traditional "Celebrating Our Veterans" ceremony at Pace High School will be renamed "Commander Sam Vickers Celebration of America at Pace High School."

On behalf of the United States Congress, I recognize and honor a remarkable man for his selfless service to his country. I am grateful for his lasting contributions to our community and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a faithful and dedicated American hero.

SHARK FIN SALES ELIMINATION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ranking Member MCCAUL and Representative SABLAN for their leadership on H.R. 737, the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act, an important animal and wildlife protection bill. Their efforts earned the broad bipartisan support of nearly 290 Members of the House who cosponsored the bill which passed on an overwhelming bipartisan basis.

Many sharks are killed through the horrific method of "shark finning," a method of removing fins from sharks while they are still alive at sea and discarding the rest of the shark. This bill would expand the Shark Conservation Act, which was passed in 2010, prohibiting the commercial trade of shark fins and products containing shark fins, to also prohibit taking the fins of sharks at sea.

Currently, shark finning is illegal in U.S. waters, but more is needed to protect these rapidly declining shark populations. Shark fins sold in the U.S. come from all over the world, including locations which have no bans on finning. The United States is in the top 15 shark-fin-importing countries in terms of volume. It is highly likely that shark fins sold in the United States come from sharks that have been brutally finned from places that allow shark finning.

Some populations have declined by up to 90 percent in recent decades leaving almost 25 percent of shark and ray species at risk of extinction. These global populations are currently threatened by this practice and instituting this ban will help to reduce the demand for shark fins and conserve these species while still allowing the sales of shark meat and products.

My home state of Illinois has already enacted a law prohibiting the shark fin trade joining 12 states and 3 territories that already have laws banning the sale of shark fins, similar to this bill.

I voted yes on this bill and applaud my colleagues who also voted in favor of H.R. 737, the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act.

CONGRATULATING JOEY B'S BAR & RESTAURANT ON RECEIPT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate Joey B's Bar & Restaurant in Lehigh on receiving the Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation's Business of the Year Award.

The Business of the Year Award recognizes a business that has demonstrated achievement and innovation in management, workplace excellence, and has committed to growing here in Carbon County. Established in

1988 by Chip and Shari Solt to honor the passing of a friend, Joey Barbosa, Joey B's has evolved into a vibrant gathering place for those in the community. The Solt family has been committed to continuing their tradition of offering a warm atmosphere for friends to gather and create memories—truly making Joey B's a place "Where Good Friends Meet."

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joey B's Bar & Restaurant on this great honor and thank them for their commitment to our community.

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS ACT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter I sent to the U.S. Attorney General concerning H.R. 4729, the Courtney Wild Crime Victims' Rights Act.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 21, 2019.

Hon. WILLIAM BARR,
U.S. Attorney General,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR: I write to raise concerns about a court filing recently made by prosecutors in the Department, who cited my recent legislative efforts to support Jeffrey Epstein's victims as being in opposition to their currently pending petition before the Eleventh Circuit. I hope that you will direct your prosecutors to correct the misimpression that their inaccurate representation has created.

I introduced H.R. 4729, the Courtney Wild Crime Victims' Rights Reform Act (the "CVRA Reform Act"), in the House of Representatives on October 17, 2019. The bill was inspired by the challenges faced by the victims of serial sexual predator Jeffrey Epstein in Florida, who were left in the dark as prosecutors hashed out a secretive and shockingly lenient plea deal. Among other things, my bill would clarify the scope of rights guaranteed by the Crime Victims' Rights Act ("CVRA"), 18 U.S.C. § 3771(a), by stating what the law already provides in more explicit terms and conforming the text to the original intent of Congress.

In an attempt to deny the rights of Epstein's victims in Florida, attorneys in the Department latched onto my bill and misrepresented its intent in a brief recently submitted to the Eleventh Circuit. Brief of the United States, *In re Courtney Wild*, No. 19-13843 (11th Cir. Oct. 31, 2019). In particular, the Department stated that my CVRA Reform Act would "amend the CVRA to state that its rights are extended to cover non-prosecution agreements." *Id.* at 43.

That is not what my bill would do. It would not "extend[]" the CVRA's rights to non-prosecution agreements, since the CVRA already covers non-prosecution agreements. Rather, the bill would merely clarify that the CVRA covers non-prosecution agreements.

This is exactly what was said in the press release the Department's attorneys cited:

The Crime Victims' Rights Reform Act will:

Clarify that victims of federal crimes have the right to confer with the Government and be informed about key pre-charging developments in a case, such as . . . non-prosecution agreements.

Press Release, Rep. Speier Introduces Bipartisan Courtney Wild Crime Victims' Rights Reform Act of 2019 to Rectify Injustices Faced by Epstein's Victims (Oct. 17, 2019) (emphasis added), available at <https://speier.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-speier-introducesbipartisan-courtney-wild-crime-victims-rights>.

Your prosecutors are obviously attempting to suggest that it is my view, and the view of my legislative co-sponsors, that existing law does not provide protection to Courtney Wild and other victims. But, as the press release states, the legislation is designed to "clarify" what we understood to already be existing law and Congressional intent under the CVRA.

