

the church has thrived, increasing attendance and adding a new education building.

Pastor Martin has been married to his high school sweetheart Nancy for 64 years.

## VETERANS' ACCESS TO CHILD CARE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2019*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 840) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs:

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, which permanently authorizes the Veterans Affairs' (VA) Child Care Program.

Absent Congressional action, the VA's Child Care Pilot Program will expire on October 1, 2019.

This bill would ensure that all veterans who are primary caretakers have a safe, reliable, and cost-free option for child care when they access VA healthcare.

I have previously supported this bill, when the House of Representatives passed H.R. 95 in the 115th Congress.

I support H.R. 840, and I would vote for this legislation tomorrow. However, I will be speaking at the funeral of a dear friend.

## HONORING RITZIE TOLENTINO AS PUBLIC SAFETY HERO OF THE YEAR

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Ritzie Tolentino, whom I have named a Public Safety Hero of the Year in Solano County, California.

Mr. Tolentino has dedicated himself to public service and our community since he graduated from the Napa Valley Police Academy in 2002. After graduation, Mr. Tolentino worked for the St. Helena Police Department until 2006. In 2006, Mr. Tolentino made a lateral move to the Vallejo Police Department and in 2010 joined the Richmond Police Department. Mr. Tolentino returned to the Vallejo Police Department in 2011 and has continued to serve our community since then. In November of 2018, Mr. Tolentino was promoted to the rank of Corporal. He has served as Patrol, Kaiser and SWAT, and is a Force Operations Instructor as well.

On August 29, 2018, Mr. Tolentino showed his deep commitment to public safety when he helped a suicidal man and convinced him not to jump from an overpass and to instead receive mental health treatment. Mr. Tolentino talked with the distressed man and built the rapport necessary to make progress in this situation. When members of the Vallejo Police

Department's Hostage Negotiation Team arrived, they saw Mr. Tolentino's connection with the man and progress in diffusing the situation. Mr. Tolentino talked and negotiated with the man for several hours until he agreed to climb back onto the overpass and get treatment from Solano County Mental Health Services. Mr. Tolentino's calm demeanor, patience and professionalism helped to save a life that day.

Madam Speaker, we thank Corporal Ritzie Tolentino for his dedication. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2019*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, on February 6th, I was unable to be present to vote on H.R. 831, The Reviving America's Scenic Byways Act. This legislation passed the House with strong bipartisan support. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 66.

## RECOGNIZING DELISA RUSSELL

**HON. BILL FLORES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2019*

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Delisa Russell of Waco, Texas, former Executive Director of the Heart of Texas Veterans One Stop.

The Heart of Texas Veterans One Stop opened in 2013 as a central location where veterans and their families could access available resources under one roof. The first of its kind in the nation, Veterans One Stop is a comprehensive veteran service resource that offers mental health counseling, legal services, assistance with veterans' benefits and claims, and provides access to food, showers, laundry, and fitness facilities.

Prior to coming to the One Stop in 2016, Delisa served others, including veterans, through social work and counseling. Delisa graduated from Baylor with a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in social work, and continued her education at Baylor with two master's degrees in Sociology and Psychology. She focused her career toward counseling those in need and leading organizations dedicated to the care of the most vulnerable.

Delisa recently stepped down from her position at the One Stop to pursue other opportunities to help the community. The impact of her time as Executive Director cannot be overstated.

In her three years as Director, Delisa supervised the transition of Heart of Texas Veterans One Stop to a larger location. This new location was able to increase the amount of services the One Stop provided, with new showers, laundry, and kitchen facilities, all donated by the members of our Central Texas community. In 2017, the Guardians for Heroes Foundation, which carries out the mission of the

late Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, installed a gym at the One Stop for veterans to maintain their physical and mental health.

Last year, the Veterans One Stop opened the Robert Carter Veteran Transition home. This home is aimed at helping veterans with families to create a stable environment during their adjustment from military to civilian life. Veterans One Stop covers the cost of utilities at the home, which was built and furnished with support from the community. One Stop helps the families develop a plan for life after living in the home.

Under Delisa's leadership, the Veterans One Stop has gone from serving less than 2,000 veterans to over 24,000. Each week, the One Stop serves meals to more than 200 veterans and last year's annual Thanksgiving dinner was its largest, serving more than 800 people.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Delisa Russell for all of her service to the veterans in the Central Texas community. I wish her the best in her future endeavors and look forward to seeing the Veterans One Stop's continued progress.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize the accomplishments of Delisa Russell and the Heart of Texas Veterans One Stop.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

## HONORING ELONA PORTER AS PUBLIC SAFETY HERO OF THE YEAR

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Elona Porter, whom I have named a Public Safety Hero of the Year in Lake County, California.

Ms. Porter was born in Landstuhl, Germany and currently resides in Lake County, California. She holds an Associate of Science Degree in Administration of Justice. Ms. Porter began her career with the Lake County Sheriff's Office as a Records Technician, became Evidence Technician, and was then promoted as the supervisor of that unit. She is also the department's lead crime scene investigator.

Over her nearly two-decade tenure with the Lake County Sheriff's Office, Ms. Porter has worked on many high-level investigations, including sexual assaults, homicides, and burglaries. While these investigations are typically carried out by sworn deputies or police officers, Ms. Porter presides over these responsibilities at the Lake County Sheriff's Office because of her skill. Her work has led to the successful conclusion of many investigations and the administration of justice, that has in turn led to a degree of closure for the victims' family members. Ms. Porter is one of California's top authorities on crime scene investigation and has been recognized by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

Ms. Porter is continually striving to improve her skills as well as help the next generation

of crime scene investigators. She has attended trainings on crime scene reconstruction and scene logistics, crime scene photography, and the FBI's Field Evidence Response course, among others. She teaches crime scene investigation classes to police officers and investigators across California. Ms. Porter also regularly gives presentations to Lake County high school and middle school students, Boy and Girl Scouts, college classes, and Sheriff's Citizen's Academy students.

Madam Speaker, we thank Ms. Porter for her dedication. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

#### VETERANS' ACCESS TO CHILD CARE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2019*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 840) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs:

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act. This bill ensures that Veterans in my district and around the country have convenient access to no-cost child care when visiting a VA facility for a medical appointment.

After a survey conducted by the VA last decade found that access to child care was a top reason as to why some veterans were missing their medical appointments, a pilot program providing no-cost drop-in child care service for veterans was established as part of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010. I am proud that the Dallas VA Medical Center is one of four VA facilities that are currently piloting the program. This legislation would make the pilot program permanent across the country.

This program has made it easier for parents within my district to schedule appointments at the Dallas VA Medical Center without having to deal with the stress and worry of finding safe and affordable child care options for their children. I am pleased to see that thanks to this important legislation, child care facilities like the Carousel Academy at the Dallas VA Medical Center may soon open up across the country. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation because veterans nationwide should have access to the same quality child care services that veterans in North Texas have been fortunate to have for the past six years.

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN RICHARD LAWLER AS PUBLIC SAFETY HERO OF THE YEAR

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CAL FIRE Fire

Captain Richard Lawler, whom I have named a Public Safety Hero of the Year in Lake County, California.

Mr. Lawler is from Huntington Beach, California. He began his career in public service in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Operation Desert Storm. Mr. Lawler then joined the United States Forest Service's firefighting team. He worked on Hot Shot Crews and fire engines in southern California until he was assigned to the Mendocino National Forest. In 2008 Mr. Lawler joined the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). He spent three years serving at Parlin Fork Camp, three years at Konocti Camp and two years at Kelsey Cobb Station. For the last three years he has been assigned to Clearlake Oaks Station.

For over twenty years, Mr. Lawler has been a member of the Northshore Fire Protection District. He is a senior member of the Water Rescue and SCUBA Dive Team that serves Lake County and is a firefighter and paramedic for the district. He is also a member of the Lakeport Fire Protection District. Mr. Lawler is also a certified paramedic, rescue diver, and Haz-Mat technician.

Mr. Lawler is committed to public service and dedicated to protecting our community from the ever-present threat of fires. During the Tubbs Fire in 2017, Mr. Lawler was part of a small group that worked to prevent the fire from crossing Calistoga Road, stopping additional damage to Sonoma County. He was then reassigned to the Napa County portion of the fire. He joined the leadership and they worked to stop the fire's advancement towards Lake County. When the Pawnee Fire broke out in 2018, Mr. Lawler raced to keep the fire from spreading into Colusa County in just a few hours. He was also active in the response to the Ranch and River Fires. He was part of the initial attack against the fires and still helps property owners fix their damaged fencing.

Madam Speaker, we thank Mr. Lawler for his dedication. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2019*

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I was unavailable to vote in the House on January 30, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call 60: NAY; Roll Call 61: NAY; Roll Call 62: YEA; Roll Call 63: YEA; Roll Call 64: YEA; and Roll Call 65: NAY.

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN STEVE BECKER AS PUBLIC SAFETY HERO OF THE YEAR

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Captain Steve Becker, whom I have named a Public Safety Hero of the Year in Napa County, California.

Mr. Becker was born in Auburn, California, moved to Napa as a young child, and has lived in Yountville for the past twenty years. He took general education courses and received EMT and Law Enforcement certifications from Napa Valley College. He graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation Administration, with a focus in Programming and Leadership.

Mr. Becker began his career in 1990 as a Reserve Firefighter with the Napa Fire Department. From 1991 to 1996 he served in other fire departments as well. He worked for the San Luis Obispo County Fire Department, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Fire Department, Cal Poly Police Department and the San Luis Obispo County Sheriffs Office. In 1996 Mr. Becker became a Professional Firefighter in the Napa Fire Department. He was appointed as a Department Shift Inspector/Investigator in 2001 and in 2010 was promoted to be a Department Captain.

Throughout his life Mr. Becker has remained focused on public service and safety and the greater good of our community. After a Napa student caught on fire from a flame jetting incident at a science camp in the summer of 2018, Mr. Becker became determined to prevent such instances from occurring. He devoted much of his time to researching flame jetting and has become a passionate advocate for flame arrestors and H.R. 806, which would require compliant flame mitigation devices to be used on portable fuel containers for flammable liquid fuels.

Madam Speaker, we thank Steve Becker for his dedication. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING MRS. MICHELLE CROWLEY ON HER RECEPTION OF THE MOLLY PITCHER AWARD

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2019*

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, today I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Michelle Crowley, a resident of Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, who is receiving the Exchange Club of Carlisle's prestigious Molly Pitcher Award.

Chartered by the National Exchange Club in 1949, the Exchange Club of Carlisle gives individuals the opportunity to use their time and talents to benefit their local communities and the country as a whole. The Molly Pitcher Award, which has annually honored citizens for their outstanding service to the Carlisle community since 1969, is named after the revolutionary war heroine who risked her life to bring water to artillerymen under fire. As evidenced by receiving this honor, Mrs. Crowley's charitable endeavors have made a significant impact and improved the lives of many in central Pennsylvania.

Throughout her successful career in business, Mrs. Crowley has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Association of Chamber Professionals, the Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation, and the United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County, as well as serving as president of the nearly 700-member Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Crowley's