The CVRA already provides that crime victims have CVRA rights during the entirety of a criminal case—at every stage, from the initial investigation all the way through any disposition and sentence. Earlier in the Epstein case, the District Court rejected the Department's crabbed interpretation, relying on numerous court opinions correctly holding that the rights guaranteed by the CVRA "extend to the pre-charge stage of criminal investigations and proceedings." *Doe v. United States*, 950 F. Supp. 2d 1262, 1267 (S.D. Fla. 2013) (collecting cases); see also *In re Dean*, 527 F.3d 391, 394 (5th Cir. 2008). When Congress enacted the CVRA, it intended to protect crime victims throughout the criminal justice process—from the investigative phases to the conclusion of a case. Congress could not have been clearer in its direction that using "best efforts" to enforce the CVRA was an obligation of "[o]fficers and employees of the Department of Justice and other departments and agencies of the United States engaged in the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime." 18 U.S.C. § 3771(c)(1) (emphasis added).

This is not the first time the Department has misinterpreted legislative history in trying to deny victims their rights. For example, in 2011 Senator Kyl, one of the sponsors of the CVRA, was compelled to put a statement into the Congressional Record when the Justice Department twisted his words. See Letter from Jon Kyl, U.S. Sen. to Eric H. Holder, Jr., Att'y Gen. (June 6, 2011), reprinted in 157 Cong. Rec. S3608 (daily ed. June 8, 2011). Senator Kyl was responding to a 2010 Office of Legal Counsel opinion in which the Department cited his statements in support of the CVRA's passage to arrive at the (incorrect) position that CVRA rights only "are guaranteed from the time that criminal proceedings are initiated (by complaint, information, or indictment) and cease to be available if all charges are dismissed either voluntarily or on the merits (or if the Government declines to bring formal charges after the filing of a complaint)." Office of Legal Counsel, Mem. Op., The Availability of Crime Victims' Rights Under the Crime Victims' Rights Act of 2004 (Dec. 17, 2010, publicly released May 20, 2011). Congress responded by clarifying that the CVRA includes "[t]he right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement." Pub. L. 114-22, title I, § 113(a), 129 Stat. 240.

Despite Congress' clear intention to provide rights to victims throughout the criminal process, the Department has consistently read the CVRA narrowly and shirked its statutorily required "best efforts." That is one reason I was compelled to write the CVRA Reform Act—to get the Department to follow through on the CVRA's promises. I am displeased that my legislation and accompanying press release were misinterpreted, and I trust that you will direct your prosecutors to correct with the Eleventh Cir-

cuit their erroneous description of the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

JACKIE SPEIER.

CELEBRATING THE MILITARY
SERVICE OF LELAND CALVIN
BUTLER

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Leland Calvin "L.C." Butler, a 96 year old World War II veteran of the United States Marine Corps, for his service to our great nation.

L.C. Butler was born in Temple, Texas on July 19, 1923 to Ann Patton Butler. His family moved to Houston in 1932. On August 19, 1942, Mr. Butler enlisted in the United States Marines Corps in San Antonio, Texas. He attended boot camp in San Diego, California for seven weeks, training one week at the firing range, and two months in Imperial Valley, California learning how to operate the "big guns."

A new anti-aircraft battalion was formed and L.C. became part of the 2nd Airdrome Battalion, which later became the 17th Defense Battalion. Butler's battalion's assignment was to provide anti-aircraft defense to airstrips secured by Allied Forces and to protect them after they were secured. As a result, he did not see as much fighting as many of his friends. Butler considers their assignment the luck of the draw.

Butler's division was sent to the Nukufetau Atoll where he served until the summer of 1944. After Nukufetau, his battalion was sent to Kauai for a short rest. In late summer of 1944, Mr. Butler boarded a ship to Tinian. He remained on the ship for approximately 60 days until the island was secured. Once Tinian was taken Butler's battalion moved ashore and used their anti-aircraft guns to protect the air strips from further attacks.

Toward the end of their deployment they discovered the *Enola Gay* was stationed on Tinian Island. This B-29 Superfortress became the first airplane to drop an atomic bomb on August 6, 1945 over Hiroshima, Japan. L.C. and his battalion were on a ship heading back to the United States when the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The dropping of both atomic bombs expedited the end of World War II.

The Marines were sent to San Diego and quarantined for two weeks because First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt felt it necessary due to outbreaks of different ailments while they were stationed on various Pacific islands. L.C. said she wasn't very popular with the Marines at that time, but that they were treated well during the two weeks.

L.C. Butler returned home to Houston, Texas the first week in September 1945 and married Dorothy Nell Corgey on September 7, 1945. Mr. and Mrs. Butler took one thousand dollars that L.C. won during a poker game on the ship back to the United States and stayed in a hotel in downtown Houston for a month for their honeymoon.

Following their honeymoon, the Butlers went to Corpus Christi for about three weeks. There